



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

# Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

**Protecting, Preserving, Promoting Wilderness**

The Wilderness Society Inc. - ABN 62 007 508 349  
GPO Box 716 Hobart Tasmania 7001 - Telephone 03 6270 1701 - Facsimile 03 6231 6533  
Membership 1800 030 641 - Calendars & Diaries 1800 035 354  
Email [members@wilderness.org.au](mailto:members@wilderness.org.au) - Website [www.wilderness.org.au](http://www.wilderness.org.au)

The Tarkine Coastline, Photograph: Ted Mead

# THE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Since the last Annual Report we have achieved a lot. During the recent Victorian election, the Bracks Government's decision for a rapid transition out of logging in the Otways is a major step forward for Victoria's forests.

In the NSW election, the Carr Government decided to protect 65,000 hectares of forest in northern NSW. Years of work by the North East Forest Alliance, the NSW Greens and our Newcastle Campaign Centre have finally been rewarded. Bob Carr has also announced a process to address the serious problem of land clearing. Negotiations between farmers and environment groups are well underway and I am confident we will very quickly see major environmental gains.

Our successful campaign – in conjunction with the traditional owners and the ACF – to have sandmining leases at Shelburne Bay removed, is the culmination of campaign efforts which began in the early 1980's.

Perhaps the most exciting news is that ERA (Energy Resources of Australia) is to announce, early in the New Financial Year, that the mine decline (hole) is to be filled in and the area rehabilitated. This is a great tribute to the Traditional Owners, led by Yvonne Margarula, who have opposed the mine despite enormous pressure.

## ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The year ended 30th June, 2003, resulted in a surplus of \$418,401 compared to \$258,021 for the previous year. This is another excellent result. Again, I will highlight the significance of it as follows.

Last year I reported on the \$258,000 surplus:

"This is a dramatic change but we still have a way to go. We are determined not only to continue the magnificent work of a very dedicated campaign team, but to ensure that we build a solid foundation for the future of our organisation. It is imperative that we continue to focus on our balance sheet and create the necessary reserves for the future of The Wilderness Society."

Not only have our campaigners achieved tremendous results, but we continue to build reserves for the future of this organisation. It has taken our organisation from a balance sheet of

zero a few years ago to net assets of \$737,158.

The changes are dramatic, exciting and team-lifting; and, as our membership continues to build along with our campaign funding, we will continue to concentrate on the following:

- Ensure that we manage the growth
- Ensure that we create the reserves
- Ensure that we continue the membership recruitment
- Ensure that we service the members
- Ensure that we broaden our fundraising

Our growth is significant. The plan is for it to continue next year and, therefore, we should not forget that this growth in itself demands higher reserves; or that this is, along with campaign funding, still a priority. During the year we were able to further strengthen our fundraising section with the appointment of a senior fundraising person, to assist the manager and take on specific responsibilities within the department.

El Grande, Australia's most massive tree, was killed by a Forestry Tasmania regeneration burn – even though it is listed on its website and was the first tree protected under Forestry Tasmania's 'giant tree policy'.

In February, founding members of The Wilderness Society, Helen Gee and Bob Brown, helped rediscover the remains of the first garden established in Tasmania. In 1792, French explorer Bruny D'Entrecasteaux established a garden and observatory at Recherche Bay, on Tasmania's remote and pristine south-east coast. There's only one problem. It's on private land that Gunns plans to log.

In April, the third WildCountry Science Council meeting was held in Adelaide, and the first of a series of scientific papers is close to finalisation. Discussions between the Science Council and the South Australian Government to strengthen collaboration are well under way. We are also realigning the organisation's current campaigns for wilderness protection into the longer term WildCountry vision.

This does not mean we will be abandoning current campaign areas; instead, these campaigns will be strengthened by placing them into a broader ecological context.



Alec Marr  
National Campaign Director

With the growth being experienced it became necessary, mid year, to relocate the National Office to larger premises, but still centrally located within Hobart. The Tasmanian Campaign Centre has remained in the traditional location at Davey Street, enabling it to become more efficient with the extra space available.

We all look forward to another growth period in the following year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, including our loyal staff, campaigners, volunteers and Management Committee - and, most of all, you our members.



Russell V Hanson  
Chief Executive Officer

## NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

This year has been one of dynamic growth and rapid development for The Wilderness Society. Both have required change, flexibility and additional work within the Management Committee.

### Finance

The ongoing success of our fundraising has led to a huge growth in membership and therefore income. We are fortunate to have an astute financial manager in our CEO, Russell Hanson, who, together with our long-serving Treasurer Dietmar Reichert and Coral Robinson, form the National Finance Committee – which has done an excellent job of overseeing all finances and reporting to the committee on the

very healthy financial position we are now in.

### Governance

Our financial position has enabled us to strengthen campaign work with increased staffing. Allied to this growth is the need to review management across the organisation and ensure that its long-term effectiveness was recognised. Accordingly, a Governance Review Committee was set up, convened by Catriona Lowe, with the task of preparing a comprehensive brief to define the work required and select a suitable consultant to carry it out.

### Planning

Growth has also made the updating and development of our Strategic Plan a huge

task. This is being spearheaded by committee member Coral Robinson for presentation at the next Policy & Planning Meeting.

Congratulations to all within The Wilderness Society, both staff and volunteers, and in particular our members for great work in the past year building up this marvellous organisation to save more and more wilderness.

Linda Siddall  
Convenor  
National Management Committee

## The Wilderness Society Inc.

### Management Committee's Report 30 June 2003

Your committee members submit the financial report of The Wilderness Society Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2003.

#### Committee Members

The names of the committee members at the date of this report are:

Dietmar Reichert                      Linda Siddall                      Catriona Lowe  
Anthony Esposito                      Coral Robinson

#### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Society during the financial year were:

- Conduct wilderness protection campaigns
- Fundraising
- Administering and servicing members of the Society
- Sale of wilderness calendars and environment oriented gifts
- Supply of wilderness education information

#### Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

#### Operating Result

The profit from ordinary activities was a net surplus of \$418,401 in comparison to a net surplus of \$258,021 in 2002.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Catriona Lowe



Dietmar Reichert

Dated this 3rd day of September 2003.

## The Wilderness Society Inc.

### Statement by the National Management Committee

In the opinion of the Management Committee the financial report as set out on pages 4 to 16.

- Presents fairly the financial position of The Wilderness Society Inc. as at 30 June 2003 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board;
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Wilderness Society Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Management Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by.



Catriona Lowe



Dietmar Reichert

Dated this 3rd day of September 2003.

## The Wilderness Society Inc.

### Independent Audit Report

### For The Year Ended 30 June 2003

#### Scope

We have audited the financial report of The Wilderness Society Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2003 being the Statement by Members of the Committee, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements. The Committee is responsible for the financial report. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

#### Qualification

As an audit procedure it was not practicable to extend our examination of sales, memberships, fundraisings and other income, beyond the accounting for amounts received as shown by the books and records of the Society.

#### Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of the matter referred to in the qualification paragraph, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements the financial position of The Wilderness Society Inc. as at 30 June 2003, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.



MOORE ROBSONS  
Chartered Accountants  
RL Byrne - Partner

Dated this 12th day of September 2003.

## The Wilderness Society Inc.

### Detailed Statement of Financial Performance

For the Year Ended 30 June 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Revenue From Ordinary Activities</b>		
Sales	231,723	280,252
Memberships	552,915	383,225
G.V.E.H.O. Grant	13,500	13,500
Other Grants	284,831	291,547
Bequests	11,339	21,433
Fundraising	5,440,282	3,009,069
Other Income	63,826	70,793
	<b>6,598,416</b>	<b>4,069,819</b>

### Expenditure From Ordinary Activities

Accounting/Audit Fees	5,360	6,600
Advertising & Promotion	131,431	154,777
Appeal Costs	97,177	103,403
Bad & Doubtful Debts	2,543	5,108
Bank Charges & Interest	114,304	51,869
Branch Subsidy	851,163	666,829
Computer Costs	17,982	16,253
Commissions Paid	-	52,950
Community Campaigning	1,242,076	425,406
Conferences	38,669	17,838
Consultancy Fees	58,856	17,403
Depreciation & Amortisation	45,682	22,711
Electricity	4,403	3,709
Equipment Costs	11,654	4,928
Insurance	59,332	18,180
Legal Fees	5,275	-1,078
Loss on Disposal of Assets	17,471	-
Office Rental	63,489	50,749
Other Occupancy Costs	3,749	4,665
Payroll Tax	15,015	-
Poola Foundation Expenses	49,289	162,093
Postage & Packaging	199,301	141,919
Printing, Stationery & Design	399,411	309,189
Rates & Taxes	10,610	7,360
Repairs & Maintenance	5,864	666
Salaries	1,774,509	1,070,874
Salary On costs	353,127	150,161
Sundries	64,839	81,989
Telemarketing	146,271	37,068
Telephone, Fax & Internet	97,365	92,538
Training & Amenities	52,029	3,563
Travel & Accommodation	212,239	114,776
Website costs	29,530	17,302
	<b>6,180,015</b>	<b>3,811,798</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>\$418,401</b>	<b>\$258,021</b>

## The Wilderness Society Inc.

### Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2003

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash Assets	2	1,415,358	770,089
Receivables	3	63,016	88,003
Other	4	129,927	65,226
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>1,608,301</b>	<b>923,318</b>

### Non Current Assets

Investments	5	147,887	147,164
Property, Plant & Equipment	6	484,509	120,248
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>		<b>632,396</b>	<b>267,412</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>2,240,697</b>	<b>1,190,730</b>

### Current Liabilities

Payables	7	1,150,995	693,387
Interest Bearing Liabilities	8	10,089	9,201
Provisions	9	183,969	142,066
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,345,053</b>	<b>844,654</b>

### Non Current Liabilities

Interest Bearing Liabilities	8	158,486	14,575
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>		<b>158,486</b>	<b>14,575</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,503,539</b>	<b>859,229</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>\$737,158</b>	<b>\$331,501</b>

### Equity

Accumulated Funds	10	649,072	230,671
Prepaid Memberships	1(g), 11	67,633	80,377
Reserves	12	20,453	20,453
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>\$737,158</b>	<b>\$331,501</b>

