

# Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

## NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (NMC) REPORT

---

The Wilderness Society Inc (TWS) has had yet another productive year, achieving significant conservation gains and building organisational capacity to achieve its purpose of protecting, promoting and restoring Australia's WildCountry. The organisation has continued to build on its WildCountry vision with a number of on-ground projects for landscape-scale conservation and restoration, as well as maintaining its traditional focus of wilderness protection.

### THE COMMITTEE

The Committee welcomed Christine Olsen as its newest member this year. Christine brings a wealth of business and fundraising skills and a fresh perspective to the committee.



### GOVERNANCE REVIEW

A major stage of the Governance Review has been completed and its recommendations have been implemented, thus ensuring that The Wilderness Society continues to operate democratically, efficiently and easily towards its purpose of protecting the environment. One result from the review is the National Campaign Director title being changed to Executive Director. This now accurately reflects the organisation's structure.

### ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Committee continues to put significant focus into the review and further development of long-term strategic planning for the organisation. Additionally, the performance management systems and associated training of staff have been progressing well. A number of staff have participated in personal development and leadership training courses.

### STAFF

After 10 years of outstanding service, the NMC is sad to announce the retirement of CEO, Russell Hanson, in December 2006. Russell has made an extraordinary contribution to the organisation and his legacy is the stabilisation and building of a solid financial base to enable the organisation to continue to achieve its purpose. Alec Marr, formerly National Campaign Director, has been appointed Executive Director and will oversee all areas of the organisation. Other senior staff who have recently joined include Jes Singh as Administration and Finance Manager and Debbie Dunn as HR Manager.

### GUNNS LITIGATION

Gunns' legal suit against The Wilderness Society and others has continued into its third year.

Gunns have changed their lawyers and are now represented by Clayton Utz. Several of the defendants have been dropped from the case, including our former CEO, Russell Hanson. The majority of the claims have also been dropped. There are now five remaining claims, all of which TWS is defending.

### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Committee is very pleased to report that the organisation continues to provide significant funding to WildCountry programs. This year saw the establishment of the *Forever Wild* Trust to ensure ongoing funding for our WildCountry vision for future generations. Congratulations and thanks go to all the fundraising and administrative teams for their outstanding work through the year and their continued dedication, commitment and passion for purpose.

### THE FUTURE

The Committee remains very optimistic and excited about the future of The Wilderness Society, as a hugely successful and effective national environmental organisation. The campaign team is outstanding and as TWS continues to engage with the best conservation science in the country, TWS staff, volunteers and supporters can then implement it on the ground. The fundraising, communications and administration teams are excellent, and are committed to strengthening systems and processes and building capacity for the future well-being of the organisation.

## THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY INC. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

---

Your committee members submit the financial report of The Wilderness Society for the financial year ended 30 June 2007.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Margo Lockhart	Nick Galloway
Michael Connors	Felicity Wishart
Gary Dorahy	Christine Olsen

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Society during the year were:

- The conduct of wilderness protection programs
- Fundraising
- The administration and servicing of members of the Society
- The sale of wilderness calendars and diaries
- The supply of wilderness education information

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

---

This year has been a year of continued capacity-building across the entire organisation. We have made considerable investments in strengthening campaign capacity, as well as recruiting a number of new senior managers. Despite some turnover of staff in key areas, our recruitment processes have been extremely successful and have resulted in strengthening the organisation.

The generosity and passion of The Wilderness Society's supporters is matched by the dedication and professionalism of our staff and volunteers. I can honestly say that the organisation's future has never been brighter.

Of course, the reason that The Wilderness Society exists is to play an advocacy role for our last great wild places and for the wildlife that relies on them. Despite massive pressure for exploitation, we have made excellent progress in a number of campaign fronts, and we are right in the thick of things in other campaign areas.

### CAPE YORK HERITAGE ACT

The passing of the *Cape York Heritage Act* is an historic achievement, which will deliver land justice to Traditional Owners of Cape York (resulting in more than one million hectares of former cattle leasehold land being handed back to Traditional Owners as Aboriginal freehold land, plus one hundred new Indigenous ranger jobs). It will also result in the protection of 13 new wild rivers and will start the beginning of the World Heritage process for Cape York. This is an achievement that we can all be proud of.



### MARINE PARKS BILL 2007

The passing of the *Marine Parks Bill 2007* has finally put some real teeth into legislation which will create new marine protected areas for South Australia. More than 85% of marine species in South Australia occur nowhere else in the world so the Marine Parks Bill will be critical to the long-term survival of SA's unique marine heritage. We can be very pleased with The Wilderness Society's efforts and the future of marine protected areas in South Australia.

### PROTECTING TASMANIA'S FORESTS

Our campaign to protect Tasmania's forests and the Tasmanian community from the ill-conceived Gunns pulp mill is intensifying. Despite the fact that both major parties support the pulp mill, there is massive community opposition, not just in Tasmania but right across the country. There is also a growing level of alarm in the investment community. We believe we will be successful in stopping this polluting pulp mill despite the current difficulties.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Our contribution to fighting climate change has a number of fronts. The first is protecting forests and vegetation from logging and clearing. We believe that the real figures for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from logging and land clearing are approximately the same size as the entire transport sector in Australia.

### NUCLEAR-FREE AUSTRALIA

We are also campaigning to de-rail the Federal Government's attempt to create an international nuclear waste dump in the Northern Territory, and to build 25 nuclear reactors around the coastline of Australia. The nuclear industry is a dirty, dangerous dead-end that will do nothing to address Australia's climate change challenges.

### WILDCOUNTRY

Of course, what is already clear is that human activities have already started the process of climate change, and The Wilderness Society's WildCountry program is the first attempt by anybody to design land management and protected area systems at a continental scale. This will allow our unique animals and plants to move and adapt in response to the climate change which is already underway. Our collaborative efforts within the Gondwana Link initiative, which stretches from the wet tall forests of Western Australia to near Kalgoorlie, are starting to pay dividends. There has been a lot of work done to make sure this initiative has a solid scientific underpinning, as well as systematic fieldwork west of the Rabbit-Proof Fence, an area that we have named the Great Western Woodlands. I expect our work in the Great Western Woodlands to accelerate over the next twelve months. WildCountry initiatives like these are underway in every state of Australia.

The release of the scientific report titled *The Nature of Northern Australia* is the first attempt to document the broad-scale environmental processes which keep Northern Australia healthy. As the pro-development push builds momentum, our scientific report will be an important tool for voices who are arguing for Northern Australia to be protected.

Our organisation is as strong as it's ever been in its history. We have an ever-growing community of supporters and a fantastic group of dedicated and professional staff and volunteers. Despite the challenges ahead and some of the dire threats to our planet, we have every reason to be grateful and optimistic.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alec Marr".

Alec Marr, Executive Director

---

## SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

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

## OPERATING RESULTS

The profit/(loss) from ordinary activities was a net loss of \$742,763 in comparison to a net profit of \$1,422,762 in 2006.

Nick Galloway

Gary Dorahy

Dated this 26th day of October 2007.

---

## THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY INC. STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of The Wilderness Society Inc as at 30 June 2007 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 Standards board.
2. 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 Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Nick Galloway

Gary Dorahy

Dated this 26th day of October 2007.

---

## THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY INC. INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

### SCOPE

The Financial report and the Committee's responsibility

The financial report comprises the income statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, notes to the financial statements and the statement by members of the committee for The Wilderness Society Inc for the year ended 30 June 2007.

The Committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Incorporated Associations Act 1964 of Tasmania. This includes the responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

## AUDIT APPROACH

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the association. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgment, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the *Incorporated Associations Act 1964* of Tasmania, including compliance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position, and of their performance as represented by the results of their operations and cash flows.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the board.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

## INDEPENDENCE

In conducting our audit, we followed the applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

In our opinion, the financial report of The Wilderness Society Inc is in accordance with the Incorporated Associations Act 1964 of Tasmania, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2007 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Accounting Standards in Australia and the Incorporated Associations Act 1964 of Tasmania.

WHK Denison  
Accountants and Auditors

Alison J Flakemore

Audit Partner

Dated this 13th day of November 2007.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

ASSETS			
	Note	2007 (\$)	2006 (\$)
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	4,800,663	5,656,396
Trade and other receivables	3	88,108	62,454
Other current assets	4	323,257	199,999
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>5,212,028</b>	<b>5,918,849</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	491,426	485,192
Other non current assets	4	422,267	419,647
Total non current assets		913,693	904,839
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>6,125,721</b>	<b>6,823,688</b>

LIABILITIES			
	Note	2007 (\$)	2006 (\$)
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	1,922,965	1,832,347
Short term borrowings	2	16,860	26,778
Short term provisions	7	259,160	292,151
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>2,198,985</b>	<b>2,151,276</b>
<b>Non current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	390,458	390,458
Other long term provisions	8	121,911	126,355
Total non current liabilities		512,369	516,813
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,711,354</b>	<b>2,668,089</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>3,414,367</b>	<b>4,155,599</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

2007	Note	Retained Earnings (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 1 July 2006		4,155,599	4,155,599
Profit attributable to member		(742,232)	(742,232)
Transfers to and from reserves			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>(742,232)</b>	<b>(742,232)</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2007</b>		<b>3,414,367</b>	<b>3,414,367</b>

2006	Note	Retained Earnings (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 1 July 2005		2,732,837	2,732,837
Profit attributable to member		1,422,762	1,422,762
Transfers to and from reserves			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>1,422,762</b>	<b>1,422,762</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2007</b>		<b>4,155,599</b>	<b>4,155,599</b>

## DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

	2007 (\$)	2006 (\$)
<b>INCOME</b>		
Sale of goods	151,641	151,086
Fees	6,816	7,914
Interest income	281,830	165,803
Dividend income	11,989	13,347
Member subscriptions	882,748	781,080
Grants	7,816	592,497
Donations	10,373,587	10,119,920
Expense Reimbursements	178,193	75,410
Other income	258,240	44,944
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,152,860</b>	<b>11,952,001</b>

	2007 (\$)	2006 (\$)
<b>LESS: EXPENSES</b>		
Accounting fees	30,492	7,750
Advertising	26,129	8,997
Bad debts	5,000	(4,073)
Bank charges	243,212	220,134
Campaign Centre Subsidy	2,716,711	1,832,185
Campaigning Costs	290,589	453,936
Conference/Seminar costs	99,301	112,421
Computer expenses	134,140	166,482
Legal & Consultants' Fees	726,405	584,702
Depreciation	89,228	95,690
Donations to Trust	1,154,964	-
Grants	43,500	146,000
Insurance	120,268	130,453
Website Costs	-	28,693
Lease rentals on operating lease	134,865	197,948
Market research	15,426	-
Merchandise	-	7,819
Other Occupancy Costs	12,735	11,978
Other employee costs	395,104	302,058
Licences & Registrations	32,552	20,017
Postage & Packaging	537,358	447,804
Printing & Stationary	409,874	464,185
Rates and taxes	-	167
Recruitment	221,661	163,431
Repairs and maintenance	3,085	5,324
Research and development costs	42,500	-
Salaries	3,791,587	3,707,550
Subcontracting costs	-	17,368
Sundry expenses	66,927	75,655
Superannuation contributions	607,892	555,215
Telephone and fax	191,452	194,728
Training	124,104	83,623
Travel & Accommodation	502,371	391,863
Travel & Accommodation Overseas	46,860	70,939
Telemarketing	79,331	26,464
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(12,895,623)</b>	<b>(10,527,506)</b>

	2007 (\$)	2006 (\$)
<b>Other items:</b>		
Gain and loss on disposal of assets	-	(1,733)
	-	(1,733)
<b>Profit before income tax</b>	<b>(742,763)</b>	<b>1,422,762</b>

Photo credits: Cover: Friendly Beaches, Freycinet National Park, Tasmania. Photo: Bill Doyle.

Inside left: Elliot falls, Cape York Peninsula. Photo: Glenn Walker. Inside right: Quintells beach, Cape York. Photo: Kerry Trapnell

## FOREVER WILD PROGRAM REPORT

### FOREVER WILD PROGRAM 2007

Over the last year we've had the pleasure of meeting many inspiring supporters through the *Forever Wild* bequest program. Attendance at all of the *Forever Wild* events held across the country has been fantastic and there is an enormous amount of support for the bequest program. Thank you to all our generous supporters who have left a gift in their Will to The Wilderness Society and to those who may be considering doing so. It is encouraging to see so many people seriously thinking about the long-term protection of Australia's wild places, wildlife and the broader environment for future generations.

We would like to extend our sincere condolences to family, friends and colleagues of Hugh Casey, Mary Layton and Beryl Phillips who passed away recently and left a gift in their Will to The Wilderness

Society. We are extremely grateful for the generosity and foresight of these people.

The Wilderness Society would also like to acknowledge those who made a donation in memory of a loved one over the last year. These thoughtful gifts are a long-lasting way to remember your loved one and appreciate their passion for wilderness and wildlife conservation. Please contact us if you would like some In Memorium donation slips sent out to you.

### FOREVER WILD TRUST

To ensure finances from the bequest program remain for generations to come, the *Forever Wild* Trust has been recently established. Unless otherwise specified, funds from bequests feed directly into the *Forever Wild* Trust. Interest earned from the Trust is distributed annually towards WildCountry campaigns across the

country, allowing The Wilderness Society to continue its long-term goals to protect Australia's spectacular wilderness, save our disappearing wildlife and secure a healthy environment well into the future.

### UPDATING YOUR WILL

It is important to regularly update your Will to reflect changes in circumstances. Some changes that would require you to review your Will are a wedding or divorce, the birth or adoption of children or grandchildren, the death of a family member or friend, a change in medical condition or health care needs, the purchase of property, or retirement.

Updating your Will can be simplified by adding a codicil. This is a legal document that must be witnessed and signed in the same way as a Will. Your solicitor will assist you in making any necessary changes.

### BEQUESTER PROFILE: AUDREY LARSEN

Audrey Larsen has been a supporter of The Wilderness Society since 1991 and turned 85 this year. Her childhood was spent surrounded by semi-rural wilderness on farmlands in Bundaberg, Queensland. It was during her family holidays on the farm that she grew an appreciation and deep respect for nature from a young age.

Audrey has not only left a bequest in her Will, she has also volunteered her musical talents at our Melbourne *Forever Wild* event, helped with WildCountry research and regularly written submissions to politicians and newspapers about protecting our wild places.

*"Many moons have waxed and waned since I read Silent Spring written by Rachel Carson, an American biologist in 1962. I realised then how we take our wildlife and*

*heritage for granted and how it could so easily be lost through careless, thoughtless and deliberate destruction.*

*Time passed and I did nothing. But my attention was drawn to The Wilderness Society – how beautifully our countryside and important heritage areas were photographed and presented; and how meticulously their research was carried out and documented... I am impressed with their research and defence of the habitat and wilderness areas, so why should I not leave them a gift!"*

We are extremely grateful to people like Audrey who contribute to conservation in a variety of ways, so a sincere thank you to Audrey for her amazing support.



*Audrey Larsen with Helen and Darcy Brooks*

Please contact National Bequest Manager Gaye French on 1800 030 641 or (03) 6270 1778 (direct line) if you would like more information on leaving a gift in your Will towards The Wilderness Society.

### The Wilderness Society Inc.

ABN: 62 007 508 349  
GPO Box 716, Hobart, Tasmania 7001

Ph: (03) 6270 1701  
Fax: (03) 6231 6533

Membership, Donations & Bequests:  
1800 030 641

Email: [members@wilderness.org.au](mailto:members@wilderness.org.au)  
[www.wilderness.org.au](http://www.wilderness.org.au)  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

