

National Parks Conservation Trust



2023–24 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.

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ARE CREDITED TO PARKS AUSTRALIA.





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MALE RED CRAB, CHRISTMAS ISLAND NATIONAL PARK.
CREDIT: MAX ORCHARD, 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 Joint Managed terrestrial parks, Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Booderee, and the Island Parks, Christmas Island, Pulu Keeling, Norfolk Island, over 280 million hectares of Australian Marine Parks, and the Australian National Botanic Gardens. 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 and cultural heritage projects in iconic Commonwealth terrestrial and marine parks.

MALA RUFOUS HARE-WALLABY ULURU KATA-TJUTA,
PHOTO CREDIT: PARKS AUSTRALIA



Our Vision

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

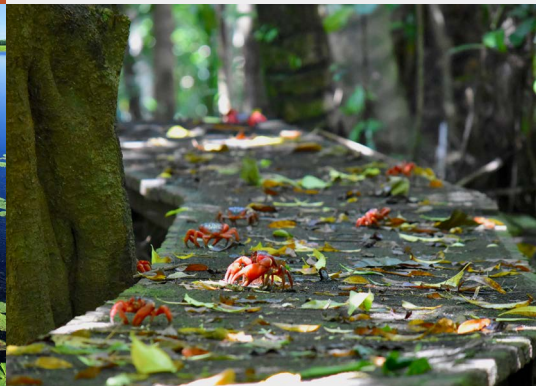
Our Purpose

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

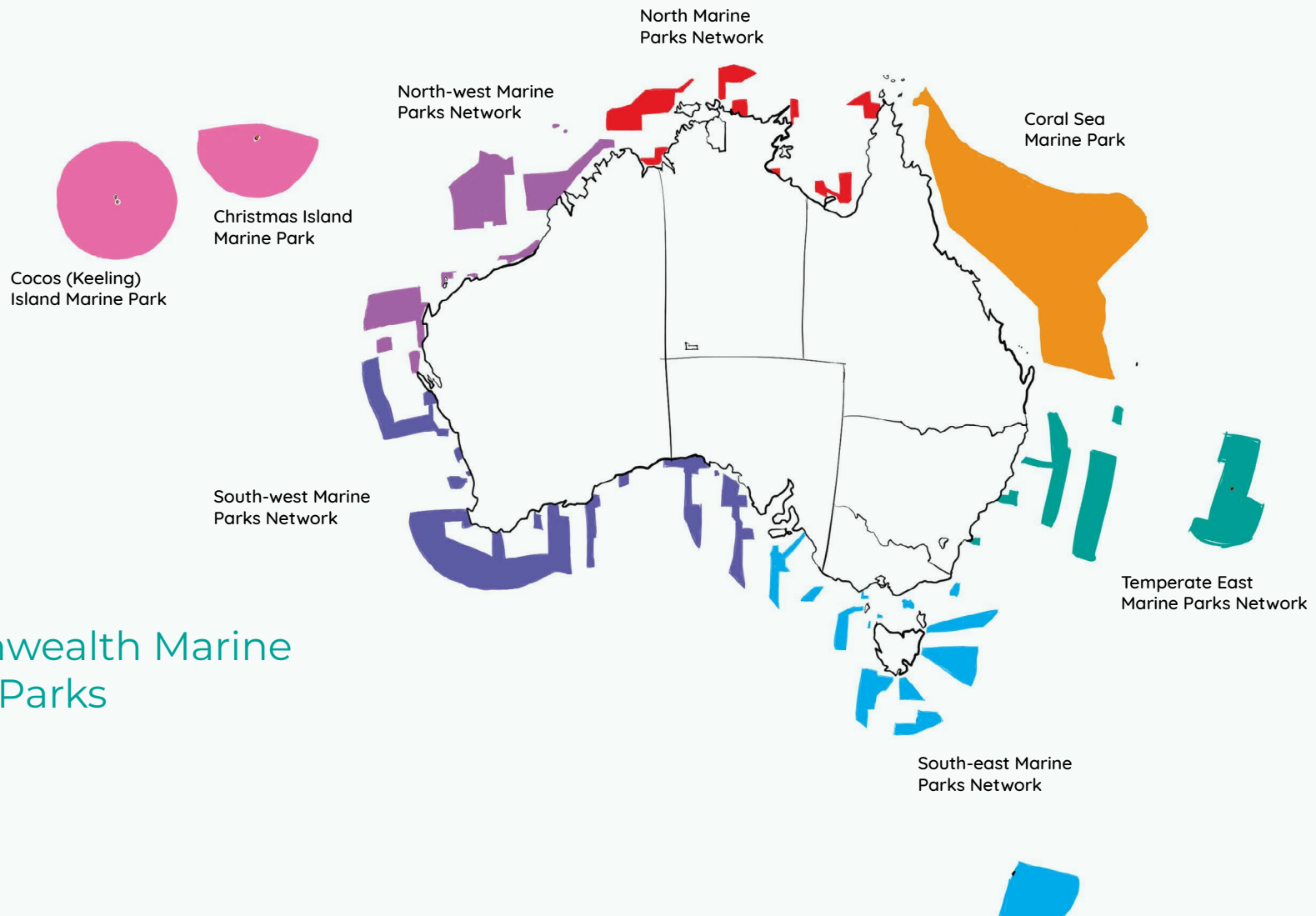
Where We Work

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.

Joint Managed Terrestrial, Commonwealth Island Parks and Australian National Botanic Gardens



Commonwealth Marine National Parks



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.



MALE GREAT FRIGATE BIRD, CHRISTMAS ISLAND NATIONAL PARK.
PHOTO CREDIT: MAX ORCHARD, PARKS AUSTRALIA

Message from our Chair 2023-2024

Welcome to our 2023-24 Annual Report.

This year we celebrated the completion of some significant projects. It is very pleasing to see that although the Trust investment has concluded, the impact of the projects continues.

The Anangu Digital Storybook project was a real highlight. The Storybook is the Anangu story of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Management Plan, told by Anangu for Anangu in language, to better understand how the park is working for people in keeping Country and culture healthy and strong. I thank all who contributed their time, knowledge, and talent to create this polished piece of work for all generations.

The Tjakuṛa project, based in central Australia, involved the work of local Anangu women, rangers and scientists to track and monitor the activities of the culturally significant tjakuṛa (Great Desert Skink). The project has been significant in combining Western science and First Nations deep cultural knowledge to gain a greater understanding of these elusive animals.

The impact of the successful Crab Cadets and Junior Rangers Project is evident by the continuing delivery of the program by Parks Australia. Jointly delivered by the Christmas Island District High School and Christmas Island National Park, the program provided young residents with a lasting bond to their environment as well as job skills. The school regularly posts on social media about the project, sharing the ongoing value of the project.

The work of the Trust has attracted mainstream media attention this year, including coverage of the Digital Storybook launch and the release of Eastern Quolls into a predator proof sanctuary nestled within the national park at Booderee Botanic Gardens.

PREPARING FOR THE EASTERN QUOLL RELEASE
IN BOODEREE NATIONAL PARK
PHOTO CREDIT: PARKS AUSTRALIA

This year has seen several changes in the Trust's Executive Support Team and Trustees. We welcomed to the Executive Support Team **Cathy Bryson** as Director Partnerships and Philanthropy. Cathy has a wealth of experience in marketing, sales, sponsorship, leadership and membership. In her role, Cathy is responsible for developing and executing strategic partnerships and fundraising initiatives. **Kate Darby** joined as Executive Officer. Kate has extensive experience within Parks Australia and has



brought a depth of knowledge of the department along with a deep understanding of policies and stakeholder relationships. Kate provides secretariat support, engages with project coordinators, and provides valued financial and administrative support.

We thank outgoing Executive Officer **Kathy Eyles** and outgoing Grants and Communications Officer **Marina Walkington** for their service to the Parks Trust.

I was delighted to welcome **Judy West AO** as a Trustee. Judy has extensive biodiversity conservation experience and knowledge. As Executive Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Judy led the institution for 14 years, guiding its development into a unique scientific organisation excelling in conservation horticulture and management of the Australian flora. In her capacity of Trustee Judy will continue to play a critical role in the direction and evolution of the Parks Trust.

We were also very pleased to welcome **Stephen Coote** as a Trustee. Stephen has more than 20 years' experience as a finance, transformation and mergers and acquisitions executive in multiple industries, including education, utilities, banking and finance and travel and tourism. Stephen is an experienced non-executive Director and advisor working with organisations all over the world on growth and transformation, developing capabilities to drive value generation for stakeholders in a sustainable way.

The Trust farewelled **Karen Williams**, who served as a Trustee for a year and made a significant contribution to our financial record keeping.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the new Director of National Parks Ricky Archer and thank new Ex Officio Tia Stevens for her engagement in the partnership between Parks Australia and the Parks Trust.

While celebrating our completed and ongoing projects, we are seeking support for others, including

- a community led initiative marking 40 years of joint management at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (UKTNP). The project will create a community based book celebrating the Elders who have contributed to the land rights movement and establishing joint management in UKTNP
- research and action on suppressing wolf snakes on Christmas Island, enabling the return of native species Lister's Gecko and the Blue-tailed Skink from ex-situ populations, and
- preserving and revitalising essential seagrass meadows in Cocos Keeling Island where they play a key role in nutrient cycling and carbon sequestration.

Importantly, I would like to acknowledge and thank our funding partners and donors whose support makes these important projects and conservation outcomes possible and express my gratitude for the partnership with Parks Australia.

As you read our fifth Annual Report, I encourage you to consider supporting our work that is making genuine progress on a healthier environment now and into the future.



Dr Rhondda Dickson
Chair, National Parks Conservation Trust



Message from our Financial Trustee

Reflecting on the 2024 financial year, the Trust delivered a number of key projects and built its relationships with stakeholders including individual donors, businesses and foundations.

Supported by the efforts of Cathy Bryson, the Trust welcomed a series of new donors through direct fundraising efforts and we thank them for their contributions and continued support.

While the year ended on a deficit, we recognise that this is largely due to a timing difference between collection and distribution of funds raised for specific projects. The Trust team work closely with Parks Australia and benefactors to raise funds for projects however, the projects often do not commence until the fundraising efforts are complete and the right season or environmental conditions arrive to enable the projects to be delivered with maximum benefit.

The Trust continues to operate with a strong balance sheet with strong cash holdings and benefitting from the current high interest rate environment. Our growing list of benefactors, including the Aris Tech Foundation and Thynkevosol who have been so generous in their support for upcoming projects.

Going forward the Trust is working to build its base of philanthropic partnerships and engage with planned giving, and project specific fundraising to enable new and innovative programs to be delivered across

our national parks for the benefit of Traditional owners, native plant and animal species and the Australian community as a whole. Our National Parks are beacons of rich history and environmental diversity, drawing visitors from all over the world to experience the tapestry of wildlife and the oldest continuing culture on Earth.

The Trust will continue to work with our stakeholders to move toward a model of complete self-sufficiency through raising awareness and fundraising toward a corpus, however our focus will always be on delivering improvements to our National Parks.

Small donations and bequests are just some of the ways you can support the work of the Trust, perhaps even a planned giving program or enabling donations to the Trust via payroll. These small amounts add up and as the trust operates with negligible overheads, you can be confident that every dollar raised will improve our Parks for many generations to come, supporting climate action and maintaining our environmental diversity.



Stephen Coote
Finance Trustee

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 2023-24.

We would like to recognise those partners who continue to work with us to deliver our ongoing projects throughout Australia.

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.

Contact us for a confidential discussion about how you can support the National Parks Conservation Trust at admin@parkstrust.org.au.

Government partners/supporters



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water



Australian Government

Parks Australia



Australian
Government Office of
Threatened Species
Commissioner



Philanthropic partners/
donors/supporters

The Kedje Foundation

The Mundango Charitable Trust



Wanless Family Fund



Also thanking our valued individual supporters.

Organisation partners/supporters



Traditional Owners of
Uluru-Kata Tjuta



Projects – Completed

PROJECT: KEEPING ANANGU LAW AND CULTURE STRONG

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Digital Storybook

With collaboration, laughter and learning, this project saw Parks Australia and Traditional Owners work together to create a special new resource – the Digital Storybook, Ara-ku Kulini.

Open the online resource and you will hear gentle birdsong, see the bright colours of bush tucker, be able to follow timelines and swirl around the seasons with your finger, and watch people telling of country. Significantly, they speak in Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara, the languages spoken by Anangu.

This is the first time a Management Plan for a jointly managed Commonwealth National Park is being communicated in language by local custodians.



The park's *Plan of Management 2020-2030* is a strategic document that sets a long-term vision for the park and outlines strategies to achieve that vision. Until this year the plan was available only in English.

The Digital Storybook has changed that. It is an interactive website where key elements of the plan have been translated into Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara, with English subtitles.

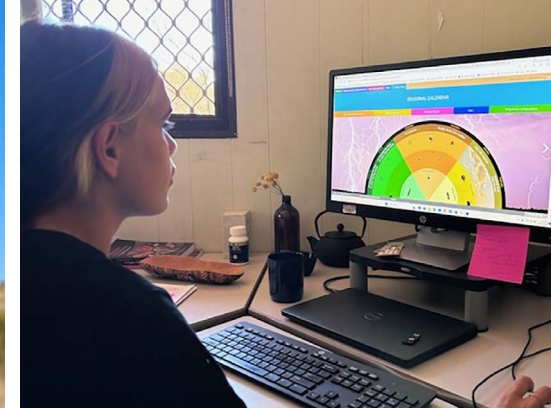
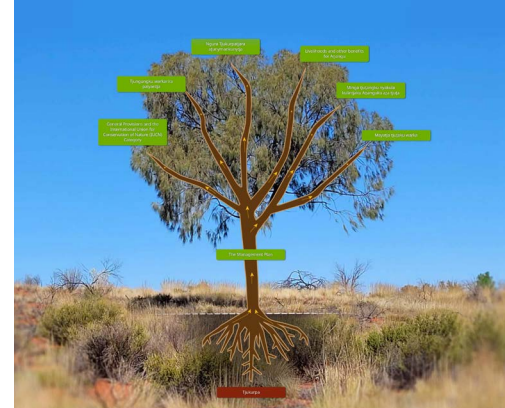
During the planning phase, the Chairman of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management, Sidney James, said the storybook would help Traditional Owners better understand and make better decisions with regards to park management.

“You need to go outside ... show the kids the bush tucker, go on country and talk,” he said. “It is also good for staff and people to hear our language, learn and know our language.”

The Anangu community was central to creating the content, communication products and digital resources, as well as providing a significant opportunity to celebrate and strengthen the importance of traditional language, law, and culture for Anangu. The project has provided employment and education for Anangu.

Along with Parks staff, students from Nyangatjatar College were involved in delivering the project, helping to create content and build, review and test the website.

Of course, the learning went both ways. The initiative was and continues to be an opportunity to increase the understanding and cultural competency of non-Indigenous people, from those working on the park to the hundreds of thousands of park visitors.



“Everything has meaning, all of the land: trees, grass, creeks, dunes, all hills, Absolutely everything holds law.”

Trust board member Sarah Hardy noted there was a genuine energy at the launch, and The National Parks Conservation Trust was thrilled to have played a part.

“This has been a unique partnership and provides a huge opportunity for us in the future,” she said.

At the launch of the storybook, Minister for the Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek said Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park was one of the world’s great national parks.

“The new plan charts a course for the park that embeds traditional knowledge into the day-to-day operations and continues to extend the focus on the values of Anangu,” Minister Plibersek said. “It’s important to acknowledge and recognise that this is Aboriginal land and that Anangu want their system of law to govern the way it’s protected. We respect the Traditional Owners, and we will work with Anangu to support their vision and goals outlined in the plan.”

Chairman Sidney James said protecting and maintaining the park using Anangu knowledge and skills with Parks Australia would bring great benefits to the local community and the park as a whole.

“We believe this new plan will lead to more fulfilling experiences by helping us create a greater understanding of this place for everyone who comes to visit,” Mr James said.

The best way to understand the Digital Storybook is to view it. The Digital Storybook features photographs, maps, music, and short films designed, scripted, and spoken by Anangu.

Enjoy www.ara-ku-kulini.net.au

KEEPING ANANGU LAW AND CULTURE STRONG AT ULURU-KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

Dates: 2020-2024

Supporters

- Parks Australia – Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park
- Anangu Communities Foundation
- Indigenous Language and Arts
- Private philanthropist
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)

Projects – Completed

CRAB CADETS AND JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

Christmas Island National Park

Rich in diversity, remote Christmas Island lies in the Indian Ocean, 2600 kilometres northwest of Perth and 500 kilometres south of Jakarta, Indonesia.

Given the future of the environment of the island lies with the next generation of locals, since 2022, the National Parks Conservation Trust has funded a project that supports young people in learning about the incredible biodiversity of their home.

Christmas Island National Park, which makes up two thirds of the Australian territory of Christmas Island, is home to a high proportion of endemic species, some of them endangered.

The National Park protects much of the island's uniquely structured rainforests, two wetlands of international importance, tens of millions of red crabs and a small but environmentally significant marine area.

Jointly delivered by the Christmas Island District School and the Christmas Island National Park, the program provided young residents with a lasting bond to their environment as well as skills for local jobs and opportunity for employment in other parts of Australia.

After delays caused by COVID-19, the program was launched in August 2022 with a 'Ranger Day Rogaine'. Over the next two years, the Crab Cadets (younger students) and the Student Rangers (older students) enjoyed nature based learning. Junior Rangers completed units that counted towards the WA Certificate of Education.

Year 8 students won \$3000 in the inaugural Minister's Innovation Challenge for Western Australia with their mobile phone product,

a light filter for observing turtles nesting at night. Among other highlights for the students were:

- helping rangers shepherd millions of crabs on their journey from the forests to the ocean to mate and spawn every year
- working with a graphic designer to revamp tourist information about driving safely when the crabs are on the move
- establishment of the school native plant nursery and the cultivation of 300 healthy native plants
- completing invasive crazy ant surveys with Parks rangers
- beach clean-ups, fishing management activities, learning about the importance of seagrass and safeguarding of the Christmas Island Blue-tailed skinks, and
- developing new research sites to survey giant geckos and monitor birds.

Judy West from NPCT says that eco tourism and nature based activities are likely to be important contributors to Christmas Island's future economy.

"This project has encouraged young people to know more about their unique environment and gain skills that could lead to nature based employment and of course, protection for the flora and fauna."

The program continues to be embedded within Parks Australia and Christmas Island.

“This project has encouraged young people to know more about their unique environment and gain skills that could lead to nature based employment and of course, protection for the flora and fauna.”



ABOVE, LEFT AND TOP: THE JUNIOR PROGRAM. ABOVE RIGHT: FEMALE RED CRAB, CHRISTMAS ISLAND NATIONAL PARK. CREDIT: PARKS AUSTRALIA



CRAB CADETS AND JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

Dates: 2020-2024

Supporters

- Parks Australia – Christmas Island National Park
- Christmas Island District High School
- Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal
- John T Reid Charitable Trusts
- Christmas Island Phosphates (now PRL Group)

Projects – Completed

PROJECT: ANANGU CARING FOR TJAKURĀ ON COUNTRY

Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park

Tjakurā, the Great Desert Skink (*Liopholis kintorei*), is a threatened species found within Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park. But how do you help an endangered species thrive if you don't know where they are? This was the problem facing rangers in Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park.

The Tjakurā lives mainly on termites and is endemic to the western deserts of the Australian arid zone.

It is a large, burrowing skink that can grow to 44 centimetres long and weigh up to 350 grams. The species has reddish-tan smooth scales, with creamy-lemony flanks and a yellow belly. One of its other Aboriginal names in the language of Manyjilijarra is Mulyamiji, meaning 'red nose'.

The elusive Tjakurā builds and maintains interconnected tunnels often under mature spinifex grasses, in which they can live for up to seven years with multiple generations participating in the construction and maintenance of burrows.

Over the past few decades, the culturally significant Tjakurā has vanished from many of the sites they used to inhabit. Unmanaged wildfire and feral cats are largely to blame.

David Thuo, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian National Wildlife Collection, CSIRO in Canberra, is driving the project 'Molecules in the sand: eDNA, and the biology of the Tjakurā, the Great Desert Skink'.

The project aims to retrieve DNA from scats and soil to study the skinks' biology and genetics. The initiative includes Mulyamiji March, which will track the population of Great Desert Skinks across central Australia

over 10 years. The first survey took place in 2023-24 and involved local Anangu women.

Over time, the project should help answer some critical ecological and biological questions about the Tjakurā, including how many individuals occupy a burrow, how occupancy changes over time, how long Tjakurā live and how far they travel. This terrestrial eDNA project may also prove to be a technique which can be applied to other threatened species who survive in Australia's arid zones.

The National Parks Conservation Trust supported the creation of the Anangu Women's Tjakurā team through the Muṯitijulu Community Rangers program.

'If we don't take action to recover the Tjakurā then it could become extinct ... that means it's lost from the culture for Aboriginal people ... but also lost from the rich diversity that makes up the desert region.'

– Threatened Species Commissioner Dr Fiona Fraser



The team painted and shared Tjukurpa (stories) about Tjakura, and work with schools to inspire a new generation to learn about the species and caring for the park. The women also created three giant Tjakura for the launch of the survey.

During the survey, the 15 Anangu women walked with scientists and rangers, finding active burrows, collecting data, and using a survey app.

"It has been a pleasure working with Anangu women, Tjakura rangers and park staff in Uluru," David says. "I have learned heaps about culture and country. The women showed us how to identify animal tracks and I also learned their cultural perspective about Tjakura."

Together the group found 103 active burrows and gathered more than 170 scat and soil samples.

Senior Anangu Traditional Knowledge Holder Josephine Mick was also involved in the project and invited to record an oral history of the Tjakura. More than 60 Anangu attended the launch.

"We want the young people to learn about it and hold onto it," Josephine said. "All the rangers are working hard for the Tjakura. They're telling all the school kids, work hard and look after the Tjakura ... that's really good."

The surveys will continue beyond the span of this project supported by the National Parks Conservation Trust.

ANANGU CARING FOR TJAKURA ON COUNTRY

Dates: 1/2/2022 to 1/12/2024

Supporters

- Parks Australia – Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park
- Wettenhall Environment Trust
- Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR)
- CSIRO

Projects – Continuing

PROJECT: GENETIC ASSESSMENT OF THE IMLAY MALLEE TO INFORM CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Mt Imlay, which sits in Mt Imlay National Park on the NSW South Coast, is recognised and managed as an Asset of Intergenerational Significance.

All flora on Mt Imlay was burnt in the devastating 2019-20 bushfires. Some are resprouting but are vulnerable to further threats and already showing signs of dieback.

The project is gathering knowledge on management approaches for threatened species, including how to capture genetic diversity in back-up 'insurance' populations at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG). It also identified priority lineages that may be particularly at risk of extinction from threats in the wild.

A significant element of the project is the training of an early career researcher in population genetic analysis, an increasingly important tool for informing conservation management. The researcher is University of Canberra PhD Candidate Tasha James, supported by the ANBG and project partners.

The focus species are Imlay Mallee (*Eucalyptus imlayensis*), *Hibbertia circinata* and *Boronia imlayensis*.

Given the species produced little to no seed in the wild, contemporary post-fire seed banking techniques cannot be applied. The ANBG has only limited collections of *Boronia imlayensis* and *Hibbertia circinata* in its nursery and three Imlay Mallee trees in the Gardens.

Tasha's research involved collecting leaf samples of the three species

(including from a decades-old New Zealand collection of the Imlay Mallee), submitting the samples for DNA extraction and sequencing, and analysis, with a focus on the Imlay Mallee.

The results showed *H. circinata* and *B. imlayensis* appear to be highly inbred with low diversity among individuals on Mt Imlay. The results, and their management implications, require further investigation.

Tasha's findings also confirmed the Imlay Mallee's 17 clones, previously established, to be present on Mt Imlay. Seedlings propagated from NZ seed, trees at the ANBG, and those in a small seed orchard in Australia are genetically different to extant plants on Mt Imlay, indicating they may represent genetic diversity that has been lost from wild populations – or they could be hybrids with parents of a different species.

Further sampling of the Imlay Mallee and co-occurring eucalypt species is planned to investigate hybrid potential and the significance of these differences between populations.

As part of the project, Tasha qualified to fly a drone over Mt Imlay, allowing detailed imagery of remote parts of Mt Imlay. She also visited the mature New Zealand *E. imlayensis* trees including keeping the





EUCALYPTUS IMLAYENSIS
RESPROUTING, MT IMLAY

grower informed of her findings to discuss if the trees could be useful for future conservation efforts.

In coming months Tasha will map and model environmental factors that may influence Mt Imlay flora and plans more field work to set up long term monitoring sites across the summit.

Genetic data for all three species will be analysed in more detail, including to further investigate population genetic structure and diversity, and to explore if the species were more diverse and or widespread in the past.



GENETIC ASSESSMENT OF THE IMLAY MALLEE TO INFORM CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

Dates: 2023-2025

Supporters

- Parks Australia – Australian National Botanic Gardens
- NSW Government Department of Planning and Environment
- Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner
- University of Canberra
- Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research
- Australian Tree Seed Centre
- Private philanthropist

Projects – Continuing

PROJECT: SURVIVE AND THRIVE Australian National Botanic Gardens

Collecting and storing seed in seed banks is one of the most powerful ways to combat the global decline of plant diversity. It is an insurance policy against extinction.

The National Seed Bank at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) holds collections of Australian native plant species from all over the country. As well as the physical seed collections and storage and research facilities, Seed Bank staff are expert in seed banking practices, seed biology and ecology research and ex-situ (away from a natural location) conservation. The staff are ably assisted by enthusiastic volunteers.

Great progress continued this year on Survive and Thrive, a project aimed at securing sub-alpine plant species devastated by the 2020 bushfires in Namadgi National Park and adjacent reserves.

Subalpine vegetation occurs immediately below the tree line in mountainous regions and is an important, species rich transition zone between alpine regions above and the montane below.

The target species for this project were prioritised by the Australian Government Bushfire Expert Panel and the ACT Government in terms of the need for conservation action.

Since the Survive and Thrive project began in 2021, the ANBG, with project partners and volunteers, have taken field trips to 43 sites, and made a total of 58 collections of seeds and plant cuttings.

Since early 2023, hundreds of Survive and Thrive nursery grown plants have been planted ex-situ in the gardens at the ANBG, in various locations with different growing conditions. The plants are monitored for survival rates which will help inform potential future rewilding efforts. It is expected that all nursery grown species for the project will be planted



in ground at the ANBG in autumn 2025, these will complement the permanent potted collection that the nursery will maintain into the future.

Thirty one conservation seed collections have been made of 11/12 target species (4/5 primary and 7/7 secondary). Collections are now in long term storage in the National Seed Bank.

The project led to further collaboration with the Victorian Conservation Seed Bank (resulting in a much bigger study into the *Viola* genus) and the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (resulting in an in depth study of dormancy in subalpine Rutaceae species). Further to this research, the collection of soil from Namadji National Park, to be studied under various conditions to ascertain



the density and diversity of the soil seed bank, has resulted in germination of the recently listed *Viola improcera* from this collected soil.

This project has attracted media attention, scientists have presented to national and international audiences and volunteers have been involved in field trips and seed processing.

Published papers from the project are planned for June 2025.



SURVIVE AND THRIVE

Dates: 2021 – 2025

Supporters

- Parks Australia – Australian National Botanic Gardens
- ACT Government Environment and Planning
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- ActewAGL
- Australian Alps National Parks
- Private philanthropist

Projects – Continuing

PROJECT: REWILDING THE EASTERN QUOLL

Booderee National Park

In April 2024, 19 Eastern Quolls were coaxed from their cages into a fenced enclosure at Booderee National Park, Jervis Bay, New South Wales. There are high hopes the population will thrive.

Eastern Quolls had virtually vanished from mainland Australia by the 1960s. Foxes, dogs and cats competed with them for food and exposed the marsupials to disease, while forest destruction and urban expansion added to the challenges the creatures faced.

The hope is that quolls will breed and thrive in the 82 hectare predator proof sanctuary nestled within the national park at Booderee Botanic Gardens.

The new 1.8 metre high fence – with a curved umbrella top – was built this year and designed to keep kangaroos, wallabies, cats and foxes out, and keep quolls in. Underwater turtle gates were integrated to enable eastern long-necked turtles to move beneath the fence.

A sophisticated network of cameras means researchers can monitor and ensure predators remain outside the fence.

The quolls are monitored using camera traps and at supplementary feeding stations where they are fed a mixed diet. Eventually they will hunt for themselves. With every quoll having a unique spot pattern, the researchers can identify individual activity.

It is the second attempt to reintroduce Eastern Quolls to the area. Two populations of Eastern Quolls were released into the national park in 2018 and 2019. While the quolls initially fared well, including successful breeding, the populations did not survive in the wild. The new fence means that the reintroduced Eastern Quolls will be better protected from predators and more easily monitored.

As the quolls become accustomed to their new home, researchers hope to see a population boom. Ideally, this haven will serve as the blueprint for more sanctuaries in other areas of Australia where Eastern Quolls have disappeared.

About Eastern Quolls

About the size of a domestic cat and nocturnal by nature, Eastern Quolls are solitary but bold carnivores that usually hunt in open country or bushland. Eastern Quolls play a crucial role in regulating the ecosystem due to their appetite for small birds and insects and pests including rabbits, mice and rats. The Eastern Quoll has a pointed nose, a bushy tail and is covered in white spots. Females can give birth to a litter of up to six pups a year.



‘Captive breeding and reintroduction programs such as this one at Booderee are vital in boosting vulnerable native animal populations’

– Minister for the Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek



ABOVE: GEORGE BROWN AND NICK DEXTER, PHOTO CREDIT WWF AUSTRALIA.
TOP RIGHT: MINISTER TANYA PLIBERSEK AND HAYLEY SHUTE, AUSSIE ARK,
RELEASING EASTERN QUOLL, PHOTO CREDIT PARKS AUSTRALIA.
OPPOSITE: GEORGE BROWN, DERMOTT O’GORMON, FRANCESCA RONCOLATO,
HAYLEY SHUTE, MINISTER TANYA PLIBERSEK, FIONA PHILLIPS MP AND RICKY
ARCHER, PHOTO CREDIT: WWF AUSTRALIA.

Fifteen of the reintroduced quolls were provided by Aussie Ark with the rest coming from Devil@Cradle and Trowunna Wildlife Sanctuary in Tasmania.

“Our people haven’t seen a quoll in their lifetime, including some of our elders,” said George Brown, Booderee National Park Manager.

Minister for the Environment and Water Tanya Plibersek attended the April 2024 release, saying that captive breeding and reintroduction programs were vital in boosting vulnerable native animal populations.

“This project shows us just how important collaboration and partnerships are in protecting threatened species,” she said.

REWILDING THE EASTERN QUOLL

Dates: 2023-2025

Supporters

- Parks Australia – Booderee National Park
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Foundation for Australia’s Most Endangered Species (FAME)
- Shoalhaven City Council
- Australian National University (ANU)
- Private philanthropist

PROJECT: RE-ESTABLISHING ENDEMIC AND CRITICALLY ENDANGERED REPTILES THROUGH SUPPRESSION OF WOLF SNAKES

Christmas Island National Park

Wolf snakes (*Lycodon aulicus capucinus*) were detected on remote Christmas Island in the 1980s, probably arriving as stowaways in shipping crates. Without any predators or competitors, the snakes are the key suspects behind the significant drop in native reptile populations.

Given their behaviours and habits are largely unknown, innovative approaches are needed so the snakes can be tracked, trapped, and removed until the population no longer poses a threat to native animals.

Only two of the six recorded native reptile species remain in the wild on Christmas Island – the Giant Gecko and the Christmas Island Blind Snake. Both are highly threatened.

Two other reptile species are extinct on Christmas Island: the endemic Forest Skink and the Coastal Skink. The remaining two species – Lister's Gecko and the Blue-tailed Skink – are considered extinct in the wild. Fortunately, Parks Australia maintains captive breeding programs for both, in which genetic diversity is carefully managed. The presence of the wolf snake, however, means it is not safe to release them on Christmas Island.

Globally, eradication of invasive species from islands has almost entirely been restricted to mammals. The wolf snake project is believed to be the first that will combine novel methods including eDNA detection technology and the combined fields of reptile ethology and

pheromonal attraction to develop suppression techniques. If successful, the methods could lead to solutions that could be used throughout the world.

Teaming up with eDNA technology specialists CESAR Pty Ltd, Christmas Island National Park staff are mapping the wolf snake's genome, enabling tracking through eDNA sampling. eDNA field collection protocols are being developed and trialled.



WOLF SNAKES (*LYCODON AULICUS CAPUCINUS*)



ABOVE LEFT: ENVIRONMENTAL DNA (EDNA) TESTING MEANS ONLY A DROP OF WATER IS NEEDED TO TRACK A SOURCE, MAKING TRACKING INVASIVE SPECIES MUCH MORE EFFICIENT, PHOTO CREDIT: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, PHOTOGRAPHER, DCCEW PRODUCTION TEAM. ABOVE RIGHT BLUE-TAILED SKINK.

Given wolf snakes only eat live reptiles, it is far trickier to lure them into a trap than luring introduced mammals such as foxes, rabbits, cats and dogs, who are attracted by meat and other foods. Mimicking snake pheromone biochemistry is likely to be the way to lure love-lust snakes into traps. After refinement and 'proof of concept', traps will then be installed and managed to suppress wolf snakes.

As the wolf snake population reduces, Lister's Gecko and the Blue-tailed Skink will be re-introduced to Christmas Island, re-establishing wild populations and restoring their role within the ecosystem.

The success of the program will be assessed every year and long term monitoring will be conducted by Parks Australia and research institutions studying biodiversity on Christmas Island.

RE-ESTABLISHING ENDEMIC AND CRITICALLY ENDANGERED REPTILES THROUGH SUPPRESSION OF WOLF SNAKES

Supporters thus far

- Parks Australia – Christmas Island National Park
- CESAR Pty Ltd
- Office of Threatened Species Commissioner
- PRL Group

NB Seeking funding

To learn about supporting this project please email admin@parkstrust.org.au

Projects – Seeking funding

PROJECT: ULURU-KATA TJUṬA NATIONAL PARK HANDBACK PUBLICATION: CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF JOINT MANAGEMENT Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park

October 1985 marked the end of years of lobbying by Anangu people to have the title deeds to Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park handed back from the Australian Government.

Since then, Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park has been jointly managed by Anangu Traditional Owners and Parks Australia.

In 2025, to mark the 40th anniversary of the historic event, this project is organising a publication that chronicles the contribution of the Joint

Board of Management to sustainable management and conservation. The project will present the history through Anangu eyes.

As time passes, fewer of the senior Anangu who were involved in the land rights movement and establishing Joint Management at Uluru are able to contribute to the project. The 40th anniversary celebration and book will recognise and celebrate this generation – and enable them to hand over their stories to younger Anangu.

Called the 'Nyiri Ulurunyatjara' (meaning 'paper about handback'), community engagement is central to this project. Six Anangu members





ULURU LANDSCAPE, PHOTO CREDIT PARKS AUSTRALIA

have been elected to the project committee and Dr Diana James, an Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Humanities and Arts at the Australian National University and the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music at Adelaide University has been engaged as the project coordinator. In a great way to get the ball rolling and build excitement, Dr James hosted a workshop with the project team and other community members to start brainstorming ideas for the publication and exhibition, including exploring photo collections and oral histories with Elders.

The publication will be made available at the UKTNP Cultural Centre, Connellan Airport, Ayers Rock Resort retailer, bookstores and online.

ULURU-KATA TJUṬA NATIONAL PARK HANDBACK PUBLICATION: CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF JOINT MANAGEMENT

Supporters thus far

- Parks Australia – Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park
- Aris Ancillary Fund
- Thynk Evo Sol
- Anangu Communities Foundation

Plus, in-kind support from

- Muṯitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation
- Central Land Council
- Maruku Arts and Walkatjara Arts
- Muṯitjulu Aged Care
- Muṯitjulu School and Nyangatjatjara College.

NB Seeking funding

To learn about supporting this project please email admin@parkstrust.org.au

PROJECT: CREATING SEAGRASS (LUMUT) REFUGE AREAS FOR LONG TERM INSURANCE AND CONSERVATION

Cocos (Keeling) Islands National Marine Park

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands are a group of 27 tropical low lying coral islands surrounded by the Indian Ocean. The marine environment includes coral, lagoon and deep sea habitats and species, with several habitats and species of international conservation significance.

The Australian Government established the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park in March 2022. The lagoon seagrass habitat sustains threatened green sea turtles as well as fish stocks that are critical to conserving other biodiversity and for fishing by the Cocos Malay community.

Seagrass meadows are among the most productive ecosystems on earth. They are key in nutrient cycling and carbon sequestration. But seagrass meadows are declining globally, rivalling loss rates reported for coral reefs and tropical rainforests.

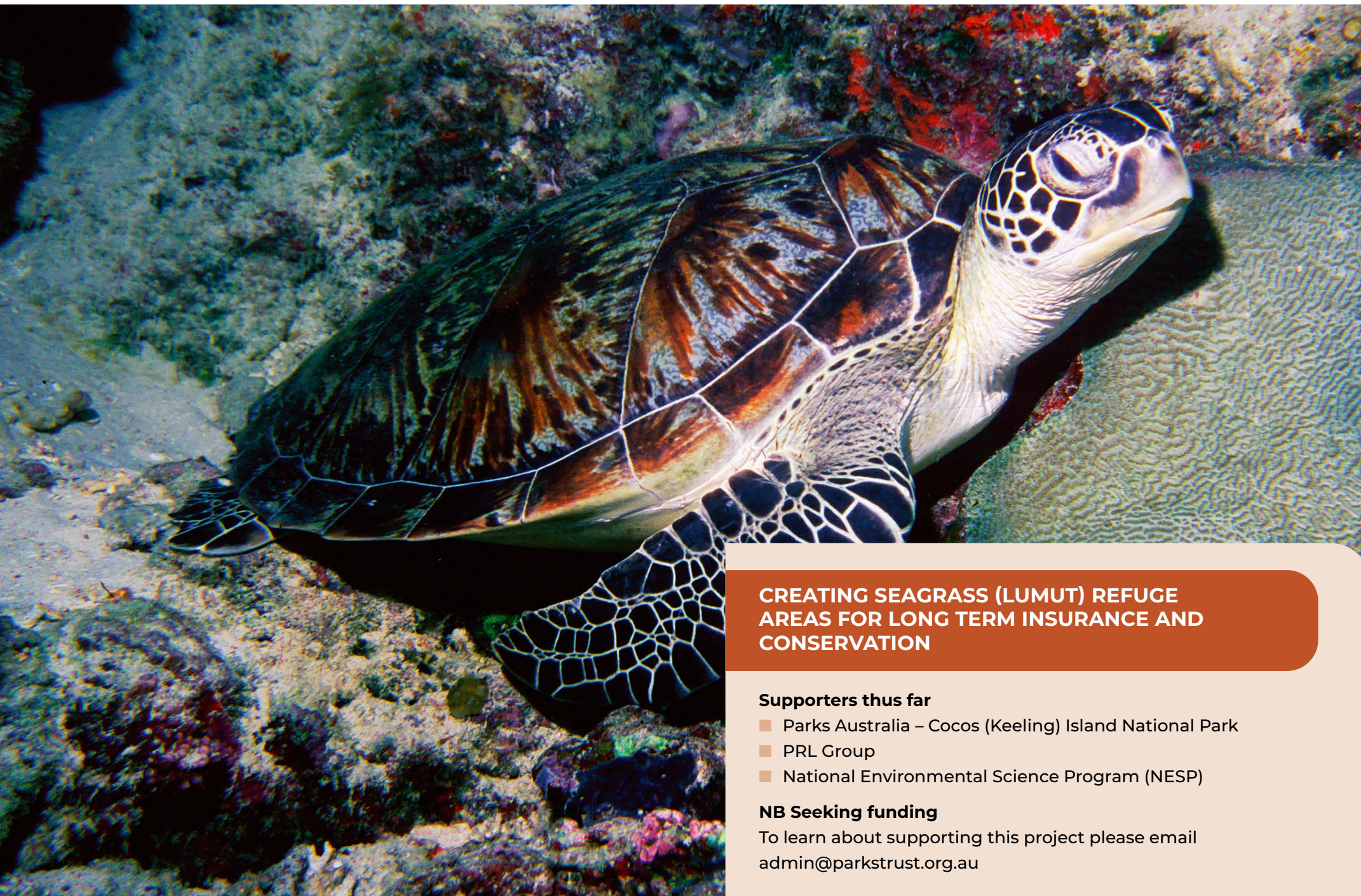
In the Cocos Keeling Marine Park 1200ha of tropical seagrass has been lost – an 80% decline of known tropical seagrass extent. Grazing pressure from green sea turtles has exacerbated the loss, as the turtles feed on the reduced seagrass.

This project aims to establish and monitor up to four large fenced and netted areas in which seagrass can recover. This will create areas for insurance populations and increase different habitat areas. Having several sites will also maximise the scientific robustness of the project.

The refuge areas will be built using flexible shark barrier netting, designed to minimise impacts on other species and exclude green sea turtles for the project period. Additionally, the project will trial the propagation of seagrass propagules, contributing to habitat recovery efforts.

The project will also:

- develop an action plan for ongoing intervention strategies to future proof local seagrasses while the green turtle population returns to a sustainable level
- test local nursery techniques for seagrass and approaches for the community to access a sustainable source of local propagules (structures such as cuttings, seed, or spores that will enable propagation of a plant) for ongoing seagrass restoration
- working with locals to develop management solutions and the opportunity for employment and training within the local community.



CREATING SEAGRASS (LUMUT) REFUGE AREAS FOR LONG TERM INSURANCE AND CONSERVATION

Supporters thus far

- Parks Australia – Cocos (Keeling) Island National Park
- PRL Group
- National Environmental Science Program (NESP)

NB Seeking funding

To learn about supporting this project please email admin@parkstrust.org.au

Our Trustees

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.



Rhondda Dickson Chairperson

Rhondda Dickson was appointed as Board Chair in 2018.

Rhondda has made substantial contributions to tackling many national environmental challenges across her expansive 30 year career.

She began her career in the Wildlife and Ecology division of the CSIRO. Her career accomplishments include contributing to the national forest policy, biodiversity, and land management policy, implementing the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan on Salinity and cross government policy coordination of industry, agriculture and the environment in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

In 2010, Rhondda was promoted to the position of Deputy Secretary in the Agriculture department. 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 penultimate role before retiring in 2016 was as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Environment and Energy responsible for climate change policy.



Stephen Coote

Stephen Coote was appointed as Finance Trustee in March 2024

Stephen has over 20 years' experience as a finance, transformation and M&A executive in multiple industries, including education, utilities, banking and finance and travel and tourism.

Stephen is an experienced non-executive Director and advisor working with organisations all over the world on growth and transformation, developing capabilities to drive value generation for stakeholders in a sustainable way.



Philip Finley

Philip Finley was appointed as a Trustee in 2018.

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.



Guy Fitzhardinge AM

Guy Fitzhardinge was appointed as a Trustee in November 2019.

Guy is a Governor of WWF Australia (World Wide Fund for Nature) and previously a 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.

In 2013, he was recognised for his significant service to conservation and the agricultural industry as a Member of the Order of Australia.

He has previously been a director of Bush Heritage Australia, Meat and Livestock Australia, the Meat Research Corporation and Chairperson 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 EPBC Act.



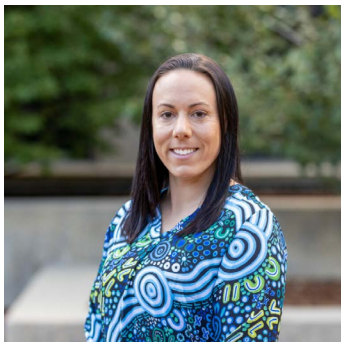
Sarah Hardy

Sarah Hardy was appointed as a Trustee in June 2022.

Sarah is an experienced chief executive officer, senior executive and board member with a demonstrated history of working in philanthropy, local government and the non-profit sectors for over 33 years.

In 2010 Sarah cofounded the national not-for profit, Youth Live4Life.

She holds board positions as a Director of the Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS), a Trustee of the National Parks Conservation Trust and board member of the Southside Community Foundation.



Minda Murray

Minda Murray was appointed as a Trustee in January 2022.

Minda is a proud Yorta Yorta Duduroa woman. She has spent most of her life living on Country along the Murray River, enjoying learning about culture and the environment. Her career thus far includes 12 years in the environmental management sector in the Victorian public service, catchment management authorities and Aboriginal organisations.

She has embarked on a PhD in Aboriginal Self-determination and agreement making in her home state of Victoria.



Judy West AO

Judy West was appointed as a Trustee in October 2023.

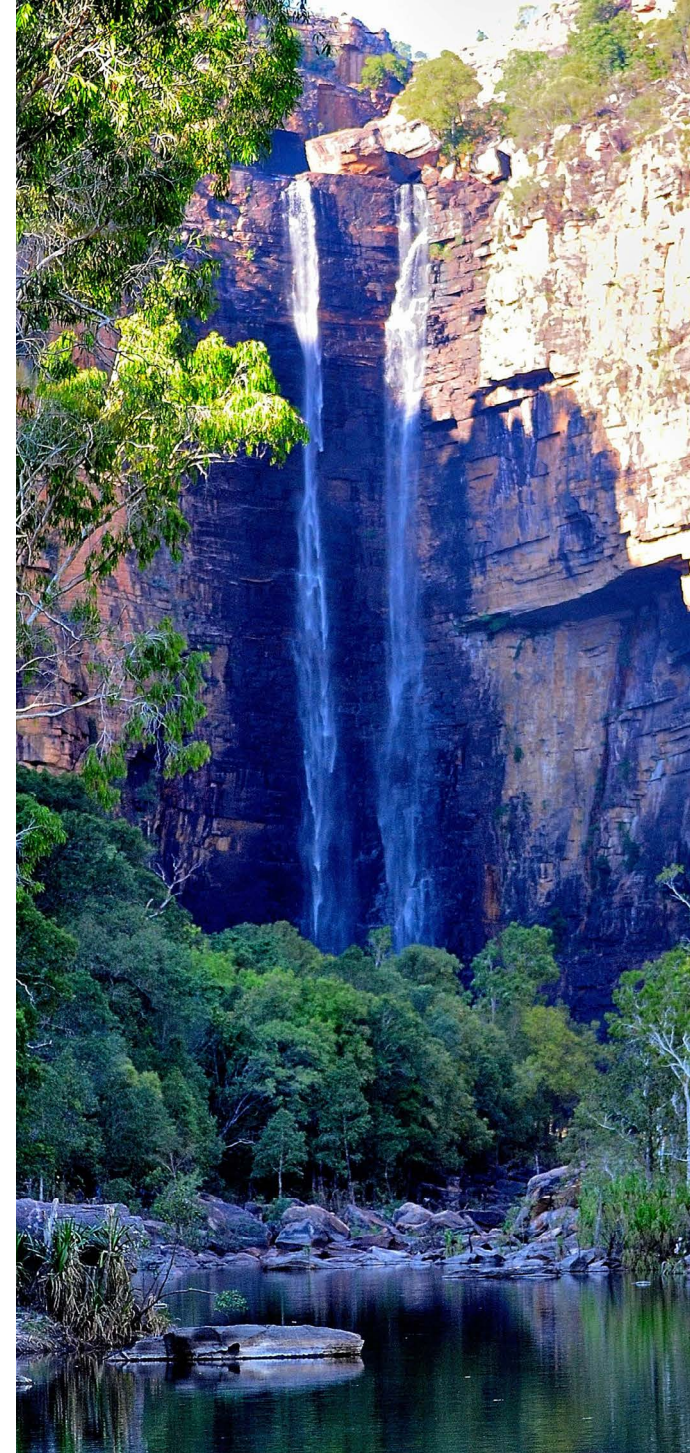
Judy has extensive biodiversity conservation experience and knowledge.

Judy recently retired from her penultimate role as Assistant Secretary within Parks Australia, where she carried oversight of science, natural resources, and knowledge management activities.

As Executive Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens for 14 years, Judy led the institution as it evolved into a unique scientific organisation excelling in conservation horticulture and Australian flora management.

Judy consolidated more than 30 years' experience in scientific research and policy as a research scientist in CSIRO and Director of the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research and the Australian National Herbarium. Her scientific expertise is in plant taxonomy, systematics and phylogenetics, and conservation biology.

Judy was awarded an Order of Australia in 2003 for her influential leadership in the establishment of Australia's Virtual Herbarium.



TWIN FALLS, KAKADU NATIONAL PARK,
PHOTO CREDIT: PARKS AUSTRALIA.

Our Executive Support Team

The Committee of Trustees and the work of the National Parks Conservation Trust is supported by a small Executive Support Team.

Cathy Bryson Director Partnerships and Philanthropy

Cathy is a seasoned leader with a wealth of experience in marketing, sales, sponsorship, and membership.

Cathy is responsible for developing and executing strategic partnerships and fundraising initiatives that support the Trust's mission to preserve natural and cultural heritage in Australia's Commonwealth National Parks.

Her dedication to conservation, combined with her strategic acumen and passion for community engagement, makes Cathy a pivotal figure in advancing the goals of the National Parks Conservation Trust.

Kate Darby Executive Officer

Kate has extensive experience within Parks Australia and has brought a depth of knowledge of the department along with a deep understanding of policies and stakeholder relationships.

Kate is providing secretariat support, engaging with project coordinators, and providing valued financial and administrative support for the Trust. Kate has a passion for working with those that are involved in preserving natural and cultural heritage.

Pip Martens Grants and Communications Officer

Pip has 15 years' experience in communications and fundraising and has a passion for protecting Australia's unique flora and fauna, wild places and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Pip is supporting the fundraising and communications activities of the Trust by developing and maintaining the currency of content about the Trust and its projects for use in a variety of mediums, as well as prospecting and writing grants to secure funds for Trust-supported projects.



NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION TRUST

ABN 56 192 820 884

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

TRUSTEES' DECLARATION

In the opinion of the Trustees, National Parks Conservation Trust, the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 7, satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:

- 1 a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the association; and
b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Parks Conservation Trust as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the National Parks Conservation Trust will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Rhondda Dickson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R' and 'D'.

Chair: Rhondda Dickson

Dated this 20th day of December 2024

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income	155,307	441,276
Government Grants	68,182	87,182
Other Grants	10,000	239,545
Donations Received	42,436	111,980
Interest Received	34,689	2,569
Expenditure	765,330	162,373
Grant Payments	761,329	158,240
Insurance	3,822	3,954
Other Expenses	179	179
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	(610,023)	278,903
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Trust	(610,023)	278,903

The income statement is to be read in conjunction with the audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Public fund	184,071	370,198
Other cash at bank	93,055	570,491
Term deposit	415,375	402,300
Accounts receivable	9,523	7,900
Interest receivable	17,700	–
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	719,724	1,350,889
TOTAL ASSETS	719,724	1,350,889
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
GST Payable	6,463	27,605
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	6,463	27,605
TOTAL LIABILITIES	6,463	27,605
NET ASSETS	713,261	1,323,284
EQUITY		
Accumulated funds	713,261	1,323,284
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	713,261	1,323,284

The balance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Accumulated funds \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 July 2022	1,044,381	1,044,381
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Trust	278,903	278,903
Balance as at 30 June 2023	<u>1,323,284</u>	<u>1,323,284</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Trust	(610,023)	(610,023)
Balance as at 30 June 2024	<u>713,261</u>	<u>713,261</u>

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from grants and donations		118,995	430,857
Payments to suppliers and community partners		(786,472)	(167,022)
Interest received		16,989	4,486
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	(i)	(650,488)	268,321
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(650,488)	268,321
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		1,342,989	1,074,668
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	(ii)	692,501	1,342,989
Note (i). Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities			
Surplus attributable to the Foundation		(610,023)	278,903
(Increase)/ decrease in accounts receivable		(1,623)	(7,850)
(Increase)/ decrease in prepayments		-	300
(Increase)/ decrease in interest receivable		(17,700)	1,917
Increase/ (decrease) in accounts and other payables		(21,142)	(4,949)
		(650,488)	268,321
Note (ii) Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year			
Public fund		184,071	370,198
Other cash at bank		93,055	570,491
Term deposit		415,375	402,300
		692,501	1,342,989

The cash flow statements are to be read in conjunction with the audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

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

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 report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, 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.

Accounting Policies

a. 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.

b. 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.

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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 on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

c. 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.

d. 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.

e. Trustees

The Trustees are as follows:

Rhondda Dickson Chairperson

Philip Finley

Guy Fitzhardinge AM

Sarah Hardy

Minda Murray

Stephen Coote

Judy West AO

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION TRUST
ABN 56 192 820 884
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of National Parks Conservation Trust (the Trust), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the statement by the Trustees.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of National Parks Conservation Trust is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance and cash flows for the year ended on 30 June 2024; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis of Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the Trust in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I confirm that the independence declaration required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, which has been given to the Trustees of the Trust would be on the same terms if given to the Trustees as at the time of this auditor's report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

I 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 National Parks Conservation Trust's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Trustees for the Financial Report

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Trust's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My 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 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 the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I 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 my 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 responsible entities.

Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities 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 I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my 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.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that I identify during my audit.

Name of Auditor: Frederik R.L. Eksteen

Address: Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd
127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011

Date: 20 December 2024

Contact Us

National Parks Conservation Trust

ABN 56 192 820 884

parkstrust.org.au

admin@parkstrust.org.au

GPO Box 1777 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia