



TREASURERS REPORT AGM 19th MARCH 2023

BANK BALANCE AS AT 17th MARCH 2023

Cash Account Cheque	\$14,430.40
Term Deposit	\$10,402.99
Total	\$24,833.39

INCOME & EXPENDITURE APRIL 2022 – MARCH 2023

Income

Advertising	\$88.00
Graham Harrington Award	\$1,500.00 From GH
Fundraising	\$435.00 Sale of books from Rolf Jensen's library
Finance	\$210.87 GST Refund NO
	\$2,233.87

Expenditure

Promotions	\$2,120.50 Regional Flyers, Banners & Bookmarks
Meetings	\$703.11
Planning Meeting	\$769.40 Held June 2022
Admin & Finance	\$436.14
Graham Harrington Award	\$3,000.00 Henry Stoetzel – Grasswren Research
First Aid Course	\$1,180.00 Remote training
Artemis Nature Fund	\$2,000.00 Golden Shouldered Parrot Donation
	\$10,209.15

GRASSWREN PROJECT APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023

Account Balance 17/3/2023 \$15,317.91

Income	Grant	\$9,900.00 From SGNRM
Expenditure	Fuel Costs	\$8,566.03
Expenditure	Other	\$1,048.24



DRAFT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES SUNDAY, 19 MARCH 2023

ATTENDANCE

1. PRESENT

Ceri Pearce, Renee Cassels, Keith Fisher, Lindsay Fisher, Hidetoshi (Mikey) Kudo, Kath Shurcliff, Amanda Freeman, Alister Freeman, Edward Bell, Sanne Boland, Peter Valentine, Pippy Cannon, Louise Baume, Shane Kennedy, Sandra Walden Pearson, Joanna Seczkowski, Peta Manius, Helen Larson, Dennis Walls, Doug Herrington, Mary Brook, Barry Muir, Jenn Muir, Darlene Kneen, Kris Mills, Kate Armstrong, and others.

2. APOLOGIES

Graham Harrington, Sandra Christensen, Dave Houghton, Sam and Martin Willis, Golo Maurer

PROCEEDINGS

1. WELCOME, ATTENDANCE, AND APOLOGIES

- Meeting held at Cairns RSL, The Esplanade was declared open at 1:40 pm by Ceri Pearce, Convenor.
- Welcome To Country and Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners by Ceri Pearce.
- Meeting attendance and apologies taken by Renee Cassels, Secretary.

2. MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Ceri Pearce opened the floor to questions and comments on 2022 Annual General Meeting minutes.
- No questions or comments received.
- VOTE: Ceri Pearce moved to accept the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting, seconded by Doug Herrington, unanimously accepted.

3. CONVENORS REPORT

- 2022 Convenors Report prepared and presented by Ceri Pearce. Refer to '2023 AGM Convenors Report 2022-2023 Ceri Pearce' saved in BLNQ minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting folder.
- Highlights include:
 - o Broad range of inclusive social activities and promotion of birding in our area.
 - o 2023 Action Plan prepared and submitted to BirdLife Australia. Currently pending approval by Paul Sullivan, CEO BirdLife Australia.
 - o Our area is vast with a huge number of species. Significant threats impacting birds also. Population concentrated in and around Cairns. Strategic Conservation Planning Day hosted by Kath Scurcliff in 2022. Representatives from Terrain NRM and BirdLife Australia were present.
 - o 2022 Crane Count was a great success. 2023 Crane Count is commencing on 29 July with a sunset ID session at Bromfield Swamp.
 - o Birds With Altitude Project is gaining momentum with surveys being conducted in the Wooroonooran

- National Park, and bowerbird monitoring is continuing through Dominic Chaplin's efforts.
- o Key Biodiversity Areas (25 of 334) in Northern Queensland are a great place to do bird surveys to contribute to citizen science and our knowledge of birds.
 - o BLNQ is looking for a new Torresian Imperial Pigeon Count Coordinator.
 - o Graham Harrington Student Research Scholarship was boosted to \$3000 in 2022 and Henry Stoetzel was awarded the scholarship for his Carpentarian Grasswren research
 - o BLNQ donated \$2000 (matched in a dollar-4-dollar giving campaign) for the important work being done for the Golden-shouldered Parrot on Artemis Station in 2022.
 - o The Communications Program has produced bookmarks, birding region flyers, event banners, regular email marketing, facebook social media page and group, and website.
 - o Contact Call is going digital in 2023! High quality articles will be published regularly on the website and shared through our regular monthly emails and on social media.
 - o VOTE: Ceri Pearce moved to accept the 2022 Convenor's Report, seconded by Amanda Freeman, unanimously accepted.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

- The 2022 Treasurer's Report was prepared and presented by Lindsay Fisher, Treasurer.
- Refer to 'Treasurers Report 2023 AGM.pdf' saved in BLNQ minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting folder.
- Members were asked to review and accept the report on our financial situation as of 31 December 2022.
- VOTE: Lindsay Fisher moved to accept 2022 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Paul Fisk, unanimously accepted.

5. OFFICE-BEARER ELECTIONS

- Amanda Freeman dismissed the Committee.
- All positions were declared vacant, and nominations received.
- The following Office-bearers were elected, with only one nomination received per position:
 - o Convenor – Sanne Boland
 - o Deputy Convenor – Vacant
 - o Secretary – Renée Cassels
 - o Treasurer – Lindsay Fisher

6. COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

- The following Committee members were nominated and accepted:
 - o Cairns Area Coordinator – Mikey Kudo
 - o Tablelands Area Coordinator – Sam and Martin Willis
 - o Cassowary Coast Area Coordinator – Sandra Christensen
 - o Cape York Area Coordinator – Doug Herrington
 - o Conservation Coordinator – Peter Valentine
 - o Grasswren Project Leader – Kath Shurcliff
 - o Grasswren Project Special Advisor – Graham Harrington
 - o Crane Count Project Leader – Edward Bell
 - o Communications Project Leader – Renee Cassels
 - o Birds In Schools Program Leader – Pippy Cannon
 - o Contact Call Editor – Jenn Muir
 - o Social Media Manager – Doug Herrington

- VOTE: Amanda Freeman moved that all nominations be accepted, seconded by Lindsay Fisher, unanimously accepted.

7. MEETING CLOSE

- Meeting closed by Sanne Boland at 3:30 pm.
- Meeting followed by Wave The Waders 2023 at Cairns RSL and Esplanade.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Renée Cassels.



Convenors Report 2022-2023

Ceri Pearce
19 March 2023

Save birds. Save life.



BIRDLIFENQ.ORG



BirdLife Northern Queensland acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Country on which we are meeting today, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise and are grateful for the immense contribution of Indigenous people to the knowledge and conservation of Australia's birds.

Welcome to the 2023
BirdLife Northern
Queensland AGM

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Who we are

- Branch of BirdLife Australia
- **Local knowledge and enthusiasm**
- **We have a broad range of social activities and projects that contribute to bird conservation** and the promotion of birding in our communities.



- We cater for all levels of birding.
- **We like to have fun.**

2021-2022 Committee Members and Project Leaders



Ceri Pearce

*Convenor/Newsletter
Editor*



Renee Cassells

*Secretary/Communications
Coordinator*



Lindsay Fisher

Treasurer



Peter Valentine

*Conservation
Coordinator*



Graham Harrington

*Grasswren Project Leader
and Special Advisor*



Hidetoshi (Mikey)
Kudo

Cairns Area Coordinator



Martin & Sam Willis

*Tablelands Area
Coordinator*



Sandra Christensen

*Cassowary Coast Area
Coordinator*



Kath Shurcliff

*CYP Area Coordinator
and Grasswren Project
Leader*



Pippy Cannon

*Committee Member &
Birds in Schools
Coordinator*



Jennifer Muir

*Committee Member &
Contact Call Assistant
Editor*



Doug Herrington

Facebook Manager



Ed Bell

*Crane Count Project
Leader*



Dominic Chaplin

*Bowerbird Project Survey
Leader*



Golo Maurer

*BirdLife Australia's Citizen
Science Program Leader*



Paul Fisk

*Shorebirds Project
Leader*

Governance

Since last AGM

- Four committee meetings and many emails
- We have submitted an Action Plan to BirdLife Australia seeking funding support
- The committee has ensured that the Action Plan and allocated budget is targeted, and delivers real outcomes for conservation/survey work, education and awareness.
- Finances remain healthy

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Branch snap shot

- 138 members and 3,169 supporters
- 530-600 bird species
- Challenges in relation to:
 - Size of the branch area
 - Population concentration and spread
 - Remote areas
 - Wide range of environmental pressures
 - How we target and resource our activities

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Strategic Planning Workshop

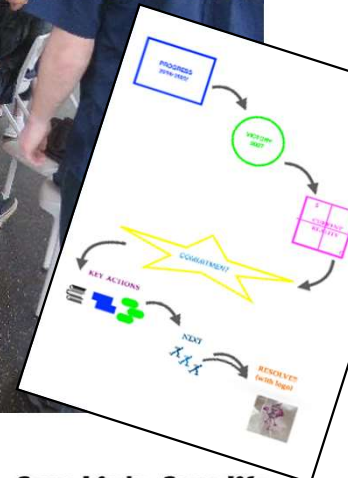


- Kath Shurcliff led the workshop, July 2022
- 15 participants including special guests James Matcott & Golo Maurer (BirdLife Australia), and Evizel Seymour (Terrain NRM)
 - Grasswrens after 2023 - “Grasswrens save the northwest”,
 - Cranes on the Tablelands and beyond - “Make Cranes Great Again (MCGA)”,
 - Altitudinal Threatened Species - “Birds with Altitude”,
 - Key Biodiversity Areas - “The Key is Biodiversity”, and
 - Communicating/Marketing our work - “You Better Like Birds says Bird Catter.



Handwritten notes on a piece of paper:

- funding operate via & through GHSRS
- grow interest w/ other land holders in the R.F.M.P
- low interrupted zero surveys & overall take up of Ffingmt
- increased mining activity (opport) & low TD engagement (other than Board at current time)



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Grasswren Project



Carpentarian Grasswren

Endangered

- Lead by Kath Shurcliff and Graham Harrington and support team
- Strong partnership with Southern Gulf Natural Resource Management
- Provide funding support for monitoring Endangered Carpentarian Grasswren, and more common Kalkadoon Grasswren.
- 2022 Grasswren surveys completed, and plans progressing for 2023.
- Collaborating with BirdLife Northern Territory to assist with monitoring threatened White-throated Grasswrens in Arnhem Land
- THANK YOU to everyone involved.



Crane Count project

- Led by Ed Bell, with the help of the crane count support team.
- Annual Crane Count completed on the Atherton Tablelands Key Biodiversity Area and surrounding region in September 2022.
- Many new volunteers assisting.
- Celebration Dinner at Malanda with BirdLife Australia President Martine Maron and award to Graham Harrington
- 2023 - Cranes at Sunset, Bromfield Swamp 29/7/23
- THANK YOU to everyone involved.

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Birds with Altitude Project

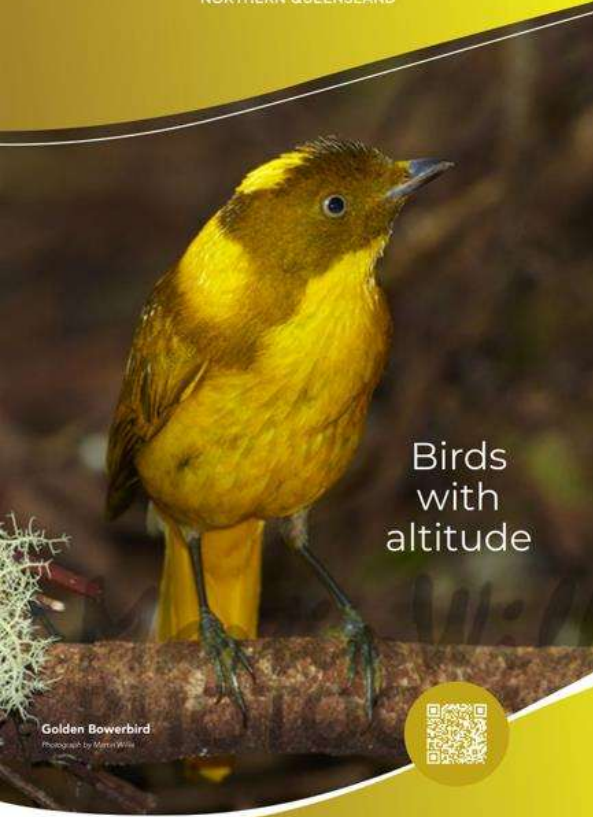
- Threatened Endemic Wet Tropics birds
- QLD Government Sustainability Action Grant for Wet Tropics Bird Monitoring in Wooroonooran National Park
- Employed consultant Amanda Freeman
- 25 people trained in survey methods
- 1 Sept- 31 Dec 2022
 - 34 - 20 min 2 Ha surveys completed
 - 18 - 500 m area search surveys completed
- <https://www.birdlifeq.org/birds-with-altitude>

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Birds with Altitude Project



- **Wooroonooran Challenge Competition**
- Winner Delene
- Completed 18 Birddata compatible surveys (20 minute - 2-hectare searches, and 500 metre area searches) in Wooroonooran National Park between 1 September – 31 December 2022.



Birds
with
altitude

Golden Bowerbird
Photograph by Merril White



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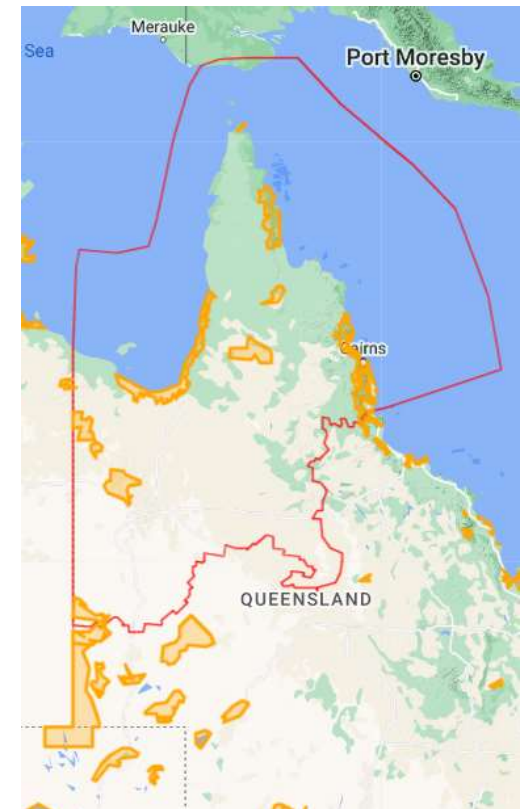
Bowerbird Monitoring Project

- Led by Bowerbird Champion Dominic Chaplin
- In 2022
 - With help of volunteers, - 23 x 1km transects walked to monitor Bowerbirds and other species
 - There are now 25 sites and 36 transects identified
 - Looking for more volunteers in 2023
 - 28 Golden Bowerbird bowers checked, 23 still active. 8 new bowers found.

Key Biodiversity Area (KBA)



- Places of global significance for the conservation of birds and other wildlife.
- 334 KBAs in Australia
- 25 KBAs in the BirdLife Northern Queensland area
- 18 KBA Guardians
- Guardians complete an Easter Health Check annually
- **You can help – complete a Birddata bird survey in a KBA**
- <https://birdlife.org.au/programs/key-biodiversity-areas/>



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Torresian Imperial Pigeon surveys

- Second longest running citizen scientist project in Australia
- Assess TIP population dynamics and feeding ecology by monitoring movement between the mainland and offshore nesting islands.
- 2022 surveys completed under the leadership of coordinator Rebel Warren, and science leader, Dr Julia Hazel from James Cook University.
- Results from 2022 are pending.
- **We are looking for a new coordinator**





The Threatened Coastal Birds Project

- Leaders Paul Fisk, Sally Sheldon and Amanda Freeman.
- Grant funded project completed in 2022.
- Amanda Freeman presented on behalf of the team, at BirdLife Australia's National Beach-nesting Birds Conference in May 2022 - Beach Stone Curlew monitoring on the Wet Tropics Coast
- Ongoing contribution to 'Wave the Waders Goodbye' events and 'Welcome the Waders home'.
- Monitoring continuing, thanks to Paul and the team.
- To volunteer contact Paul pgfisk@yahoo.com.au

Graham Harrington Research Scholarship



- **Graham Harrington Research Scholarship \$3000 awarded to Henry Stoezel to assist with his PhD project on Endangered Carpentarian Grasswrens in 2022.**
- BirdLife Australia awarded Graham Harrington Honorary Life Membership
- *'Graham's enduring legacy is that he has mentored so many of us. He has made life-long contributions to lead and bring us all "standing together to stop extinctions" of our unique birdlife.'*



Award presented to Graham by Dr Martine Maron, President of BirdLife Australia

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Golden Shouldered Parrots and the Artemis Foundation

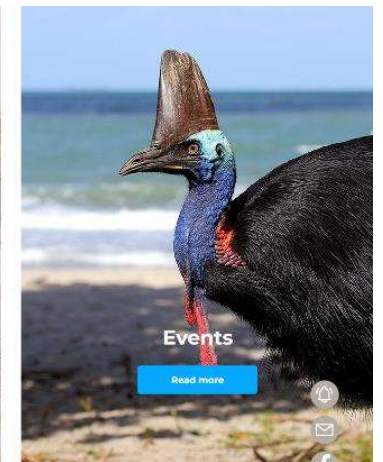
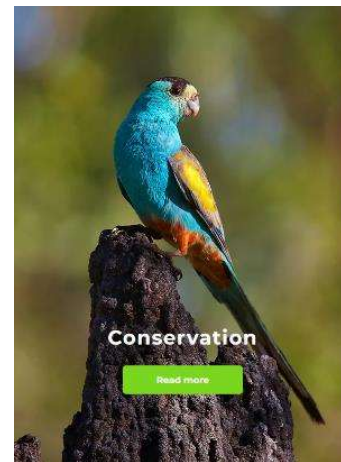
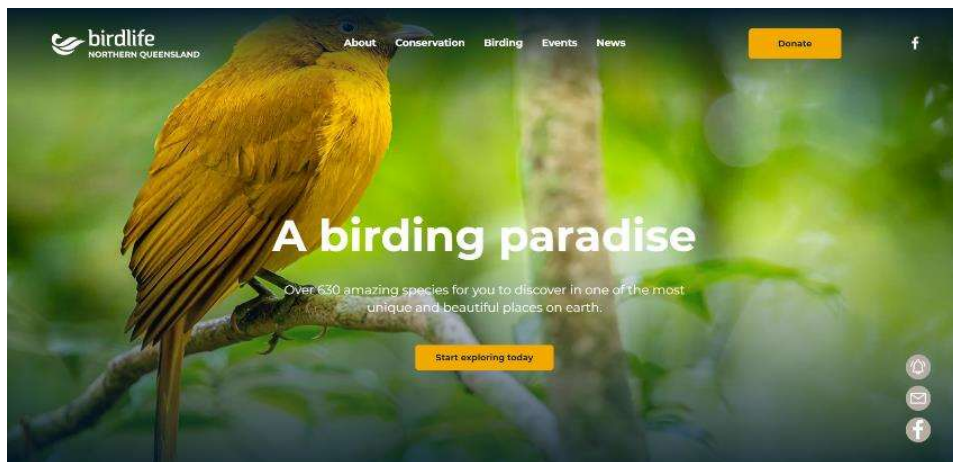
- Conservation project to assess predator impacts and habitat change on Golden Shouldered Parrots breeding success.
- Following a campaign asking members to match funding, in 2022 BLNQ directly donated \$2000 to this important cause.
- Hoping to organize a campout to Artemis after the wet season.



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Communications/Marketing Project

New website just keeps getting better and better



Thanks to Communications Coordinator Renee Cassels

Communications/Marketing Project

New regional flyers, book marks and project banners

CAPE YORK PENINSULA

SAVANNAH | WOODLANDS | COAST

CAPE YORK PENINSULA INVITES YOU TO EXPLORE THE MOST REMOTE AND BEAUTIFUL CORNER OF AUSTRALIA. THE COAST LINE BOUNDS THE WEST, THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA THE WEST, AND THE TERNES COAST THE SOUTH.

There are more than 320 bird species known in this region, with a number found nowhere else in Australia. From large parrots to small honeyeaters, there are many species to see and photograph. Discover the diverse natural spaces, and immerse yourself in the unique and beautiful Cape York Peninsula.

On the west of the Peninsula Range, visitors enjoy views from the Gulf with associated gully sandstone, waterfalls, and mangroves. On the east, another system offers views of the Gulf Sea. During the summer wet season, flooding often occurs.

Visiting this remote region calls for forward planning and an interest sport or activities are long and challenging, but the region offers a unique and unforgettable experience.

WHEN TO GO

Both the summer and winter dry seasons are rewarding times to visit, offering very different birding experiences. The dry season is most suitable for visitors as well as those in the wet season. Tropical cyclones are present between August and April.

GETTING THERE

During the dry season access is generally by road with four-wheel drive vehicles required for most of the major roads. It is only possible to get to the Cape York Peninsula by air or by plane or ship from Cairns. Buses to the Cape York Peninsula can be found at Cairns, Mackay, and Brisbane.

BIRDLIFE ORG

SPOT THESE LOCALS WHEN YOU VISIT

COMMUNITY

Wildlife Habitat Group (WHG) manages the country by looking after the land and water resources. They are working to improve the land and water resources. They are working to improve the land and water resources.

CONSERVATION

The jobs for this area is to ensure that the land and water resources are protected. They are working to improve the land and water resources.

KEY MESSAGE

Visit regularly and find out more about what we do and how you can help us. We are working to improve the land and water resources.

WHEN TO GO

Best time to visit is during the summer months. We are working to improve the land and water resources.

GETTING THERE

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BIRDLIFE ORG

CASSOWARY COAST

SAVANNAH | WOODLANDS | COAST

The Cassowary Coast is a beautiful region with rugged mountains, fertile valleys, and coastal towns. It is a great place to visit for those who love nature and wildlife.

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BIRDLIFE ORG

GULF PLAINS

SAVANNAH | WOODLANDS | COAST

The Gulf Plains region is internationally recognized as a key biodiversity area by BirdLife International. It contains global concentrations of migratory species, as well as many other birds on its vast mosaic of natural habitats. These include tropical savannah woodlands, coastal vegetation, wetland mangroves, heathlands, woodlands, and grasslands, all extending from the eastern corner of the Gulf of Carpentaria, inland into the heartland of central Queensland.

Great birding experiences are on offer in this region including waterfowl, ground parrots, and many other species, especially a number of migratory species. There are excellent birding opportunities for birders from August onwards as the migratory species fly in from the north for a seasonal winter sojourn before south.

Another time for spectacular birding is the mid to late dry season (September to November) when the abundance of the Rufous Whistler is at its peak and the long migrations of the Rufous Whistler are visible.

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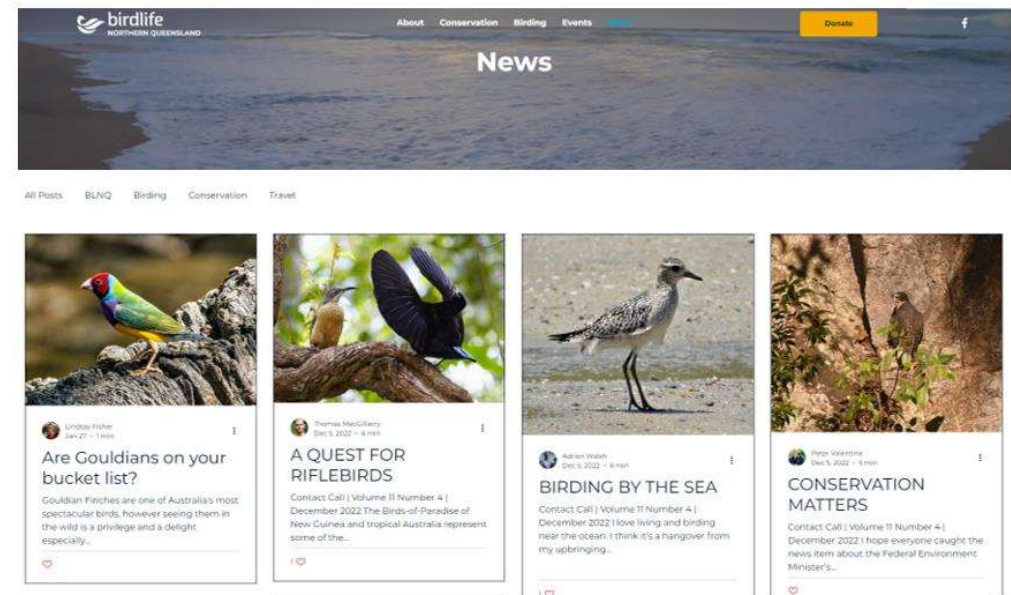
Contact Call – news format is changing

The evolution of Contact Call



- New Chief Newsletter Editor Jenn Muir
- Communications Coordinator, Renee Cassells
- Email articles to Jenn Muir muirenv@iinet.net.au

The future of Contact Call



Fun social events



Professor Hugh Possingham, Queensland's Chief Scientist promoting bird watching and amateur citizen science.



Wildlife photographer Martin Willis presenting on the Special Birds of Cape York Peninsula to a packed house at the Malanda Hotel.



Save birds. Save life.



Thanks to the committee and project leaders and their teams for their energy & commitment, and thanks also for your contributions and support.

It is a pleasure to report on BLNQ achievements in 2022-2023.

If you want to get more involved, contact us!
All volunteers welcome
northernqld@birdlife.org.au