Coordinators Report for the 2023 AGM
Wednesday 28th June 6:00pm

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land we gather today- the Darumbal Country. I would like to acknowledge Country and Traditional Owners for all they have taught me- as a scientist, a mother, young woman and the coordinator of CCC. I would like to acknowledge we are standing on stolen land, that sovereignty was never ceded. This always was and always will be Aboriginal land. This acknowledgement is not only mine but also CCC's, as we will always respect and acknowledge our Traditional Owners as the caretakers and the custodians of this land..

IT has been quite a ride since the last AGM, I came in on a proxy vote to join the General Committee, started assisting the Committee and doing the on the ground work, before I knew it I was acting in a 'Community Engagement Role' and tackling the Secretary position, while attending meetings, events and working with the Council and Community. The Queensland Conservation Council Symposium was coming up and there was lots of work to do for MERT so I officially took on the Coordinator Position as decided by the Committee and took a step back from my Committee duties to pursue my new position. There have been highs and lows and roller coaster rides, but somehow, the Committee, Paul and I have pulled it off. Thank-you to the Committee for welcoming me, sharing knowledge, being patient and allowing me to grow and learn and get my footing right. This hasn't been easy for any of us, however now I feel CCC is on a path to success. We are growing, developing, collaborating, becoming more inclusive, listening, learning and going beyond what we thought was possible. The relationships we have built with the community, council, landholders, Traditional Owners, stakeholders, other community and environmental groups, politicians and governments has been incredible. It is these relationships that have seen our success, as we work together towards a common goal- to be a voice for the environment, and protect biodiversity, as we have done since 1973! Which reminds me- Happy 50 Years Everyone! Congratulations and well done to everyone that got us here. May your legacies live on as we work toward a sustainable, renewable, inclusive and diverse future, where the environment is valued by decision makers and our future, climate and planet drives the decision making process. For now, let's step through the year that was and enjoy everything we have achieved. Thank-you so much to our members for being with us, supporting us, helping us, leading us and guiding us each step of the way.

Knowledge Sharing with the Experts:
(Slide 3-6) This past year I have had many opportunities to learn from the experts, completing flora and fauna survey's with Dr. Michael Olsen, Platypus watching with the legendary Steve Olsen and ACF, and of course ongoing guidance and mentorship from Dr. Bob Newby. I first met Bob on a residential school with Prof. Ashwath, and was in awe of all his work conserving and protecting biodiversity through-out his career. I am so honoured and privileged to continue learning from him as part of the CCC Committee. Thank-you so much Bob.

Regenerative Farming
(Slide 7) This year CCC have had incredible experiences on Country, with our beloved landholders. CCC Member, Mick Alexander has taught me so much about regenerative, sustainable, organic agriculture- hands on experience I could only dream about when I was reading my textbooks back in

undergrad. It is landholers like Mick that support the work we do, and are the change makers of the industry.

Birdlife

(Slide 8) CCC has been working closely with Allan Briggs and BirdLife Australia, supporting and promoting everything they do! Allan has also been a mentor to me this year, teaching me how we can better protect biodiversity- and birds. Allan and I will continue to work with the Council and MPs to find a balance between development and sustainability. We are currently selling signed copies of Allan's work, which has been very popular with our members. Next year CCC and Cap Coast Eco Warriors will support the Konomie Island Birdlife Survey, bringing along junior members to learn from Allan allowing all his knowledge to be passed on.

Clean Up Australia

(Slide 9 10) CCC hosted our annual Clean Up Australia event at the Hut, supported by friends, family and youths. We also got grubby with Capricorn Coast Landcare to clean up the Fig Tree Creek Mangrove ecosystem. CCC and Landcare have been working closely together throughout the year and sincerely thank Malcolm, Sara and the team for all their support and collaboration. No one works harder than the Landcare Team.

CQUniversity Koala Research Team

(Slide 11) CCC have been part of the CQUniveristy Koala Research Team, contributing to the protection and conservation of Koalas and their habitats across CQ and greater QLD. Many of my former lecturers are part of the Koala Research Team and have collaborated with CCC to protect our landholders' Koala habitat. CCC also participated in the Community Koala Survey and will continue to support and work with the Research team!

Cap Coast Eco Warriors

(Slide 12-18) A massive highlight for CCC this year has been working with Bluey, Owen and the Cap Coast Eco Warriors. I first saw Owen, on stage at CCC's Regenerating Australia Screening. To say I was in awe is an understatement. I have learnt so much from Owen, he is such an important role model to all of us- young and old. Working with Owen has allowed the next generation of CCCers to sign up and become engaged and to Owen I am so grateful. Not only did we support Owen's events but we had our very own even with Owen at the Capricorn Caves. This was one of CCC's biggest events ever- with over 60 youths, members and adults coming together to regenerate the landscape and protect our Semi Evergreen Vine Thicket. Thank-you so much to Bluey and Owen. We LOVE you.

Cap Caves

(Slide 19-21) CCC has also continued working with the Capricorn Caves and NRM Lydia Gorgeson to restore this ecosystem after Cyclone Marcia, followed by devastating bushfire. The Caves and surrounding area is home to our locally endangered Ghost bat, with an estimated 30 individuals left this will continue to be a priority for CCC. A special mention and thank-you to Coral who saw the Recovery Plan for the Ghost bat endorsed, we are waiting for it release this year and will continue to work with Threatened Species to best protect this bat.

OGRES

(Slide 22-23) Many of our volunteers got their hands dirty and helped out the OGRES with their ongoing work at the Capricorn Caves. This project is now being supported by FBA. Thank-you so

much to the team for ensuring this project is ongoing and to all our members that helped out along the way.

Christmas Party
(Slide 24) The CCC Christmas Party and General Meeting was a HUGE success with weeding, planting and knowledge sharing between members and other environmental organisations. I was devastated to miss this event having contracted COVID thank you so much to Lydia, Paul and the team for pulling it off anyway. It was a ripper event and we will be returning this year to celebrate our 50 Years! Stay tuned for updates.

Team Turtle Hatchlings
(Slide 25-27) CCC had the opportunity to work and learn alongside FBA's Hatchlings, protecting our marine turtles and their nests, hatchlings and ecosystems while educating the community. CCC visited the Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre with the Hatchlings, worked alongside Traditional Owners, attended market events and letter box drops to tell everyone- lights out there are turtles about.

First Nations Engagement and Leadership
(Slide 28-32) A very important part of CCC's work this year has been engaging and elevating Traditional Owners. Listening, learning, acknowledging and respecting. CCC will continue to work alongside Traditional Owners, so they may lead us into a sustainable future, adopting First Nations land, sea and water management. CCC attended Cultural Awareness Training, and will continue to do so. CCC were in attendance at the Darumbal TUMRA Community Day and have made lifelong connections and partnerships with Traditional Owners. CCC will continue to promote and support Traditional Owners and ensure they are the forefront off all decision making.

Woppaburra Land and Sea Country
(33-36) CCC has also had an incredible opportunity working on Konomie Island, caring for country and collaborating with Landcare to restore the landscape. This has been so rewarding for our members and provided experiences to assist Traditional Owners to protect and conserve their Country. I am now the Secretary of the KIEEC P&C and will continue to provide support, resources, volunteers and funding to Konomie Island, the P&C and the Woppaburra People. Working on Konomie is so important to me and CCC as we are actively healing Country, learning from Country and getting trained up to tackle Woppa Island when it's time to bring in the clean-up crews.

NAIDOC
(37 38) Of course CCC has attended all NAIDOC Events and will continue to support and attend NAIDOC into the future. Next year I would like CCC to sponsor this event, have a tent and share our knowledge and resources with our community. Again, Traditional Owner engagement and leadership is now a priority to CCC.

Community Complaints
(39 40) CCC has continued to battle and conquer ongoing environmental regions throughout the region, this includes coastal vegetation poisoning to improve seaside views, reckless driving and vandalism on beaches, other environmental vandalism issues, community complaints, non-sustainable development and much more! Thank-you to Livingstone Shire Council- Belot, Friend and Childs we have also had some massive WINS. Our Councillors ARE listening, we must continue

to work together, respectfully understanding each other's perspective to determine the most sustainable and equitable solution for the environment AND our communities.

Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland

(41) CCC has been blessed to Coral's ongoing support and guidance this year. We are a force to be reckoned with when we combine power. This year we had a HUGE WIN with Clive Palmer's COal mine, 10km from the GBR being REJECTED. Well done Coral you lead us to success on this one. Coral will continue to battle each and every mine throughout our region and CCC will be backing her up the whole way. CCC look forward to continue working with Coral and learning from her!

MERT/ Ministers

(42-45) Last year CCC attended Queensland Conservation Council's Biodiversity Symposium and were in SHOCK to see Ministers Pliberspeck and Scanlon in the flesh. This was a huge moment for me and I learnt so much from the Minister and everyone else in the room. MERT was phenomenal and it was such an honor to be there and raise my voice for CQ! Thank you so much to Dave and QCC for providing this opportunity for all the Regional Council's- it makes all our hard work on the ground worthwhile.

Nature vs. Renewables

(46-49) Working with community, landholders, councillors, politicians and MP's as we make the transition to renewables has been tough. CCC is calling for total transparency in this process, we want better consultation with our landholders and traditional owners. We want better planning and protection for our biodiversity. We want case by case ecological assessments similar to the EIS process. We will do everything we can to protect what we have left. We will stand up for our remnant veg, our riparian zones, our biodiversity corridors, our nature refuges. We will not roll over but we WILL work with a government that listens and puts biodiversity FIRST. CCC will continue to work with the community as we make the transition, led by Queensland Conservation Council, engaging our communities and Traditional Owners. Watch this space.

Mackay COnservation Group

(50-51) CCC has also had some great support from other regional councils, including Mackay Conservation Group- Imogen and Peter. CCC and MCG will continue working together to link up our regions for better environmental protection across CQ! Thank-you MCG for all your mentorship and support!

Freya's Petition

(51-52) MCG has also supported CCC by spreading our Junior Member, Freya's Petition far and wide. Freya and I are calling on Minister Linard to BAN plastic packaging on Juice Boxes to reduce plastic waste and protect the Great Barrier Reef! Please join us by signing this survey today. All the links can be found on our Facebook!

EV Event

(53) CCC, Ian and Arthur Hunt also pulled off another amazing Electric Vehicle Event, this year was a BIG one with people travelling from all over QLD to attend. Thank-you so much to Arthur, Sean, Rocky Council and our members for making this happen.

Media

(54) CCC has had a BIG YEAR in the spotlight, featuring in our local paper CQ Today most weeks. You would have seen us on the news many time this year in regard to renewables, biodiversity, development, the Great Barrier Reef and much more. Our voice for the environment has certainly been heard this year!

Graduation

(56) This past year I also attended not one but two Graduation Ceremonies as I completed both my Environmental Science and Biology Degrees. I have been so blessed to gain an education, as the Coordinator of CCC I feel it is my responsibility to share my knowledge with the community to empower them to protect the environment. Thank you to Paul, the committee and all our members for being patient with me as I wrote assignments and took exams finishing up these degrees. Your support means so much to me.

My Kids

(57) I would also like to thank my family, especially my children for all the sacrifices we have made this past year- so I could graduate, work, protect the environment, advance my career, volunteer, get grubby, work weekends and late nights! My children are so patient with me and have learnt to share me with all of you so we can protect the environment together.

WSAC Partnership

(58) I would also like to thank Woppaburra Traditional Owners, in particular the Woppaburra Saltwater Aboriginal Corporation for coming to CCC to seek our knowledge, resources and advice to protect and care for Country. Working with WSAC is the opportunity of a lifetime. This work is not just incredibly important to CCC- but to me- professionally and personally. Later this year I will also be publishing work with CQUniversity calling for Indigenous Led Research within our Western Science facilities- elevating, protecting and solidifying Indigenous Knowledge in our textbooks and into history. Watch this space, this is just the beginning.

Ongoing Konomie

(59) Therefore, CCC's work and collaboration will continue well into the future on both Konomie and Woppa Islands- as we restore Woppaburra Country. CCC will also be brining the Cap Coast Eco Warriors, Owen and Bluey over to Konomie to care for Country, learn from Country and connect with Traditional Owners.

Ongoing Nature vs Renewables

(60) CCC will continue to push for better environmental protection, an Independant EPA for Queensland, sustainable development, improved rules, regulations and assessments for land clearning and do everything we can to protect biodiversity, we will continue to be the peak environmental advocacy group in CQ- we will raise our voice for the environment louder then ever- and we will take environmental action. Less days in the office, more time on Country getting our hands dirty with landholders and Traditional Owners, being the change we want to see.

MERT

(62) CCC will be headed to MERT this August to meet with other regional councils and our newly appointed minister for the environment- Leanne Linard.

We will continue to collaborate with other environmental groups, help out Landcare at WARU, spend time and share knowledge with the Capricorn Catchment Trainees, work together with FBA, support Owen and the Eco Warriors and Birdlife, work with landholders, and make many more connections

across CQ and our community! We have some very exciting events planned for this year, and will continue to celebrate our 50th anniversary and build our membership across the region.
CCC will revise its Code of Conduct to be more culturally respectful and appropriate, we will implement compulsory Cultural Awareness Training for Executive Committee Members.
We will review our budgets and gain additional funding to provide opportunities to our members, volunteers and communities. We will give back to the environment and the community even more. We will donate to the Woorabinda Op-Shop, we will begin working with the Darumbal Incorporation and I will take on an additional position as CoOrdinator of the Woppaburra Saltwater Aboriginal Corporation. CCC needs your help, support, membership and involvement more now than EVER!

Thank-you to each and every one of you for being here tonight, for supporting CCC and being part of this movement. Bring on our 50th year!

QUESTIONS
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