

Outcomes from a turbulent year



See annualreview.wilderness.org.au for an in-depth look at this year's key events.

September

The bushfire season starts worryingly early in spring. As summer unfolds, the true extent of the bushfires becomes apparent. Megafires take hold along the Eastern seaboard, from East Gippsland, South Coast NSW, the Blue Mountains and up into rainforest in South East Queensland. Communities are devastated and the toll on wildlife is unimaginable. The Wilderness Society focuses efforts on immediate protections for burnt and unburnt habitat and the ongoing change needed to mitigate bushfires happening to this severity and scale again.



Image: Nick Clemann, ARI



Image: Meg Bauer

December

The Wilderness Society marshals its supporters to push for a strong Draft South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy. The following year several of our key recommendations are implemented by the Queensland Government.



Mitting Elder, Bunha Lawrie and Peter Owen, announce the legal challenge. Image: Tony Lewis

22 January

The Wilderness Society launches a legal challenge to Equinor's environmental approval to drill for oil in the Great Australian Bight.

The fight for strong nature laws

Campaign Manager Suzanne Milthorpe works tirelessly behind the scenes and sometimes in front of the camera to guide a national push for new nature laws. She reveals how the mobilisation of our Movement For Life groups around the country galvanised communities to call for strong new nature laws, with hundreds of submissions sent into the once-in-a-decade review process for the EPBC Act. annualreview.wilderness.org.au/epbc



A Leadbeater's possum. Image: Parks Victoria



Wilderness Defenders Pauline and Sasha.

March

Adapting to a world-altering pandemic

The story from the people on the ground, our Wilderness Defenders—whose work is hardest hit by the effects of COVID-19. The Wilderness Society has to adapt quickly, embracing new technologies and work practices to support staff and stay connected with supporters. annualreview.wilderness.org.au/wds

The fight for the Pilliga Forest

Throughout the year, Wilderness Society supporters write 1,735 submissions into the NSW Independent Planning Commission's review of the Narrabri Gas Project. Elle Lawless looks at where the campaign to stop the disastrous development is at now: annualreview.wilderness.org.au/narrabri



The power of Movement For Life

Throughout the year, teams from the Wilderness Society's grassroots organising program continue to achieve incredible results within their communities. They also spearhead action in two national campaigns, opposing the destructive Narrabri Gas Project and being a powerful voice for new nature laws. And all under new working conditions brought about by the pandemic. National Community Organising Manager, Damian Ogden, recalls an extraordinary year: annualreview.wilderness.org.au/m4l

7 November

A future for Victoria's forests

There is a big shift in the outlook for Victoria's native forests, with the Andrews Government announcing an end to native forest logging by 2030. Then in 2020 community group Friends of Leadbeater's Possum secures a major win in the courts in support of forest habitat and a major hardware retailer declares an end to stocking dodgy Victorian timber. It's been a dramatic year of events for Victoria's forests, as campaign manager Richard Hughes reveals: annualreview.wilderness.org.au/vicforests



Image: Jacob McKay

6 December

Malbena court win!

The wilderness values of Lake Malbena, deep in the heart of the Tasmanian World Heritage Wilderness Area are under threat by a reckless tourism proposal. The Wilderness Society challenges its approval in the Federal Court and wins. Campaign manager Tom Allen explains the wider significance of the case; a crucial victory for nature although there is much work to be done. annualreview.wilderness.org.au/malbena



Lake Malbena. Image: Rob Blakers

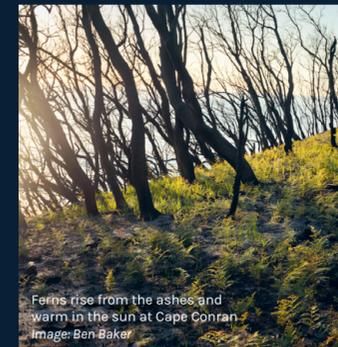


Image: Michaela Lemison

25 February

Fight For the Bight success!

Marking one of the Wilderness Society's greatest victories to date, Equinor announces that it is withdrawing plans to drill for oil in the pristine waters of the Great Australian Bight. It follows the Wilderness Society's legal challenge to Equinor's environmental approval to begin operations. Local activists Lindy and Freya (pictured) speak of their relief that Equinor was finally sent packing. Watch a video celebrating the success. annualreview.wilderness.org.au/the-bight



Ferns rise from the ashes and warm in the sun at Cape Conran. Image: Ben Baker

March

We visit the bushfire-affected communities to hear how people are recovering and what they feel needs to change. On that journey, National Campaigns Director Amelia Young speaks with Emerald Link Regional Advocate, Matt Stephenson, about what can be done to move forward. Read the story: annualreview.wilderness.org.au/fires



21 May

We announce the shortlist for the 2020 Environment Award For Children's Literature. See: wilderness.org.au/eacl

June

The Wilderness Society launches a campaign to prevent the release of exploration licences for oil and gas on the doorstep of World Heritage Sites Ningaloo and Gutharraguda (Shark Bay). The campaign proves to be **successful in August**.

