The fight to protect Bimblebox is not over yet...
Click here to donate

Hi there, Bimblebox supporters... it's been a while.

Have you seen our new website?
Treasurer of The Bimblebox Alliance (TBA), Joan Vickers, has done a tremendous job giving bimblebox.org a new look (see above) and improving security. She has researched and restored and rebuilt, and we are enormously grateful to Joan for grappling with a subject that's way over the heads of most of us!

Focus on the Galilee
It's Adani’s Carmichael Mine that’s grabbing all the limelight these days, with a massive Stop Adani campaign across the country, not just in Queensland. The Federal government's suggestion of a loan of almost a billion dollars (courtesy of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility, or NAIF) to help a foreign billionaire’s company build a rail line to get their coal from pit to port didn’t go down well with many Australian taxpayers. Then it emerged that Queensland’s Palaszczuk government had negotiated a deal with Adani to defer royalty payments, precipitating further outcry. One of Annastacia Palaszczuk’s election commitments was not to use public money to fund Adani’s project. (And let’s not forget another example of Adani’s special treatment in being allowed unlimited water access for its operations.)

Any decisions about the future of Adani’s mine will affect other projects in the Galilee Basin, of course. Nobody can get their coal to market without a rail line. TBA keeps its ear to the ground for news of Waratah Coal’s Galilee Coal Project (aka China First), the mine that would destroy our beloved Bimblebox Nature Refuge. We know the Mining Lease/Environmental Authority is ‘good’ to go, but while the state government is embattled over Adani, we hope they won’t further alienate some voters – with next state election in mind – by green-lighting additional coal mines in the Galilee at the same time.

**Where did 2016 go?**

At The Bimblebox Alliance’s AGM back in January, Paola Cassoni summed up main events and talking points from 2016.

At Bimblebox, events ranged from a [Survey of Reptiles and Amphibians](#) in January to, in September, the traditional [Bimblebox Art, Science and Nature Camp](#). At last year’s camp, two species of birds not previously seen on the Refuge were spotted.
TBA lobbied Queensland’s Environment Minister, Steven Miles, not to renew Waratah’s Exploration Permit for Coal (EPC), which was due to expire in June. It was extended even though Waratah had still to satisfactorily complete remedial work to drilling holes on some properties within the mining lease area. As of 7 June, 2017, notification has still not been posted.

**Special Wildlife Reserves**

You could be forgiven for thinking the Department of Environment’s announcement last year about a [new category of protected area](http://www.stopadanialliance.com/), a Special Wildlife Reserve (SWR), was the answer to Bimblebox’s prayers.

Alas, no. SWR status cannot be awarded retrospectively, and any application for such is subject to a nod of approval by the Minister for Mineral Resources and Mines, whose portfolio tends to carry more weight in land use battles.

The best hope Minister Miles could offer us was to lodge an objection to Waratah’s mine in the Queensland Land Court once public notification (of the project going ahead) has been posted. That could happen any day.

**Meanwhile…**

TBA continues to support the Environmental Defenders Office, whose solicitors enable communities to participate in environmental law cases. As members of the Queensland Conservation Council and the Protect the Bush Alliance, we attend AGMs, management meetings and other relevant events. Last year we also donated to the Leard and Pilliga forest campaigns. We sent one Management Committee member to Melbourne in November 2016 to attend the [Australian Land Conservation Alliance Conference](http://www.stopadanialliance.com/) where we learned a lot more about conservation on private land. You can read more about this on our website under [Media, Annual Reports](http://www.stopadanialliance.com/).

Lately, TBA has joined the Stop Adani Alliance. Read the latest updates about this rapidly growing movement at [http://www.stopadani.com/blog](http://www.stopadanialliance.com/blog), [http://www.stopadanialliance.com/](http://www.stopadanialliance.com/).
Guarding the Galilee

This is a 30-minute documentary about the battle to stop the largest coal mine in Australian history from wrecking the landscape and its ecosystems, stealing precious ground and surface water, and threatening the Great Barrier Reef and east coast tourism as the coal is exported. Go to http://www.stopadani.com/film to find a screening near you, or organise a community screening yourself.

Bimblebox – the movie

We still get requests for screenings of Bimblebox, the doco that premiered at the Byron Bay International Film Festival back in 2012. Whenever we become aware of a screening, we publicise it on our Facebook page and on Twitter (see social media links, below). There will be a screening at Forest Lake in Brisbane later in June. You can purchase the DVD at https://bimblebox.org/about/bimblebox-film/.

And another film...

Science film-maker John Davis's Coal – Is It Worth It? documents the concerns of people on the land and in cities who take issue with coal mining on environmental, economic, community and health grounds. On their journey, John and his wife Felicity visit Bimblebox during the 2014 artists' camp. It features Bimblebox ‘by drone’ and interviews with artists attending the camp. The film is inspiring, reflecting the courageous stand
everyday Australians are taking on coal mining and climate change. Go to https://au.demand.film/coal-is-it-worth-it/ to find a screening near you, or contact Felicity Davis at felicity@sciencefilms.com.au to host a screening of Coal – Is It Worth It?

**Bimblebox in the art world**
We’d like to thank all the artists and organizers who made possible the touring exhibition *Bimblebox: art - science – nature* (2014-17). It attracted 45,500 visitors around Australia. It was so successful, in fact, that the concept of high-quality artwork influencing people’s opinions about the environment is currently the subject of research at the University of New England in New South Wales.

![Birds image](image)

**For the love of birds**

*Bimblebox 153 Birds* is a unique installation of artwork, poetry, prose and ‘birdsong’ inspired by Bimblebox’s birdlife (for more information, see https://bimbleboxartproject.com/bimblebox-birds-printmaking-project/, and https://overland.org.au/2016/09/for-the-love-of-birds/). It has been shown at Gympie Art Gallery, the Brisbane Writers Festival and the Impress Gallery in Kedron. TBA is supporting artist Jill Sampson who is aiming to take the exhibition across Australia.

**Nature Refuge owners and other friends**
The Bimblebox Alliance always welcomes Nature Refuge owners and nature conservationists as members, and looks forward to expanding its membership during 2017. To become a member, please visit https://bimblebox.org/nature-refuges/.

**Calling all Twitter and Facebook fans**
All social media mentions are important to maintain awareness of Bimblebox, so don’t forget to follow us at @BimbleboxNR on Twitter, and on Facebook.

**It’s been a decade...**
Finally, it has been ten years since Paola Cassoni learned that Bimblebox was at risk from a coal mine development spearheaded by one of Queensland’s larger-than-life characters (businessman and ex-MP Clive Palmer), and her battle to protect it began.
Along the way she has garnered many friends, thankfully, and many of them are there for the duration. The Bimblebox Alliance sprang from these supporters and, in turn TBA supports wider-ranging movements. Wherever we can, we put the word about that in addition to saving Bimblebox Nature Refuge, we are fighting to secure all protected areas threatened by land use conflict. Wherever we go, we come across people who are familiar with the name Bimblebox: it has truly become a conservation icon.

These days, Paola closely follows groundwater issues affecting landowners in her area of Central Queensland.

Until next time, Bimblebox Nature Refuge thanks you for your continuing support.

Paola Cassoni and The Bimblebox Alliance Inc Committee