Chair's Report for CCC General Members Meeting

Presented by: Sophie George, on behalf of Angie Fraser-Parle, Chair of Capricorn Conservation Council (CCC)
Date: 16/11/2024

Introduction

Dear CCC Members,

As we come together today, we are pleased to reflect on the significant progress and strategic initiatives that Capricorn Conservation Council has achieved over the past several months. This year has seen us strengthen CCC's governance, build our resources, and deepen our conservation efforts across Central Queensland. On behalf of Angie Fraser-Parle, our Chair, I am honoured to share with you the milestones and achievements of our council, made possible through the collaboration of our dedicated committee, members, volunteers, and our Coordinator, Sophie George, whose hard work and determination have been central to our success.

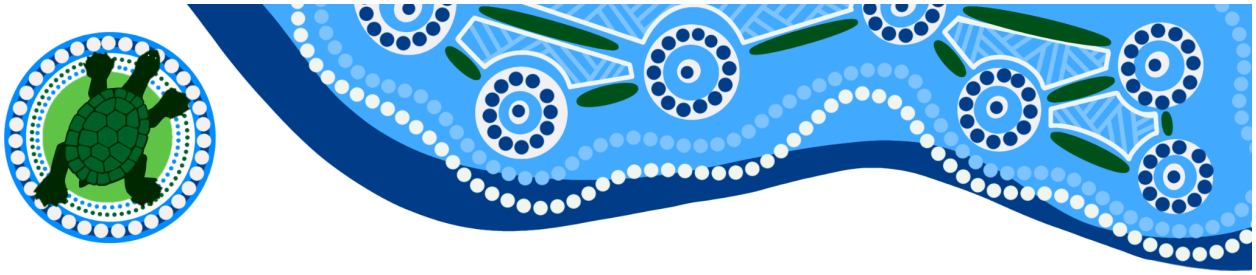
Our current committee consists of: Chair- Angie Fraser Parle, Treasurer Sean Nixon to who we are eternally grateful, Sean will hand this position over to Dieter Rohrschenider in December, Secretary Jen Acklin, Organising Coordinator from Queensland Conservation Council and myself providing guidance and expert advice to the Committee. We will have incoming Committee Members to see the year out, please stay tuned as we make this announcement.

Key Highlights (June - November 2024)

1. **Website Development and Technical Support**
    - Our team has addressed ongoing website issues and implemented major updates to enhance functionality and accessibility. This involved redesigning pages, restructuring menus, improving SEO, and troubleshooting forms, ensuring a seamless and engaging online presence for CCC members and the wider community.
    - I will ask Angie to now open up the Website so we can look at these additions together: https://cccqld.org.au/
2. **Grant Applications and Funding Efforts**

- Together, we pursued several key grants, including the WIRES National Grants Program, the RRC Environment & Sustainability Grant, and the QLD Women in STEM Prize. These applications are part of our concerted effort to secure funding that will expand CCC's environmental initiatives, supporting biodiversity and community outreach.
- CCC would like to give a very special thank-you to Rockhampton Regional Council for their support in relaunching this Biodiversity Campaign. The team at RRC sponsored collaboration with Thoolbar Designs to commission artwork for our merchandise and campaign tools. We greatly appreciate this contribution, allowing us to share this artwork and story-telling with all of you while spreading our message: Biodiversity- your life depends on it.
- https://cccqld.org.au/get-involved/buy-tshirt/
- We would also like to give a very special thank-you to Livingstone Shire Council who sponsored our recent trip to Konomie Island with Woppaburra Land and Sea Ranger- Tshinta, the KIEEC P&C, and of course the Cap Coast Eco Warriors. Events like this mean everything to CCC- and are our core purpose, inspiring the next generation to raise their voice for the environment and ensuring Traditional Owners and Elders are guiding the way.

3. **Governance and Compliance Initiatives**
   - Strengthening CCC's governance has been a priority. We developed critical documents such as the Committee Charter, Coordinators Manual, and a Delegations Register, each designed to enhance transparency, accountability, and compliance. These efforts ensure that our activities align with strategic objectives and regulatory requirements, meeting the standards set by the Office of Fair Trading, the ACNC, and other governing bodies.
   - https://cccqld.org.au/policy/
4. **Strategic Planning and Member Engagement**
   - With a clear vision, we developed and gained approval for the CCC Marketing, Membership, and Fundraising Strategy, as well as the Opportunity Evaluation Framework. These frameworks aim to build CCC's presence, support membership growth, and strengthen our fundraising capabilities, all in alignment with our 2024-2025 Strategic Plan.
   - We also initiated policies to improve committee culture, including the right to disconnect and streamlined practices, ensuring committee members maintain a balanced engagement. Everyone has the right to disconnect.
   - https://cccqld.org.au/policy/
5. **Committee and Volunteer Support**
   - Ongoing training and onboarding sessions have been held for committee members and the coordinator, including MYOB training, payroll processes, and role-specific guidance.



We have supported and guided volunteers, including our Youth Sub-Committee, in actively participating in conservation campaigns and community discussions.

- All Committee Members have now engaged in Indigenous Cultural Awareness Training, which is an ongoing journey for CCC Committee and employees.

6. **Financial Management and Administration**
    - Our focus on financial efficiency involved overseeing payroll, MYOB updates, and WorkCover compliance, along with ensuring accurate invoicing and timely reimbursements. By working closely with PVA, we maintained consistent and compliant financial operations, contributing to CCC's financial health and sustainability.
7. **Environmental Advocacy and Campaigns**
    - We are proud to advocate for CCC in community discussions, governmental engagements, and conservation campaigns. Through public relations efforts, CCC's conservation efforts have been well-promoted, raising awareness and building support for our environmental mission.
    - We thank the organizations CCC works beside for their support and collaboration and look forward to the outcomes we can achieve- together.

Final Comments

As we move forward, we will continue building on these achievements, focusing on operational strength, increased funding avenues, and growing community engagement. With our commitment to strong governance, transparent operations, and effective conservation advocacy, we look forward to achieving new milestones together.

Finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to our Coordinator, Sophie George, whose commitment, diligence, and dedication have been instrumental in realizing these accomplishments. Sophie's hard work and determination exemplify CCC's values, and her contributions are central to CCC's success. Thank you, Sophie, and thank you to all members for your ongoing support and collaboration.

Capricorn Conservation Council acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners and Elders of the land and waters we conserve and protect.