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Dear Narla Members, your Committee has had a very busy time this past few months.

➤ Another Grant Application Submitted

Two Committee members, along with two member landholders, have submitted a bid on behalf of NaRLA for a Caring for Our Country grant for the Design and Implementation of Integrated Property Management Plans for Nature Refuges. The proposal included access for funds to devolve to landholders who had specific projects identified by the management plans.

Any other member who has an idea for a funding proposal, please let the NaRLA office know, and we'll try to find others who are willing and interested in helping with the proposal.

➤ Landcare Conference 2010

NaRLA has won the bid to organise proceedings and manage all aspects of the annual Queensland Landcare Conference. The dates will be 15 - 17 September 2010. The location will be Caloundra, on the Sunshine Coast.

To give you an idea of the thrust of the Conference, we are planning to call for submissions on the following topics:

Setting the scene

- The evolution and outcomes of Landcare practices in Queensland
- Review and analysis of 'best practice' land management in Australia.
- Evidence based land management practice: latest overseas and local research
- Carbon farming - a case study of an Australian success story

The balancing act

- Environmental conservation as an element of land management
- Making a living from the conservation values of land
- Balancing economic, land management, and nature conservation considerations in Landcare
- Adapting Landcare and resource conservation to the new world of carbon consciousness
- The rising challenge of conservation and management of water for rural landholders
- Climate change and emissions trading: challenge or opportunity?
- Other state Landcare Organisations, how are they coping? Specific issues? An interstate perspective.
- Landcare in the developing world: a case study from India.

At this stage, we have been asked not to begin public announcements until the Longreach Conference is completed in September this year, but of course, preparations are already beginning at NaRLA. Our Treasurer, Aurelia Noran, our Secretary, Sandra Vulin and I are volunteering our time to put this together. We have formed a Steering Committee that includes representatives from SEQ Catchments, SEQ Traditional Owners Groups, Noosa Landcare Group, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Landcare Queensland and QLaWC (Queensland Land and Water Carers).

Hosting and organising this Conference will present an opportunity to raise NaRLA's public profile, to show NaRLA's unique educational and organisational skills, to connect with local groups who have similar goals to ours, and hopefully to leave some funds in NaRLA's coffers for the future. Obviously this is also an opportunity for any NaRLA member to suggest themes, keynote speakers, and entertainers for the final dinner and art auction of the Conference (now), volunteer to help if you have some expertise or experience in this (in a few months time), and plan to attend the Conference next year - at a discount, of course.

I will keep you all posted on progress....

In the meantime, we have already commissioned a painting to be auctioned at the Conference dinner. You can get a sneak preview of it on our web page in the [NaRLA Gallery](#).

➤ Price Increase

You will have noticed from our website, that the Committee has approved an increase in membership fees. It is a small increase, and we hope that you will understand the need for this. We have also established an [Open Membership](#) category, for those who wish to support NaRLA, but do not fall into our current Associate and Ordinary Membership categories. These new Open members will not have voting rights

➤ Land Valuations

SEQ Catchments commissioned a professional valuer to make a professional assessment of the effect of Covenants on the values of land. It has now been placed on our [web site](#) (NaRLA Research). Although specifically targeting South East Queensland, it will no doubt be of interest to us all.

➤ Tanya Pritchard's Masters Paper

Late last year, NaRLA assisted Tanya Pritchard with some data for her Masters Paper which was submitted to Griffith University as part of her studies. She has agreed to its publication on our [website](#) (NaRLA Research). The title is Investigating the Needs of Nature Refuge Landholders - A Case Study Approach, and makes for some interesting reading. The EPA assisted Tanya with her research.

➤ Windfarms - a Member request for discussion

One of our members has been involved in discussions regarding the siting of windfarms on her property, and wishes to engage other members in discussion on the topic. We have placed her initial description of the topic on the [NaRLA Blog](#) page. Please add to it if you have any comments to offer. A number of our members may be approached about this in the future, so it would be very useful to hear all your views on the matter.

➤ Use of web for marketing member products

Our web site is now ready to accept your advertising of accommodations, tours, and other products, services or programs that members wish to market. The rates are on the [web](#) (Advertise with NaRLA).

➤ Our WEB and our BLOG

I hope that you will have noticed that our web site has dramatically changed. We are constantly in the process of updating it, so if any member has suggestions for useful links, we would like to hear about it. [Our Blog](#) is there for you all to use for posting news, launching discussions or just putting up glorious pictures of your land. Please go onto it, see what others are saying and have your say, too. If you have a topic you would like to put up - please let the [Secretary](#) (our Blog mistress) know.

Marta Hardeman, President