



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

# Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

**Protecting, promoting and restoring  
wilderness and natural processes across Australia  
for the survival and ongoing evolution of life on Earth**

Above: Aboriginal boys from the Hopevale community fishing in the shallows, Cape York. Photo: Kerry Trapnell

# NATIONAL CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This year has seen some historic conservation gains as a result of The Wilderness Society's efforts. In addition, as National Campaign Director, I believe we have built one of the most successful environmental organisations in the country. Despite being involved in Australia's biggest environmental lawsuit, the organisation continues to increase its stability and effectiveness.

We are in the process of implementing many of the lessons learned from the various levels of training and organisational planning that have gone on over the last 12 months which will continue to strengthen the organisation in the long term.

The following summary clearly indicates both the scope of campaign activity and the success of our campaign team in achieving our objectives. I want to applaud their efforts, and am proud to lead and work with such a dynamic and effective team.

## Forests

The 2004 Federal Election has come and gone. Our nationally coordinated campaign in the lead up to the election radically changed the political landscape around the protection of Tasmania's forests. Over the course of 2004 we achieved a massive national profile and a great deal of support from the community, and the Labor and Liberal parties, for the protection of Tasmania's forests. Together, we achieved:

- the collapse of bi-partisan federal Liberal-Labor support for the content of the 1997 Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement;
- protection for 180,000 hectares of old-growth forests and rainforest in Tasmania including parts of the Styx and Tarkine;
- a pledge to end 1080 poisoning on public land by December 2005;
- a commitment to end land clearing on public and private land; and
- increased funding for research on the impacts of forestry on water, and research on the disease killing Tasmanian Devils.

On the international stage, Mitsubishi Paper Mills, a major purchaser of Australian woodchips, announced that it will only accept woodchips from plantations or regrowth forests. This is a massive shift in the Japanese marketplace. Nippon is now deciding whether or not to follow Mitsubishi's lead. If this does occur it will be a major step forward for forest protection, not just in

Tasmania but also in Victoria, New South Wales and other parts of the world.

Extensive scientific assessment and industry analysis took place to underpin the launch of a new phase in the Victorian forest campaign. Engagement with government and industry to try to resolve outstanding forest conservation issues continued in southern New South Wales and in the south-west of Western Australia.

## Land Clearing

The year has seen considerable effort in the campaign to halt land clearing in New South Wales and Queensland.

In Queensland, the focus has shifted dramatically to ensuring the Government reduces illegal clearing, as landholders adjust to the new laws which prohibit most clearing. The New South Wales Government is failing to effectively implement the legislation passed in 2003 to end land clearing. A renewed campaign, focusing on the loss of coolabahs, has been launched to try to secure a solid conservation outcome for bushland in NSW.

## Marine

Our work in the marine environment continues to strengthen. Our successes on Ningaloo have been followed by successful work in WA towards secure Marine Protected Areas which incorporate 'no-take' zones. We have set up a Marine Working Group to coordinate the establishment of marine national parks and sanctuaries with a current focus in WA, SA and NSW.

We welcome the recent addition of two eminent marine/coastal zone scientists, Dr Trevor Ward and Dr Regina Souter, to the respected ranks of our WildCountry Science Council. One of their first agreed tasks is to prepare a paper on 'connectivity principles' in the coastal zone to help guide the development of The Wilderness Society's marine policy and campaign goals.

## Wild Rivers

Effective community campaigning led by The Wilderness Society has ensured the Queensland Government introduced ground breaking Wild Rivers legislation into parliament in September 2005.

The legislation paves the way for the protection of a suite of wild rivers on Cape York and in the Gulf Country.

## Yellabinna

The culmination of The Wilderness Society's efforts in South Australia has seen that Government give secure legislated protection to 500,000 hectares of wilderness in Yellabinna, in western SA. This is a major achievement because it means no mining; one of the few reserves in South Australia where mining rights have been excluded.

## Coongie Lakes

In June 2005 the SA Government dedicated nearly 28,000 hectares of wetlands as the Coongie Lakes National Park, a commitment shaped by the dedicated effort of conservation groups including The Wilderness Society. Work will continue to try to resolve long standing damage from grazing and other threatening activities in the area.

## International

In November 2004 a small but determined team attended the IUCN World Conservation Union Congress in Bangkok. This huge gathering of government and non-government conservation bodies sets internationally recognised standards for environmental protection. The Wilderness Society personnel were instrumental in ensuring adoption of the Earth Charter to guide the work program of IUCN, despite considerable resistance.

## Cape York Peninsula

Work on the Cape continues to be outstanding. A Cooperation Agreement with the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation should result in an Indigenous protected area over the Kanju homelands next year.

A tenure resolution process with Traditional Owners and the Queensland Government over 17 properties acquired for conservation purposes should also be completed in the near future. A mix of Indigenous managed national parks and Aboriginal freehold with management for conservation seems likely. And, provided there is Traditional Owner consent, a new World Heritage nomination will follow.

## WildCountry

The WildCountry vision to protect and restore our natural world underpins all The Wilderness Society's campaign work from Cape York to Tasmania to the Kimberley.



In addition, there has been great progress in scientific research and on-ground restoration:

- The Australian National University in collaboration with The Wilderness Society (as an 'industry partner') has received a prestigious Australian Research Council grant to build the knowledge base for continent-wide conservation planning. Current research includes: the role of dingoes in healthy landscapes; nomadic birds and their requirements; and the significance of highly productive natural areas in Australia for the cycle of life;
- Ongoing contribution to the Gondwana Link vision to protect and reconnect our wild places across WA's south-west from Margaret River to Kalgoorlie, in particular, building the science to underpin bush restoration for the long term;
- On the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, an 'East meets West' WildCountry project officer, funded by the National Heritage Trust, is building on-ground capacity and

conservation support in the region;

- In Northern Australia, the commencement of an ambitious project to identify and explain the extraordinary natural values of the North and the ecological processes and connections which maintain them. This will be crucial information in developing a long-term future for the North that avoids the problems of poor and unsustainable development in southern Australia.

Progress in our 'Mallee to the Coast' work in Victoria includes:

- expansion of the campaign to protect the Cobboboonee and other important forests and woodlands in south-west Victoria;
- increased awareness and support for the iconic Redgum forests of the River Murray floodplain;
- continued building of support for a range of organisations to work together on landscape scale conservation; extending the work into NSW and South Australia.

The receipt of a writ from Gunns Ltd just

prior to Christmas has put an additional strain on the dedicated staff across the organisation. I am very pleased to report that this has been met by even greater determination amongst staff to see The Wilderness Society as Australia's leading and most highly effective conservation organisation. Central to this outcome are the often unsung contributions of an extremely talented and incredibly dedicated fundraising and administrative team. Their tireless efforts ensure that we have the resources to deliver the environmental outcomes on the ground year in year out. A special thank you to Russell Hanson, who has had "one heck of a year".

Finally, a huge thank you to our members, volunteers and financial supporters. Your ongoing commitment gives us the ability to achieve these outstanding results for the natural world.

**Alec Marr**  
**National Campaign Director**

## *Forever Wild*

a precious gift for the future

Peter Power (right) and his partner have made a bequest to The Wilderness Society in their wills. The couple chose to relocate to the north-east coast of Tasmania a couple of years ago to escape the city smog and surround themselves with wilderness. Their property, which backs onto St Patricks Head State Reserve, is home to a number of protected species including blind velvet worms, white goshawks, wombats, wallabies and possums. Here they rehabilitate orphaned animals such as wombats and joeys, and reintroduce them onto the land.

Peter describes his decision to include The Wilderness Society in his will as an easy one. "While we may be asset-rich, we are not in a financial position to donate to the cause in the way that we would like. As we have been fortunate enough to afford to live in a pristine environment, we felt that to leave a considerable percentage of our estate was the least we could do for an organisation such as The Wilderness Society. Making a bequest was a logical part of forward planning for us. It is good for people to have a hard think about where part of their assets will go. It is a really nice gesture to leave some of it to the environment so that there is a future for our children and grandchildren".

Bequests to The Wilderness Society contribute to WildCountry, The Wilderness Society's long-term vision and strategy to give nature its best possible chance of survival in the future. Using a new understanding of large-scale connections across Australia, WildCountry is developing a continent-wide approach for conservation planning to protect and restore our natural world.

For a copy of our *Forever Wild* bequest booklet or for further information on WildCountry, please contact National Bequest Officer, Gaye French on 1800 030 641 or by email: [gaye.french@wilderness.org.au](mailto:gaye.french@wilderness.org.au). Your enquiry will be handled in the strictest confidence.

### An invitation to join our *Forever Wild* bequest group

If you have already included The Wilderness Society in your will, we encourage you to tell us. We would like the opportunity to thank you in advance for your intended gift by inviting you to join *Forever Wild*. Members are entitled to certain benefits such as invitations to special events and updates on WildCountry. Most importantly, members have the satisfaction of knowing that their gift will help protect wilderness, save wildlife and build a sustainable future for our natural environment.



# ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The year ended 30 June 2005, resulted in a surplus of \$1,139,366 compared to \$923,950 for the previous year.

We have now had seven years of continuous growth which, when combined with our ongoing campaign successes, places The Wilderness Society in a position to continue to achieve its mission of "Protecting, promoting and restoring wilderness and natural processes across Australia for the survival and ongoing evolution of life on Earth."

It has taken our organisation from a balance sheet of zero a few years ago to net assets of \$2,732,841.

The changes are dramatic and while we are providing significant funds to Campaign we are also creating reserves for the future of The Wilderness Society.

Our membership and supporter base has also continued to grow due to our high profile on environmental issues and, in particular, to the magnificent work of our fundraising team who in difficult times continue to maintain

our income levels while at the same time engage with our supporters.

The funding to Campaign has increased in a climate of defending the Gunns Limited litigation against twenty individuals and organisations, which includes The Wilderness Society Inc. and four of its employees.

## **Seven years of continuous growth... combined with our ongoing campaign successes, places The Wilderness Society in a position to continue to achieve its mission**

While this litigation is time consuming, stressful and expensive, it will not stop us from continuing with our environmental campaigns.

These events not only take enormous

resources and effort, they can very quickly impact on our financial situation. Our future budgets will take these factors into account.

While our growth has been significant in recent years we need to consolidate and ensure that reserves are in place for the long term future of the organisation. Our future reserves therefore need to build quickly and be substantial.

The organisation, as indicated in last year's report, embarked on a total governance review of all aspects of the operation, in particular our structural needs into the future. While this review has been stalled in recent months it is now back on target.

We all look forward to a challenging period in the following year and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved, our loyal staff, campaigners, volunteers and Management Committees, and most importantly our fantastic supporters.

**Russell Hanson**  
Chief Executive Officer

# NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

We are pleased to report that The Wilderness Society has had another very productive year, achieving significant conservation gains, consolidating our financial base and building organisational capacity to ensure our ability to work towards our purpose of protecting, promoting and restoring wilderness.

## **The Committee**

The Committee has put significant effort in this year to building its effectiveness and has been actively contributing to a range of organisational capacity building initiatives. During the year, we were sorry to lose Linda Siddall and Coral Robinson, both of whom contributed much time and energy. We have been fortunate to welcome Nick Galloway, who brings sound legal knowledge and skill to the committee. Face-to-face meetings now take place twice a year, creating a more cohesive and active group.

## **Governance Review**

The Governance Review has been moving steadily ahead with a committee consisting of: Greg Ogle, Russell Hanson, Alec Marr, Nick Galloway, Anthony Esposito, and Julie McGuiness.

## **Organisational Development**

There has been much activity in this area.

Both the CEO and the NCD have undertaken performance reviews this year, with the process being steered by Margo Lockhart and Felicity Wishart. The NMC has established a forum for discussion about organisational development with the key purpose of setting an organisational development timetable.

The Committee has established sub-committees and put significant focus into the review and further development of long-term strategic planning for the organisation, as well as performance management systems and associated training of staff. A second intake of staff has completed the well-received leadership development program.

## **Succession Planning**

This area is being addressed more actively by the NMC, in line with performance reviews, management training, and the governance review. We are pleased to be openly discussing this important issue with the leaders of the organisation.

## **Litigation**

Frustratingly, the threat to The Wilderness Society from the legal case brought by Gunns Ltd remains. Since the writ was issued almost a year ago, there has been enormous activity behind the scenes, investigating the claims, preparing defence statements, discussing

legal strategy and coordinating with the other defendants. The case has been to court a number of times to deal with preliminary matters and in July, the judge ordered the writ to be rewritten because it was so confusing. The current version has seen Gunns Ltd increase its claim against the defendants to \$6.8 million. At the time of writing we are waiting for them to provide further details on the claims they make in this third version.

## **Financial performance**

The Committee is very pleased to report that the organisation continues to build its reserves, whilst at the same time providing significant funding to our National Campaign Team and Campaign Centres around the country. Our thanks go to all our fundraising and administrative teams and our CEO Russell Hanson for his excellent financial management.

## **The Future**

The committee is excited about the organisation's future, as we believe The Wilderness Society is Australia's most successful national environmental advocacy organisation. With a campaign team second to none and an excellent fundraising and administration team to back them up, we look forward to many more environmental gains in the future.



## **The Wilderness Society Inc. Management Committee's Report**

Your committee members submit the financial report of The Wilderness Society Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2005.

### **Committee Members**

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

Dietmar Reichert                      Margo Lockhart  
Michael Connors                      Nick Galloway

### **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 diaries
- 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 \$1,139,366 in comparison to a net surplus of \$923,950 in 2004.

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

Nick Galloway

Dietmar Reichert

Dated this 3rd day of September 2005.

## **The Wilderness Society Inc.**

### **Statement By Members Of The Committee**

In the opinion of the Management Committee the financial report as set out on pages 4 to 17:

**a.** Presents fairly the financial position of The Wilderness Society Inc. as at 30 June 2005 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;

**b.** 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.

Nick Galloway

Dietmar Reichert

Dated this 3rd day of September 2005.

## **The Wilderness Society Inc. Independent Audit Report For The Year Ended 30 June 2005**

### **Scope**

We have audited the financial report of The Wilderness Society Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2005 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 is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for The Wilderness Society Inc. to maintain an effective system of internal control over certain items of income until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to sales, memberships, and fundraising related income was limited to amounts recorded.

### **Qualified Audit Opinion**

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report of The Wilderness Society Inc. presents a true and fair view in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia the financial position of The Wilderness Society Inc. as at 30 June 2005, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

### **WHK Denison**

Accountants & Auditors

Ian Wright – Partner

Dated this 15th day of September 2005.



**The Wilderness Society Inc.**  
**Detailed Statement of Financial Performance**  
**For The Year Ended 30 June 2005**

	2005 \$	2004 \$
<b>Revenue From Ordinary Activities</b>		
Sales	197,115	185,716
Memberships	661,761	491,085
Grants	583,531	760,676
Bequests	222,452	221,670
Fundraising	9,265,675	7,267,236
Other Income	370,567	211,029
	<b>11,301,101</b>	<b>9,137,412</b>
<b>Expenditure From Ordinary Activities</b>		
Accounting/Audit Fees	7,550	7,325
Advertising & Promotion	42,682	96,832
Appeal Costs	142,459	107,339
Bank Charges & Interest	194,720	167,399
Branch Subsidy	1,693,400	1,503,167
Computer Costs	47,822	33,823
Community Campaigning	341,209	311,006
Conferences	56,547	70,166
Consultancy Fees	92,384	128,276
Depreciation & Amortisation	90,152	62,045
Electricity	-	5,161
Equipment Costs	24,517	19,153
Grants Other	54,500	-
Insurance	129,038	110,442
Legal Costs	392,255	43,556
Loss On Disposal Of Assets	36	-
Office Rental	184,563	177,183
Other Occupancy Costs	8,662	2,468
Other Costs	-	45,000
Payroll Tax	51,329	37,512
Postage & Packaging	330,817	200,196
Printing, Stationery & Design	531,021	490,357
Rates & Taxes	3,806	1,333
Repairs & Maintenance	4,684	3,399
Salaries	3,877,726	3,017,979
Salary On Costs	775,512	621,735
Scientific Research	295,969	160,036
Sundries	113,178	196,150
Telephone, Fax & Internet	193,322	186,682
Training & Amenities	73,041	73,203
Travel & Accommodation	384,236	305,456
Website Costs	24,598	29,530
	<b>10,161,735</b>	<b>8,213,462</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>\$1,139,366</b>	<b>\$923,950</b>

**The Wilderness Society Inc.**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at 30 June 2005**

	Note	2005 \$	2004 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash Assets	2	4,037,203	2,743,293
Receivables	3	67,532	69,840
Other	4	194,995	125,953
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>4,299,730</b>	<b>2,939,086</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Investments	5	398,687	296,507
Property, Plant & Equipment	6	516,920	500,011
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>		<b>915,607</b>	<b>796,518</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>5,215,337</b>	<b>3,735,604</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	7	1,798,724	1,623,509
Interest Bearing Liabilities	8	-	4,486
Provisions	9	302,065	220,796
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,100,789</b>	<b>1,848,791</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>			
Interest Bearing Liabilities	8	296,500	221,500
Provisions	9	85,207	71,838
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>		<b>381,707</b>	<b>293,338</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>2,482,496</b>	<b>2,142,129</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>\$2,732,841</b>	<b>\$1,593,475</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated Funds	10	2,712,388	1,573,022
Reserves	11	20,453	20,453
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>\$2,732,841</b>	<b>\$1,593,475</b>

**The Wilderness Society Inc.**  
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