

2018-2019 Annual Review

Nature now and for our future

More than ever, you make the difference



**Wilderness
Society**

Life. Support.

A pivotal year for nature

This has been a year of contrasts for nature in Australia. We have seen a real shift in the national interest around protecting our environment.



Movement For Life volunteers in front of Parliament on Threatened Species Day, 2018.

During the federal election, the Wilderness Society had volunteers and staff mobilised en masse to keep nature and the extinction crisis in the public conversation. Surveys during the period consistently showed that environmental

concerns ranked in the top one or two for the electorate. We saw political parties of all persuasions being forced to acknowledge these concerns, with policy and media statements happening right into the last week before the election. This is a major shift from previous elections, where the environment is dealt with as an issue early in the campaign before receiving little coverage. At the same time we accept that the election result has meant the opportunity to deliver structural change to protect the environment is likely to be more difficult. Even so, our strategic direction remains the same and we are convinced by the community support that we are on the right path.

Over the election period our New Nature Laws campaign, which seeks to provide strong safeguards for wilderness and biodiversity, resulted in our biggest quarterly increase in grassroots Movement For Life volunteers. The issue clearly resonated with concerned and passionate community members, driving them to take action locally. Since then, environmental issues have continued to gather momentum through 2019 as more people see mounting evidence for the climate crisis and the continued destruction of our natural world. It is the ongoing support from our donors and volunteers that will continue to mobilise the community to save and restore our unique wild spaces.

On a personal note, we would like to acknowledge that Lyndon Schneiders is stepping down from his role as both National Campaigns Director and joint CEO. After decades of campaign leadership at the Wilderness Society, we will miss the depth and breadth of Lyndon's expertise, strategic analysis and negotiation skills. We thank him for developing both the strategic framework

and our phenomenal team of campaigners and organisers. They will continue to deliver real and lasting protection for Australia's unique habitats and the species they harbour well into the future. We thank Lyndon for his hard work and expect he will continue his passion for campaigning to protect nature.

Across the organisation we have worked hard this year to balance the financial requirements of delivering significant campaigns with maintaining a sustainable budget outlook for the future. Our sincere thanks to all our staff who worked through this process and continue to deliver outstanding results. We'd also like to thank our fellow Board members and leadership team for their sage counsel this year, and our fellow state convenors for journeying with us and continuing the good fight at the local level.

And we extend a special thank you to our donors, who continue to support our vital work taking place all over the country: we're protecting koala habitat and fighting deforestation in Queensland, keeping Santos's gas wells out of the Pilliga in New South Wales, ending the senseless logging of old-growth forests in Victoria, and supporting the EPA's calls for emissions cuts in Western Australia. And we're keeping our wilderness wild by opposing developments in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and ensuring the Great Australian Bight isn't blighted with oil rigs.

In a time where the scope of the environmental challenges can be overwhelming, we have the people and strategies in place to continue to deliver real protections for the places, species and habitats that we all love. Together with our supporters, we will continue to hold governments and industry to account – to protect the wild places that sustain us all.

Leanne Craze - Co-convenor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leanne Craze".

Stuart Baird - Co-convenor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Baird".

We recognise the Traditional Owners of Australia and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge that this land was never ceded and welcome actions that better seek to identify, present, protect and conserve cultural heritage.



Photography: Chris Tzaros

**To protect,
restore and
sustain nature
in Australia.**

The critically endangered Swift Parrot, Tasmania.

The challenges

ONLY

0.03%

of destructive projects were stopped by environment laws in 20 years

EXTINCTION CRISIS

THREE

unique Australian animals have gone extinct

SINCE 2009

See page 7 »

Equinor has so far refused to back down on its attempt

to drill for oil in the Great Australian Bight



Australia is ranked in the world's top 10 for deforestation, up there with the Amazon. Plus we're No.2 in the world for biodiversity loss.

Movement

for Life

Growing a grassroots movement in communities across Australia.

New graduates

2015/16: 223

2016/17: 438

New teams

2015/16: 4

2016/17: 7

The solutions

ESTABLISHING

1. A new set of strong national nature laws to protect wildlife and end the greatest threats to nature.
2. A new environment watchdog with teeth to fairly enforce these laws.
3. Reliable, public reporting on the state of Australia's nature.

STOP DEFORESTATION
IN GREAT BARRIER REEF
CATCHMENTS TO PROTECT
THIS NATURAL WONDER.



Implement a national
deforestation and restoration
monitoring program.

Keep big oil and gas out of unique
places like the Pilliga and Great
Australian Bight. [Turn to page 10 »](#)

Protecting our forests and bushlands

[Turn to page 12 »](#)

Creating new nature laws that work

[Turn to page 6 »](#)

2017/18: 569

2018/19: 783

2017/18: 11

2018/19: 14

Total graduates to date: 2013

Total teams: 36

[Turn to page 8 »](#)

Together for nature

The challenges we all face can seem daunting but, as shown by our rich history, we know that if we persevere we can protect nature in this country for generations to come. Indeed, at the time of writing, the government in Victoria announced an end to native forest logging in the state, with 90,000 hectares protected immediately! It means images like the one on this page could finally be a thing of the past in Victoria.

These types of achievements result from us working together and staying focussed, combining the talents of our staff and volunteers with the passion and dedication of our supporters and members.

Together we can build a shared vision for what real environmental change will look like; a vision to inspire all Australians, because it's never been more important for us to stay focussed on supporting the life that supports us.



Matt Brennan, CEO

Volunteers witness the aftermath of logging in Toolangi Forest, Victoria.

Photography: Teresa Hu

Making a big difference

Every year we mark big victories in our ongoing fight to safeguard Australia's unique environments and wildlife.

Visit wilderness.org.au/work to learn about our current campaigns taking place all over Australia.

2016

Movement for Life launched

The beginnings of our grassroots movement to empower communities across the country.

October BP leaves the Great Australian Bight

Community pressure backed by the Wilderness Society sees mega-corp BP abandon its designs on the Great Australian Bight.

2017

October Chevron leaves the Great Australian Bight

Another fossil fuel giant bails out of the pristine marine environment following sustained pressure from the Wilderness Society and its partners.

2018

VicForests fails FSC registration... again

Conservation groups, including the Wilderness Society, provide compelling evidence during the audit process to force VicForests to work harder to gain Forestry Stewardship Certification approval.

May New Queensland deforestation laws passed

Thanks to the Wilderness Society's major deforestation campaign launched the previous year, the Queensland parliament passes much needed new deforestation laws.

December Commitment to preserve WA's Helena Aurora Range

The WA government commits to a new national park covering the Helena Aurora Range, following a Wilderness Society campaign.

December Labor announces National Nature Laws

Working closely with the Wilderness Society, Bill Shorten announces a strong set of environmental law reforms as a pillar of Labor's election campaign.

2019

January The release of Pilliga Rising documentary

To support the Pilliga community and their fight against coal seam gas operator Santos, the documentary *Pilliga Rising* is shown in communities around Australia.

April to May Movement For Life field campaign

The Wilderness Society mobilises its grassroots movement for the first time at a nationally co-ordinated level to make 28,000 phone calls and knock on some 12,000 doors in the run up to the federal election.

Officeworks responds to Ethical Paper campaign

Officeworks puts Reflex on notice that without FSC accreditation the company's paper will not be stocked on its shelves by December 2020.

Nature laws that work

National Nature Campaign Manager Suzanne Milthorpe takes us through one of the Wilderness Society's biggest ever national drives with this year's federal election.

“ Our National Nature Laws campaign aims to address the ongoing systemic threats to our wildlife and forests. Australia is home to nearly 10% of the world's species - sadly we're also the worst in the world for mammal extinction and second overall for biodiversity loss. It's a shameful record to say the least!

Decades of government failure to lead on nature has meant that our environment laws are outdated and barely implemented. As a result, some of the biggest threats to our world-famous forests and wildlife are exempt from the law, creating loopholes for big corporations to move in and destroy it. The core focus of the National Nature Laws campaign is to build a national debate around Australia's terrible extinction rates and habitat loss to drive the political impetus for change.

In 2018-2019, the federal election enabled us to do just that, providing a major platform to centre the debate around nature protection. We changed the focus from alliance building and policy development to shifting key players via electoral pressure and direct lobbying. We were also able to identify a large percentage of persuadable centrist swing voters for whom the preservation of nature is a major concern, in order to direct a major campaign in the run up to the election.

Labor adopted most of our policy asks around new environmental laws following a

concerted lobbying, advertising and media push. This ran from June to December 2018 and focussed on the party's National Conference. It created the conditions for a policy debate on new laws between the two major parties in the 2019 federal election, moving nature up the agenda.

The Wilderness Society's efforts then ramped up again, and from February 2019 we ran the biggest federal communications, media, lobbying and organising election campaign the organisation has ever undertaken. As a result, nature issues were widely covered in the mainstream media, forcing both major parties to spend precious air time addressing them throughout the campaign. The Prime Minister and Treasurer released a special policy and, along with the ALP, key independent crossbenchers called for major environment law reform.

Our campaign centres across the country engaged in an electoral field campaign that racked up a massive 4,670 volunteer hours of door knocking, phone bank work and face to face conversations, bringing in a substantial number of new volunteers and supporters. Since the election, we've been consolidating this new, activated audience into our Movement For Life organising program so we can build on the momentum of the election campaign and grow a broad movement of people pushing for real protection for our forests and wildlife."



Suzanne Milthorpe speaks to volunteers on Threatened Species Day.



Glenn Walker (group shot); Adrian Guerin (Suzanne Milthorpe portrait)

Suzanne discusses what the focus is for the National Nature Laws campaign in the coming year.

Why are new nature laws now more important than ever?

Australia is one of just eight countries responsible for 50% of the global loss of vertebrate species like the iconic Tasmanian Tiger and more recently the Christmas Island pipistrelle bat. The legacy of 200 years of destruction plus the worsening effects of deforestation and climate change are now threatening species like the koala, numbat and Leadbeater's possum. But extinction is a choice, and our campaign is all about empowering communities to end these threats around the country.

What are the next steps the Wilderness Society will take to strengthen our nature laws?

A once-in-a-decade review of our national environment laws started at the end of October. We're going to use this platform to build on the 2019 federal election momentum to push the government to take leadership on dealing with extinction. Australia needs a system put in place to protect nature that actually works. To achieve this, we will directly advocate for change with decision makers and we will increase legal and regulatory pressure on the government to deliver on its core responsibilities. We also need a broad spectrum of the Australian community to put pressure on politicians and industry via our Movement For Life program, and to take on the companies that are driving the worst destruction via our deforestation campaigns.

What challenges do we face in getting stronger laws?

The LNP's win in the 2019 election means we don't have all the opportunities for reform that we would have had, if the ALP had won. But the pressure built around extinction during the election means that this government is engaging with nature issues for the first time in seven years. We now have a real chance to leverage gains from the election into real action to protect wildlife and habitats, and support our next phase of campaigning.



Lost in the fine print



Federal policy director Tim Beshara has a nose for detail when it comes to government reports; his unearthing of the demise of 'our little brown rat' made international headlines, shining a light on our lax environmental laws.

“My colleagues and I had spotted that the Federal Environment Minister had buried the formal extinction of the rat-like rodent, the Bramble Cay melomys, in the fine print of a media release. Even though scientists had informed us of its demise a few years ago, a Minister announcing its formal passing should have meant that the story had news value. But it was the fact that the Minister had buried it in the fine print that made me think there was a story. I quickly drafted a press release, sent it out and called around and got some interest from Peter Hannan at the *Sydney Morning Herald*. A senior editor later told me that they'd pulled my quote 'The Bramble Cay melomys was a little brown rat, but it was our little brown rat and it was our responsibility to make sure it persisted. And we failed.', and embedded 'little brown rat' into the headline. This phrase then became a motif in the international coverage and social media discussion that followed.

I posted a link to the story on social media and then went to bed. By the time I'd woken the following morning, my post and the story in the *Sydney Morning Herald* had gone viral, leading to articles from every major international news outlet and even bulletins in British and US morning TV shows. The US comedian and host of *The Late Show*, Stephen Colbert, did a long monologue that reached millions.

While the coverage focussed on the first mammal extinction as a result of climate change, the Bramble Cay melomys has also become emblematic of the failure of our national environmental laws. The species had a recovery plan and if anyone had bothered to implement any of it, the species wouldn't have gone extinct. Its extinction has just as much to do with the failure of political leadership and bureaucratic bungling as it does with climate change."

Movement For life

National Organising Manager Damian Ogden takes us through the successes of the past year and exciting developments on the horizon for our grassroots organising program.

“The Wilderness Society has always believed in the power of people to create change and a better world. It's always been a part of our story. We live in a time of unprecedented environmental awareness; recent mass mobilisations show that there is momentum around the world and a deep desire for real environmental action, and the Wilderness Society has been well ahead of the curve. For years we've been building a powerful grassroots movement that will form a persistent presence in communities around the country looking to enact our mission to

protect, restore and sustain nature in Australia. There are no short-cuts; real change comes when empowered communities organise and advocate together.

Movement For Life, our community organising program, is connecting people - many of whom have never been involved in environmental issues before or don't consider themselves activists - to take action and build an unstoppable grassroots movement. At the heart of Movement For Life is our leading community organising training program. Year upon year we are training more supporters who are becoming local leaders and champions for the environment. Over 2,000 Wilderness Society supporters have taken this step and graduated from these programs, connecting them with like-minded people and giving them the skills to campaign and organise for change.

This powerful movement continues to build strength in numbers. Our committed Movement For Life graduates are building a powerful national network by creating Wilderness Society local groups in their communities. Since its inception in 2016, there are 36 local groups and counting.

It's inspiring to watch this grassroots movement continue to grow and empower our campaigns."



Moving forward

This year marks an exciting new partnership for the Wilderness Society and Movement For Life with the Australian Ethical Foundation.

To support the Wilderness Society's ongoing work to protect Victoria's old-growth forests, we approached the Australian Ethical Foundation to provide a three-year grant for an advanced training program to help build Movement For Life leaders within the campaign. Five exceptional participants from the select group of 25 (pictured) that took part in the program in June, will go on to do a six-month community organising fellowship with Wilderness Society staff and international leaders in grassroots campaigning. "As our Movement For Life program grows, every year we're aiming to



form partnerships like this one with Australian Ethical to continue funding this world-class grassroots environmental movement," says Damian. "We have now got the most comprehensive training programme of its kind in the country."

Photography: Louise Chen (Damian Ogden);
Matt Tomkins (Movement for Life group)

Community action

Movement For Life member Charlotte Mayeux found support from the grassroots movement to help mobilise her community and protect her childhood home.

“Caring about the environment has always been close to home for me. I grew up on the Northern Beaches, NSW, right across the road from Narrabeen Lagoon. The lake has a path that goes all the way around it, and a lot of people use it as part of their daily routines. It has crystal-clear blue water and there are flocks of black swans and pelicans that call it home. But it wasn't long before I began to notice that the area around my home was changing; I started seeing rubbish everywhere.

My environmental values and activism all come from my mum. We've regularly attended nature rallies and protests together, making sure our voices and opinions are heard.

Growing up, I remember hearing her yell out while I was in the shower: "Hurry up, don't waste water!" or "Turn the lights out when you leave the room!" I never realised how important these things were until I was older; small actions matter and doing what we can for the environment is what matters most.

My high school agricultural teacher was also a big influence on me. He was so passionate about the environment and sustainability. We went to stay at his farm for a week, and he also took us to his friends' farms where they had native bees and practised aquaponics; all sorts of alternative farming methods.

That's what led me to study environmental management at university — I want to figure out how to manage the earth correctly, in a way that's sustainable. My greatest fear is that Australia will be a world leader for biodiversity loss and deforestation.

And that's why I signed up to Movement For Life, the Wilderness Society's community organising program. I was ready to take proper action for my local environment, fixing up Narrabeen Lagoon, and learn how to advocate for the bigger issues at play.

Movement For Life is also where I knew I'd be able to find like-minded people with similar values. There are no doubt hundreds of people that care about the environment and the Northern Beaches, but it can still be hard to find and connect with them.

My Movement For Life journey has been a whirlwind. Days after I signed up to volunteer on the Wilderness Society website, I was contacted and invited to a two-day 'Fundamentals of Organising' training program, where I met members of my community. Now, I'm part of a large national network of people who have banded together for the environment. It's made me feel so full of hope. The power of people is incredible.

Through Movement For Life, I hope to spread awareness of the environmental devastation that's occurring nationally, and continue the Wilderness Society's push for new nature laws to prevent the loss of habitat and biodiversity.

I also want to bring hope to other like-minded people out there — with a message that there are groups and organisations that exist and are willing to fight for nature. There's been such a rise in environmentalism in Australia — soon, the people that don't care about the environment are going to be the odd ones out.

Since getting involved with the Wilderness Society, I've been sending emails to politicians and find myself telling others to turn off the lights or remember to bring their KeepCup. It was my mum that led me to be where I am today, and I couldn't be prouder that I'm becoming just like her."



Charlotte takes to the streets with her fellow Movement For Life volunteers in the run up to the federal election.

Photography: Troy Beer (portrait); Glenn Walker (election work)

Taking the Fight for the Bight to Norway

With BP and Chevron having pulled out of the Great Australian Bight in recent years, Norwegian firm Equinor now has designs on the marine wilderness. National Climate Change Campaigner Jess Lerch took the fight to their doorstep.

“ In May 2019, the Wilderness Society led a delegation of Bight Campaign allies to Oslo, Norway, to take the Fight for the Bight to Norwegian oil company Equinor’s backyard. With my Wilderness Society colleague, South Australia Campaign Manager Peter Owen, we were joined by fellow Aussies Bunna Lawrie, Mirning Aboriginal Elder and Whale Songman, Heath Joske, ex-pro surfer and Patagonia surfing ambassador, and Brynn O’Brien, Executive Director of the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility. Equinor is a majority publicly owned company, so our main goal was to ensure that the Norwegian people (and politicians) knew that their oil company was doing something risky, irresponsible and unwanted halfway around the world in our wonderful Great Australian Bight.

We worked with our allies in Norway to stage a massive paddle-out protest right on the waters of the fjord in front of the Oslo Opera House. We achieved dozens of stories across print and social media in Norway and around the world.

We also ensured that Equinor’s private investors learned about the risks of its Australian plans, by barraging the board with

Jess Lerch gives a talk in Norway on Equinor’s plans for the Bight.



questions about the Bight drilling project at the company’s Annual General Meeting.

It was inspiring to receive so much support for our campaign from organisations and the people of Norway - everything from Norwegian political groups to expat Aussies, Norwegian surfers and the indigenous Saami people. Importantly, the trip shows that the opinion in Norway matters a lot to Equinor. We will need to continue to ramp up pressure in their backyard over the coming year."

Joining forces SA Campaign Manager Peter Owen on the Australia-wide paddle-outs that sent a powerful message.

In March of this year, Peter Owen joined more than a thousand surfers to paddle out into the waters of the Great Australian Bight off Victor Harbor in protest at Equinor’s plans to drill for oil. "To stand with thousands of Australians at events across southern Australia was inspiring," says Peter. "This one is in our backyard, on our watch!" Over in Victoria, more than a thousand people

came together in protest on the waters off Torquay prior to the Bells Beach pro surfing event. This was another stand-out in a series of paddle out events around the country - it represented an unprecedented level of national and community opposition.

The Wilderness Society is a founding member of a powerful alliance to put a stop to the plans from Chevron, BP and now Equinor. "We launched the Great Australian Bight Alliance to create a platform for people, organisations and businesses to stand together, united against risky deep-sea oil drilling in the Bight, for the protection of this magnificent marine wilderness," Peter says.

"The Fight for the Bight is Australia's line in the sand moment. We must stop the expansion of the fossil fuel industry to have any chance of a liveable climate."

SA Campaign Manager, Peter Owen



SA Campaign Manager Peter Owen and Aboriginal Elder Bunna Lawrie take the protest to the waters of Oslo's harbour.



Peter Owen and Bunna Lawrie look up from a canoe in the middle of the paddle-out at Victor Harbor.

Habitat loss and biodiversity

Up and down the country the Wilderness Society is working hard to put an end to the destruction of our forests and protect the remarkable wildlife that lives in them.

Our forests filter our water, purify the air, provide homes for countless species and safely store carbon dioxide. And yet forests continue to be destroyed. In Queensland, vast swathes of bushland are bulldozed, while in Victoria stately old-growth forests are being turned into cheap office paper. But we are working to safeguard these vital habitats.

This year, together with community group GECO (the Goongerah Environment Centre), the Wilderness Society appointed four advocates for the Emerald Link proposal with the aim of preserving the vast, continuous tracts of forest left in East Gippsland, Victoria. "East Gippsland is like nothing else," says Victorian Campaign Manager Amelia Young. "It is the last place on mainland Australia with intact vegetation from alps to coast, a type of ecosystem connectivity

that's becoming increasingly rare on a global scale." The Emerald Link will reinvigorate regional communities in East Gippsland through investment in nature-based tourism and land management programs. The advocates live and work in Victoria's far east, where old-growth forests are still logged by the state government. "They are busy meeting with local businesses, community groups and local government to bring the Emerald Link concept to fruition," says Amelia. "Local input and ownership is front and centre."

Meanwhile, thanks to community advocacy, member support and direct lobbying at last year's state election, the Victorian state government committed funding to plan and establish the Sea To Summit trail in East Gippsland, a multi-use recreation trail from alpine environments, through ancient rainforest and coastal

Jessica Panegyres is using GIS mapping data to tackle deforestation in Queensland.



Photography: Glenn Walker



Amelia Young is fighting to protect the last remaining intact tracts of forest in East Gippsland.

heathlands to the coast. "Logging has now been removed along the trail after we showed the government how it would destroy the amenity and values of the area," says Amelia.

THE DEFORESTATION CRISIS

Australia is in the midst of a biodiversity catastrophe, deforestation for agriculture a main driver with a football-field sized area of forest and bushland being destroyed across the country every two minutes. Most of this deforestation is happening in Queensland, with NSW, WA and the NT also seeing alarming increases. "Last year we ran a successful campaign to have new deforestation laws introduced in Queensland, and we are yet to

see whether those laws have changed enough on the ground," says National Nature Campaign Manager Jessica Panegyres. "We've been successfully challenging mass deforestation proposals in Queensland, WA and the NT, and campaigning to have stronger protections for koala habitat in South East Queensland.

"We ran community campaigns for stronger deforestation laws in the lead up to the federal and NSW state elections, and we continue to expose deforestation issues regularly in the national media," says Jessica. "We've also been working to identify the industries driving deforestation, so that we will be able to pressure them to employ forest-friendly practices.

"In Queensland, spatial mapping revealed that the beef industry is linked to 73% of all deforestation and land clearing in the state. This also showed how much habitat crucial to threatened species like the koala, was being cleared under our woefully inadequate federal environment laws.

"It's the first time anyone in Australia has done that kind of mapping and it lays the groundwork for the next phase of our campaign that will focus on eliminating deforestation from the beef supply chain."



An eye in the sky

GIS mapping is now integral to the Wilderness Society's work

Clearing forest at Baffle Creek, Queensland

"As a spatial scientist, I love data. Without it, it's impossible to get the full picture on what industries are causing habitat destruction. A lot of people don't realise this, but national data on habitat destruction for threatened species in most states is woeful and often non-existent. Only Queensland has a reliable annual data set and what's more it's a global deforestation hotspot." - Rachel Fletcher, Environmental GIS Analyst

Looking towards a bright future



With his time at the Wilderness Society drawing to an end, Lyndon Schneiders looks toward the challenges that lie ahead.

Over the last 25 years I've seen and learnt a lot as an advocate for the Wilderness Society, which is why I feel qualified to make a few observations about the future of our organisation in this, my last Annual Review.

Australians from all walks of life love the natural world and care deeply about its protection. They will support our campaigns if we are honest, compassionate and understanding of different points of view. We must be open to new ideas and be persuasive with the ones that we hold dear.

And we really need the majority of Australians to care because as a country we are not pursuing a sustainable pathway - we are still destroying our forests, wiping out wildlife and expanding the mining of fossil fuels. Our national environment laws remain laughable. It all represents what will be a challenging decade ahead, but we have the team in place to make real change. The sophisticated campaigns that they have

designed are a testament to their hard work, unparalleled skill and passion.

In my time as National Campaigns Director, I have sought to make the Wilderness Society relevant and important to as many Australians as possible. People power matters, which is why it has been so exciting to witness the extraordinary growth of our Movement For Life grassroots program. This is forming a lasting presence and a powerful force for change in an increasing number of communities around the country.

We will continue to work with people and communities and stand up against vested interests; and we will be involved in more significant outcomes as a result. Yes, the clock is ticking and we need change, but we must also invest in building a big tent for all concerned Australians to join us.

It has been an honour and a privilege to represent you.

For wilderness,
Lyndon Schneiders.

Thank you to our supporters!

The Wilderness Society is possible because of its members and supporters: the donors, bequestors, petition signers and letter writers, the volunteers, leaders and trainers. More than ever, you make the difference. We would also like to extend a special thanks to the donors who have been with us through the years and decades. Your long-term commitment has provided the Wilderness Society with the stability it needs to put in place the firm strategy required to protect our forests, bushlands and biodiversity.

For a full list of our Forever Wild supporters, see wilderness.org.au/foreverwildlist

Meet the board

From travellers to childhood tree-planters, volunteers and conservationists, the Wilderness Society's board is bound by a life-long love of nature.

Our Board of Directors volunteer their time and expertise - and lots of it - to support our organisation and its mission to support life. With a range of skills from backgrounds in everything from NGO governance and fundraising, police work and finance, the Board works closely with the executive team to deliver the strategic direction of the Wilderness Society.

Take a look at wilderness.org.au/about/people to find out more about its members.



Stuart Baird
Co-convenor

For the past decade, Stuart has worked in local government in Tasmania with a focus on settlement and transport sustainability and has an understanding of intergovernmental relations from time spent in various spheres of government. He has a deep love for the natural world and spends his time in Tasmania's National Parks bushwalking, backcountry skiing and coastal kayaking.



Leanne Craze AM
Co-convenor

A member of the Wilderness Society since the late 1980s, Leanne has over 30 years of experience with NGO committees of management. She is currently a board member of GroundUp, a not-for-profit organisation supporting Aboriginal community development in the Kimberley. Leanne has run her own mental health and social policy consulting company since 1990, specialising in multi-stakeholder engagement and consultation.



Craig Zanker

Craig is an experienced Chief Financial Officer and governance professional, with work experience in grassroots and not-for-profit organisations in the health, community and Indigenous sectors - including land and sea management. A chartered accountant, he has spent most of his career in management roles assisting not-for-profit organisations to achieve financial sustainability and improve their governance and management systems.



Coral Robinson

An Honorary Life Member, Coral has been a supporter since the early 1990s. Her passion for the protection of nature is the driving force behind her long involvement with the organisation. With more than two decades spent as a senior economist in the NSW water and energy sectors and 18 years in Wilderness Society governance roles, she provides expertise in finance, planning, risk management and governance.



Ben Holgate

Ben is a skills-based appointed Director with marketing and fundraising experience, assisting the organisation with the challenges of a tightening fundraising market. He is General Manager, Strategic Fundraising with a not-for-profit community service organisation and previously Director of Fundraising at a global child rights organisation. Ben has served on the boards of the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association and the Fundraising Institute of Australia.



Sam Rando

A lifelong love of nature and wild places shaped Sam's private and professional worlds. He helped found the Victorian branch of The Wilderness Society and volunteered full-time during the Franklin Dam and Tasmanian forestry campaigns. His career in nature conservation spans more than 30 years. Sam currently manages a range of cultural and natural resource management programs and staff, including Indigenous ranger groups and Indigenous Protected Areas.



Larissa Zimmerman

Larissa is a people-focused manager with recruitment and training experience. Being in the Australian Regular Army and Federal Police, and founder of National Financial Fitness, a small business working with government, the private sector and community organisations, she has expertise in planning, staff supervision, business and financial management. Involved in Movement For Life, she is an active member of the Wilderness Society Brisbane Metro North Team.



Amanda Branley

Amanda's involvement in Wilderness Society governance started in Western Australia where her contributions delivered a stable committee of management, stronger connections across the organisation and improved governance and leadership through a period of broader organisational change. Through her career, her voluntary board roles and professional development, Amanda has developed strong skills in leadership and governance.

Financial Performance

Financial statements for The Wilderness Society Ltd

A series of strategic choices were made this Financial Year that had an impact on our results. The Board decided to invest the previous year's surplus and run an operating budget deficit. Specifically this was directed to boost the New Nature Laws campaign during the federal election cycle, and increased investment in relationship-based fundraising with a view to a return over and above a three-year period.

For the 2019 Financial Year we incurred an operating deficit of \$1.7M, (+\$0.9M in 2018); after revaluations and adjustments the deficit is \$1.4M. Overall, revenues fell to \$11.5M (\$13.6M in 2018), approximately \$1M less than planned. Donations remained similar to the previous year at \$10.7M (\$10.8M in 2018). The receipt of bequests fell to \$0.5M from \$2M in 2018, which is a reduction from the trend in recent years.

Overall spending on environmental campaigns and programs fell slightly to \$6.2M from \$6.3M in 2018. We increased spending in national programs through increased activity in the new laws campaign, national deforestation issues, and national forest campaigns.

Our environmental campaigns and programs are structured to fit within the Wilderness Society Group's strategic plan. Of the \$6.2M, 55% was directed to immediate campaign actions, 28% to our Movement For Life program to support current campaigns and build long-term power, and 17% was associated with the cost of delivery and administration support to effectively deliver those campaigns.

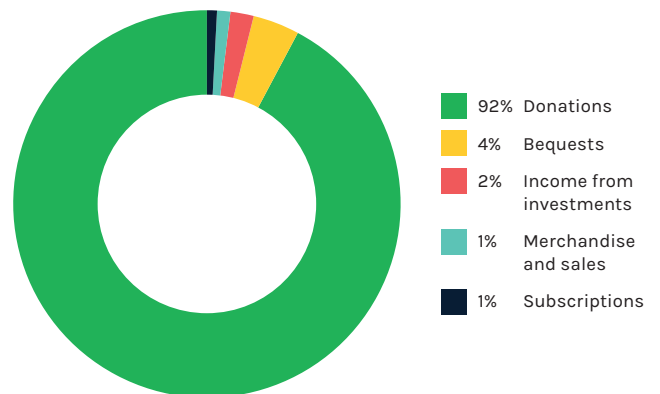
We increased our investment in fundraising activities to \$3.3M (\$2.7M in 2018), particularly to develop deeper relationships with our members and supporters through outreach and more engaging online platforms. We expect to see a return on this investment through greater member retention and donations. Our recruitment expenditure for new supporters remained similar at \$1.9M (\$2.0M in 2018).

The Wilderness Society holds around 75% of the units in the Friends of the Wilderness Unit Trust, which owns property in Tasmania. The value of these assets increased during the year.

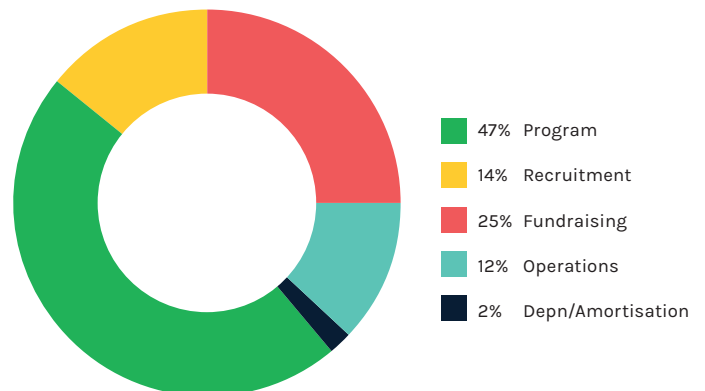
As a result of the operating deficit, Total Equity reduced to \$2.2M (\$3.6M in 2018). Therefore to ensure sufficient working capital we have received a long-term loan from the Forever Wild Trust, which increased borrowing to \$1.25M (\$0.9M in 2018). These funds will be repaid from future receipts.

At the end of the Financial Year, the Board made the decision to restrict the operating budget for 2020. This provides an opportunity to rebuild reserves following an expansive 12 months, while also recognising the requirement to focus precious donations in our areas of key strength. This decision has made for a challenging period of readjustment across both The Wilderness Society Ltd and the Campaign Centre.

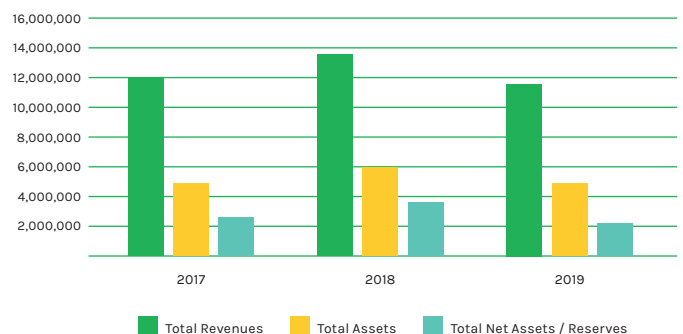
Revenues



Expenditure



Changes in Key Balance



This financial report presents an extract from the full audited financial report of The Wilderness Society Ltd and its consolidated entities. The figures presented represent The Wilderness Society Ltd as an individual parent entity, not those of the consolidated group. All information disclosed in this extract has been derived from the full audited financial report of The Wilderness Society Ltd. This extract cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial position, and financing and investing activities of The Wilderness Society Ltd as the full audited financial report. The full audited financial report is available online at wilderness.org.au/about/reports, or can be requested by contacting our Supporter Care team at info@wilderness.org.au.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

(For the year ended 30 June 2019)

INCOME	2019 \$	2018 \$
Income from fundraising, donations, bequests and grants	\$11,323,405	\$12,948,338
Investment and other non-operating income	\$238,482	\$631,709
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,561,888	\$13,580,047
Less: Expenses		
Environmental Campaigns and Programs		
National	\$2,220,446	\$1,357,683
NSW	\$871,082	\$640,804
VIC	\$463,399	\$615,750
TAS	\$497,610	\$744,165
SA	\$699,567	\$567,077
WA	\$466,595	\$528,258
QLD	\$451,088	\$668,829
Membership and supporter engagement	\$512,482	\$1,191,732
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNS AND PROGRAMS	\$6,182,269	\$6,314,297
Fundraising expenses - recruitment of new supporters	\$1,894,973	\$1,998,611
Fundraising expenses - staff, appeals, supporter, and other costs	\$3,326,004	\$2,692,248
Governance, finance and operations	\$1,469,409	\$1,406,083
Depreciation and amortisation	\$311,240	\$280,725
Interest on loan	\$35,391	\$35,737
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,219,285	\$12,727,702
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	-\$1,657,397	\$852,345
Other comprehensive income		
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	-\$1,657,397	\$852,345

Statement of Changes in Equity

(For the Year Ended 30 June 2019)

2019	ACCUMULATED SURPLUSES \$	TIED FUNDS \$	TOTAL \$
Balance as at 1 July 2018	2,984,772	616,873	3,601,644
Transfer from Reserve	862,620	-862,620	0
Net Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-1,657,397	0	-1,657,397
Revaluation Reserve (FOW Units)	217,684	0	217,684
Transfers to reserve	-700,993	700,993	0
Balance at 30 June 2019	1,706,686	455,245	2,161,931

2018 *restated	ACCUMULATED SURPLUSES \$	TIED FUNDS \$	TOTAL \$
Balance as at 1 July 2017	2,189,832	415,627	2,605,459
Transfer from Reserve	987,016	-987,016	0
Net Surplus/(deficit) for the year	852,345	0	852,345
Revaluation Reserve (FOW Units)	143,840	0	143,840
Transfers to reserve	-1,188,261	1,188,261	0
Balance at 30 June 2018	2,984,772	616,873	3,601,644

Statement of Financial Position

(For the year ended 30 June 2019)

ASSETS	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,847,469	\$3,065,821
Trade and other receivables	\$134,397	\$127,005
Inventories	\$19,867	\$20,975
Other Financial Assets	\$272,121	\$200,000
Other assets	\$367,996	\$304,487
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$2,641,850	\$3,718,288
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	\$96,241	\$108,525
Investment in Friends of the Wilderness	\$941,139	\$703,750
Intangible assets	\$1,097,375	\$1,341,311
Other non-current assets	\$152,685	\$108,573
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$2,287,440	\$2,262,160
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,929,289	\$5,980,447
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	\$610,724	\$543,170
Borrowings	\$100,000	\$140,000
Employee Benefits	\$668,385	\$623,042
Provisions	\$-	\$-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$1,379,109	\$1,306,212
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Borrowings	\$1,152,561	\$760,000
Long-term provisions	\$235,687	\$312,591
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$1,388,249	\$1,072,591
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$2,767,358	\$2,378,803
NET ASSETS	\$2,161,931	\$3,601,644
EQUITY		
Accumulated surpluses	\$1,706,686	\$2,984,772
Reserves	\$455,245	\$616,873
TOTAL EQUITY	\$2,161,931	\$3,601,644



**Wilderness
Society**

Life. Support.

wilderness.org.au

1800 030 641

info@wilderness.org.au

 [wilderness.society](https://www.facebook.com/wilderness.society)

 [@wilderness_australia](https://www.instagram.com/@wilderness_australia)

 [@wilderness_australia](https://www.twitter.com/@wilderness_australia)

Dove Lake, Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair
National Park. Photography: Luke Chan