

National Parks  
Conservation  
Trust



2022–23  
**Annual Report**

# Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. We pay our respects to their elders past and present.

In this document, where appropriate, we use the local Indigenous name for the land, place, animal or plant. We recognise that different Indigenous names may be used in other parts of the country.

© 2023 National Parks Conservation Trust

*Traditional Owner Reggie Uluru with Tjakura Sculptures created by the Anangu Women's Tjakura Rangers with support from Walkatjara Art. Photo credit: Parks Australia.*





# Contents

The National Parks Conservation Trust	4
Our Vision	5
Our Purpose	5
Where We Work	6
Our Focus Areas	8
Our Growing Impact	9
Report from the Chair	10
Report from the Ex-Officio	13
Our People	14
Our Partners	20
Activities and Outcomes	22
Sharing Our Learnings	38
Financials	40
Independent Audit Report	47
Independent Audit Declaration	50
Appendix A: National Parks Conservation Trust Partners	51

Twin Falls, Kakadu National Park. Photo credit: Parks Australia.







## The National Parks Conservation Trust

The National Parks Conservation Trust (Parks Trust) is a registered charity with tax-deductible status. It is governed by an independent board of Trustees and operated by a small team.

The Parks Trust is the charity partner of Parks Australia, the organisation responsible for the management of Commonwealth terrestrial national parks, Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Booderee, Christmas Island, Pulu Keeling, Norfolk Island, the Australian National Botanic Gardens, and over 280 million hectares of Australian Marine Parks. All our projects are underpinned by this unique and valuable partnership.

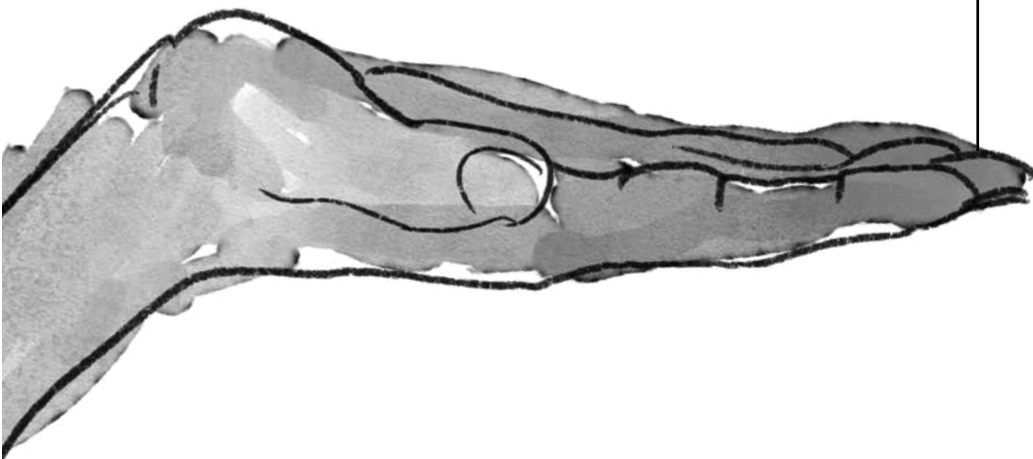
The Parks Trust collaborates with Parks Australia to bring unique on-ground knowledge and shared connections with Indigenous communities, as well as access to world-leading science and research, to enable projects that deliver meaningful impact.

We engage with philanthropic, government and corporate organisations as well as individual donors to raise funds for innovative conservation projects in iconic Commonwealth terrestrial and marine parks.

*Australian fur seal, Booderee National Park. Photo credit: Parks Australia.*

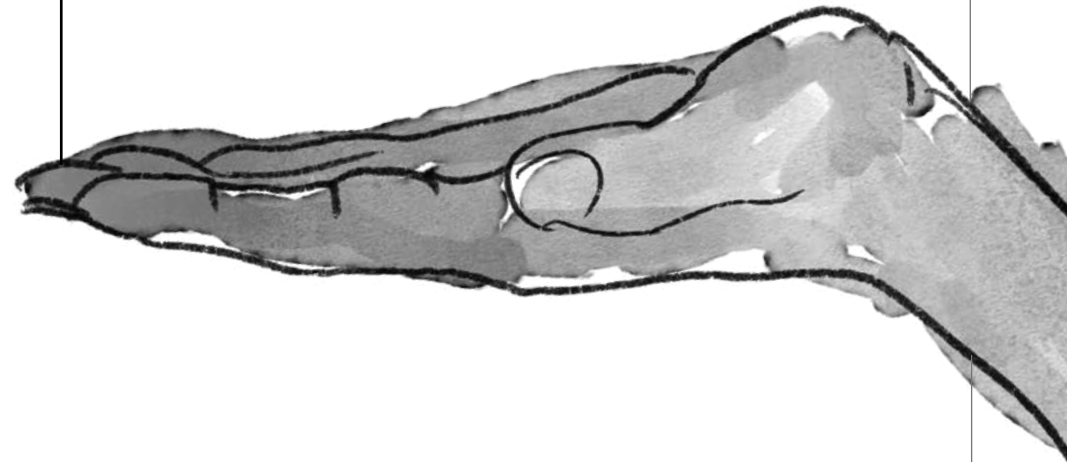
## Our Vision

To conserve Australia's plants, animals, and cultural heritage by bringing people together.



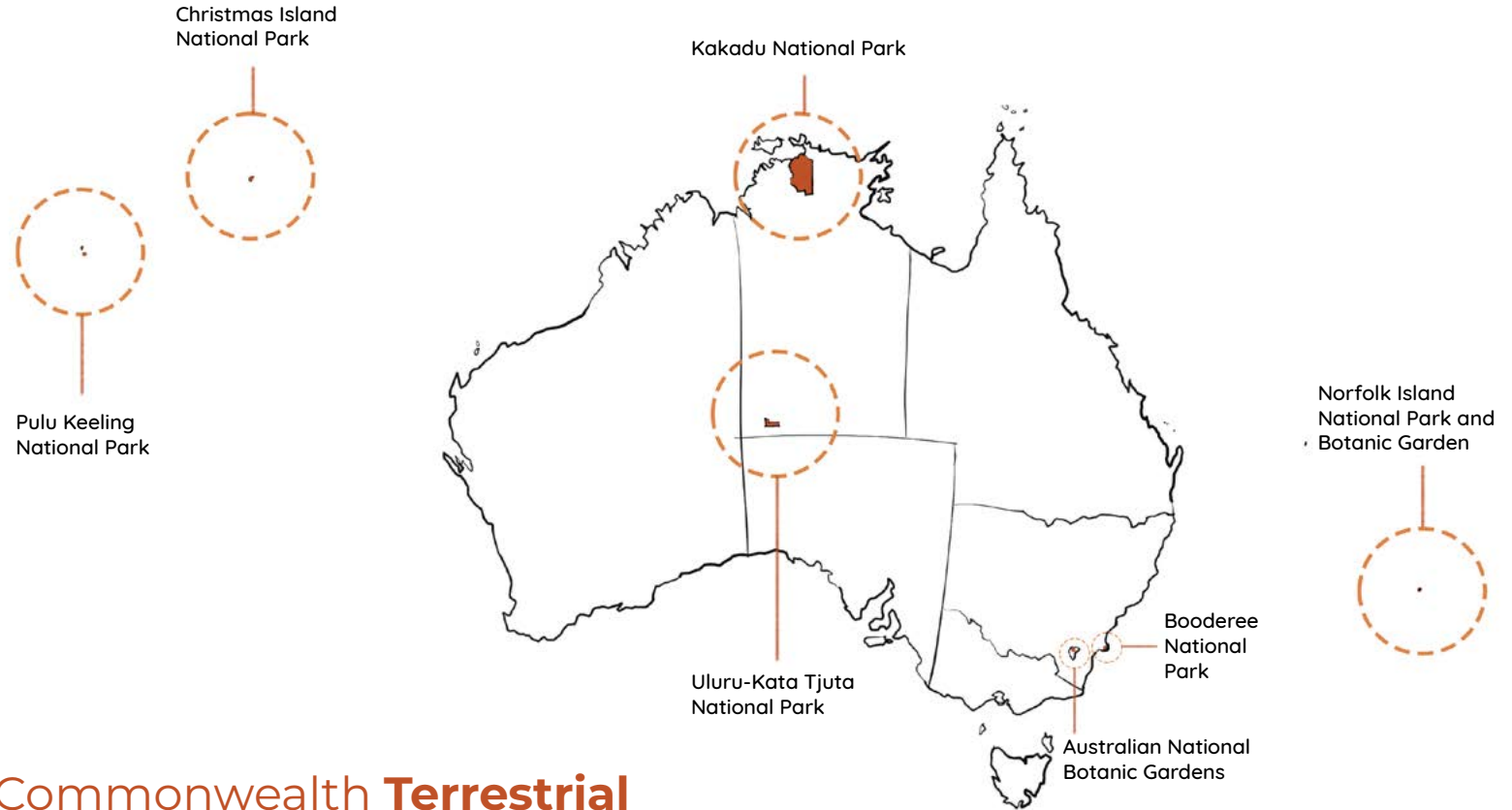
## Our Purpose

To enable partnerships supporting the conservation of Australia's plants, animals, and cultural heritage through transformational initiatives in and beyond Commonwealth National Parks.



# Where We Work

The Parks Trust supports projects across Australia with a focus on national parks, gardens and marine parks, encompassing a wide variety of ecosystems, rich biodiversity, and cultural heritage. Many threatened and/or endemic species and ecological communities are protected within their boundaries. Our support of work in these places affords our projects the benefit of a managed environment from where the learnings can be assessed, applied elsewhere or scaled up.

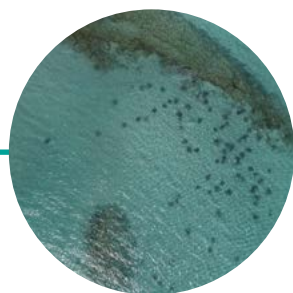
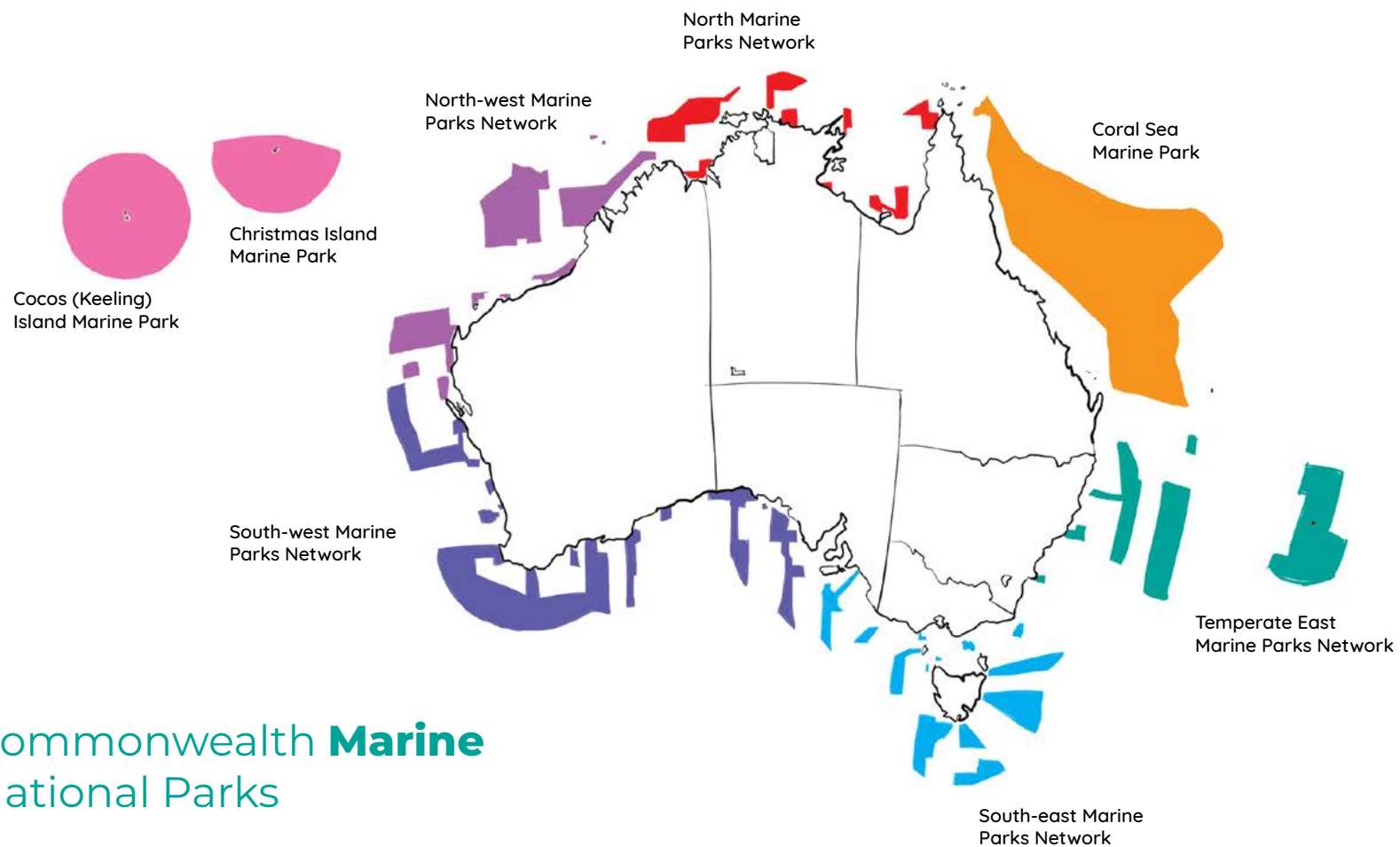


## Commonwealth **Terrestrial** National Parks





## Commonwealth **Marine** National Parks



*Photo credit: Parks Australia*

## Our Focus Areas



### RESTORE LOST BIODIVERSITY AND REVERSE DECLINE

Conserving threatened plants, animals, and ecological communities in and beyond terrestrial and marine parks.



### CULTURES REMAIN STRONG AND VIBRANT

Recognising, involving, and celebrating cultures in and beyond terrestrial and marine parks by supporting empowerment of Traditional Owners, Custodians, and local communities.



### SUSTAINABLY MANAGE OUR OCEANS

Addressing knowledge gaps and restoring habitats to improve the health and management of our marine parks.



# Our Growing Impact

*(Accumulative totals across the life of the Parks Trust)*

Total \$ cash raised for conservation.

**\$1.7M**

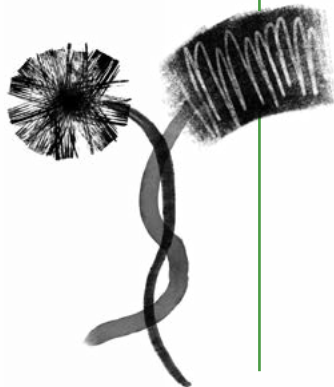


Total number of projects across life of the Trust.

**13**



Total number of partner organisations.



**37**

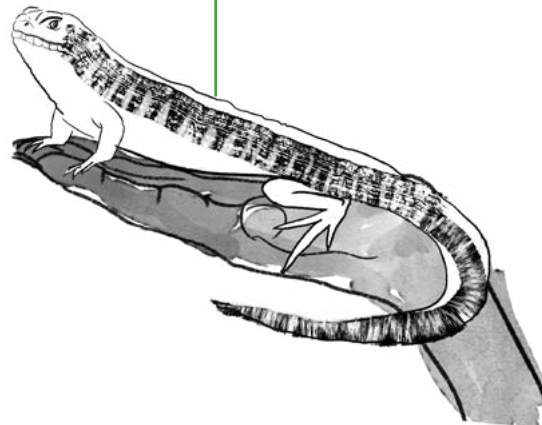
**14**

Total number of target species/ecosystems assisted by projects.



**5**

Total number of First Nations People collaborations.

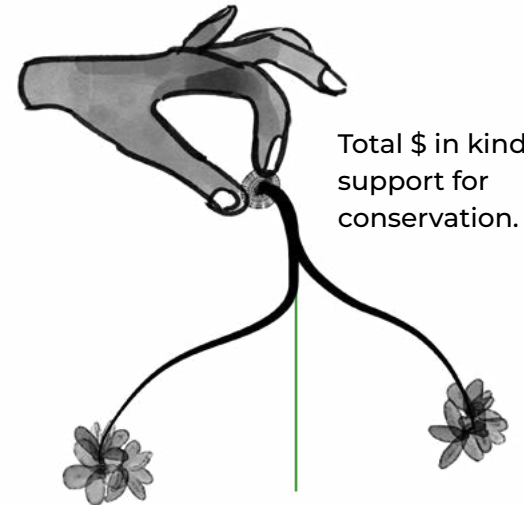


**11**

Non-target species and ecological communities assisted by projects.



Total \$ in kind support for conservation.



**\$1.5+**

## Report from the Chair

It has been a very significant year for the Trust as we consolidated our learnings from the first five years of the Parks Trust operation to create a critical document, the National Parks Conservation Trust Strategic Plan 2023-2025.

*Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo, Booderee National Park.  
Photo credit: Brad Desmond.*





The Strategic Plan sets out the three key focus areas for the Parks Trust as well as how we work and who we will work with to achieve our outcomes. In particular, the Strategic Plan sets out our priorities for conservation projects in 2023-25. These are to:

- broaden our projects to include additional species and ecological communities across Australia.
- increase the scale and influence of our conservation projects for maximum benefit.
- support First Nations and Indigenous cultures so they are respected, maintained, and empowered in our work.
- bring together western science and traditional knowledge to improve conservation outcomes.
- connect communities with our work to inspire increased public support for conservation.

I commend the Strategic Plan to you as an excellent introduction to the Parks Trust and how we are working to 'shift the dial' on our conservation efforts to achieve lasting benefits for Australia's precious species, ecosystems and cultural heritage.

I was also pleased to release the Parks Trust first Impact Report in December 2022. This report provides a snapshot of our achievements in 2022 and is a key part of our commitment to demonstrating to partners and supporters the outcomes they are helping us to achieve. Both the Strategic Plan and the Impact Report are available on the Parks Trust website.

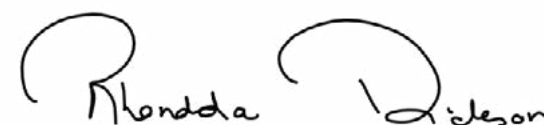
There have been a number of changes to the Committee of Trustees over the past twelve months. We farewelled long time Trustee, Peter Hoefer. Peter's expertise was invaluable in establishing strong corporate and financial governance for the Parks Trust and a clear focus on strategic fundraising and project delivery. We wish Peter well in his retirement. I am confident that our new Trustee, Karen Williams, with her expertise as a senior executive working in financial and operating areas as well as her experience supporting a range of not-for-profit organisations will ensure the Parks Trust continues its high standard of performance in these areas. There were also changes in the Parks Trust Executive Support Team over the year. Throughout these changes, the Trustees have continued to enjoy the highest standard of support and I would like to thank the team for their ongoing dedication and delivery.

While the Parks Trust is gearing up for the next round of new projects in the second half of 2023, I have been very pleased to see the great achievements of our current projects and how these achievements are being shared.

As well as the Trust sharing project progress through our social media channels, our partners have also been actively sharing project achievements, most notably the terrific outcomes from **Survive and Thrive** which were presented by the staff of the Australian National Botanic Gardens at the 2022 Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Melbourne and at the 2022 Australian Network for Plant Conservation conference.

Highlights from this project were also published in the National Parks Association of the ACT's quarterly magazine, the Canberra Times, the Brisbane Times, The Age, the Sydney Morning Herald, WA Today and presented in radio interviews. This sort of outreach is a critical component in ensuring the Parks Trust is amplifying the conservation outcomes from all its projects.

I am pleased to present the 2022-23 Annual Report for the National Parks Conservation Trust, the fourth for our charity. Our work could not take place without the support of private and public partners who share our commitment to the conservation of Australia's natural and cultural heritage. Together we are making a positive difference to the future of some of Australia's unique and special places.



**Dr Rhondda Dickson**

Chair, National Parks Conservation Trust







# Report from Ex-Officio /Program Director

This has been a year of delivery for the Parks Trust as many of our existing partnership projects achieve key milestones. Highlights include the second year of the **Christmas Island Junior Ranger Program** where the demand from students has meant the part-time program coordinator position has been upgraded into a full-time position, while Christmas Island District High School teacher, Kylie Chatfield, was honoured in the Early Career Teacher category of the 2022 Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards for her role in the design of the **Junior Ranger Program**.

The achievements from **Survive and Thrive** have been outstanding, while the creation of the Anangu Women's Tjakuṛa Rangers, as part of the **eDNA and the biology of the Tjakuṛa** project, blossomed into a much larger series of community and cultural activities. These activities combined with other Tjakuṛa work under way, both within and outside the park, and helped inspire a younger generation of Anangu women to participate in park management activities.

Great progress has also been made on the **Digital Storybook**, a web-based version of the Uluru-Kata Tjuṛa National Park Plan of Management. For the first time, this will see key components of the plan translated into both Pitjantjara

and Yankunytjatjara. The Digital Storybook is supported by short films scripted, designed and acted by Anangu. I am very much looking forward to the launch of the website in early 2024.

Two new projects were commenced during the year. One of these, with support from new partner, GreaterGood, has enabled the upgrade of a popular pathway with bridges to make the **Tasmanian Garden** at the Australian National Botanic Gardens accessibility friendly.

I am particularly pleased to see the commencement of the project **Rewilding the Eastern Quoll** at Booderee National Park with ongoing support from long-standing partners, World Wildlife Fund – Australia and the Australian National University. This project continues the long-term commitment of Booderee National Park to re-establishing wild populations of native species that have been lost from the park, particularly those species that have a crucial role to play in creating a healthier and more resilient park ecosystem.

The Parks Trust continues to work with Parks Australia to develop and deliver projects under the \$15 million **Ocean Discovery and Restoration Program**. The program aims to promote collaborative efforts to discover, conserve and restore the marine biodiversity in the vast Australian Marine Parks estate. One partnership, with the Minderoo Foundation, is now in place with two additional partnerships to be announced in 2023-24.

We have also taken the opportunity this year to refresh the Memorandum of Understanding between Parks Australia and the Parks Trust. This seminal document sets out the agreements and understandings between the Director of National Parks and the Trustees to facilitate fundraising for, and delivery of, projects which meet the aligned objectives of both Parties. This document effectively underpins our unique and valuable partnership.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Parks Trust's funding partners and donors whose support makes these important projects and conservation outcomes possible. With the experience of the past few years and a new Strategic Plan in place, I am looking forward to the development of new projects, expanding our partnerships and delivering more on-ground outcomes.

I hope, like me, you are excited by the innovative outcomes the Parks Trust is delivering and will consider how you could join with us to help ensure our iconic Commonwealth National Parks and gardens continue to protect Australia's unique natural and cultural heritage.

**Dr Judy West AO**



## Our People

**The Parks Trust is governed by a Committee of Trustees meeting quarterly throughout the year. They bring a wealth of experience and dedication to our work.**

### Dr Rhondda Dickson

#### Trustee Chair 2023

Rhondda has retired from a thirty-year career in the Australian Public Service where she made substantial contributions to tackling many national environmental challenges. Starting in the mid-1980s she spent four years in CSIRO's Division of Wildlife and Ecology tasked with attracting external funds for the Division's research. In the 1990s she made a major contribution in developing and implementing national forest policy and negotiating regional forest agreements with five states. In the early 2000s she focused mainly on biodiversity and land management policy and implementing the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan on Salinity. Later in that decade she was responsible for cross-government policy co-ordination of industry, agriculture and environment policy in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Rhondda became a Deputy Secretary in the agriculture department in 2010. In 2011 she was appointed Chief Executive of the Murray Darling Basin Authority and led the Authority in the development, negotiation and passage into law of the Basin Plan. Her last role before retiring in 2016 was as Deputy Secretary in the Department of the Environment and Energy responsible for climate change policy.

### Philip Finley

#### Trustee

Philip has a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from the ANU. He is admitted as a Barrister to the Supreme Court of NSW and solicitor to the High Court and ACT Supreme Court. Philip's legal background involved an extensive administrative law career in senior legal positions in several Commonwealth departments and agencies. This was followed by serving as a legal member of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal. He currently provides legal assistance to the Canberra Community Law Centre in Canberra. Philip provided legal advice and assistance to the Australian Seed Bank Partnership from April 2013 to early 2021. This involved assisting the National Coordinator in relation to a range of legal issues arising from agreements and funding arrangements with partner organisations as well as agreements with the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and other donor organisations.



## Dr Guy Fitzhardinge AM

### Trustee

Guy has extensive experience in land management, in supporting aspirations of Indigenous people, in business and philanthropic activities. He holds many qualifications including a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Economics, a Master's Degree in Applied Science and a Doctorate of Philosophy looking at the relationship between people and landscape. He is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. In 2013, he was recognised for his significant service to conservation and the agricultural industry as a Member of the Order of Australia. In addition to managing his own pastoral enterprise in central NSW, Guy is currently a Governor of WWF Australia (World Wildlife Fund) and a Director of the Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance. He was the founding Chair of Karrkad Kanjdji Trust which was established to support the aspirations of the Traditional Owners of the Djelk Indigenous protected area and the Warddeken Indigenous protected area (in west Arnhem Land) in land management and cultural preservation. He has previously been a director of Bush Heritage Australia, Meat and Livestock Australia, the Meat Research Corporation and Chairman of the Beef Genetics Cooperative Research Centre. As a member of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee for twelve years, Guy provided advice and guidance from a community perspective on the listing of threatened species and communities under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

## Peter Hoefer

### Trustee – ending March 2023

Peter is the Managing Director of Resolution Consulting Services, which is a niche public sector management specialist based in Canberra and Sydney. Prior to forming his own management consulting business, Peter was employed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) with the former Federal Department of Social Security, responsible for \$50 billion in annual appropriations. This role provided extensive experience in executive level corporate governance with a direct report to the CEO, member of the Board of Management and Audit Committees, and Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee. As CFO, Peter managed the transition to the new Family and Community Services (FaCS) portfolio, including the introduction of an outcome/output-based management framework.

## Minda Murray

### Trustee

Minda is a proud Yorta Yorta Duduroa woman. She has spent the most part of her life so far on country along the Murray River, enjoying learning about culture and the environment. She has a Bachelor of Environmental Science and 12 years in the environmental management sector in the Victorian Public Service, catchment management authorities and Aboriginal organisations. She studied a Master of Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development at Australian National University whilst working in Victoria in Aboriginal Policy and Strategy for the Victorian Government. She also participated in the Indigenous Governance Program at Native Nations Institute, University of Arizona in 2020, before moving to Canberra to embark on a PhD in Aboriginal self-determination and agreement making in her home state of Victoria.

## Sarah Hardy

### Trustee

Sarah Hardy has extensive experience and knowledge across philanthropy and the non-profit sectors as well as her shared vision for supporting the environment and communities in regional and rural Australia. Currently the CEO of The Ross Trust, Sarah is an experienced chief executive officer, senior executive and board member with a demonstrated history of working in philanthropy and the non-profit sectors for over 30 years. Strong business acumen includes established skills in governance, finance, strategy and risk, grant making, cultural change, communication, and reputation management, fundraising and executive leadership. With a particular interest in rural and regional Australia, mental health and education, Sarah co-founded the national not-for profit, Youth Live4Life in 2010. Her experience is underpinned by national and international academic study, including post graduate study at Melbourne University, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government and Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. Sarah is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Executive Colloquium at Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership.

## Karen Williams

### Trustee

Karen has broad experience in senior executive positions in the Commonwealth public sector (including Chief Finance Officer and Chief Operating Officer) across financial, human resources and governance areas. Karen has a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) Degree, is a Fellow Certified Practising Accounting (FCPA) and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Karen is an active volunteer with CPA Australia. She is currently serving on CPA Australia's Appointments Council (Deputy Chair and ACT representative), Nominations Committee and ACT Divisional Council. Karen also volunteers as a non-executive director, treasurer and independent governance and risk committee member for small not-for-profit organisations and is a mentor under CPA Australia's Mentoring Program.

## Dr Judy West AO

### Ex-Officio member/Program Director

Prior to her well-deserved retirement in 2022, Judy was the Assistant Secretary, Strategic Partnerships and Australian National Botanic Gardens Branch, with Parks Australia. In this role, she oversaw the Parks Australia's science, natural resources and knowledge-management activities; led the Australian National Botanic Gardens as Executive Director and managed Parks Partnerships. Judy has more than 30 years' experience in scientific research and policy as a research scientist in CSIRO Plant Industry and Director of the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research and the Australian National Herbarium. She holds an adjunct professorial position at the Australian National University. For her contributions to Australian plant systematics and Australia's Virtual Herbarium, she was awarded the Nancy Burbidge Memorial Medal in 2001 and an Order of Australia in 2003. Judy's scientific expertise is in plant systematics and phylogenetics, biodiversity informatics and conservation biology. As National Parks Conservation Trust Program Director, Judy continues to play a critical role in the direction and evolution of the Parks Trust, using her expertise and experience to develop critical partnerships, that link science and conservation, to deliver better outcomes within and outside our Commonwealth National Parks.





*From left to right: Dr Judy West AO (Program Director), Anthony Whalen (Ex-Officio), Bronwyn Hutchison (Exec. Officer) Philip Finley, Rhondda Dickson (Chair), Guy Fitzhardinge AM, Karen Williams, Sarah Hardy and Jody Swirepik (Director of National Parks). Absent: Minda Murray.*

## National Parks Conservation Trust Executive Support Team

The Committee of Trustees and the work of the National Parks Conservation Trust is supported by a small Executive Support Team based at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra.

## 2022-23 Meetings of the Management Committee

Trustee	30/9/22	9/12/22	24/03/23	20/06/23
Rhondda Dickson	1	1	1	1
Philip Finley	1	1	1	1
Guy Fitzhardinge	1	-	1	1
Sarah Hardy	1	1	1	1
Peter Hoefer*	1	1	-	
Minda Murray	1	1	-	-
Karen Williams**			1	1

\* term ended 29 March 2023

\*\*commenced 24 March 2023





*Eastern waterdragon, Australian National Botanic Gardens.  
Photo credit: Mark Jekabsons.*

# Our Partners

Collaborative and mutually beneficial partnerships enable successful project design and implementation across Australia. We gratefully acknowledge the organisations and individuals who were vital to our successes in 2022-23.

We would like to recognise those partners who continue to work with us to deliver our ongoing projects in Christmas Island National Park, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

We welcomed support from GreaterGood and were delighted to establish a new partnership with the Foundation for Australia’s Most Endangered Species Ltd and acknowledge Minderoo Foundation as the first partnership announced under the **Oceans Discovery and Restoration Program**. We are very pleased to extend our partnership with World Wildlife Fund – Australia, to include major support for the project **Rewilding the Eastern Quoll** at Booderee National Park. A full list of our active partners can be found at Appendix A.



Above: Darren Grover from World Wide Fund for Nature-Australia inspecting a Namadgi tea-tree planting at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Photo credit: NPCT.

The work of the Parks Trust is also supported by generous donations from individuals who share our vision, many of whom choose to remain anonymous. We would like to thank these special people who share our commitment and passion for ensuring the future of Australia’s natural environment and cultural heritage.

It’s inspiring to hear the Principal of Christmas Island District High School, Mr Ian Francis, describe one of the Trust’s projects:

“The Junior Ranger program is a perfect fit for our school as it encapsulates the core values that we endorse. The physical use of the Island and the interaction with Parks has meant our program has become established and is growing by the day. The response from our students and the wider community has surpassed our expectations.”

Right: Geoff West collecting Daisy bush. Photo credit: Australian National Botanic Gardens.







# Activities and Outcomes

In this section:

---

## Focus Area 1

Rewilding the Eastern Quoll	24
eDNA and the biology of the Tjakura	26
<b>Survive and Thrive:</b> Fire recovery and climate change resilience for threatened sub-apline plant species	28

## Focus Area 2

Keeping Anangu law and culture strong: <b>Digital Storybook</b>	30
Christmas Island Junior Ranger Program	33
Tasmanian Garden	34

## Focus Area 3

Ocean Discovery and Restoration Program	36
---	----







*Shiny Phebalium. Photo credit: M. Fagg*



## Rewilding the Eastern Quoll

### Booderee National Park

This new project is being undertaken with key partners, World Wildlife Fund for Nature – Australia (WWF-Australia) and the Australian National University and with funding support from the Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species Ltd and the Shoalhaven City Council. It continues the long-term commitment of Booderee National Park to re-establish wild populations of native species that have been lost from the park and builds on the lessons learnt from earlier reintroductions of Eastern Quolls into the park in 2018 and 2019.

As part of this project, the fence which currently protects the Booderee Botanic Gardens living collection is being replaced by a new fence with a dual purpose – it is designed to keep kangaroos, wallabies, cats and foxes out – and to keep quolls in. The project aims to translocate Eastern Quolls into the fenced area where they can learn to hunt for food, find mates and raise young. Successive releases of Eastern Quolls from this population into the broader park will occur as numbers increase.

The successful rewilding of Eastern Quoll at Booderee will re-establish this carnivore back into its natural habitat and help restore the natural ecological functioning of the park.



*Eastern Quoll, Booderee National Park.  
Photo credit: Rewilding Australia.*





*Booderee National Park. Photo credit: Elsie Percival.*



# eDNA and the Biology of the Tjakura

## Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park



David Thuo, Rita Okai and Bek Robertson undertaking Tjakura surveys at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Photo credit: Parks Australia.

With support from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and Wettenhall Environment Trust, this project is bringing together traditional ecological knowledge and western science to improve our biological and ecological understanding and management of the threatened Tjakura (Great Desert Skink).

The Tjakura holds special cultural significance for the Anangu people and Traditional Owners of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park so it's exciting to be able to play a part in facilitating a collaboration between Park staff, scientists and the Anangu Women's Tjakura team in the search for active Tjakura burrows. The assistance of the Anangu Women's team has resulted in a major increase in burrows found since the first year of survey, providing a greater range and diversity of eDNA collections for testing.

An important part of this project's legacy is its many ongoing benefits. The initial engagement of the Women's Tjakura team in the field survey has blossomed into a series of remarkable community activities. Traditional Owners have been painting and sharing stories about the Tjakura which has engaged the interest of younger Anangu in how the Tjakura live and how they were hunted and eaten. An oral history, told in language, of traditional hunting and Tjakura Tjukurpa (traditional law, stories and spirituality) has been recorded, and shared with local Indigenous students from Mutitjulu School and Nyangatjatjara College. With support

from Walkatjara Art Uluru, the Women's Tjakura Team also created three giant Tjakura sculptures to provide a focus for the launch of the National Tjakura Survey and the development of a new, national, Indigenous-led recovery plan for the species.

All these activities are inspiring a new generation of Anangu to learn about this species and get involved with caring for the park.



Josephine Mick with her painting of the Tjakura Tjukurpa. Photo credit: Parks Australia.







## Survive and Thrive

Fire recovery and climate change resilience for threatened sub-alpine plant species, Australian National Botanic Gardens

2022-23 has been another highly successful year for the Parks' Trust's **Survive and Thrive**, investigating plant species in Australia's southeastern sub-alpine regions, including Namadgi National Park in the ACT, Kosciuszko National Park in NSW and Alpine National Park in Victoria, which were severely impacted by the 2020 bushfires. The project's achievements have been presented to a number of conferences, as well as highlighted on radio programs and published in multiple newspapers and other publications. We're now past the half-way mark and going from strength to strength in securing, ex-situ, sub-alpine plant species severely impacted by the 2020 bushfires.

The collecting phase of the project is complete. The **Survive and Thrive** team, based at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, has undertaken 48 field trips, trekked to over 20 locations, slogged through bogs, over massive granite boulders and up and down a lot of mountain sides! This great work has resulted in seed collections from 4 of the 5 primary target species and cuttings from all 5 of the primary target species. Collections have also been taken from many of the secondary target species as well.

We are delighted to report that the collected cuttings are growing well. The Australian National Botanic Gardens nursery team has grown 265 viable plants with some already flowering and setting seed. This is especially important for species where mature, viable seed hasn't been located in the wild.



The nursery team is currently conducting research into plant growth habits, flowering, pollination needs and seed set, and some species have already been planted out into the Gardens, to test the feasibility of maintaining plants in in-ground ex-situ collections, and to showcase to visitors.

Seeds of 4 of the 5 primary target species (plus from numbers of secondary target species) have now been cleaned, processed and stored in the National Seed Bank where they will be kept safe, in case species are lost from the wild.

But we also need to know how to turn these saved seeds back into plants if needed in the future – and that’s where Dr Gemma Hoyle, comes in. In a significant move forward, in January 2023, Dr Hoyle was engaged as the project’s Seed Scientist. Dr Hoyle’s challenge is to determine the germination requirements of each species – not always easy when it comes to Australia’s flora! She is testing the effects on germination of physical cues such as heat treatments, light and dark regimes and a nick or a scratch of the seed coat, and chemical cues such as smoke water and Gibberellic acid (a plant growth hormone). Her ground-breaking research is already providing vital knowledge of these previously understudied plant species.

Information gathered through the project will also help determine if any of these species need further recognition and conservation attention.

The National Parks Conservation Trust is proud to be working with a range of partners to deliver **Survive and Thrive** including the Australian National Botanic Gardens, WWF-Australia, Australian Alps National Park Management Program, and the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales Governments.

Community groups and volunteers have also been involved in surveying and collecting through the Australian National Botanic Gardens Seedy Volunteers, the ACT National Parks Association and NatureMap Canberra.

*Left: Namadgi National Park. Photo credit: Mark Jekabsons.*

*Dr Gemma Hoyle in the Seed Bank laboratory. Photo credit: Australian National Botanic Gardens.*



# Keeping Anangu Law and Culture Strong

## Digital Storybook, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

There has been great progress this year on the creation of a **Digital Storybook** version of the 2021 Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Management Plan. For the first time a web-based Digital Storybook will see key components of the Management Plan translated into both Pitjantjara and Yankunytjatjara, the main languages spoken by the Anangu who live and work on the park. It will not only allow the Anangu to more successfully engage with the Management Plan and contribute to its

implementation but will also empower Traditional Owners to reinforce how Tjukurpa (Anangu law and language) holds an important place in conserving the natural and cultural values of the park. The Digital Storybook is supported by short films scripted, designed and acted by Anangu. The project is also providing Anangu with employment and the opportunity to learn about film making. The launch of the website is planned for early 2024.

[Welcome-amilantja](#)
[Nguraritja tjuṯaku Tjukurpa](#)
[Plan of Management](#)
[Maip](#)
[Kutjupa-kutjupa tjuṯa](#)
[yankunytjatjara](#) | [pitjantjatjara](#) | [english](#) ?

## TJUKURPA NYANGATJA ULURU-KATA TJUṬA NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN-TJARA ANANGU TJUṬAKU

Nyangatja Anangu tjuṯaku tjukurpa Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Management (UKTNPM) Plan-tjara. Tjukurpa nyangatja panya Anangu uwankarangku kulintjaku yaaltji-yaaltji UKTNPM warkarinyi manta munu ara kunpu kanyintjaku.



Uluru. Photo credit: Miss\_Megan.





*Dolly Beach Christmas Island, Red Crab Traffic. Photo credit: Brad Desmond.*





# Christmas Island Junior Ranger Program

## Christmas Island National Park

After delays caused by COVID-19, the official launch of this highly successful program took place in August 2022, with a 'Ranger Day Rogaine' enthusiastically supported by students, staff and the community.

The program supports Christmas Island school students to undertake outdoor, nature-based learning with opportunities to participate in ranger and tour guide activities and park-based programs. Junior students, known as Crab Cadets, and Senior school students participate in hands-on learning about biodiversity on the Island and develop skills tailored to local employment opportunities in conservation and ecotourism.

Students have embraced the opportunities provided by the program with exciting results including: year 8 students winning the inaugural Minister's Innovation challenge for Western Australia with their mobile phone product, a INVISA-RED light filter for observing turtles nesting at night; senior students working with a graphic designer to revamp tourist information about driving safely with crabs; and students developing new research sites to determine the numbers of giant geckos and established bird monitoring sites within the Settlement areas of the island in preparation for regular monitoring and participation.

Two Christmas Island senior students, along with Project Coordinator Lin Gaff, also travelled to Taronga Zoo, Sydney to participate in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Reptile Conservation Planning Workshop where they added their ideas and experiences to the process helping plan out the next ten years of reptile conservation activities and help prevent further extinctions.

Now in its second year, this popular Christmas Island program has an exceptionally high level of engagement and support across the Island community and is already delivering great outcomes for the environment.



*Left: Program co-ordinator Lin Gaff with Christmas Island junior rangers. Photo credit: Parks Australia.*

# Tasmanian Garden

## Australian National Botanic Gardens

With support from the Parks Trust, work has been undertaken within the Tasmanian Garden section of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, to upgrade pedestrian safety and accessibility. With joint funding from the Gardens and GreaterGood – the Capital Region Community Foundation – this beautiful part of the Gardens has been made accessibility friendly.

The funding has enabled the upgrade of a popular pathway with the creation of a level surface, a reduction in slip hazards, and the repair or replacement of two pedestrian bridges. This is a particularly appealing part of the Gardens where water features, bridges, winding pathways, and a large population of Eastern Water Dragons create an engaging place for all visitors to explore. The work undertaken has significantly improved the appearance and atmosphere of the area but more importantly the upgrade helps to ensure that the Gardens continue to be a welcoming and accessible place.



*New paths in the Tasmanian Gardens, Australian National Botanic Gardens. Photo credit: Australian National Botanic Gardens.*





## Ocean Discovery and Restoration Program

*Green Turtle. Photo credit: Department of Environment*

The Parks Trust continues to support Parks Australia to develop and deliver projects under the \$15 million **Ocean Discovery and Restoration Program**. The program aims to promote collaborative efforts to discover, conserve and restore the marine biodiversity in the vast Australian Marine Parks estate.

The Minderoo Foundation is the first partnership announced under the program, with a Director of National Parks investment of \$3.4 million. This exciting new partnership will transform how the health of Australian Marine Parks is monitored through eDNA technologies.

To support the management and conservation of our unique marine

ecosystems, scientists will use eDNA as a non-invasive, robust biomonitoring tool to track threatened species through small amounts of their genetic material released into the ocean. This information is important in identifying places of high ecological value and in monitoring the health of our precious species and vulnerable ecosystems across Australia's 60 Marine Parks.

A further nine proposals have been received by Parks Australia for assessment and two new partnerships will be announced in 2023-24.

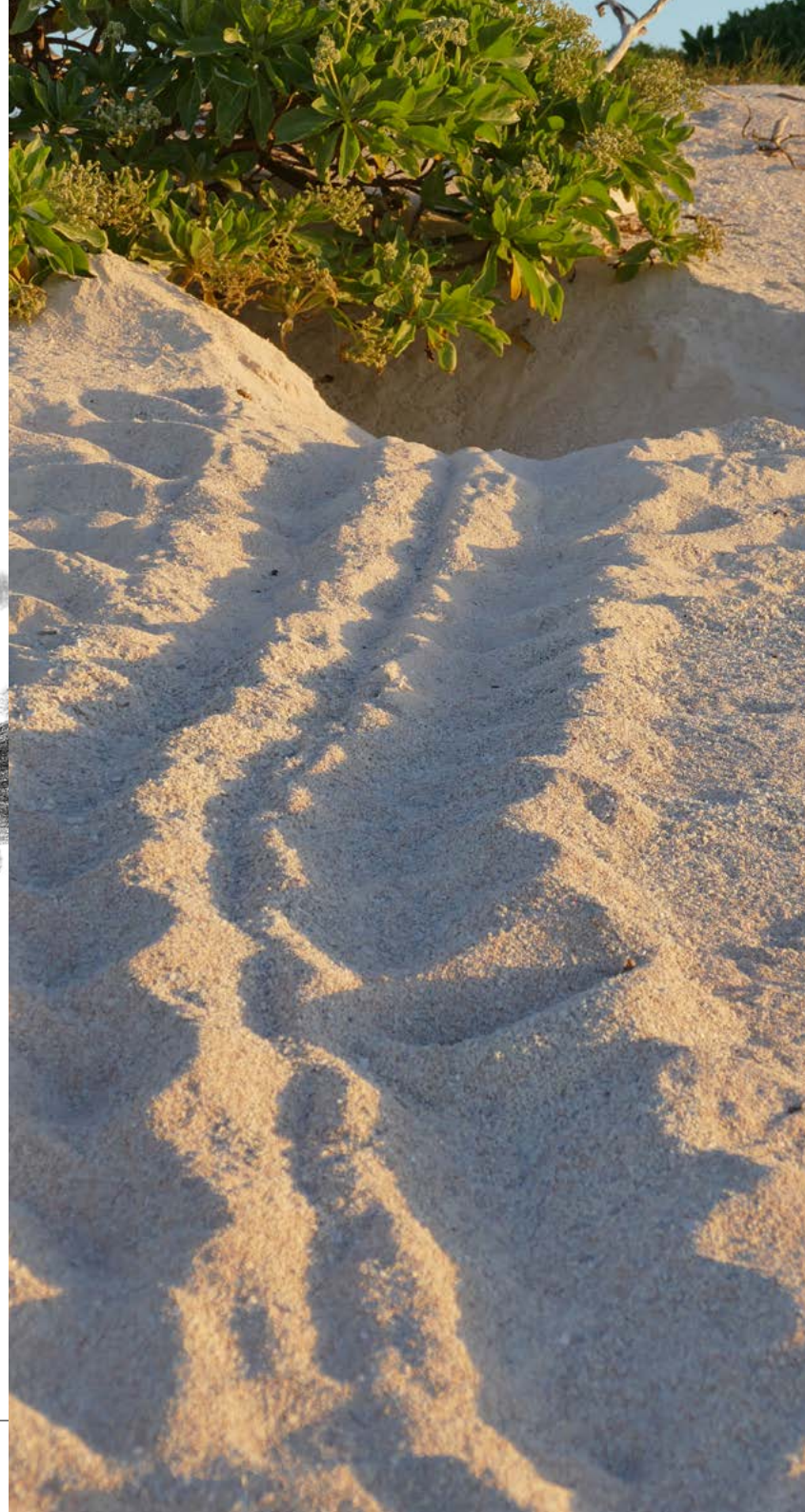
More information on all these projects can be found on our Parks Trust website: [parkstrust.org.au](https://parkstrust.org.au)







*Ashmore Reef Marine Park. Photo credit: Parks Australia.*



## Sharing Our Learnings

One of the key aims of the Parks Trust is to enhance our impact by sharing the knowledge generated and/or the lessons arising to inform, influence and improve conservation outcomes in and beyond protected areas.

One exciting example flows from the remarkable successes of the **Christmas Island Junior Rangers Program**. This program is inspiring other Island communities to explore options for establishing similar programs themselves.

Another particular highlight this year has been the outreach activities delivered by the **Survive and Thrive** team with presentations given by the project team at the 2022 Australian Network for Plant Conservation conference and at the Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Melbourne (September 2022) as part of a 'conservation horticulture' symposium. Dr Gemma Hoyle also presented the project as part of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Webinar Series Bushfire recovery: through community, conservation and collaborations, hosted by Costa Georgiadis.

Stories on the project were also published in various newspapers including the Age (Sat 11 June 2022), Sydney Morning Herald (12 June 2022) and the Canberra Times (17 June 2022). Articles on the project were published in Fronds, the newsletter of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, the National Parks Association of the ACT's quarterly magazine, the National Parks Association Bulletin and News from the Alps, the newsletter of the Australian Alps National Parks Program.

Fact sheets presenting the **Survive and Thrive** project's research findings on the target species' life history, biology and propagation are also being developed and will be distributed as part of the process to help inform future recovery efforts.

At Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park, the project exploring **eDNA and the biology of the Tjakura**, has provided an opportunity for exchange of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and western science with Anangu women sharing their expertise in tracking and identifying Tjakura burrows and, in turn, learning how to use wildlife cameras for species survey and hearing about recent technological developments in feral cat management.

Two short videos supporting the work of the Parks Trust were released in 2022-23; the Everlasting Circle Bequest Program and Introduction to the National Parks Conservation Trust. These videos are currently being shared through our web pages and are part of the Australian National Botanic Gardens permanent reel of stories of interest showing in the public foyer area adjacent to the Visitor Centre. We anticipate sharing these beautiful productions to more venues and partner websites in the future.

The Parks Trust has also continued to share and celebrate our achievements through our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and X/Twitter). We would like to thank all our partners who continue to provide us with updates from the field and stunning images to support our outreach activities.





BOTANIC GARDENS WEBINAR SERIES

# Bushfire recovery: through community, conservation and collaborations



**hosted by COSTA GEORGIADIS**  
Botanic Gardens Day  
Ambassador

- 4 May
- 7pm AEST
- Join via Costa's Facebook or YouTube pages

## Michael Anlezark

Manager, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, NSW

## Bryce Watts-Parker

Field ecologist, botanist & Mallacoota Endemic Garden project lead

## Gemma Hoyle

Seed Scientist, National Seed Bank, Australian National Botanic Gardens, ACT



**NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION TRUST**  
**A.B.N. 56 192 820 884**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**



**STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS**

For the period ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Grants	3	326,727	467,727
Donations		111,980	70,788
Interest		2,569	2,200
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>441,276</b>	<b>540,715</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Grants		158,240	123,823
Insurance		3,954	1,659
Other expenses		179	1,165
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>162,373</b>	<b>126,647</b>
<b>Net profit</b>		<b>278,903</b>	<b>414,068</b>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,342,989	1,074,668
Accounts receivable		7,900	50
Prepayments		-	300
Accrued revenue		-	1,917
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,350,889</b>	<b>1,076,935</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accrued expenses		-	9
GST		27,605	32,545
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>27,605</b>	<b>32,554</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>1,323,284</b>	<b>1,044,381</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Current year earnings	5	278,903	414,068
Retained earnings	5	1,044,381	630,313
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>1,323,284</b>	<b>1,044,381</b>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

The financial statements of the National Parks Conservation Trust have been prepared in accordance with the Trust Deed.

### 1 Basis of Preparation

The Management Committee has prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Trust is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. These financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements.

The special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies described below and do not comply with any Australian Accounting Standards unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises of cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### Revenue and other income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

The Trust has applied AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Companies in the current year.

#### *Operating grants, donations and bequests*

When the Trust receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Trust:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant - recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement;
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Trust:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (e.g. AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138);
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
- recognises revenue immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Trust recognises revenue in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

### *Interest revenue*

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

### **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

### **Income Tax**

No Income tax is payable by National Parks Conservation Trust as the entity is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2023

<b>3</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	Government grants	87,182	123,182
	Other grants	239,545	344,545
		<b>326,727</b>	<b>467,727</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	Public fund	370,198	305,354
	Other cash at bank	570,491	309,314
	Term deposit	402,300	460,000
	<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,342,989</b>	<b>1,074,668</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Retained earnings</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
	Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	1,044,381	630,313
	Net profit attributable to beneficiaries	278,903	414,068
	<b>Retained earnings at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>1,323,284</b>	<b>1,044,381</b>

The Chair of the Management Committee declares that the Trust is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

The Chair of the Management Committee declares that:

- 1 The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 2 to 7, present fairly the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements;
- 2 In the Chair's opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Trust will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.



**Chair:** Rhondda Dickson  
Dated this day of 16 October 2023



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES OF NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION TRUST

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of National Parks conservation trust (the trust), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Trustees declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of National Parks Conservation Trust has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (the ACNC Act), including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the ACNC Act and ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the ACNC Act, which has been given to the Management Committee of Trustees (the Trustees) of National Parks Conservation Trust would be in the same terms if given to the Trustees as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which described the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purposes of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon**

The trustees' are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Responsibilities of the Management Committee of Trustees for the Financial Report**

The Trustees of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the ability of the registered entity to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The committee is responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:



- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



James Barrett, FCA  
Registered Company Auditor  
BellchambersBarrett

Canberra, ACT  
Dated this 16 day of October 2023



p (+61 2) 6239 5011  
e [admin@bellchambersbarrett.com.au](mailto:admin@bellchambersbarrett.com.au)  
Level 3, 14 Childers St,  
Canberra ACT 2601  
PO Box 4390, Kingston ACT 2604  
ABN 14 942 509 138  
[bellchambersbarrett.com.au](http://bellchambersbarrett.com.au)

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER S60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 TO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES OF NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION TRUST

As lead auditor of National Parks Conservation Trust, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023 there have been no contraventions of:

- i. the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Barrett'.

James Barrett, FCA  
Registered Company Auditor  
BellchambersBarrett

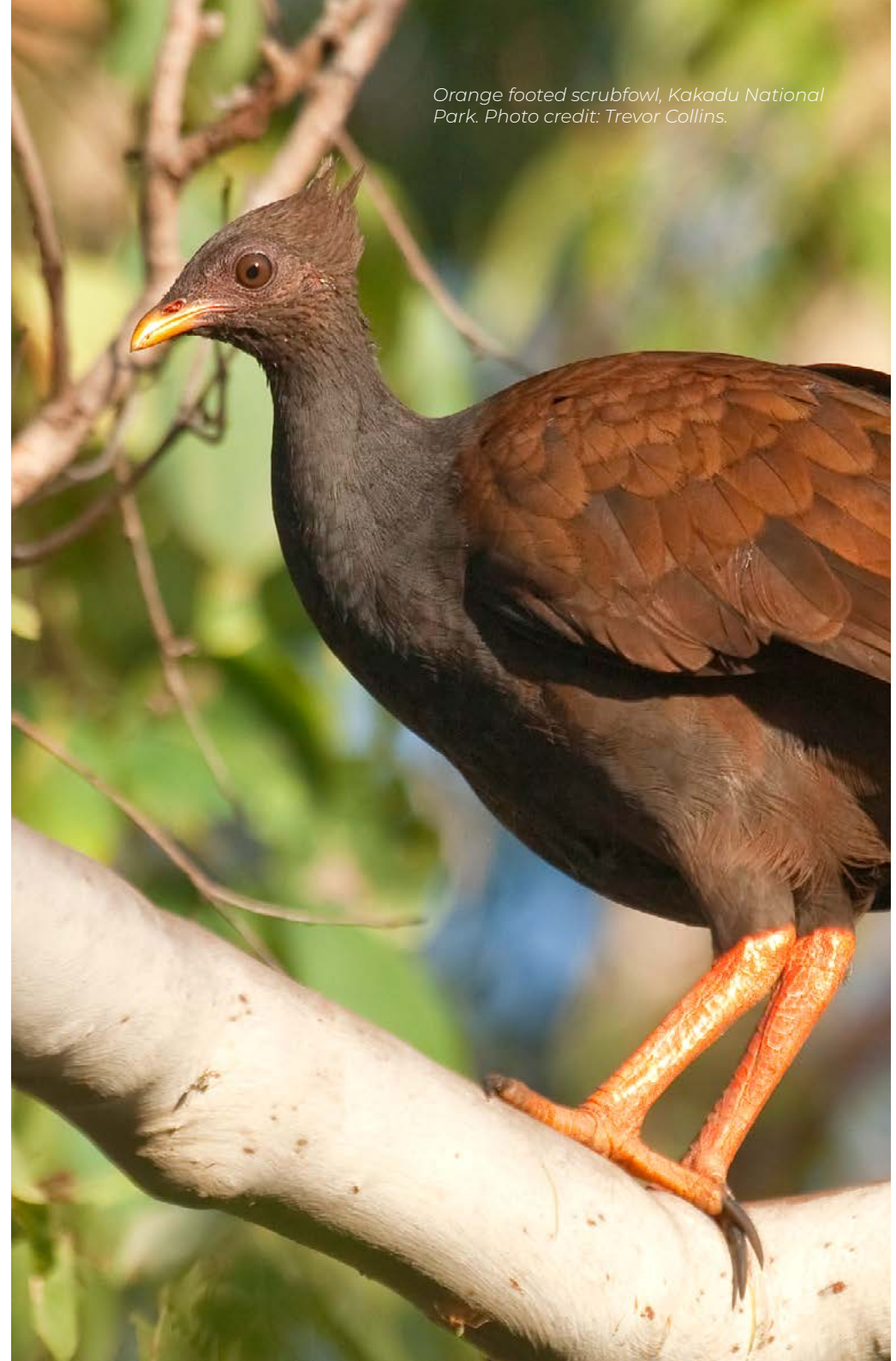
Canberra, ACT  
Dated this 16 day of October 2023



# Appendix A: National Parks Conservation Trust Partners in 2022-23

ActewAGL  
Anangu Communities Foundation  
Australian Alps First Peoples  
Australian Alps National Parks Cooperative Program  
ACT Government Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development  
ACT National Parks Association  
Australian Government; Indigenous Languages and Arts  
Australian National University  
BellchambersBarrett  
Central Land Council  
Christmas Island District High School  
Christmas Island Phosphate Resources Ltd  
Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation  
Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species Ltd  
Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal  
GreaterGood  
Harris Estate Charitable Foundation  
J. T. Reid Charitable Trusts  
Lesley Jackman  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
NatureMap Canberra  
Parks Australia  
Traditional Owners of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park  
Shoalhaven City Council  
Wettenhall Environment Trust  
Women's Tjakuṛa Rangers, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park  
World Wide Fund for Nature - Australia

*Orange footed scrubfowl, Kakadu National  
Park. Photo credit: Trevor Collins.*





## Contact Us

National Parks Conservation Trust

ABN 56 192 820 884

[parkstrust.org.au](http://parkstrust.org.au)

[hello@parkstrust.org.au](mailto:hello@parkstrust.org.au) | +61 2 6250 9426

GPO Box 1777 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia