**President’s Report 2021**

**Significant figures 2020/2021:**

* 31 financial members (20 last year)
* 88 people are currently receiving our monthly newsletter of which 39 are opening it to read.
* Facebook page – 542 followers despite this being poorly maintained over the past year. We could really use a bit of help with this one to keep it more topical and help respond to questions and comments in a more timely manner.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Working Bees** | **av. Volunteers** | **total vol. hrs** | **plants planted** |
| **‘core’ gp** | 32 | 9 | 559 | 508 |
| *(2 cancelled by weather; 8 replaced by Covid-19 exercise groups)* | | | | |
| **Skennars Hd gp** | *42* | 5 | *236* | - |
| **Spider's Sites**  **Pinnacle Row (JH)** | 7  40 | 9  1 | 131  c.3000 | 55  over 1300 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

We continue to be represented on Ballina Shire Council’s B Ward and Coastal Advisory teams, contribute a Landcare perspective to the LH Residents' Association, contribute feedback to LVV planning details and collaborate with BES where appropriate.

**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.

**Awards:**

During the yearPat Cawley celebrated 20 years with Landcare**.** Our Facebook post on this received a large number of congratulatory messages as did the article in the Lennox Wave. BSC also presented Pat with a certificate to acknowledge his contribution to the natural landscapes of the Shire. Congratulations once again from us to Pat for his commitment through what have been daunting moments at times.

We have been nominated for a National Landcare award.

**Projects:**

Water Weeds –BSC and Rous County Council continue to work with us 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 has been understandably slower moving due to intermittent Covid restrictions. We are still pursuing plans to add this to our website together with the BBB power point on creating gardens for native birds and, potentially. tips for bee hotels, reptile habitat and frog ponds.

Bush food garden for LH Community Gardens - this is just a small project but Spider and I have met with the Gardens team a couple of times to help them identify appropriate species and locations for this.

**Local Issues:**

Boulder Beach Rehabilitation Site - BSC are providing the funding to investigate the troublesome part of the Boulders site and also to revegetating it once the problem/s have been absolutely determined.

National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife - BSC have announced that they are implementing these in the makeover of the village commercial centre and have the agreement of Essential Energy for this.

Dogs off Leash Pat Morton to Sharpes - this is still a project in development. Despite BSC's assurances that they have renewed signage and increased ranger patrols it is hard to observe any improvement in behaviour on this issue.

4WDs on Seven Mile - we are still waiting for the public consultation on this one.

Wildlife Corridors - We have made virtually no progress on this one through the year, with the exception of BES picking the idea up and weaving it into their draft "Greening the Shire" discussion paper.

**In General:**

All the feedback we receive continues to indicate 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, the regular article in the Wave and the friendly yet professional way in which our members engage with members of the community.

As always 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 (sort of) with the paperwork involved.
* Malcolm, Spider and Paul Brown (BSC nursery) for continuing to propagate stock with appropriate provenance for planting
* Kelly and Peter for managing the Water Hyacinth program
* 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, 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 and Paul Brown for their support on behalf of BSC.

Shaun Eastment

August 28th 2021