



Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Annual Report

2012-13



Working with our community for our waterways

LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP**Annual Report 2012-13****CONTENTS**

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2012-13 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

2012-13 STAFF

Project Manager	<i>Mark Amos</i>
HBL Coordinator	<i>Susie Duncan</i>



LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group is a not-for-profit community group working to improve the water quality in the Lake Baroon catchment.

The group was formed in 1991 by the Maleny community in response to on-going water quality issues in the catchment and Lake Baroon.

LBCCG includes representatives from a wide range of interest groups, including local councils, primary producers, commerce and industry, the urban community, conservation and tourism.

The group is generously supported by Seqwater and other funding bodies to develop and implement on-ground works that improve water quality.

Our objectives are to:

- Promote integrated catchment management in the Lake Baroon catchment;**
- Raise awareness of water quality issues;**
- Fund on-ground works that improve water quality.**

LBCCG funds activities that improve water quality in the Lake Baroon Catchment.

On-ground works also contribute to the sustainability and manageability of the property.

These include (but are not limited to):

- Hardening of stock laneways & dairy pads;
- Waterway crossings;
- Off stream watering;
- Dairy effluent management;
- Erosion management;
- Property plans;
- Waterway fencing;
- Targeted revegetation.

Larger properties are preferred, however smaller properties can improve their chances of funding assistance by working with their neighbours to cover a larger area.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT**Peter Stevens**

This past year saw the highest ever total project value delivered by LBCCG in a single year. A total of \$458,712 from a Seqwater funding base of \$123,141, all expended to on-ground projects. Over \$86,000 in external grants are included in these figures. This year also saw the group expend over \$2.5 million since 2000 over 141 catchment care projects, the vast majority since our Seqwater funding agreement commenced.

These figures are remarkable; they highlight how effective a group such as ours can be, given the right support. Many of these achievements are due in no small part to the work of Mark Amos, our Project Manager, who I would like to thank for an outstanding year.

One of the most important differences between our group and many others is that we have a direct funding agreement with Seqwater. In contrast many groups in this area look towards BMRG as the regional NRM manager for funding. Unfortunately BMRG has been less than forthcoming with funding or even engagement for many groups, including ours. By example, I think I would be right in saying that BMRG has not contributed one dollar to any on-ground project undertaken by LBCCG in the last ten years. This state of affairs is not acceptable, as without some core funding, many groups are unable to survive or become ineffective at carrying out their role. It would seem that State and Federal Governments still do not understand NRM group requirements over the long term. A project based funding regime only delivers liabilities and not consistency or tenure.

Our meeting this year with Seqwater senior management was productive and the LBCCG 2013/2014 Priority Strategy was received and noted for its professionalism and excellent outcomes. The Priority Strategy provides a comprehensive overview of all projects undertaken last year, an outlook for projects next year and copious amounts of other information that relate to the operation and activities of LBCCG. I commend it to you. Seqwater has also confirmed it will continue to honour an increase of \$20,000 pa to our funding, bringing our total funding by Seqwater to over \$200,000 pa. I am also pleased that this past year Seqwater has instigated a landslip remediation program and assessment. Landslips as we all know are a normal part of life on the range, but the impacts they can cause to water quality are significant and we are looking forward to assisting Seqwater in any way possible to mitigate their effects. Information collected by Seqwater regarding landslips will be valuable, and will help us further prioritise our own on-ground works program.

I would also like to congratulate HBL and Susie Duncan on completing her first year of our joint partnership with SCRC. Waterways often provide the best and sometimes only linkage between remnant vegetation areas. So Susie's work is very relevant to what we do, and we are looking forward to a further two years of this association. Alongside this collaboration, it is also interesting to note that we have an increasing number of projects ourselves with the SCRC. Council now is a partner with us in numerous projects and is able to contribute financially and through interaction with their knowledgeable staff.

Another area of increasing activity is our involvement in research projects. Some are commissioned projects through Seqwater and others are direct with various Australian universities. The response of landholders who are prepared to be engaged in this research is encouraging and indicates a high level of trust between us and landholders. For me, this is a key indicator when assessing community engagement.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Odgers who has worked with our group for many years in his role as Northern Catchments Co-ordinator for Seqwater. I know that Tim has understood where we are coming from and has been a good ambassador for our group over this time. Tim is moving into the Water Quality Team with Seqwater and we wish him well for the future, we have no doubt that we will continue to see his face in his new role.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the committee here today and those not present for all the time and energy they have put into LBCCG. I hope that the excellent outcomes this group achieves is sufficient reward for what can be a thankless task. I know this group would not be the success it is, were it not for a good committee. I would also reiterate my respect to Mark for the success he has achieved in his role as Project Co-ordinator.



LBCCG Management Committee, Staff and Members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Schelberg

It is, again, my pleasure to present the audited financial statements for the year ending June 2013.

This year has been another very successful year with our project work progressing as weather conditions and contractor availability have permitted. Very importantly, we have been able to continue to provide excellent outcomes, professionally undertaken and finished and within budget. Our work not only improves the water quality delivered to Lake Baroon but also enhances the value and aesthetics of our beautiful land and, very importantly, it provides benchmarks to other landholders and Landcare Groups.

A special thank you goes to our Project Manager, Mark Amos, for his amiable client and contractor interaction, his attention to project budgets and cost tracking. I have appreciated Mark's knowledge of and assistance with our financial system. Our bookkeeper, David Binstead has done a great job and has been helpful to me in my role as Treasurer.

Again, our special thanks to Seqwater and others for their financial support this year. LBCCG could not survive without their continued financial contributions. We have utilised these finances very wisely and I can confirm that we have finished this financial year with a favourable balance.

I therefore 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 2013/2014 financial year.

HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS COORDINATOR REPORT**Susie Duncan**

Hinterland Bush Links has had a busy year. A three-year Community Partnership with Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) was received and this part-funds the coordinator and expenses. More recently Martina Gordon has assisted as a volunteer with coordination of Roving Restorers.

A strong focus continues on restoration of the Cambroon wildlife corridor linking the Conondale and Blackall Ranges. Landholder engagement there has resulted in more properties joining Land for Wildlife and some have received Landholder Environment Grants from SCC to enhance riparian vegetation. Mapping of Cats Claw, Madeira vine and Dutchmans pipe in the corridor and initial treatment of these serious weed vines, was funded by Burnett Mary Regional Group with support from Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee. A workshop was held to engage local landholders in management of these weeds on their properties. Further funding is being sought for more weed vine works in both the Cambroon Corridor and the rest of the upper catchment of the Mary River. Also in the Cambroon corridor, Little Yabba Park Bushcare group meets monthly to restore vegetation along the banks of Little Yabba Creek. The banks of this creek were seriously eroded in the January 2013 floods and some of the group's work was lost.

A valuable workshop was held in the Cambroon district to illustrate how local landholders have restored vegetation through their property from a forested ridge-line to the Mary River. Other workshops have been held on the Blackall Range on the topics of natural regeneration, privet management and creating good wildlife habitat. Hinterland Bush Links partnered with SCC to introduce the community to the Kirbys Road Environmental Reserve, an acquisition by Council of land that now links the Kidaman Ck section of Maleny National Park with Kondalilla National Park. At this community day some 1400 trees were planted to connect habitat on the creek that flows through the property. HBL has supported several other tree-planting events in the region.

An information session on connecting habitat in the Upper Mary Valley was attended by 60 people. HBL has addressed many other groups on connectivity including an NRM tour attended by SCC councillors and the local State Member and Environment Minister, Andrew Powell. Stalls have been held at World Environment Day, Mary River Festival, Barung Wood Expo and Gardening on the Edge.

Roving Restorers has been assisting landholders on a monthly basis with over one hundred volunteers helping out with weed management and tree planting. Most working bees are followed by a walk on the property to see sites of special interest.

HBL has prepared a map and description of key corridors in the Blackall Range – Upper Mary – Conondale Range region. This provides a basis for prioritising landholder engagement efforts but all landholders are encouraged to get on board with both restoration and connectivity works.

HBL has been working closely with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative over the past year to further their vision of connecting habitat along eastern Australia from Victoria to Cape York. We have also had input to the National Wildlife Corridors Plan which is being developed at a Federal level. At a regional level HBL continues to work collaboratively with a wide range of groups and agencies and has regular contact with our local State Member Andrew Powell, and SCC councillors.

A new HBL Facebook group site has been created to reach a wider audience and this has been very successful <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hinterlandbushlinks/>. Regular articles about project activities are posted in Barung News, Codwatch and various other local newsletters and newspapers. HBL is grateful to SCC for funding a Community Partnership and tools for Roving Restorers; BMRG for weed vine management funding; Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group for administrative support and professional advice; and Jane Abercrombie for her generous donation towards the project. The project has been guided by the expertise and experience of a wonderfully supportive advisory group. And Barung Landcare staff and volunteers continue to offer extensive assistance and enthusiasm to keep the project on the road.

LBCCG PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT**Mark Amos**

The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group has once again punched above its weight delivering real environmental outcomes in the Lake Baroon catchment in 2012-13.

An exceptional Management Committee that steadfastly remains committed to the core focus of reducing risks to water quality, along with the rare ability to work together to achieve results means I, the LBCCG Project Manager always has a clear understanding of my role.

But the key to the successful community group puzzle are the members – in this case the landholders with whom we work. Without landholder support and acceptance we are nothing. Like the wider Maleny community, landholders are a varied bunch, but all have something in common – the desire to improve the land, on which they live, work and play.

Another year...another wet summer! Fortunately LBCCG projects are always well planned and hiccups like floods or lengthy dry periods are mere inconveniences. Importantly LBCCG engages local experienced contractors who understand the catchment and weather patterns and are invaluable when planning and implementing projects.

Our major funding partner, Seqwater has continued to attentively support our projects during the year enabling us to leverage further support from other sources. Tim Odgers for several years has been our immediate contact within Seqwater and has unwaveringly supported LBCCG endeavours. Tim has recently moved into a different role and although his association with us has not ended, we will be dealing with different people within Seqwater. We wish Tim well for the future.



Field Walk (in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council) on Bridge Creek Rehabilitation [Watter] project.

In 2012-13 LBCCG undertook ten projects that utilised Seqwater funding. Three of these projects (Bridge Creek Rehabilitation [McLauchlan], Bridge Creek Rehabilitation [Watter] and Upper Obi Obi Creek Restoration) were multi-year projects funded in previous financial years and have now been completed or entered a 'maintenance' phase. Ongoing maintenance is critical on larger projects to ensure the successful establishment of revegetation. Maintenance is ideally performed by contractors to ensure timely and effective work is carried out.

Two projects (Maleny Community Precinct Riparian Fencing Stage 2A and 2B) are effectively a single ongoing project however separate Stage Plans were developed to take into account changing circumstances, and ensure implementation is cost

effective and to a high standard. Maleny District Green Hills Fund have secured funding through the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund (\$175,000 over three years) to re-establish six hectares of vegetation as a riparian buffer on Obi Obi Creek. LBCCG is providing riparian fencing.

Five new projects were developed and commenced during the 2012-13 financial year. One of these projects (Restoring Bridge Creek – A Partnership between the Commonwealth, State and Community) received external funding; the Commonwealth Government's Caring for Our Country Community Action Grants. External funding is extremely valuable in value-adding to the Seqwater investment. In fact this project would not have occurred without the assistance received through the Commonwealth program.

In 2012-13 LBCCG strengthened ties with Sunshine Coast Council, a local government with the vision the Sunshine Coast will “*become Australia’s the most sustainable region – vibrant, green, diverse*”. Council implement the vision in many ways but of particular interest to LBCCG is through their Community Partnerships program (Hinterland Bush Links [HBL]) and Landholder Environment Grants (LEG). The HBL project aims to link the large public land blocks throughout the Upper Mary, Mooloolah and Stanley Rivers by encouraging the establishment of vegetation corridors and supporting landholders to source assistance. Although this is primarily a wildlife focussed project, watercourses throughout the region play an important and obvious role in the provision of linkages and therefore water quality outcomes are welcome additional benefits of the project.

The Council LEG program supported three LBCCG projects. Alcorn Creek Riparian Remediation received \$9,396 to fence and revegetate an eroding watercourse in the Bridge Creek catchment, while \$5,509 was received for riparian fencing on a 2011-12 project: *Cork Dairies Obi Obi Creek Riparian Protection*. A further \$1,874 was received for a small project in the Walkers Creek catchment revegetating riparian zones.

LBCCG has spent considerable time during the year supporting and assisting Seqwater sponsored research projects. Griffith University undertook sediment source and budget analysis and the efficacy of riparian zones in trapping and processing nutrients and sediments. LBCCG assisted with landholder engagement, catchment information, maps and reference materials, and where land access was denied, suggested suitable alternative sites. LBCCG also accompanied the researchers onto sites to conduct landholder introductions, direct access and provide back up support when required.

LBCCG has established over time exceptional relationships with landholders throughout the catchment, a benefit that is difficult to quantify or value, but nevertheless is critical to Seqwater and its partners. A further benefit is the catchment and LBCCG, is viewed as an ideal location to conduct research. The University of Queensland approached LBCCG to provide sites, property access and support to a PhD project researching the benefits (or otherwise) of revegetation on nutrient cycling and effects on the soil profile. Although not directly supported by Seqwater, nonetheless the information realised by the research is likely to be valuable to both Seqwater and LBCCG in quantifying the benefits of waterway restoration.



Spiny Crayfish research.

LBCCG has actively supported Seqwater monitoring of the Cork Dairies projects (laneway rehabilitation and waterway crossings). Andrew Smolders, Seqwater Northern Catchments Water Quality Coordinator has been monitoring the impacts of dairy cattle on water quality – particularly the movement twice daily from paddock to milking shed and the negotiation of waterways. Sampling for an extended period prior to the construction of crossings and installation of exclusion fencing, provided baseline data and will be compared with post –work sampling to determine the impacts of livestock on catchment water quality and endeavour to prove that LBCCG projects DO improve water quality.

LBCCG has also funded (utilising LBCCG Members Funds) a PhD project researching local spiny and hairy crayfish populations. Listed on the ICUN Red List of Threatened Species, neither crayfish enjoys any local protection despite being endemic only to the Blackall Range and nearby Conondales. The project is researching the genetic integrity of the two species which will indicate the long term prospects for survival. A potential outcome of the research is to contribute to the eventual listing of the species in Queensland, Recovery Plans formulated and funding to protect and enhance habitat – protection and restoration of waterways (and associated improved water quality outcomes).

PROJECTS OVERVIEW 2012-13

Project	Activities	Seqwater Funding	Grants	Other Contrib.	Total Value
1213-001 Maleny Community Precinct Fencing	Riparian fencing	10,888	-	\$111,667 ⁽¹⁾	\$122,555
1213-002 Upper Lawley Creek Restoration Year 2	Revegetation maintenance Weed management Community events	\$7,258	-	\$18,800	\$26,058
1213-003 Restoring Bridge Creek	Riparian fencing Revegetation Waterway crossing Community events	\$28,044	\$19,950 ⁽²⁾	\$15,000	\$62,994
1213-004 Bridge Creek Rehabilitation (McLauchlan) Year 4	Revegetation maintenance	\$1,129	-	\$10,000	\$11,129
1213-005 Upper Obi Obi Creek Restoration Year 2	Weed management Revegetation maintenance	\$7,226	-	\$3,600	\$10,826
1213-007 Bridge Creek Rehabilitation (Watter) Year 4	Revegetation replanting	\$135	-	\$5,240	\$5,375
1213-008 Erowal Riparian Fencing & Off Stream Watering	Riparian fencing Weed management	\$17,310	-	\$20,600	\$37,910
1213-009 Upper Alcorn Riparian Fencing	Riparian fencing Off stream watering Waterway crossings Laneway rehabilitation	\$40,698	-	\$44,950	\$85,648
1213-010 Spiny Crayfish Research	Genetic research program	-	-	\$5,000	\$5,000
1213-011 Hinterland Bush Links	Hosted wildlife corridor	-	\$50,000 ⁽³⁾	not assessed	\$50,000
1213-012 Alcorn Creek Riparian Remediation	Riparian fencing Revegetation	10,443	\$9,396 ⁽⁴⁾	\$10,007	\$29,847
1213-015 Fryars Creek Nature Corridor	Revegetation Weed management	-	\$1,874 ⁽⁴⁾	\$3,645	\$5,519
1112-009⁽⁵⁾ Cork Dairies Obi Obi Creek Riparian Protection	Riparian fencing	-	\$5,509 ⁽⁴⁾	not assessed	\$5,509
TOTALS		\$123,131	\$86,729	\$248,509	\$458,370

(1) Maleny District Green Hills Fund Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund project (includes all contributors)

(2) Commonwealth Government Community Action Grants program

(3) Sunshine Coast Council Community Partnership

(4) Sunshine Coast Council Landholder Environment Grants

(5) 2011-12 Project – all other contributions have been previously report

PROJECT OUTPUTS 2012-13

Project Outputs 2012-13	1213-001 Maleny Community Precinct Fencing Stage 2	1213-002 Upper Lawley Creek Restoration Year 2	1213-003 Restoring Bridge Creek	1213-004 Bridge Ck Rehabilitation (McLauchlan) Year 4	1213-005 Upper Obi Obi Creek Restoration Year 2	1213-007 Bridge Ck Rehabilitation (Watter) Year 4	1213-008 Erowal Riparian Fencing & Off Stream Watering	1213-009 Upper Alcorn Creek Riparian Fencing	1213-010 Spiny Crayfish Research	1213-011 Hinterland Bush Links	1213-012 Alcorn Creek Riparian Remediation	1213-015 Fryars Creek Nature Corridor	1112-009 Cork Dairies Obi Obi Creek Protection	TOTALS
Fencing	1,400	-	611	-	-	-	850	1,250	-	-	400	-	380	4,891 m
Revegetation	-	-	2,000	-	-	90	-	-	-	-	1,400	680	-	4,170 plants
Hardening (linear m)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000 m
Weed control (m ²)	-	10,000	10,000	-	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	70,000 m²
Waterway crossings	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4
Revegetation maintained	-	3,200	-	4,500	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,700 plants
Off Stream Watering	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
PhD Research Project	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Community Partnership	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Maleny Community Precinct Fencing Stage 2 (Project No. 1213-001)



Unmanaged livestock on MCP. The project has fenced 1,000 metres of Obi Obi Creek.



Riparian fencing and revegetation.



2013 World Environment Day - Unitywater community event.

Second year of three year project.

The Maleny Community Precinct (MCP) is located immediately to the east of Maleny covering approximately 127 hectares. The ex-dairy farms were purchased in 2004 by Caloundra City Council for the disposal of treated effluent from the upgraded Maleny Sewage Treatment Plant with the balance of land designated for community use. As part of the community use component, a golf course, sporting fields, plant nursery and other uses have been planned with a significant area also allocated for environmental restoration and enhancement, including revegetation of watercourses and wetlands.

The majority of the MCP is grazed although the extent and intensity will gradually decrease as the site is progressively developed. Maleny District Green Hills Fund secured Commonwealth funding through the Community Action Grants (\$20,000) and Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund (\$175,000) to establish seven hectares of riparian buffer on Obi Obi Creek. LBCCG is contributing fencing to exclude livestock and other damaging access during the development of the site.

The project is designed to address multiple environmental issues including wildlife corridors, habitat expansion and enhancement and of course water quality. The fencing of 1,000 metres of Obi Obi Creek will reduce the impacts of livestock (erosion, faecal material entry to waterways, nutrients, pathogens) and issues associated with development and construction of hard surfaces (roads etc) such as building site run off, fertilisers and urban pollution (hydrocarbons, litter etc) through the establishment of a riparian buffer.

LBCCG members funds have previously (2011-12) funded 550 metres of semi-permanent and 275 metres of temporary fencing.

A complimentary project in 2012-13 saw a partnership between LBCCG, Unitywater, Green Hills and Barung Landcare fencing and revegetating a tributary of Obi Obi Creek (Unitywater lease area). LBCCG provided the fencing labour and several Management Committee members attended the World Environment Day event.

Upper Lawley Creek Restoration Year 2 (Project No. 1213-002)



Riparian fencing and revegetation on upper Lawley Creek and tributaries.



Field walk for project partners, landholders and LBCCG Management Committee.



Conservation Volunteers Australia planting vines as part of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Recovery project.

Second year of three year project.

The project is a significant partnership between the Commonwealth Government (seed funding through Community Action Grants program), Seqwater, LBCCG, Barung Landcare and the Sunshine Coast Council all contributing funding.

The project aims to reduce nutrient, sediment, pathogen and chemical delivery to waterways, improve aquatic habitat, raise community awareness, improve farm productivity, promote whole farm approach to property management, reduce the impact of weeds, restore links between vegetation and create corridors, provide terrestrial habitat including designated Essential Habitat and establish a healthy, diverse and resilient environment that will address climate variability.

The project is being implemented over three adjoining properties with area mapped as Essential Habitat for threatened species by DERM (EPBC vulnerable *Macadamia ternifolia* and *Syzygium hodgkinsoniae*).

The project is controlling environmental weeds in remnant vegetation and riparian zones improving the ability of the existing vegetation to provide a vegetative buffer. The project has fenced and revegetated (3,200 plants) 630 metres of Lawley Creek including steep slopes and seasonally waterlogged areas.

Sunshine Coast Council through the Voluntary Conservation Agreement and Landholder Environment Grants programs have contributed to the weed management and provided a further 750 plants to complete the revegetation of a tributary.

Conservation Volunteers Australia planted approximately 50 Richmond Birdwing Vines as part of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Recovery project.

Two field walks have been conducted on the project – one mid-project for the LBCCG Management Committee, landholders and project partners and also a further walk for Land for Wildlife property owners with Sunshine Coast Council.

Restoring Bridge Creek – A Partnership between the Commonwealth, State and Community (Project No. 1213-003)



Fencing construction.

This project is enhancing the filtering and buffering capacity of a degraded Bridge Creek tributary; excluding livestock from the waterway and establishing a vegetation buffer to filter paddock run off that carries faecal material and potentially pathogens, sediments, nutrients and pesticides.

The project also extends the vegetation corridor between remnant vegetation on the Keton property and constructed wetlands on Sunshine Coast Council property, which enabled funding to be received from the Commonwealth Government's Community Action Grants program.

The project has excluded livestock from 380 metres of waterway and planted 2,000 trees to establish a buffer and installed a low level concrete waterway crossing to allow livestock movement on both sides of the waterway and provide a stable, controlled watering point.

In mid-2013 a joint LBCCG Sunshine Coast Council/Land for Wildlife field walk visited the property to view project progress – particularly revegetation techniques and alternative livestock water infrastructure (crossing).



Waterway crossing/livestock watering point.



Land for Wildlife field walk conducted in mid-2013.

Bridge Creek Rehabilitation [McLauchlan] Year 4 (Project No. 1213-004)

Community Action Grant funded project – fencing and revegetation of unstable hill slope.



Three year old revegetation stabilising watercourses and seasonally waterlogged areas.



This project was completed in 2012-13.

Bridge Creek Rehabilitation was developed from the 2009 LBCCG Property Management Planning program and is designed to address multiple environmental, agricultural and water quality issues on a beef property immediately upstream of Lake Baroon.

The project is enhancing the filtering and buffering capacity of degraded waterways, springs and seasonal soaks in the Bridge Creek catchment; removed livestock access to an area of hill-slope erosion, rehabilitated livestock laneways, waterway crossings and dam overflows while improving property sustainability by reducing the loss of nutrients and top soil. The fencing of watercourses and reestablishment of vegetation reduces risk to water quality by buffering faecal material, sediment and chemical to Bridge Creek.

The project has excluded livestock from 375 metres of waterway, planted 5,000 plants to establish buffers between agricultural activities and watercourses, excluded livestock from waterlogged areas and fenced and revegetated a steep, unstable hill slope (Commonwealth Government's Community Action Grants) that was delivering significant volumes of sediment downslope. Immediately upstream of Lake Baroon this property in the lower Bridge Creek catchment has been identified as a major contributor of sediments and pathogens and likely to be high risk for pathogens.

A side project funded by the landholders, Sunshine Coast Council (Minor Grants program) and labour provided by Conservation Volunteers Australia addressed a small, but potentially catastrophic landslip. Extensive drainage, profiling and revegetation has provided as an important demonstration site for the management of landslips.

Rehabilitated land slip with revegetation and dense pasture grass in rows.

Upper Obi Obi Creek Restoration Year 2 (Project No. 1213-005)

Tributary of Obi Obi Creek on the Farmhouse Macadamias property (Site 2).



All trees were protected from frost, spray drift and predation with 'Plant Pink' guards.



Site 1 – Obi Obi Creek tributary revegetation.

Second year of a three year project.

The Farmhouse Macadamias property on Obi Obi Creek has a 2.5 km frontage and is well vegetated – much of it supporting a relatively wide buffer. This is due to patches of remnant vegetation, extensive revegetation programs and weedy areas.

The project has continued the establishment of a buffer on the Obi Obi Creek. The buffer provides a vegetation filter between agricultural activities in the orchard and King's Lane Weir – an important component of the water supply to Lake Baroon.

The revegetation will filter run-off from the property potentially carrying pesticides, sediments and nutrients derived from fertilisers, while extending the wildlife corridor along the Obi Obi Creek.

Conservation Volunteers Australia, through the National Green Jobs Corps planted 2,000 trees on Obi Obi Creek and two tributaries, and controlled weeds over two hectares.

A field day was held in 2012 viewing the project, remnant vegetation and previous revegetation projects (commenced in 2003).



Field Day conducted in 2012.

Bridge Creek Rehabilitation [Watter] Year 4 (Project No. 1213-007)

The project has fenced 350 metres of waterway and planted in excess of 2,250 plants.



Despite poor soils and high maintenance inputs the vegetation has established well.



This project was completed in 2012-13.

This project is enhancing the filtering and buffering capacity of a degraded waterway in the Bridge Creek catchment; restricting livestock access to an area of hill-slope erosion while improving property sustainability by reducing the loss of nutrients and top soil. The fencing of watercourses and reestablishment of vegetation reduces risk to water quality by buffering faecal material, sediment and chemical delivery to Bridge Creek.

The project has excluded livestock from 350 metres of waterway, planted in excess of 2,250 plants to create a buffer between agricultural activities and the watercourse, and fenced and revegetated a steep, unstable hill-slope that was delivering significant volumes of sediment downstream. This particular area of the upper Bridge Creek catchment has been identified as a major contributor of sediments and pathogens and likely to be high risk for pathogens.

Sunshine Coast Council through the Land for Wildlife program have been project partners throughout the life of the project assisting with technical advice, provision of "Plant Pink" tree guards and the protection of a small stand of remnant vegetation.

In early 2013 part of the fenced and revegetated hill slope suffered a major landslip. The landholders with assistance from Sunshine Coast Council (Landholder Environment Grants) and LBCCG will repair the fencing, install drainage and replant when conditions permit.

The consecutive wet summers, poor drainage and lack of soil binding vegetation contributed to the hill slope site suffering from land slip in early 2013.

Erowal Riparian Fencing and Off Stream Watering (Project No. 1213-008)

Large, deep pool on Obi Obi Creek. Note the dilapidated fencing in foreground.

This project is excluding livestock from the Obi Obi Creek riparian zone, establishing off stream watering for and has commenced weed management in previous revegetation sites (circa 1990).

Erowal is an aged care facility on the eastern outskirts of Maleny with a one kilometre frontage to Obi Obi and Walkers Creeks. The property includes approximately 15 hectares of pasture utilised for dry dairy cow grazing, including immature livestock (highest risk for shedding pathogens).

Existing fencing is ineffectual and beyond repair, with livestock accessing the creek for water and regularly crossing the creek onto the Maleny Community Precinct into revegetation areas.

The replacement of the fencing will require the installation of off stream watering in Year 2 of the project (2013-14). Once livestock are removed from riparian zones weed growth can rapidly increase so an important (and essential) component of the project is the provision of management funding to ensure environmental weeds do not establish and degrade the revegetation.

The project has excluded livestock from 850 metres of Obi Obi Creek riparian zone and commenced the enhancement of the riparian zone through weed management, improving the ability of the riparian zone to function as an effective buffer to paddock run off (sediments, nutrients, faecal material/pathogens, urban pollution and pesticides). The wildlife corridor/linkage will also be enhanced over time.

Off stream watering to be installed in 2013-14 and weed management to continue for further two years (2013-14 and 2014-15).



Minor weed infestations in riparian zone.



Obi Obi Creek riparian zone with previous revegetation on right bank (MCP is on left bank).

Upper Alcorn Creek Riparian Fencing (Project No. 1213-009)

Thorne farm with Alcorn Creek splitting the property in two.

This project is enhancing the riparian zone on a substantial length of Alcorn Creek – a major tributary of Bridge Creek. Over 1,200 metres of Alcorn Creek (and a similar length of smaller tributaries) and more than 15 hectares of riparian zone has been fenced to manage livestock reducing degrading impacts on the waterway.

The large property breeds beef cattle and carries young livestock (highest risk for shedding pathogens) throughout the year. By managing livestock access we will reduce the risk of pathogens entering the waterways.

Other water quality benefits will be realised from reduced erosion and input of sediments, reduced volume of faecal material deposited directly into waterways, establishment of a vegetative buffer (both trees and grass) to filter paddock run off, including nutrients derived from fertilisers and pesticides.

With livestock excluded from Alcorn Creek an expansion of the existing off stream watering network is required with between 1-3 troughs established.

Waterway crossings required upgrading to handle the more intensive use by livestock. As the waterway varies greatly from one end of the property to the other, three different crossings were required. A low level concrete crossing at the upstream end, a piped crossing on a tributary in the mid reaches and a beam bridge in the downstream reach enables all weather access (combined with the formalisation and rehabilitation of existing livestock laneways (established when the property was a dairy) with road-base.

The project not only delivers substantial water quality benefits but also protects remnant vegetation, enhances the wildlife corridor and contributes to the stabilisation of land slips.



Alcorn Creek with remnant vegetation.

Alcorn Creek Riparian Remediation (Project No. 1213-012)

The Donovan/Stevens property from Bridge Creek Road.



The gully to be fenced and revegetated (when conditions permit).



Livestock tracks and erosion in bed of watercourse.

Alcorn Creek Riparian Remediation addresses several environmental and water quality issues. Sunshine Coast Council through their Landholder Environment Grants have contributed \$9,396 to the project to reduce erosion, manage land slip and establish wildlife corridors/linkages.

The western part of the Bridge Creek catchment has long been suspected to contributing large volumes of sediment and nutrient loads into Lake Baroon due to the high incidence of instability (land slip) and the presence of soils high in phosphorus. There are several large properties along Witta/Tesch Road; including two operational dairies (although the milking sheds and associated effluent systems are outside the catchment) that likely contribute to the high faecal coliform levels detected during high rainfall events.

The project has fenced 150 metres of waterway and revegetated the riparian zone with 1,400 trees, including plants recommended for land slip remediation. This will assist in the stabilisation of the unstable left bank of the gully while establishing a wildlife linkage. Livestock will be excluded from the gully reducing faecal material being directly deposited in the waterway while establishing a vegetative buffer to intercept overland flow, filtering sediments, nutrients and faecal coliforms which may contain pathogens.

Spiny Crayfish Research (Project No. 1213-010)



Electro-fishing for crayfish in Obi Obi Creek.



Mature spiny crayfish.



Sampling the catch.

There are five specific aims of this research:

1: Identify new locations for both species of spiny crayfish in the Mary and Brisbane River Catchment to determine the distribution of these species

To estimate the effective population size (N_e) of *Euastacus hystricosus* and *Euastacus urospinosus* aid in the development of targeted conservation strategies by giving some approximation of population numbers to indicate the viability of current and future populations.

3: Infer the population stability of *Euastacus hystricosus* and *Euastacus urospinosus* as populations that have long-term population stability are considered most likely to persist through environmental fluctuations. Population stability is inferred using genetic data and demographic inference.

4: To estimate levels and patterns of contemporary dispersal between populations of *Euastacus hystricosus* and *Euastacus urospinosus* within the context of habitat fragmentation and climatic variance. By using large numbers of individuals and combining highly resolving microsatellites markers, with GIS derived landscape/climate data the outcomes of this objective should decide the factors limiting dispersal between populations.

Possible side project given time and resources

5: To determine if dispersal in *Euastacus hystricosus* is correlated with its symbiotic flatworm *Temnosewellia batiola*. By comparing the contemporary dispersal between the symbionts and their hosts, it is expected that we can better predict the co-extinction risk of *Temnosewellia batiola* should their hosts become extinct.

Hinterland Bush Links (Project No. 1213-011)



Hinterland Bush Links “Roving Restorers” controlling Crofton weed in Bellthorpe National Park

Hinterland Bush Links is a visionary project to protect the biodiversity of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland by connecting, restoring and protecting habitat. It was launched in response to the decline of many plants, animals and ecosystems in this biodiverse region. This decline is due to loss and fragmentation of vegetation, and degradation of habitat by weed invasion. Connecting blocks of bush with wildlife corridors will facilitate dispersal of plants and animals through the landscape, increasing available habitat and allowing species to adapt to climate change.

Hinterland Bush Links is expected to run for more than 10 years. For the purpose of a Community Partnership with Sunshine Coast Council, the first stage will cover 3 years. In this period it is expected that key inroads will be made to achieve effective habitat restoration and connectivity in the Upper Mary Valley.

Fryars Creek Nature Corridor (Project No. 1213-015)



Fryars Creek downstream of Mary Cairncross Park (Burgess Avenue, Maleny).

Garth Wright has been controlling weeds and revegetating the property in Burgess Avenue, Maleny for several years. He has removed lantana and privet from the Fryars Creek riparian zone and planted local rainforest and wetland species.

His aim is to complete the wildlife corridor on the property while contributing to water quality improvements by reducing erosion and establishing filtering and buffering vegetation. The property is adjacent to Mary Cairncross Park and in the past has received minor funding for Pink Underwing Moth activities (weed management by Barung Landcare). The revegetation activities have always focussed on providing wildlife habitat with species that support black cockatoo (Casuarinas) and Coxen fig parrot (various figs).

As part of the project Garth has strategically planted Richmond birdwing vine and Carronia vine to provide food sources for the Richmond birdwing butterfly and Pink underwing moth.

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.



LBCCG and the Hinterland Bush Links collaborated to deliver a project to promote the connecting, restoring and protecting habitat on the Sunshine coast Hinterland.



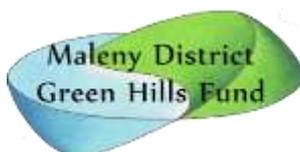
Barung Landcare provides contracting services for the majority of LBCCG's revegetation programs (including maintenance). Tube-stock is predominantly sourced from the Barung Community nursery. Barung provided tubestock and guards to the Upper Lawley Creek Restoration project.



The Commonwealth Government's Caring for Our Country Community Action Grants program funded the LBCCG project Restoring Bridge Creek



Conservation Volunteers Australia through the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Recovery program provided labour support for the Upper Lawley Creek Restoration project.



Maleny District Green Hills Fund has been very active on the Maleny Community Precinct in 2012- 13 with support from LBCCG.



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



LBCCG and Sunshine Coast Council collaborated on the Upper Lawley Creek, Upper Alcorn Creek Riparian Remediation, Bridge Creek Rehabilitation [Watter], and Cork Dairies Obi Obi Creek Riparian Protection projects.



supporting the **Sunshine Coast Rivers Initiative**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & AUDIT REPORT

**LAKE BAROON
CATCHMENT CARE GROUP
INC**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AND

AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30TH JUNE 2013

Michael T Harper B.Bus. MIPA. JP(C'Dec) 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 2013

2012 \$		2013 \$
	INCOME	
145,174.76	Project Funding	161,177.05
	Grant Income	50,000.00
65,622.00	Administration Funding	77,262.00
1,700.00	Donations	1,358.00
174.55	Membership Fees	130.92
8,687.55	Interest Received	6,218.88
<u>221,358.86</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>296,146.85</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
318.76	Advertising	322.72
400.00	Audit	400.00
8.00	Bank Charges	
1,199.99	Bookkeeping	1,145.44
	Catering	311.86
1,257.70	Computer Expenses	682.40
154.50	Conferences	
6,849.08	Depreciation	5,158.00
844.56	Employee Allowances	3,617.86
32.27	Equipment	690.90
43.45	Fees and Permits	45.00
	Fuel	172.68
1,184.65	Insurance	779.59
	Mapping	2,112.50
827.19	Meeting Expenses	1,196.73
40.91	Memberships and Subscriptions	9.09
3,348.61	Motor Vehicle Expenses	5,250.19
1,063.92	Photocopying	1,165.94
100.60	Postage	158.91
478.23	Printing and Stationery	143.75
146,129.31	Project Expenditure	166,177.05
59.82	Reference Books	505.27
291.18	Repairs and Maintenance	
52,071.97	Salaries and Wages	89,943.98
121.73	Staff Amenities	119.92
480.24	Sundry Expenses	169.99
4,686.51	Superannuation Contributions	8,094.96
2,774.55	Superannuation Penalty Charges	
2,566.99	Telephone and Internet	3,655.32
115.55	Training	
177.65	Trailer Registration	181.95
	Travel	63.63
304.28	Workcover	527.50
	Workplace Health and Safety	882.11
<u>227,932.20</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>293,685.24</u>
<u>-6,573.34</u>	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>2,461.61</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP INC

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2013**

2012		2013
\$		\$
	MEMBERS FUNDS	
46,711.59	Opening Balance	40,138.25
<u>-6,573.34</u>	Add Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>2,461.61</u>
<u>40,138.25</u>	TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	<u>42,599.86</u>
	REPRESENTED BY : -	
	ASSETS	
	CURRENT ASSETS	
200.00	Cash on Hand	200.00
7,284.40	Cash at Bank - Maleny Credit Union - 4937S 1	1,929.08
109,080.51	Cash at Bank - Maleny Credit Union - Esaver	115,127.03
58,967.21	Cash at Bank - Maleny Credit Union - Term Deposit	61,267.38
7,167.22	Cash at Bank - Maleny Credit Union - Esaver - Mistflower	
<u>182,699.34</u>	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>178,523.49</u>
	FIXED ASSETS	
19,760.10	Plant and Equipment - at Cost	19,760.10
15,376.10	Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>16,064.10</u>
<u>4,384.00</u>		<u>3,696.00</u>
27,937.08	Motor Vehicles - at Cost	27,937.08
5,587.08	Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>10,057.08</u>
<u>22,350.00</u>		<u>17,880.00</u>
<u>26,734.00</u>	TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	<u>21,576.00</u>
<u>209,433.34</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>200,099.49</u>
	LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	
	Sundry Creditors	5,972.83
	Superannuation Payable	4,066.61
918.09	GST Control Account	-589.54
2,563.20	PAYG Liability	3,739.20
162,396.58	Project Liabilities	144,310.53
3,417.22	Mist Flower Bio-control Fund	
<u>169,295.09</u>	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>157,499.63</u>
<u>40,138.25</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>42,599.86</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP INC

**DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2013**

Asset	Cost	Acc/Depn	Open WDV	Rate %	Depn	Close WDV
Plant and Equipment						
Trailer	1,640	1,495	145	15.0	22	123
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	1,553	1,001	7.5	75	926
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	618	455	7.5	34	421
Folding Display Unit	1,628	938	690	7.5	52	638
TV Video Unit	565	471	94	15.0	14	80
Brushcutter	963	963	0	30.0	0	0
Cannon S520 Printer	345	345	0	50.0	0	0
Filing Cabinets	1,393	1,104	289	20.0	58	231
Computer	1,445	1,082	363	20.0	73	290
Printer	490	490	0	50.0	0	0
Scanner	100	100	0	50.0	0	0
Concept IT System	2,433	2,128	305	50.0	153	153
Trailer - 13.08.10	1,628	586	1,042	20.0	208	834
Total Plant and Equipment	19,760	15,376	4,384		688	3,696
Motor Vehicles						
Ford Ranger Crew Cab 4x4 - 17.08.11	27,937	5,587	22,350	20.0	4,470	17,880
Total Motor Vehicles	27,937	5,587	22,350		4,470	17,880
Total	47,697	20,963	26,734		5,158	21,576

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 2013

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

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) Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation has been calculated over the useful lives of the assets to the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

© Payments to Members

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

**Independent Audit Report to the Committee of the
Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc
For the year ended 30th June 2013**

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 2013. 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 2013 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Michael T. Harper (Registered Company Auditor 6286)



Dated this 14th day of August 2013

Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc

**Statement by Members of the Committee
For the year ended 30th June 2013**

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 2013 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 2013 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.....day of.....2013