
ANNUAL REPORT

SAVE BALICKERA INC

2024/2025

Presidents Report

Since the very first day we were incorporated on 13 July 2023, Save Balickera Inc. has been making submissions, giving presentations, writing to politicians, speaking to media and bringing legal proceedings to oppose the inappropriate quarry developments that threaten to devastate the environment and community at Balickera.

Save Balickera Inc. is a registered environmental charity and from 26 May 2025 we have secured deductible gift recipient (DGR) status, which should assist us with fundraising in the future. We would like to thank those who have already donated to our cause, which enabled us to retain barrister Natasha Hammond for the Stone Ridge conciliation conference in August. More on this below.

We would also like to thank those who took the time to write letters and

submissions

objecting to the quarry developments. This was particularly important since over 50 objections were required to have the relevant development applications referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

The community's efforts in submitting their objections to the three massive quarry developments proposed for Balickera culminated in hearings before the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) in respect to both Eagleton Quarry (70

objections) and

Stone Ridge Quarry (138 objections). Disappointingly, in both cases the outcome handed down by the IPC was 'consent with conditions'. Meanwhile, we are still awaiting the Department of Planning's decision in relation to Boral's application to massively expand Seaham Quarry.

Stone Ridge

After receiving the IPC's decision to approve Stone Ridge Quarry, Save Balickera Inc. lodged a merit appeal to the Land & Environment Court on 7 March 2025. This matter was ultimately settled at a conciliation conference in August 2025 in accordance with legal advice received, as we were unable to fund the legal representation required to pursue the matter through to a hearing.

The Stone Ridge [appeal decision](#) is available [here](#), with the added conditions

secured by Save Balickera Inc. to be found at Annexure C. These include limited double glazing for close residences, a \$20,000 total annual contribution to one or more local wildlife agencies, installation of speed bumps and traffic limits on internal access roads, some further limits on quarry operating hours, and a commitment by the developer to explore a list of further matters with the appropriate authorities (i.e.: a stewardship site, maintenance of bush tracks, lowering of speed limit on Italia Road, signage for koalas, a fauna land bridge and fauna underpasses).

Stone Ridge Quarry has since been approved by the federal Government as a controlled action pursuant to the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). However, Save Balickera Inc. has recently written to the Federal Minister requesting that he revoke this approval due to additional information that has subsequently come to light indicating that even Boral had previously refused Forestry Corporation's offers to develop this site due to its unsuitability.



Eagleton Quarry

In the case of Eagleton Quarry the developer lodged its own appeal to the Land & Environment Court seeking to [remove the transport conditions](#) requiring trucks to turn left on the Pacific Highway. As objectors we attended the [conciliation conference](#) for this matter on 5 March 2025. We understand the case is still to proceed to hearing. We have also submitted objections to the Eagleton Quarry pursuant to the Commonwealth EPBC Act, raising the track record of the quarry directors as responsible for previous breaches of biodiversity conditions by an affiliated company.

Boral's plans to expand Seaham Quarry

In respect to the [expansion of Boral's Seaham Quarry](#), the Department of Planning has registered only 49 objections, despite many more having been sent by email and not acknowledged. Many complaints have been made by members of the public about the malfunctioning Department of Planning portal, but rather than address the problem the government's response has been to pass regulations establishing the portal as the only means by which submissions can be lodged. Save Balickera Inc. intends to challenge this process if we can find the resources to do so.

Thanks

Many thanks to our committee and all those residents and community members who gave time, money and effort to support the cause. Special mention must go to Steve Larson for his generous donation of the corflutes on Italia Road and also to the many experts with whom we consulted, including in alphabetical order:

Matt Bailey, Consultant Ecologist, Bolwarra Environmental Services Pty Ltd

Megan Benson, Gloucester Environment Group

Coral Berry, Boomerang Park Preservation Group

Nick Eastman KC, Barrister, Martin Place Chambers

EcoNetwork Port Stephens (the team)

Justine Emerson, Environmental Defenders Office

Leo Gorr, Barrister, University Chambers

James Johnson, Special Counsel, Environmental Defenders Office

Otto Khoo, independent film maker

Jo Lynch, Hunter Community Environment Centre

Carmel Northwood, Koala Koalition Port Stephens

Margarete Ritchie, Voice of Wallalong and Woodville (VOWW)

David Robinson, Solicitor

John Watts, Gloucester Environment Group



Treasurer's Report

Income Statement 2025

| | 2025 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue | |
| Memberships | \$90.00 |
| Fundraising (Go Fund Me) | \$2,028.24 |
| Other Private Donations | \$1,100.00 |
| Gross Profit | \$3,218.24 |
| Expenses | |
| Printing | \$0.00 |
| Advertising Legal | \$0.00 |
| Fees Stationary | \$0.00 |
| Misc | \$0.00 |
| Total Expenditure | \$0.00 |
| Net Profit (Loss) | \$3,218.24 |

| SAVE BALICKERA INC | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| BALANCE SHEET | |
| | for financial year ending 30 June 2025 |
| | 2025 |
| ASSETS | |
| Membership | \$90.00 |
| Fundraising | \$3,128.24 |
| Total Assets | \$3,218.24 |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Accounts Payable | \$0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$0.00 |

As you can see from the Income Statement, we have no expenses, so it appears we have been taking it easy, Fear not! Your Save Balickera committee has been busy behind the scenes as you can see in our President's report. The smaller expenses, like printing and stationery, were paid for by some committee members because there was a delay in getting the bank account up and running.

Thankyou to all our committee members for their ongoing support and taking time out of your lives to help SaveBalickera.

I'd like to give a special shout out to Steve Larsen, who not only was a committee member and donor, he also thought of, designed and paid for, the wonderful corflute signs that look great outside the properties. Thank you to everyone for displaying them too. Again, a huge thank you to Steve, for this initiative.

The go-fund-me fundraising, other individual direct donations and memberships raised enough money to pay for our legal costs which were invoiced in July 2025, which is a great result. Thank you to everyone that donated.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



ANNA KERR
PRESIDENT

13/07/2023 - Current

Anna Kerr is a human rights lawyer whose family has lived and farmed at Balickera since her great grandfather, Frederick Reid, purchased the property from the estate of Lieutenant Caswell in the late 1800s. She believes the environment and heritage of the area should be preserved for the enjoyment of the community and future generations.



Charlee moved to Italia Road in 2005 to continue work in Veterinary Pharmaceuticals. Since a career change in 2009 she has worked in Community Services. Charlee is the founder of Italia Road Action Group /Taskforce.

CHARLEE CONNOR

SECRETARY 23/07/23 - current
TREASURER 12/11/24 - current



Mary Kerr is a law student and an advocate for environmental protection. Her family's generations-long stewardship of Balickera House on Italian Road inspires her commitment to safeguarding local ecosystems

MARY KERR
23/07/23 - current



LIBERACE
CHRIS WINNETT
12/11/24 - current

Christine has given us a photo of Liberace - A gorgeous blued eyed koala she rescued and cared for before releasing. Chris is also Secretary of VOWW (Voices of Wallalong and Surrounds), representing Rural West Ward, she is a committee member of the Brandy Hills Quarry Consultation Committee, a committee member of KKEPS (Koala Koalition), and a koala rescuer for the Koala Hospital



REBECCA
BEETSON
12/11/24 - current

Rebecca moved to Newcastle 15 years ago from Coffs Harbour to make a career change. She bought a business which she ran while raising her three children. Her husband and the family moved to Italia Road 7 years ago.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**STEVE
LARSEN**
**13/07/2023 -
23/07/2025**

A retired Electrical Engineer and Environmental Manager for Australia's largest poultry processing company. Steve has been a local nearby resident of the Wallaroo Forest for over 40 years. His experiences and joy in observing the forest wildlife while living in the wonderful rural community have inspired him to try protect the forest and areas of heritage.



MICHELLE WILLS
13/07/2023 - 13/03/2025

Desiring a return to a country life Michelle moved to Italia Road in 2008. With a background in Agricultural Science and Microbiology Michelle worked as a senior lecturer at the University of Newcastle, retiring in 2011. After this she spent some years volunteering with Wild Life in Need of Care and Dog Rescue Newcastle. Now she spend her time caring for her menagerie of pets and writing fiction



CAITLIN SPILLER
13/07/23 - 12/11/24

Caitlin has worked in both community services and the environmental sectors. She has long been involved voluntarily in wildlife care and conservation, having been a carer for over 30 years, on several related committees, and is currently active with the Koala Koalition EcoNetwork Port Stephens, having been a founding member.