

## Editorial: a vital past and revitalised future for the *North Queensland Naturalist*

The *North Queensland Naturalist* has a long history (Valentine 2016). The first edition of the journal (Volume 1, Number 1) was published in October 1932 by the North Queensland Naturalists Club. The Club was formed that same year by Dr Hugo Flecker, whose name is memorialised in the Cairns Flecker Botanic Gardens and the Box Jellyfish (*Chironex fleckeri*).

The *North Queensland Naturalist* continued as a publication until 1998 (Edition 205), although the method of numbering and the title (published for a time under the name *North Queensland Naturalists Club*) were changed during the 1990s. After 1998 its name changed to the *Newsletter of the North Queensland Naturalist Club Cairns*, remaining so until the Club's closure in 2002. Despite these changes, the publication continued to document the considerable activities of the Club and the natural history of the far north for 70 years – quite an achievement!

The publication was highly regarded, with the Cairns Historical Society and the National Library retaining copies. It is our intention that all volumes and issues of the journal and newsletter produced by the Club will be scanned and uploaded to our website for all to view. We believe this will be of historical interest as well as a valuable scientific reference collection.

It is from this foundation that a group of us, having been involved with the formation of an unofficial field naturalists group (now known as the North Queensland Natural History Group), considered resurrecting the journal. A meeting was held in May 2015 to consider whether to go ahead, and to discuss what form the journal should take. There was considerable support from a wide range of people present at the meeting. A small group committed to the project, which was initially hosted by Northern Gulf Resource Management Group. We established what we felt would be a worthwhile scope and an appropriate journal style. We also established Editorial and Production teams and made a commitment to high quality peer-reviewed papers on our regional natural history. We also made an commitment to help novice

authors get published while retaining the peer-reviewed outcome.

We have a vision of the journal:

- to document the natural values of the area;
- to harness the large amount of observations, research and investigations taking place into the flora and fauna, natural history, conservation and land management of the region; and
- to have the information all in one place so that interested parties can stay informed of work being done in the region by both amateurs and professionals.

We have hopes of attracting submissions from a wide range of naturalists. In recognition of the vast repository of traditional ecological knowledge that still exists in the region, we especially welcome contributions from Indigenous people where appropriate.

Volume 46 continues the numbering methodology embraced by the original journal.

The NQN Production Group takes great pride in all that has gone before, and aspires to continue the best traditions of naturalists of north Queensland to produce a quality journal for at least the next 70 years. This can only be achieved with everyone's support including contributors, editors, reviewers, production team, and readers of the journal. Most importantly, we seek to encourage the younger generations of naturalists into whose hands this responsibility will ultimately fall.

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Steve Murphy  
Leanne Kruss  
Lyndal Scobell  
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*North Queensland Naturalist* Production Group  
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### Reference

- Valentine P. 2016. Natural history, science and conservation: the 70 year legacy of the *North Queensland Naturalist* 1933-2002. *North Queensland Naturalist* 46: ii-x.