

Lake
Baroon
Catchment
Care
Group

Working with our community...for our waterways

Annual Report

2015-16

LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

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2015-16 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	<i>Peter Stevens</i>
Vice President	<i>Steve Skull</i>
Secretary	<i>Steven Lang</i>
Treasurer	<i>Keith Schelberg</i>
Committee Member	<i>Heather Spring</i>
Committee Member	<i>Marek Malter</i>
Committee Member	<i>Sally Watter</i>
Life Member	<i>Gillian Pechey</i>

2015-16 STAFF

Manager	<i>Mark Amos</i>
Project Officer	<i>Matt Bateman</i>
Project Officer P/T	<i>David Clark</i>
Bookkeeping P/T	<i>Denis Lalor</i>

LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Mark Amos

The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group (LBCCG) was formed in 1992 by water authority AquaGen (Caloundra and Maroochy Councils) and the local community in response to water quality issues in the recently completed Baroon Pocket Dam. The development of the partnership sought to address the decline in the health of the waterways that supply the Dam through the implementation of on-ground remedial works and the raising of awareness. AquaGen was acutely aware that influencing land management on land it did not own was not only critical but best delivered by an independent community organisation embedded in the catchment.

In 2007 the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group developed and adopted a Ten Year Financial Plan, which in turn led to the Ten Year Funding Agreement between LBCCG and AquaGen. With the transference of management of Baroon Pocket Dam and associated infrastructure from local Councils to the State in 2008, the new manager Seqwater continued to honour the original AquaGen Agreement, before the landmark 'Contribution Agreement' between LBCCG and Seqwater was formalised in 2015.

The Contribution Agreement provides LBCCG certainty which is essential for the effective engagement of the catchment community which in turn fosters community ownership of water quality outcomes. Although the Contribution Agreement operates under a three year cycle, it is expected the arrangement will continue for an undetermined timeframe.

Since 2000, LBCCG has developed and implemented over 170 individual projects in the catchment with a total value exceeding \$3.85 million. The majority of projects have comprised on-ground remedial works designed to mitigate risks to water quality. Importantly, they have also provided wider environmental benefits, encouraging additional investment from external funding providers.

The Contribution Agreement enables LBCCG to:

- plan and budget with certainty;
- attract and retain staff;
- develop long term relationships with landholders, stakeholders and other partners;
- fund non-traditional project infrastructure; *and importantly*
- invest in projects over a number of years at a level more likely to ensure long-term success.

The Agreement also provides key benefits for Seqwater:

- low-cost, efficient and high quality projects delivered by LBCCG in a competitive manner;
- outputs clearly linked to key Seqwater corporate goals, objectives and Key Performance Indicators;
- the not-for-profit status of LBCCG ensures high levels of voluntary contribution (enhancing our cost effectiveness) by the local community passionate about the environment and water;
- the ability of LBCCG to apply for additional Commonwealth, State and Local government funding to value add to Seqwater projects and programs; *and*
- provide a gateway onto catchment properties that would not otherwise exist.

LBCCG continues to demonstrate the effectiveness of a community based approach to catchment management. The success of our group has been dependant on the ongoing support of Seqwater and Sunshine Coast Council, the provision of office facilities at North Maleny, and the input of Seqwater staff. Without these generous contributions we would be unable to carry out the important activities that reduce risks to water quality in the Lake Baroon catchment.

This year saw the implementation of a new funding agreement with Seqwater as foreshadowed in last year's report. LBCCG now has a 3+3 year funding agreement signed off; the group has transitioned to a higher funding and activity level extremely well. This is in no small way thanks to Mark Amos and our expanded team, all working together well. Our total project spending has jumped from \$400,000 to nearly \$800,000. This figure includes new external Programs under the Strategic Catchment Improvement Program in Dairy, Weeds and Landslip that have been formally implemented. Over the last 16 years our total project spending sits at \$3.8 million, a significant figure, which also puts into perspective how quickly we are accelerating our project activity.

It is pleasing to me and other members of our committee that we have been able to undertake such large changes to our staff and project activity whilst maintaining our high standards of operation. I commend the Committee and particularly our staff, Mark Amos, Matt Bateman, and Dave Clark, on all the work that has been required to deliver on all the expectations of the new agreement with Seqwater.

Heather Spring joined the committee this year and is already a valuable addition to our team. Matt Bateman, who joined our staff last year, has made a significant contribution to our Weeds Program, undertaking extensive mapping and control activities. Dave Clark has joined our staff this year as Project Officer to oversee the Dairy Agricultural Practice Improvement Program. An excellent report was produced by Dave, setting out strategies for the future. We have seen a high level of engagement and the potential benefits it could deliver to our local and regional dairy farms has been a long sought after wish of LBCCG. I look forward to Seqwater supporting this program more fully over the next few years, now that such a solid base has been established.

Along with the above changes, LBCCG has continued to deliver its Core Program of projects to local landholders in the catchment. The rise of the beef price over the last few years (300%) has made many landholders keen to improve production and the utilisation of their farms. This can be viewed as an opportunity for LBCCG to further engage with these producers to suggest farm improvements whilst their income is at a higher level.

I would like to thank our major partners, Seqwater and the Sunshine Coast Council for the funding and trust they have provided. I would also thank all the organisations, contractors and property owners with whom we have partnered to deliver more sustainable waterways and environment for our region.

Finally, I would like to thank our excellent staff and loyal committee for the past year's performance in a sea of change and increasing workloads.

It is a pleasure for me to present this Report to the LBCCG Committee and Members and to submit the Financial Statements and Audited Report for the year ending 30 June 2016. This includes:

- a) Income and Expenditure during the last financial year;
- b) Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2016;
- c) Depreciation Schedule for the last financial year; and
- d) Audit Summary Chart covering the last seven financial years.

This year commenced with the Committee having renewed confidence to move forward as a result of the new Contribution Agreement from Seqwater, the Environment Levy Partnership with the Sunshine Coast Council and an additional grant from Seqwater for a special Dairy Project. We thank all fund providers as well as those who were instrumental in getting it to happen. The extra funding has enabled LBCCG to undertake additional very worthwhile projects and, very importantly, to adequately provide for our very skilled and experienced staff. LBCCG has had another very successful year in that we have been able to continue to deliver creditable and successful outcomes – benefiting not only all of our stakeholders but also our local community. Our Income and Expenditure Statement shows that LBCCG ended this financial year with a loss of \$1,391.85. This year, the Committee elected to commence a “Provision for Staff Entitlements” to ensure we have adequate funds available for any

lawful staff entitlements. This has contributed to the end of the year loss appearing. Despite the above loss, LBCCG is in a stable financial position and is now well placed to remain so into the future.

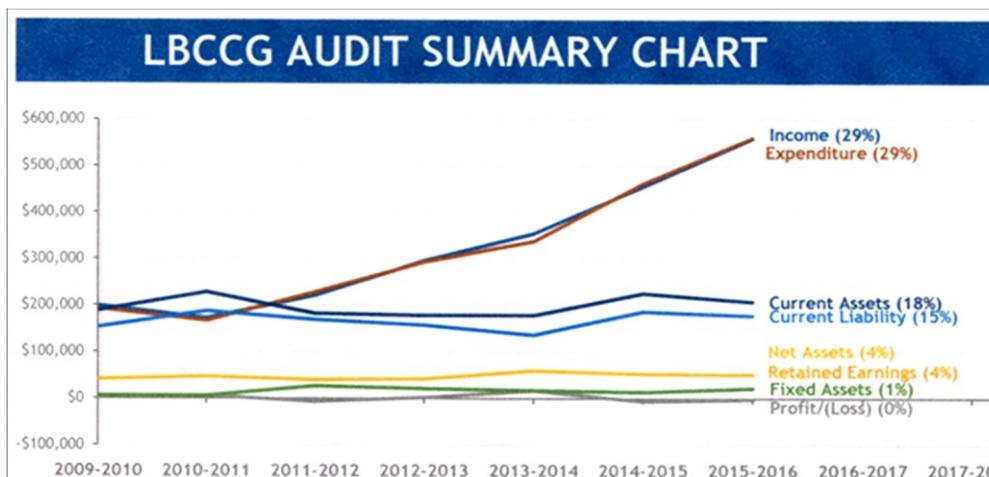
The chart below highlights the steady growth in income, with expenditure following the same trend. Current assets and current liabilities follow each other quite reliably. This year, we will work carefully together to ensure we finish 2016-2017 with a moderate profit.

Our increased workload and funding has enabled us to engage a part time employee, Dave Clark. Dave comes with extensive experience in the dairy industry and he very capably undertook the special Dairy Project for Seqwater. Our thanks to Dave. Matt Bateman has now become a permanent staff member. Matt quietly goes about his projects – achieving tremendous outcomes. Thanks so much, Matt. Special thanks to our Manager, Mark Amos, for his tremendous efforts and outcomes achieved during the year. I particularly thank Mark for his assistance to me with financial matters.

I thank the Committee for their assistance during the year and for trusting my financial reports and recommendations given at each management committee meeting.

I move that the independent Financial Audit and Treasurer’s Report be accepted as presented.

I also move that Michael Harper be accepted as external auditor for the 2016/2017 financial year.



The most important achievement during the year has undoubtedly been the formalising of the new Contribution Agreement with Seqwater. This new arrangement has provided a clear direction forward and establishes the ability for LBCCG to deliver Strategic Catchment Improvement Programs (SCIP) on behalf of Seqwater.

As a result of SCIP and the Sunshine Coast Council Environment Levy (EL) funding, LBCCG has grown from a single staff member to three in 2015/16. This has been primarily to deliver the SCIP projects.

LBCCG has continued to implement projects throughout the catchment that reduce risks to water quality, improve property sustainability and viability, and deliver other environmental and social benefits. I would like to think that our 'footprint' in the catchment continues to grow in a time when landcare and catchment care are facing unprecedented challenges.

We have continued to demonstrate the effectiveness of community based catchment management and the success of the 'extension' approach.

LBCCG receives major income from various sources:

- CORE administration and project funding from Seqwater;
- SCIP Project Management from Seqwater;
- Administration (EL) and Project funding (LEG) from Sunshine Coast Council;
- Opportunistic funding from State and Commonwealth sources including Department of Transport and Main Roads, Burnett Mary Regional Group and others; *and*
- LBCCG generated income including membership, bank interest and donations.

Notable achievements in 2015-16 (CORE) include:

- installed 2,000 metres of riparian fencing;
- planted over 2,800 tubestock;
- constructed five waterway crossings;
- installed five stock watering points (troughs);
- rehabilitated 2,825 metres of stock laneways;

- remediated one erosion site;
- 11.5 hectares of weed management;
- 700 metres of remnant vegetation fencing;
- maintained over 12,000 plants; *and*
- various community events (field days, field walks, tree planting days, presentations).

Three SCIP projects were delivered in 2015/16.

The Dairy Agricultural Practice Improvement Program commenced this year delivering:

- Engaged dairy farmers, forming a Discussion Group and conducted various events;
- Produced Action Plans for each dairy farm for implementation commencing in 2017; *and*
- Measured the environmental operating baseline of dairy farms for monitoring.

The Landslide Remediation Program delivered:

- 4,000 plants;
- 6 hectares drainage works;
- 6 hectares weed management; *and*
- 3,750 metres fencing (1,100 m permanent).

The Priority Weeds Program commenced:

- 520 m² Cats claw management;
- 6,120 m² Madeira vine management; *and*
- 1,004 Chinese elms controlled.

When all contributions are included (including all SCIP), in 2015/16 LBCCG facilitated a total *Project Value* of \$790,251.

The continued success of LBCCG would not happen without our partners: Seqwater and Sunshine Coast Council, the catchment landholders where projects are implemented, the experienced and skilled staff who have come on board in 2015/16 and most importantly the LBCCG Management Committee who to a member are focussed, committed and passionate about water quality and the environment.

I congratulate everyone who has contributed to LBCCG throughout the year, and look forward immensely to a prosperous 2016/17.

CORE PROJECT REPORTS

Mid to Upper Obi Obi Creek Riparian Links Year 2

Second year of a two year project.

The project the control of environmental weeds in 3.5 hectares of moderately degraded riparian vegetation on the upper Obi Obi Creek. This project builds on extensive rehabilitation works that have occurred on Farmhouse Macadamias and neighbouring properties over the last decade.



Weed control activities focussed on the Obi Obi Creek downstream of Kings Lane Weir

Farmhouse Macadamias is situated in the mid to upper Obi Obi Creek, the major contributor of raw water to Baroon Pocket Dam. Farmhouse Macadamias is a productive horticultural enterprise that utilises the fertile soils and favourable climate of the Maleny plateau to produce a commercial quantity of nut for the world market. Macadamia farming, like most horticultural enterprises is a high input farming system with high rates of application of fertiliser, pesticides and herbicides, usually applied with heavy farm equipment (soil compaction).

Historical water quality sampling and analysis suggest that riparian vegetation and hydrology between Aplin Road and Kings Lane Weir plays a significant role in reducing contaminants. Riparian buffer zones, ideally both grass and complex riparian vegetation, reduce the risk to water quality associated with orchard activities. Generally

speaking the wider and more complex the riparian zone the better its buffering capacity.



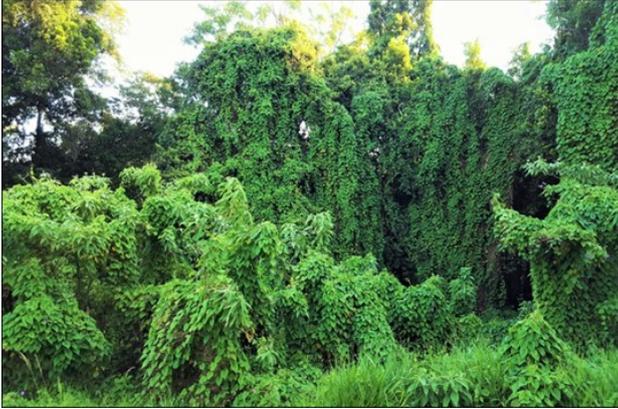
Diverse remnant vegetation provides water quality benefits by protecting the bed and banks from erosion, providing a buffer to agricultural activities and by trapping, storing and processing contaminants originating upstream

Healthy, resilient and diverse riparian vegetation:

- acts as a buffer from adjoining land uses trapping sediment and removing nutrients before water enters the creek;
- stabilises creek banks and beds;
- reduces the temperature of the water by creating shade;
- increases infiltration rates slowing surface runoff;
- creates habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species;
- improve aesthetic and amenity value; and
- improve integrated farm management practices.

Given that there is no livestock on the farm, the next primary threat to the existing and regenerating riparian vegetation is excessive weed competition, in particular vine weeds. Major environmental weeds pose a serious and immediate threat to native vegetation and water quality due to their ability to alter the structure and composition of plant communities.

Weed control has concentrated on invasive species that adversely impact on riparian vegetation - in particular weedy vines. These weeds have the capacity to smother intact native riparian vegetation as well as inhibit recovering native vegetation.



Blue morning glory (Ipomea spp.) smothering native vegetation. Eventually this can lead to the death of the enveloped vegetation and prevent natural regeneration



A combination of control measures were utilised. Brush cutting and manual cut and paste removed the bulk of the woody weeds while vine weeds were controlled with follow up herbicide application.



Lantana, privet, chinese elm and vine weeds cleared from under existing native vegetation reducing pest harbour and enhancing the opportunity for naturally regenerating native species to take their place

Northern Alcorn Creek

1516-006

Northern Alcorn Creek is being implemented in a high priority sub-catchment that delivers high levels of nutrients and high volumes of sediment to Bridge Creek and ultimately Baroon Pocket Dam. The Colley property has recently changed ownership with plans to operate as a viable grazing enterprise, with supplementary income from farm-stay accommodation. The property is large for the catchment and can support grazing however there are several key management issues – steep, unstable hillslopes and benches (landslips), moderately fertile soils that are easily compacted and eroded, and multiple watercourses fed by springs and soaks. The project is addressing several issues considered high priority, with the key aims of reducing soil loss; improving management of livestock in riparian zones and on unstable slopes, remediation of landslips and improvement of property access.

nutrients (and likely pathogens) and threats to remnant vegetation and habitat.



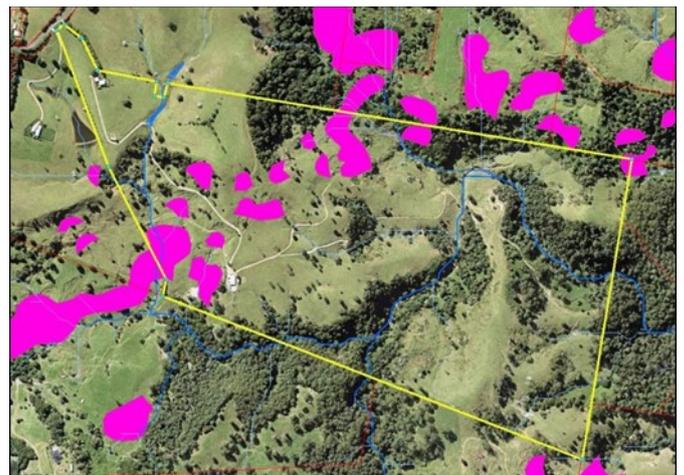
Livestock impacts on property waterways

The project is engaging multiple Contractors, each selected on their ability to provide a specific service. The project supports and is linked to the Seqwater 2015/16 Lake Baroon Bank Stabilisation Program (Landslide Mitigation and Priority Weed Programs) and indeed some of the outcomes of the Lake Baroon CORE funding, and contributions from the landholder will assist in the delivery of the Program (drainage, weed management and access).



Alcorn Creek riparian zone - riparian fencing and stream crossings are being installed on this reach

The Colley property lies in a high priority sub-catchment (Management Unit) in the Bridge Creek catchment – MU BR1. This MU is characterised by steep slopes, heavy black cracking clays, intensive livestock grazing, and numerous permanent watercourses fed by springs and soaks. As a result, the Management Unit contributes very high volumes of sediments generated by numerous landslips, high levels of



Landslips on the Colley property

The project is implementing ten components from four contributors:

1. Install 550 metres riparian fencing (Alcorn Creek);
2. Install major and a minor stream crossing on Alcorn Creek;
3. Rehabilitate 100 metres of livestock (and essential access) laneway;
4. Install gate and associated fencing to block unnecessary Alcorn Creek access by livestock;
5. Extend existing off stream watering system to replace Alcorn Creek access and supply landslide zone with water;
6. Install 650 metres landslide management fencing;
7. Plant 800 pine species on identified landslide areas (as part of the Seqwater Landslide Remediation Program 2015-16);
8. Drain and profile approximately 3 hectares of landslip to enable access for revegetation and remove excessive saturation;
9. Undertake weed management in the Alcorn Creek riparian zone; *and*
10. Realign 325 metres of laneway to improve access and safety.



Landslips are devastating to water quality and farm management with the loss of valuable top soil and pasture

The project is achieving multiple benefits including:

- managed grazing of riparian zones;
- stabilising stream banks and beds;
- reducing erosion and associated sediments from livestock laneways;
- stabilising landslip prone hillslopes;
- establishing riparian buffers to trap and filter contaminants;
- enhancing aquatic habitat;
- improving property management;
- protecting property infrastructure; and
- reducing risk to water quality by limiting sedimentation and nutrient enrichment



Laneway rehabilitation. To reduce the steepness and improve the profile of the laneway, several seams of bedrock required removal

Walkers Creek Rehabilitation & Enhancement Year 2

1516-010

Walkers Creek Rehabilitation and Enhancement is being implemented over two adjoining properties, staged over three years and is effectively a continuation of recent projects on neighbouring properties both upstream and downstream (this Report covers Year 2 of the Project). The project has excluded livestock from 385 metres of Walkers Creek, controlled invasive environmental weeds and replaced them with native vegetation, establishing a vegetated buffer. The riparian vegetation is reducing erosion, shading the watercourse reducing temperature, enhancing dissolved oxygen levels and enhancing the watercourses ability to mitigate the effects of pollutants originating further upstream. Other benefits include the extension of wildlife corridors, providing habitat, improving aesthetic appeal (important to raise awareness of value of riparian restoration) and a reduction in weed sources. This is reducing risks to water quality in the catchment (and ultimately Lake Baroon) by reducing key contaminants including nutrients, pathogens, pesticides and gross pollutants.



East Coast TAFE have been engaged to assist in the revegetation component of the project

Walkers Creek is the most disturbed and polluted waterway in the Lake Baroon catchment, consisting of 15 km of waterway in a sub catchment of 697 ha. Less than 10% of the sub catchment is covered in vegetation, with much of the area significantly disturbed mostly supporting beef or dairy cattle.

A series of projects around the Walkers and Obi Obi Creeks confluence has excluded livestock from riparian zones, installed a considerable length of fencing and off stream watering where required, managed environmental weeds, and revegetated banks to establish buffers. Vegetated buffers enable us to manage risks to water quality impacted by livestock grazing and access, restoring riparian zones to a 'natural' condition reducing water temperatures, improving dissolved oxygen, reducing nutrients, pathogens and sedimentation.



Species were selected for hardiness and speed of growth (including frost tolerance)

Fencing riparian zones is the key to reducing risks to water quality however in cases where native vegetation is lacking and there is little likelihood of natural regeneration, revegetation is required to provide long term management. Indeed many landholders' primary motivation for erecting fencing is to enable revegetation and the associated benefits (in addition to water quality) of habitat and wildlife corridors, long term management of weeds, improved property and livestock management or simply aesthetic appeal. Regardless of the motivations, the exclusion of livestock and the revegetation of riparian zones provide multiple environmental benefits with water quality certainly at the forefront.



The nationally endangered Giant barred frog was discovered on the project site (both properties) while weed management works were being undertaken. This led to minor implementation changes to the project

The project (2015/16 stage) has completed four components:

1. Planted 1,000 stems in the Walkers Creek riparian zone ;
2. Continued weed management activities;
3. Maintained plants installed in 2014/15 (1,050);
and
4. Installed low level stream crossing.



Hand clearing in an area where natural regeneration is occurring

The implementation of the planned activities will reduce threats to catchment water quality by:

- reducing erosion of the bed and banks of Walkers Creek reducing turbidity and sedimentation;
- reduce direct faecal deposition (nutrients and pathogens) to Walkers Creek;
- extend wildlife corridors linking Obi Obi, Walkers and Fryars Creeks (eventual linking Mary Cairncross Park);
- return Walkers Creek to a more natural watercourse which in turn improves its ability to mitigate water quality threats originating upstream;
- improve livestock management;
- continue to develop land manager engagement;
- provide demonstration site (previous nearby projects has led to greater landholder awareness and a series of related projects);
- provide learning opportunities for Conservation and Land Management students (East Coast TAFE).



Training of TAFE students in the safe operation of planting auger

Alcorn Creek Recovery

1516-014

Alcorn Creek Recovery is being implemented in a high priority sub-catchment that delivers high levels of nutrients and high volumes of sediment to Bridge Creek and ultimately Baroon Pocket Dam. The Walker property has recently changed ownership with plans to operate as a mixed grazing enterprise based on organic principles. The property suffers from several key management issues – steep, unstable hillslopes and benches (landslips), moderately fertile soils that are easily compacted and/or eroded, and multiple watercourses fed by springs and soaks. The project is commencing the address of several issues considered high priority, with the key aims of reducing soil loss, improving management of livestock in riparian zones, protection of remnant vegetation, and the improvement of property access. Several activities (stream crossing, laneways) will improve access to the landslip areas enabling remediation to commence in 2015/16.

the Management Unit contributes very high volumes of sediments generated by numerous landslips, high levels of nutrients (and likely pathogens) and threats to remnant vegetation and habitat.



Alcorn Creek tributary dissects the property in two. Landslips, woody weeds and the steep topography affect fencing alignments and costs



The Walker property in the upper Bridge Creek (Alcorn Creek). Major issues include landslips, moderately fertile soils, steep slopes that impact on access and manageability including the spread of weed species.

The Walker property lies in a high priority sub-catchment (Management Unit) in the Bridge Creek catchment – MU BR1. This MU is characterised by steep slopes, heavy black cracking clays, intensive livestock grazing, and numerous permanent watercourses fed by springs and soaks. As a result,

The project has commenced ten components:

1. Installing stream crossing on Alcorn Creek tributary;
2. Re-constructing 200 metres of livestock laneway;
3. Installing 750 metres riparian fencing (multi-use);
4. Installing 650 metres riparian and landslide fencing;
5. Installing 500 metres landslide management fencing;
6. Draining 3 hectares of seasonal springs and soaks;
7. Planting 800 pine species on identified landslide areas (as part of the Seqwater Landslide Remediation Program 2015-16);
8. Installing 700 metres of remnant vegetation fencing;
9. Repairing dam wall and associated erosion; and
10. Repairing 300 metres of access laneway.



Drainage of springs on a slip susceptible slope

The project provides multiple benefits including:

- improved management of grazing in riparian zones;
- stabilisation of stream banks and beds;
- reduced erosion and associated sediments from livestock laneways;
- protection of remnant vegetation;
- stabilisation of landslip prone hillslopes;
- establishment of riparian buffers to trap and filter contaminants;
- enhancement of aquatic habitat;
- improved property management;
- protection of property infrastructure; and
- reduced risk to water quality by limiting sedimentation and nutrient enrichment.



Alcorn Creek tributary and associated remnant vegetation



Laneway rehabilitation

Walkers Creek Dairy Project

1516-015

Walkers Creek Dairy Project was implemented on a large ex-dairy farm that has been recently leased to neighbouring Maleny Dairies. The Muller property converted to beef in the early 2000s when changes in the dairy industry challenged viability. With the success of Maleny Dairies and the demand for locally produced and bottled milk, along with the retirement of Gavin Muller, the 74 hectare property has been leased to Keith Hopper from Maleny Dairies. This addition to Maleny Dairies effectively doubles the grazing resource and allows a doubling of the milking herd. Although the Muller property has been exceptionally well run, current infrastructure (laneways, fencing and stream crossings) is designed to manage livestock movement to the central dairy. Maleny Dairies will not be utilising the existing non-operational dairy but rather the existing facility on the Hopper property. New laneways and a stream crossing over Walkers Creek is therefore required to prevent erosion of high traffic paths and delivery of faecal material to the creek.



Walkers Creek flowing through the Muller property

Walkers Creek (including Fryars Creek) is the most disturbed and polluted waterway in the Lake Baroon catchment, consisting of 15 km of major waterway in a sub-catchment of 697 ha. Less than 10% of the sub-catchment is covered in vegetation, with much of the area significantly disturbed

mostly supporting beef or dairy cattle. Riparian lands have been predominantly cleared up to the waterways edge with only one significant area of intact remnant vegetation remaining (Mary Cairncross Park - 65 ha).

Of the five dairy farms operating in this sub-catchment in 1997, only one remains operational. Despite this, results of water quality monitoring continue to indicate that faecal coliform counts exceed the ANZECC guideline for primary contact and further exacerbated after heavy rainfall events.

The project completed three components before December 31, 2015:

1. Installed stream crossing on Walkers Creek;
2. Constructed 1,300 metres of new dairy laneway; and
3. Rehabilitated 600 metres of degraded laneway.



Stream crossing under construction

Formalised crossings protect livestock and watercourses from the issues associated with unrestricted access. Benefits include:

- reducing risk to water quality by limiting sedimentation and nutrient enrichment;
- enhanced livestock health through access to cleaner water;
- reduced loss of productive land and livestock deaths;

- maintaining river pools to provide a water source that is available for longer periods of year;
- stabilisation of stream banks and bed; *and*
- improved riparian vegetation and riverine habitats.



Completed stream crossing

Rehabilitated laneways significantly reduce erosion in high stock traffic areas resulting in less sediment run-off and turbidity in adjacent watercourses. Carefully designed laneways are shaped with strategic cross drainage (whoa-boys) to shed water to the sides (onto pasture) and direct run-off contaminated with faecal material (nutrients, chemicals and pathogens) to pasture that can trap and filter contaminants, rather depositing directly to watercourses.



Completed laneways

Non - Seqwater Funded Projects

Ling

1516-021

Ling Landslip Remediation and the Strategic Catchment Improvement Program Bank Stabilisation Program is transforming a small poorly managed grazing/rural residential property into a showcase trialling various landslide remediation techniques while being monitored long term by Queensland University of Technology.

Furthermore the property provides additional environmental outcomes such as excluding livestock from waterways. Sunshine Coast Council in 2014/15 provided funding to install permanent livestock fencing on 700 metres of streams (and the landslide plantings) and in 2015/16 further funding through the Landholder Environment Grants program is installing fencing on the watercourse that flows into Baroon Pocket Dam.

Additional works funded by the landholder include the provision of off stream watering so that the creek can be fenced and also two waterway low level crossings to improve bed and bank stability.



Two stream crossings funded by landholder, off stream watering funded by LBCCG and landholder. The creek in the background was revegetated under the SCIP Landslide Program with the temporary electric fencing to be replaced by permanent livestock fencing funded by Sunshine Coast Council

Harris

1516-016

LBCCG have continued to provide advice and support to the Harris project following the completion of the 2014/15 LBCCG CORE project - Walkers Creek Riparian Program. The Harris's are continuing riparian restoration on the property with Sunshine Coast Council Landholder Environment Grant funding.



First stage of Harris project completed. Revegetation will continue within the fenced riparian zone as well as a gully to the right of the figure

La Porte

1516-025

LBCCG supported a small weed management and revegetation project on the La Porte property – eastern boundary of Seqwater land at Montville in 2014/15. The project was predominantly funded by a Sunshine Coast Council Landholder Environment Grant and a further successful application was submitted in 2015/16. LBCCG primarily have provided technical advice and minor assistance with the purchase of appropriate plants for the site and weed control.



La Porte weed control and revegetation

Department of Transport and Main Roads

1516-019

The Seqwater Strategic Catchment Improvement Program Bank Stabilisation – Baroon Pocket Riparian Management Program (Priority Weeds) is targeting catchment weeds that impact catchment water quality. These weeds (Cats claw vine, Madeira vine and Chinese elm can alter riparian zones by killing or displacing native vegetation which can lead to bed and bank instability.

It is important that control programs treat weeds on all land tenure – not just Seqwater or freehold land. The Maleny Landsborough Road (Department of Main Roads and Transport [DTMR]) has been undergoing significant weed management (by the Maleny Lions Club with funding from the State government) however there has been little thought as to the appropriate method to deal with madeira vine, keeping in mind that eradication of individual infestations can take up to ten years of correct treatment.



Madeira regeneration following poor weed control practices on Maleny Landsborough Rd

LBCCG applied for funds to follow up after the Lions Club from DTMR and treat the known infestations along, and adjacent to the road reserve.



The DTMR project also addressed weed issues (including Blue morning glory) in an old DTMR tree plant adjacent to the Maleny Landsborough Rd

LBCCG activities primarily involved follow up control of Madeira vine along the Maleny Landsborough road reserve, control of immature Chinese elm on the road reserve opposite the Uniting Church/Erowal facility and control of Blue morning glory that was disguising Madeira vine in an old tree planting site on Walkers Creek.



Mature Chinese elm removal from Uniting Church/Erowal site

Follow up will be required on all project sites and it is anticipated that DTMR will once again be approached to provide assistance.

Strategic Catchment Improvement Programs

Priority Weed Program

1516-019

The Seqwater Strategic Catchment Improvement Program Bank Stabilisation – Baroon Pocket Riparian Management Program (Priority Weeds) is targeting catchment weeds that impact catchment water quality. These weeds (Cats claw vine, Madeira vine and Chinese elm can alter riparian zones by killing or displacing native vegetation which can lead to bed and bank instability.

It is not feasible however to control all weeds, with available resources allocated to target the species that are most likely to impact on riparian zones and water quality and which can be realistically eradicated, controlled or managed. Therefore Cats claw vine (only known to exist in small infestations and all associated either in the urban environment or habitation), Madeira vine (widespread but in relatively small infestations mostly associated with roadsides) and Chinese elm (in limited infestations mainly in urban Maleny and along roadsides) are all deemed to be high priority and can be controlled with with an adequately resourced program of sufficient duration.



Madiera vine smothering vegetation on private property on the outskirts of Maleny and adjacent to the Obi Obi Creek

In 2015/16 Seqwater funded LBCCG to coordinate/project manage the first year of a (likely) long term Program to eradicate Cats claw and control/manage Madeira vine and Chinese elm.

Long term objectives and outcomes include:

- Reduce the risk weeds pose to riparian vegetation and systems;
- Improve knowledge of weed occurrence and spread in the catchment;
- Engage other stakeholders;
- Support other stakeholders particularly private landholders with advice and funding;
- Raise awareness of the economic and environmental impact of these weeds; and
- Monitor weed occurrence, Program results and monitor emerging new threats.

The 2015/16 Program focussed on freehold land, particularly Cats claw in urban Maleny and Madeira infestations in riparian zones or within close proximity. Four mature Chinese elm were also removed from Uniting Church/Erowal facility which were seeding Obi Obi Creek tributaries.



Madiera vine control on the Gole property a short distance upstream of Baroon Pocket Dam

The program in 2015/16 delivered over ten sites:

- 520 m² Cats claw control;
- 6,120 m² Madeira vine control; and
- 1,004 individual Chinese elm controlled;

Landslide Remediation Program

1516-018

Landslides or landslips as they are more commonly known locally occur on the flanks of the Maleny plateau or on the slopes associated with the streams that drain the plateau. Heavy rainfall reactivates colluvial soils that originated from historical landslips following land clearing.

Prior to European settlement the plateau was in delicate balance where the native forest cover stabilised steep slopes while utilising rainfall. Large scale clearing has changed the soils water balance with heavy rainfall now saturating the soil profile beyond its ability to resist gravity. It would seem that the catchment’s geomorphic makeup, past and present land use and high seasonal rainfall give Lake Baroon a proportionally high yield of landslip originated sediment and in particular suspended sediments.

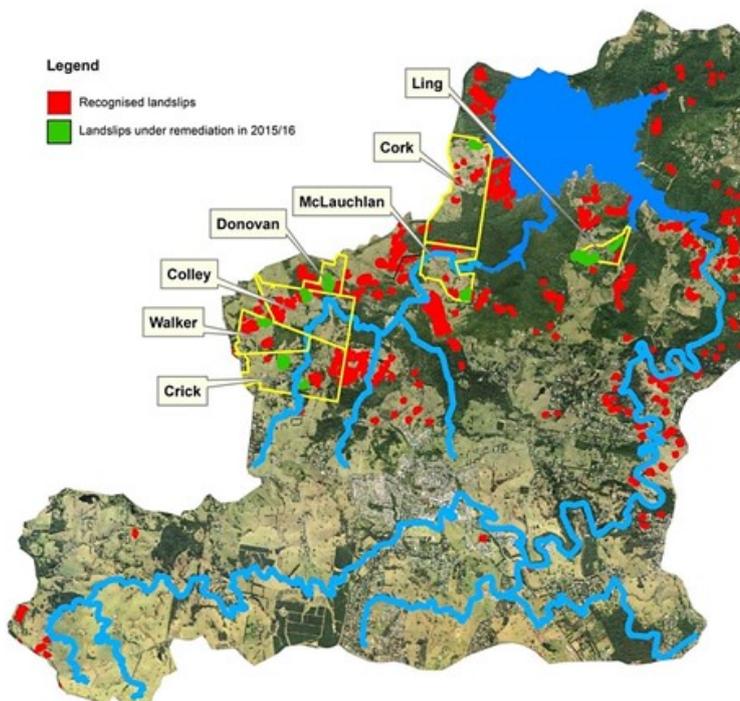
As the figure below indicates, a large portion of slip derived sediment originates from a small proportion of the catchment. Given the scale of the problem, the high cost of alternate engineering solutions, the ongoing risk to any remediation activities and the evidence that vegetation can reduce the risk, a targeted program based on the planting of appropriate vegetation, and drainage can provide a cost effective, low risk approach to landslip remediation.

Now in its third year the LBCCG facilitated Landslide Remediation Program is targeting landslips that are known to provide significant volumes of sediment to catchment watercourses that is ultimately delivered to Baroon Pocket Dam. The program is an example of the effectiveness of a catchment based community organisation can deliver an efficient, targeted and well received on-ground project in the catchment. LBCCG is well positioned to be able to access and engage key landholders in the catchment, an invaluable resource for Seqwater who do not own or have direct control of the vast majority of the catchment. This combined with LBCCG’s ability to professionally deliver and report at a high level make this a key partnership in the shared aim of providing water quality outcomes.

The program in 2015/16 delivered over seven sites:

- six hectares weed management;
- 4,000 plants;
- 1,100 metres permanent fencing;
- 2,650 metres of temporary electric fencing;
- 6 ha drainage (funded by landholders/ LBCCG).

Additionally 4,050 stems planted in previous years were continued to be maintained.



This Program focused on the dairy properties within the Lake Baroon Catchment area. Cleaner milk production not only protects the environment but also reduces operating costs, streamlines processes, boosts productivity, and improves sustainability. Maintaining a profitable business in dairy farming is becoming increasingly challenging, with most on-farm decisions made to improve production, however when developing farm infrastructure, significant environmental (and water quality) gains can also be achieved through careful design and construction.



River Ridge Dairies lies on the shores of Poona Dam

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group received funding from Seqwater for a Dairy Agricultural Practice Improvement (DAPI) Program with the broad aim to investigate the potential to reduce risks to water quality by providing dairy farmers the opportunity to implement improvements on their property. The 2016 phase of the program ran from January to July 2016 with three key elements:

1. Engagement of local dairy farmers, forming a Discussion Group and conducting various workshops that raised awareness;
2. In consultation with dairy farmers produced an Action Plan for each dairy farm detailing works and estimated costs for implementing works that provide both water quality outcomes as well as contributing to property viability;

3. Measured the environmental operating baseline of dairy farms – key for determination of funding priorities and long term progress and monitoring of change.

To engage dairy farmers, LBCCG conducted a series of workshops and events under an informal Discussion Group which allowed the participants to have a degree of ownership and suggest topics of interest. Several ‘official’ events were held:

- Stakeholder meetings (Maleny Dairies and Maleny Cheese);
- Dairy Program launch (attended by three dairy farms);
- Industry meeting (Queensland Dairying Organisation);
- Workshops (Soil analysis interpretation);
- External workshops (Kenilworth Dairy Group: Dairying Transition & Pasture Direct Drill and GPS);
- Farm visits (Maleny Dairies Australian Soil Planners); *and*
- External farm visit (River Ridge Dairies Nambour attended by four dairy farmers).



Long life fertiliser discussions

An important aspect of the Program was the role of the Project Officer (Extension Officer) to get all dairy farmers involved in the Program. LBCCG in the past has worked with five of the seven however the unengaged farmers (Webster and Oehmichen)

required a trust-building approach which can only be realistically achieved through an extension approach.

The Action Plans aim for win-win outcomes that will provide benefits to property management as well as water quality. Some simple examples are:

- Pasture management;
- Effluent management;
- Off stream water;
- Fencing;
- Erosion management;
- Protection of waterways;
- Hardening of laneways; and
- Other water quality activities

Additionally the program applied for funding from:

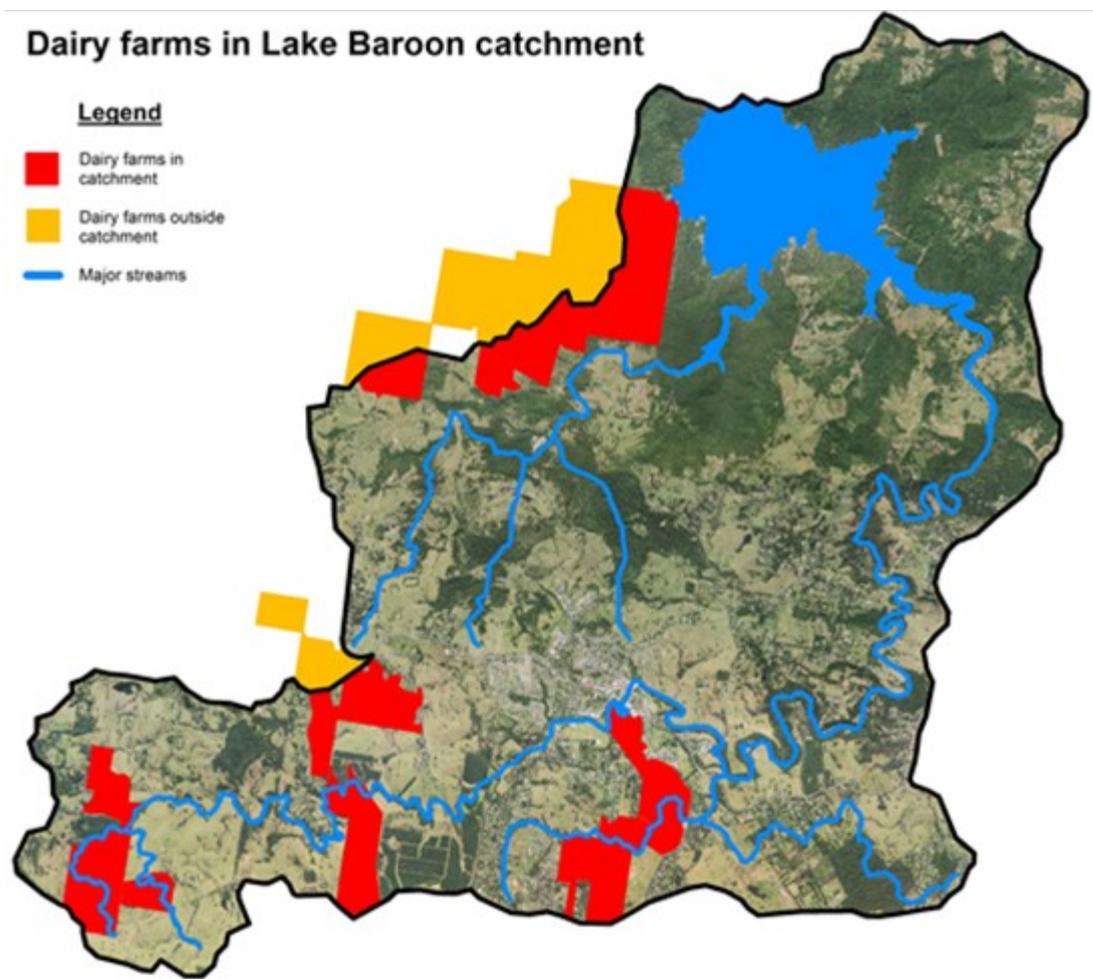
- Landcare Australia Special Projects (unsuccessful);

- Regional Landcare Facilitator Workshop and Capacity Building Grants (successful – three workshops to be delivered in 2016/17).



Dairy effluent management options

It is anticipated that funding will be available from Seqwater from 2017 to implement activities identified in the Action Plans.



PARTNERS



Seqwater is the major project and program funder of LBCCG. In some capacity, Seqwater has been involved in all LBCCG activities throughout the year.



Sunshine Coast Council through the Environment Levy Partnership Funding Program supports LBCCG to assist in the delivery of the Strategic Catchment Investment Programs – Landslides, Weeds and Dairy as well as other projects that meet Councils goals and aspirations.



Queensland Water and Land Carers is the peak body for NRM volunteers in Queensland supporting the valuable work of volunteer community groups and provides insurance cover for LBCCG.



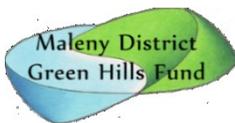
The Queensland Government's Everyone's Environment Grants provided funding to the Mid Obi Riparian Corridor Protection project. The project was implemented over 18 months and was completed in 2015/16.



LBCCG Project Officer Matt Bateman continues to provide support to Hinterland Bush Links to deliver a project targeting priority vine weeds in the upper Mary River.



The Commonwealth Government's Caring for Our Country Community Action Grants program provided seed funding to several LBCCG projects that were completed during the year.



Maleny District Green Hills Fund continues to be the lead community group on the Maleny Community Precinct. LBCCG provides administrative and resource support.



The Burnett Mary Regional Group is the Mary River Catchment's peak natural resource management body.



LBCCG and Sunshine Coast Council continued to collaborate on several projects including *Northern Alcorn Creek*, *Alcorn Creek Recovery and Walkers Creek Rehabilitation and Enhancement*.



Regional Landcare Facilitators support Landcare and production groups to adopt sustainable farm and land management practices and to protect Australia's landscape. LBCCG works closely with Burnett Mary facilitator Kay Enkelmann.



LBCCG and East Coast TAFE have continued a collaborative partnership in 2015-16. TAFE students provided labour support to *Walkers Creek Rehabilitation & Enhancement*, planting tubestock and managing woody weeds. TAFE also participated in a field walk on the Ling property viewing landslips and remediation and collection of flora samples as part of their studies.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & AUDIT REPORT

**LAKE BAROON
CATCHMENT CARE GROUP
INC**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AND

AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30TH JUNE 2016

Michael T Harper B.Bus. MIPA. Registered Company Auditor (6286)
Room 2, 2nd Level, 27A Howard Street, Nambour
PO Box 607, Nambour Qld 4560
Phone/Fax 07 5476 4386

LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP INC

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2016**

2015		2016
\$		\$
	INCOME	
329,272.09	Project Funding	379,314.72
50,000.00	Grant Income	
70,695.78	Administration Funding	165,000.00
	Awards Received	750.00
1,200.00	Donations	600.00
98.19	Membership Fees	109.09
4,247.29	Interest Received	4,769.48
	Surplus on Sale Vehicle	8,557.00
454.55	Sale Pump	
<u>455,967.90</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>559,100.29</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP INC

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2016**

2015 \$		2016 \$
	EXPENDITURE	
87.16	Advertising	150.78
458.18	Administration Costs	
1,117.78	Administration Support	842.00
450.00	Audit Fees	500.00
	Bank Charges	10.50
920.82	Bookkeeping	841.27
207.64	Catering	1,100.58
24.54	Cleaning	
445.40	Computer Expenses	1,554.71
	Conferences	409.09
3,280.00	Depreciation	5,370.45
237.05	Equipment	4,627.28
48.25	Fees and Permits	120.20
1,042.72	Fuel	365.02
	Garden Maintenance	730.00
757.41	Insurance	759.46
	Mapping	450.00
2,007.29	Meeting Expenses	1,328.33
31.82	Memberships and Subscriptions	31.82
3,546.31	Motor Vehicle Expenses	5,397.60
1,371.93	Photocopying	1,782.63
113.15	Postage	168.32
142.34	Printing and Stationery	259.95
329,272.09	Project Expenditure	379,314.72
218.18	Reference Books	
637.68	Repairs and Maintenance	228.40
101,809.60	Salaries and Wages	137,813.23
5.60	Staff Amenities	
198.49	Sundry Expenses	672.18
9,671.91	Superannuation Contributions	11,141.14
3,053.77	Telephone and Internet	2,741.56
87.09	Trailer Registration	212.60
	Training	220.40
291.78	Travel	74.90
	Uniforms	558.45
498.65	Workcover	714.57
110.00	Workplace Health and Safety	
<u>462,144.63</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>560,492.14</u>
<u>-6,176.73</u>	EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	<u>-1,391.85</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP INC

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2016**

2015 \$		2016 \$
	MEMBERS FUNDS	
59,540.53	Opening Balance	53,363.80
-6,176.73	Less Excess of Expenditure over Income	-1,391.85
<u>53,363.80</u>	TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	<u>51,971.95</u>
	REPRESENTED BY : -	
	ASSETS	
	CURRENT ASSETS	
200.00	Cash on Hand	500.00
7,384.78	Cash at Bank - Maleny Credit Union - 4937 S1	19,347.79
128,150.42	Cash at Bank - Maleny Credit Union - Esaver	68,384.09
66,217.75	Cash at Bank - Maleny Credit Union - Term Deposit	68,251.63
24,094.80	Trade Debtors	51,874.80
<u>226,047.75</u>	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>208,358.31</u>
	FIXED ASSETS	
19,760.10	Plant and Equipment - at Cost	19,760.10
17,010.10	Less Accumulated Depreciation	17,352.10
<u>2,750.00</u>		<u>2,408.00</u>
27,937.08	Motor Vehicles - at Cost	25,142.45
16,494.08	Less Accumulated Depreciation	5,028.45
<u>11,443.00</u>		<u>20,114.00</u>
<u>14,193.00</u>	TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	<u>22,522.00</u>
<u>240,240.75</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>230,880.31</u>
	LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	
4,829.43	Salary Sacrifice	
	Provision for Staff Entitlements	25,571.67
2,912.96	Superannuation Payable	3,824.56
7,576.60	GST Control Account	2,085.45
3,995.10	PAYG Liability	6,537.10
167,562.86	Project Liabilities	140,889.58
<u>186,876.95</u>	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>178,908.36</u>
<u>53,363.80</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>51,971.95</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP INC

**DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2016**

Asset	Cost	Acc/Deprn	Open WDV	Rate %	Deprn	Close WDV
Plant and Equipment						
Trailer	1,640	1,554	86	15.0	13	73
Display Boards	80	80	0	7.5	0	0
Answering Machine	79	79	0	15.0	0	0
Lamp	64	64	0	7.5	0	0
Filing Cabinet	90	90	0	7.5	0	0
Plastic Chairs	40	40	0	7.5	0	0
Turbidity Tubes	104	104	0	7.5	0	0
Computer (Pentium) and Scanner	2,829	2,829	0	36.0	0	0
Water Test Equipment	2,554	1,761	793	7.5	59	734
Tape Measures	147	147	0	7.5	0	0
First Aid Kits	70	70	0	7.5	0	0
Microscopes and Hand Lenses	1,073	713	360	7.5	27	333
Folding Display Unit	1,628	1,082	546	7.5	41	505
TV Video Unit	565	507	58	15.0	9	49
Brushcutter	963	963	0	30.0	0	0
Cannon S520 Printer	345	345	0	50.0	0	0
Filing Cabinets	1,393	1,245	148	20.0	30	118
Computer	1,445	1,259	186	20.0	37	149
Printer	490	490	0	50.0	0	0
Scanner	100	100	0	50.0	0	0
Concept IT System	2,433	2,394	39	50.0	20	20
Trailer - 13.08.10	1,628	1,094	534	20.0	107	427
Total Plant and Equipment	19,760	17,010	2,750		342	2,408
Motor Vehicles						
Triton GLX Utility 4x4 - 18.08.15	25,142	0	25,142	20.0	5,028	20,114
Total Motor Vehicles	25,142	0	25,142		5,028	20,114
Total	44,902	17,010	27,892		5,371	22,521

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc

**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30th June 2016**

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies.

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland) and the committee. The Committee has determined that the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

Statement of Financial Performance
Accounting for Income Tax
Materiality
Events Occurring after Reporting Date

No other **applicable** Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues, Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

This financial report has been prepared on a cash basis whereby items are brought into account as money is paid or received, from the records of the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc.

The following **material** accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Income Tax

The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc is exempt from income tax under the Australian Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. No provision for income tax has therefore been made in these accounts.

(b) Payments to Members

There were no payments made to members of the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc in the form of remuneration.

(c) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation has been calculated over the useful lives of the assets commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**Independent Audit Report to the Committee of the
Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc
For the year ended 30th June 2016**

Scope

We have audited the financial statements, being a special purpose financial report, of the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc for the year ended 30th June 2016. The Committee is responsible for the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the Committee. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the Committee. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the Committee.

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland) and the Committee. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the Committee, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures include examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

As is common for organizations of this type, it is not practicable for the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc to maintain an effective system of internal control over receipts and payments until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, the audit in relation to these activities was limited to the amounts recorded.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial position of the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc as at 30th June 2016 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Michael T. Harper MIPA.
Registered Company Auditor 6286



Dated this 12th day of August 2016

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc

**Statement by Members of the Committee
For the year ended 30th June 2016**

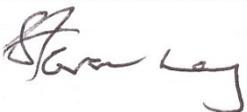
The Committee has determined that the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the financial report as set out:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc as at 30th June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
3. All expenses included on the Profit and Loss Statement for the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc for the year ended 30th June 2016 have been approved for payment by the Committee.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

President.....

Secretary.....

Treasurer.....

Dated this.....13th.....day of.....October.....2016