



President's Report 2022

We sadly farewelled the last of our founding members in June. Sue Williams and her husband Ian took the huge decision to move to the South Coast where they would be closer to family. Sue will be sorely missed both for the friendship she shared with many of our volunteers and for her 'passion for and expertise in' our local flora.

Significant figures 2021/2022:

- 36 financial members
- 104 people are currently receiving our monthly newsletter; 48% - 58% are opening it each month;
- 12 enquiries were received via our web page; 7 seeking to join LHLC, 2 about plant sales and 3 random webpage designers
- Facebook page – 575 followers even though we have posted very little for 2 years. we really need to improve our delivery here.
- we held over 150 working bees if we include all teams, planted 1200 plants and provided approximately 2400 volunteer hours towards improving natural areas on public lands around Lennox Head.

We continue to be represented on Ballina Shire Council's B Ward and Coastal Advisory teams and also on the Lake Ainsworth Interest Group. As well we were invited to participate in a community workshop developing concept plans for the Lennox Head Strategic plan 2023-2043.

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 –BSC and Rous County Council continue to collaborate with us to manage both Salvinia and Water Hyacinth in Lake Ainsworth. Peter Briggs is invaluable in monitoring the Water Hyacinth and fortnightly harvest sessions are now in place. The crew continue to manage without the assistance of staff from Sport and Rec which this has made management of our harvested weed tricky. As well the elevated Lake levels for the last 6 months have posed an interesting challenge.

Backyards For Habitat – The last plant stall downtown was in 2019 due to Covid restrictions however this project has continued quietly in the background with sales from our backyard nursery. As well negotiations are continuing to set up a formalised nursery in a more accessible location where volunteers can come and go as they find free time to help out, if all goes well this will be operating by the next AGM.

Local Issues:

Review of 4WD access to Seven Mile Beach:

Our B Ward Councillors have passed on that they are anticipating a report with recommendations from staff will be presented to the September Council meeting. Hopefully this will be followed by a proposal being placed on public exhibition in the near future. Spider is leading our efforts to have Council address the environmental issues impacted by vehicles on the beach and dunes.

Wildlife Habitat:

Malcolm and Warren have taken responsibility for addressing the issue of effective and adequate wildlife corridors in critical areas around our area. They have met with Council staff more than once and report that new plans are in the process of being drawn up.

Shaun is pursuing the issue of wildlife protection in the areas of habitat which have been restored along the Coastal Reserve. At this point the challenge is to find a way that Council can declare protection on Crown lands.

Lennox Head Strategic plan 2023-2043:

Our management committee drafted a response which was circulated to all members for input and comment. The revised response was presented to staff managing this project in June and also sent to all B Ward Councillors. Councillor Kiri Dicker was the only Councillor to make time to meet with us further about this however. On a brighter note, Lennox Head Landcare was reportedly given resounding plaudits by Council staff at a presentation on our Environmental Heritage to the Community Reference Group which are assisting staff in thinking through all of the issues to be addressed by the new Strategic Plan.

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
- those in the wider community who value our work and speak up for us in a variety of ways
- Mike, Pat C, Malcolm, Kelly John Hill, Lindy Ellis 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 Peter for managing the Water Hyacinth program
- Kelly and Spider for continuing to produce such engaging articles for the Wave each month.
- 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 Angela for their work as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.
- James Brideson and Paul Brown for their support on behalf of BSC.

Shaun Eastment

August 31st 2022