**President’s Report 2019**

**Significant figures 2018/2019:**

* 32 financial members
* 93 people are currently receiving our monthly newsletter; 55% are opening it each month; 9 have unsubscribed in the last year.
* 2 enquiries received via our web page; 1 seeking to join LHLC & 1 invite to partner with Ballina Coastcare for National Tree Day.
* Facebook page – 246 followers.
* Malcolm, with support from Sue and myself hosted 1 school excursion groups

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|  | **Working Bees** | **av. Volunteers** | **total vol. hrs** | **plants planted** |
| **‘core’ gp** | 37 | 8.5 | 744 | 816 |
| **Skennars Hd gp** | 26 | 2.9 | 169 | 55 |
| **Shorty’s Stairs gp**  **Pinnacle Row gp** | 4  3 | 10  22 | 114.5  1038  (*900 – JH)* | 250  4835 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

We continue to be represented on Ballina Shire Council’s B Ward and Coastal Advisory teams and also on the Lake Ainsworth Interest Group.

**Sites:**

We continue to cover 10 sites in total, 9 of which are on land managed by BSC and 1 on land managed by NPWS.

**Projects:**

Water Weeds – Staff at Sport & Rec Centre continue to collaborate with us, BSC and Rous County Council to manage both Salvinia and Water Hyacinth in Lake Ainsworth. Peter Briggs is invaluable in monitoring the Water Hyacinth and alerting Kelly when “all hands on deck:” are required

Backyards For Habitat – This project was even more popular at this year’s Love Lennox raising $181 approximately 60 plants. Costs (inc. stall space) were c. $183 making the project self-funding with potential to move into the black from here on.

Birdwing butterfly Vines – Spider has organised for plants to be raised at the BSC nursery. These will take c. 3 years to be ready to plant out and then we will be able to add these tpo our habitat plants program

Native Bee Hotels – Shaun is experimenting with these with a view to providing them for gardens as well.

Planning for Climate Change – Malcolm has registered 5 of our endemic species with the NSW Royal Botanic Garden’s “Restore & Renew” Program with a view to potentially improving the resilience of the local gene pool as our climate modifies between now and 2050. BSC are supportive of this propgram at this stage since there is some preliminary science behind it.

**Local Issues:**

Lake Ainsworth – Completion date for the Eastern foreshore works is anticipated to be mid-Sept. We have organised for Council to raise appropriate plant species endemic to the Lake and it’s surrounds for the revegetation works. We have also convinced them to use local species for the garden plantings.

Hydrosphere Consulting Pty Ltd have completed their investigations of the Lake and published an “Opportunities and Vulnerabilities” Report along with a preliminary assessment of management options. This assessment should be completed this month and a draft CMP exhibited for public submissions in time for the CMP to be finalised for certification by February 2020.

Coastal Recreation Path / Shared Path – Both of these are slated for completion in 2019/20. Both impact on the Boulder Beach site and will open up new areas which need work once construction is completed.

All the feedback we receive indicates that we are seen as an informed and valuable group by the Lennox Head community at large. I believe that this is largely due to the extensive expertise contained within our team and the friendly yet professional way in which they engage with members of the community.

This year’s achievements would not ```````have been possible without the invaluable contributions of the following people;

* all of our working bee volunteers
* all of those who value our work and speak up for us in a variety of ways
* Mike, Pat C, Malcolm, Kelly and Sue for co-ordinating the rehabilitation of their respective areas and keeping up with the paperwork involved.
* Malcolm, Spider and Paul Brown (BSC nursery) for continuing to propagate stock with appropriate provenance for planting
* Kelly and Spider for continuing to produce such engaging articles for the Wave each month.
* Kelly for being such a supportive and enthusiastic VP.
* Malcolm for keeping track of the bulk of our equipment and ensuring it is in good condition, helping out with school excursions and for continuing to share his vast wealth of knowledge and experience with us.
* Warren and Sue for their work as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.
* James Brideson on behalf of BSC.

Shaun Eastment

August 25th 2019