

Annual Review

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY



Our values

We value passion for our purpose, the power of people to make change, organisational independence and integrity, compassion in dealing with our staff and others, and a commitment to success in protecting the environment.

The Wilderness Society supports Indigenous people's land and sea rights, and is committed to proper and detailed consultation with affected Indigenous people before and during campaigns to protect wilderness and biological diversity.

How we work

The Wilderness Society works through the avenues of public education and empowerment, advocacy and negotiation, and desk and field research.

We are politically unaligned and use democratic processes as well as the best available science to protect and restore our natural world.

Our vision – WildCountry

WildCountry's 'big picture' perspective underpins all of our work. It is a fundamental understanding of how nature works, based on connections – and how these evolve over time.

WildCountry is a vision for everybody. We've been developing partnerships with Traditional Owners and working with community groups to implement WildCountry on the ground. It's also been encouraging to see governments starting to adopt WildCountry principles in their conservation planning.

The following five steps are how we are putting the WildCountry vision into action across Australia.

1. Developing a continent-wide planning framework underpinned by cutting edge science and Indigenous ecological knowledge.
2. Campaigning to protect the last great wild places in Australia from destructive practices.
3. Working with partners to restore damaged landscapes and remove destructive activities outside protected areas.
4. Developing 'conservation economies' across Australia. The Wilderness Society is actively encouraging jobs, businesses and industries that are compatible with nature and provide social and economic development.
5. Ensuring community involvement in land and sea protection and management across Australia.

Executive Director's report

The Wilderness Society has weathered the global financial crisis in good shape thanks to the generosity of our supporters. Budgets are down to the wire, but with good stewardship and creativity, we can continue to perform our essential work.

Another year has passed without Gunns Ltd constructing their forest-hungry pulp mill in Tasmania's Tamar Valley, but Gunns are continuing to seek funding for the venture. In June 2009, our supporters contacted Swedish company Södra stating our concerns about their possible support for the mill. This was a great success and an example of the kind of campaigning at which the Wilderness Society excels, with Södra releasing a statement saying they will only fund the mill if it uses 100% plantation timber and a chlorine-free process. We will continue to make sure that any potential financiers of a Tamar Valley pulp mill understand the devastating effects it will have on our native forests, oceans and our fragile climate.

Further north, the Queensland and Federal governments announced their intention to progress Cape York Peninsula onto the World Heritage tentative list. This is a great first step towards recognising the unique natural and cultural values of the Cape, which is one of the last great wilderness areas on Earth and home to numerous endemic species. The tentative listing does not guarantee final protection, but what it does mean is that the two Governments are committed to jointly assess the region for World Heritage status, identify areas suitable for long term protection and ensure local community support before making a formal nomination to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). It also signals that much work on education, consultation, engagement and Traditional Owner consent needs to start in earnest.

Three more of Queensland's rivers are now protected under the state government's groundbreaking Wild Rivers legislation: the Archer, Lockhart and Stewart River Basins. The protected area includes parts of the Aurukun wetlands, which are more than five times the size of the world famous Kakadu wetlands.

The Wilderness Society Queensland Inc is determined to continue working

alongside Traditional Owners to achieve both protection for Queensland's intact wild rivers and recognition of Indigenous stewardship of Country. Twenty Indigenous Wild River Rangers are already employed to maintain these precious areas, with another ten to commence in 2009. The Indigenous Wild River Rangers program will eventually provide 100 jobs for local Indigenous people. Across all its efforts in Cape York, the Wilderness Society Queensland Inc continues to work hard to engage with Indigenous communities to ensure that conservation initiatives provide real jobs and respect their traditional knowledge, as well as providing strong environmental outcomes.

After years of work by the Wilderness Society Victoria Inc and other groups, the Victorian government announced protection for 95,000 hectares of River Red gum forest in Victoria, including four new National Parks along the Murray, Goulburn and Ovens rivers in northern Victoria. This will reduce logging of red gums by 70% overall, with no more logging or cattle grazing permitted in the new national parks. In a first for Victoria, the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owners will jointly manage the new Barmah National Park alongside state authorities. The Wilderness Society Sydney Inc continues to push for equally improved protection for River Red gums in NSW.

South Australia's marine life is on the way to being safeguarded. In January 2009, the boundaries for a series of marine parks were released for public comment. Marine sanctuaries, like national parks on land, create a much needed safe haven for our unique marine wildlife, helping to secure their long-term survival. The Wilderness Society SA Inc has been strongly advocating that SA's marine parks deliver real and effective protection for our coasts and oceans, not pretend parks with insignificant sanctuary zones.

As part of our Hands Up for the Kimberley campaign, we continue to spotlight the Kimberley's great natural and Indigenous cultural values. Plans for large-scale industrialisation, together with climate change and the arrival of cane toads, raise both the immediacy and scale of threat posed to this outstanding region. We are working with local partners, Indigenous

communities and the WildCountry Science Council to promote science-based regional conservation planning and management, using whole-of-landscape principles and ruling out incompatible industrial activity like the liquefied natural gas (LNG) hub proposed for James Price Point, 50 km north of Broome.

Without our fantastic members and supporters, the Wilderness Society would be unable to keep working to protect our precious natural world. Thank you so much for helping us to survive these tough times so we can continue to protect and restore nature for future generations.

Alec Marr
Executive Director
The Wilderness Society Inc

What makes the Wilderness Society unique?

- The Wilderness Society is the only Australian environmental organisation with campaign centres spread across the continent.
- Our WildCountry vision is based on cutting-edge conservation science. We convene a Science Council made up of leaders in the field of landscape and marine ecology.
- We're the only environmental protection organisation with a dedicated national program in the area of Indigenous conservation.
- The Wilderness Society has both a terrestrial and marine focus.
- We have the best and brightest campaigners working in the field.
- Our members and supporters are located Australia wide and are passionate and active on environment issues, locally, nationally and internationally.
- We are a leading voice in Australia and internationally on the role protecting and restoring nature can play in combating climate change.

Our work around Australia

The Wilderness Society has campaign centres in every state of Australia. Our campaigns aim to protect Australia's great wild places from destructive practices and restore damaged landscapes. We also work to combat dangerous climate change by keeping forests and bushland in the ground.

Pictured here are some of our passionate and dedicated staff. Each works on a range of campaigns specific to their location. This enables us to engage with the local community and decision makers like no other environment organisation.

KEY

- Campaign Centre/Office
- Landscape program areas
- Marine Campaign areas
- Commonwealth water initiative

Note: Not to scale, indicative boundaries only



Northern Territory

Current campaigns: Tiwi Island landclearing, Marine protection, Gulf country, the Kimberley

Contact: Rupert Quinlan, Northern Australia Campaign Manager, (07) 3844 4699 / Prue Barnard, Northern Marine Campaigner, ph (08) 8941 7461



Queensland

Current campaigns: Protecting Cape York's pristine rivers and World Heritage values, supporting Indigenous conservation initiatives and long term western rivers protection.

Contact: Tim Seelig, Queensland State Campaign Manager, ph (07) 3846 1420 / Kerryn O'Connor, Cairns Campaign Manager, ph (07) 4041 6666 – the Wilderness Society QLD Inc



New South Wales

Current campaigns: Protecting NSW's River Red gums, stopping construction of the Tillegra dam on the Williams River, and promoting World Heritage for Cape York Peninsula.

Contact: Tim King, State Campaign Manager, the Wilderness Society Sydney Inc, (02) 9282 9553 / Sam East, Newcastle Campaign Manager, the Wilderness Society Newcastle Inc, ph (02) 4929 4395



Western Australia

Current campaigns: Protecting WA's great wild places: the Kimberley, Great Western Woodlands and our unique marine environment.

Contact: Peter Robertson, West Australia State Campaign Manager, the Wilderness Society WA Inc, ph (08) 9420 7255



South Australia

Current campaigns: Working to keep National Parks free from mining; saving the Murray River, lower Lakes and Coorong; protecting the Nullarbor Plain and SA's exquisite marine environment.

Contact: Peter Owen, South Australia State Campaign Manager, the Wilderness Society SA Inc, ph (08) 8231 6586



Tasmania

Current campaigns: Working to prevent Gunns' forest-hungry Tamar Valley pulp mill and protect native forests. Wild Island, is our exciting new conservation approach to Tasmania's unique biodiversity and landscapes.

Contact: Vica Bayley, Tasmania State Campaign Manager, the Wilderness Society Tasmania Inc, ph (03) 6281 1920



Victoria

Current campaigns: Protecting Victoria's high conservation value forests, developing a comprehensive response to fire and securing the remaining vegetation of the central uplands.

Contact: Gavan McFadzean, Victorian State Campaign Manager, the Wilderness Society Victoria Inc, ph (03) 9038 0810



National Indigenous conservation program

Contact: Anthony Esposito, Indigenous Conservation Program - National Manager, ph (07) 3846 1622



National Campaign Coordination

Current work: Focusing on national Government liaison, WildCountry Science, Channel Country river protection, pan-northern Australia plus marine, forest and climate campaign coordination.

Contact: Julie McGuinness, National Campaign Administrator, ph (02) 6249 6491





Northern Australia

Nature of world-class proportions

Few nations have wild areas as spectacular as Northern Australia – but most Australians are only beginning to understand the unique natural and cultural values of the wilderness reaching across 3,000 kilometres of Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

The Wilderness Society’s campaign work has an increasing focus on Northern Australia. Our campaigners based in Cairns, Brisbane and Perth are working with a range of stakeholders to achieve conservation outcomes across vast areas of wetlands, rivers, savannahs and native grasslands.

Safeguarding the Kimberley

The Kimberley supports an abundance of endemic plant and animal life. On land, there are the largest area of intact savannah landscapes in the world. At sea, the Kimberley’s waters are a maternity ward for breeding Humpback Whales.

The Traditional Owners’ connections to their Country give the area outstanding cultural as well as natural values.

Despite the region’s iconic status, the Kimberley is facing profound threats from climate change, uncontrolled wildfires, invasive noxious weeds and feral animals, and major industrial activities. Our WildCountry vision for the area sees healthy, connected landscapes, with management based on broad-scale regional planning processes, which respect Indigenous rights and interests and long term compatible economic development.

Why protect the Kimberley?

- The North Kimberley is one of Australia’s 15 biodiversity hotspots.
- The 300 islands off the Kimberley coast are valuable havens for endangered species. The Rough-Scaled Python on Bigge Island is one of Earth’s rarest snakes.
- Local cliffs feature one of the world’s largest collections of prehistoric rock art.

Major successes for the year ended 30 June ‘09

New National Park: Mcllwraith Range, north eastern Cape York

Australia’s largest undisturbed tropical rainforest area was protected with the creation of the 160,000 hectare KULLA National Park in August 2008, to be jointly managed by Queensland Parks & Wildlife and Traditional Owners. The Wilderness Society was part of the Cape York Tenure Resolution Implementation Group which helped protect this irreplaceable WildCountry.

Three more Cape York Wild Rivers protected In April 2009, the Archer, Stewart and Lockhart River Basins were formally protected under Queensland’s groundbreaking *Wild Rivers Act* 2005. The Wild Rivers declaration included the globally important Aurukun wetlands, vital habitat for hundreds of species of birds.

Important alliance forged Georgina River, Diamantina River, and Cooper’s Creek flow thousands of kilometres from Queensland to SA’s Lake Eyre, sporadically triggering a spectacular burst of life. In March 2009, the Wilderness Society joined a unique alliance including the Australian Floodplain Association, the Cooper’s Creek Protection Group, the Pew Environment Group and local floodplain graziers seeking long term protection for these largely intact Channel Country rivers.

Kimberley Conservation Strategy launched The Wilderness Society took a lead role alongside five other environment groups producing an important submission demonstrating that the WA State government’s \$9 million Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy must deliver a new, comprehensive, integrated, landscape scale approach to conservation planning.

Hands Up for the Kimberley online community interaction launched

The Hands Up For the Kimberley campaign is about engaging, educating and involving the community in appreciating the natural and cultural values of the Kimberley and taking action to protect them. Launched in early 2009, Hands Up for the Kimberley saw thousands of Australians pledge support for peaceful community action opposing the industrialisation of the Kimberley coast.

Consolidating relationships and research

A key focus for 2009-10 Looking ahead, the Wilderness Society Queensland Inc will continue vital communication about Wild Rivers including active engagement around Queensland’s vital western rivers. Working with the WildCountry Science Council, we will support a robust research agenda, particularly for the Kimberley’s north west.

Cape York, uniquely Australian

Cape York is an extraordinary environment teeming with life in mangroves, tropical rainforests, savannahs, and wetlands. The Wilderness Society has been the driving force behind a number of successful campaigns progressing reconciliation and wilderness protection, with over one million hectares of Cape York National Parks already declared or handed back to Traditional Owners. On 25 May 2009, the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments announced their intention to progress Cape York Peninsula to

the World Heritage Tentative List – an important step towards protection for this unique area.

Why protect Cape York?

- One of the last vast wilderness areas remaining on the planet
- Home to 18 species of reptiles, five frogs and four mammals that live nowhere else on Earth
- Largest expanse of tropical rainforest in Australia and huge area of intact savannah
- Home to one third of all Australian mammals
- Home to half of all Australian birds

Ancient Australian forests key to fighting climate change

Globally, more than 25% of annual greenhouse gas emissions come from the clearing, logging and disturbance of forests and bushland. Without protecting the world's forests, we can not secure a safe climate.

Science shows that the world must commit to 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 to avoid catastrophic climate change. It is therefore essential that the Copenhagen agreement – the global climate deal that will replace the Kyoto Protocol – protects the world's forests.

The Wilderness Society has worked hard to ensure the world's next climate deal does not end up incentivising industrial logging and the conversion of natural forest to plantations, through payments from polluters for carbon credits. Our International Forests and Climate campaigners have been urgently working to convince the Australian Government, and their negotiating team, of the vital need to protect the world's forests.

At home, the Wilderness Society is striving to generate the political will for Australia to lead the way in committing to deep, early cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by protecting our own forests and bushland from logging, land clearing and degradation.

In July 2008, the Wilderness Society supported world first research from the Fenner School of Environment and Society at Australian National University (ANU) which found that around 9.3 billion tonnes of carbon could be stored in the 14.5 million hectares of natural eucalypt forests in south-east Australia if they were protected from logging.

ANU science found towering Mountain Ash forests covering Victoria's cool highlands hold four times more carbon (around 1,900 tonnes of carbon per hectare) than tropical forests.

This past year, the Wilderness Society urged the Australian Government to commence proper carbon accounting of Australia's forest assets.

Our website, www.wilderness.org.au, provides a window into the Wilderness Society's strategic advocacy, industry lobbying, education efforts and awareness raising about the role forests and bushlands can play in combating climate change. With science now demonstrating that some of the most carbon-dense forests on Earth are right here in Australia, this task is more urgent than ever.



Protecting forests, the lungs of the Earth

The Wilderness Society greatly strengthened its engagement with the UN climate processes this year, to ensure that the role of forests in preventing and mitigating climate change is fully understood.

In December 2008, world leaders met in Poland to discuss tackling climate change. The Wilderness Society team urged the delegation to take strong action to reduce logging and land clearing as part of the global plan to combat climate change. In Bonn, in June 2009, we made the case that if the draft climate deal is adopted in its current form, it may lead to subsidising increased logging of old-growth forests and the conversion of forests to palm oil and fibre plantations in developing countries. This would be a climate and biodiversity disaster.

Our position on this crucial issue was underpinned by ground-breaking research from the Australian National University (ANU), released in August 2008, which found that Australia has some of the most carbon-dense forests on Earth. They are more dense than those often found in tropical rainforests, meaning that logging and clearing them has major implications for our climate (see facing page). This was reinforced in the Garnaut climate change review, released in October 2008, which pointed out that Australia's greenhouse emissions could be reduced dramatically if logging of native forests and land clearing were stopped immediately.

Safeguarding Tasmania's world-class forests from the pulp mill

Throughout the 08-09 year, we kept up the pressure on Gunns Limited to ensure their carbon-polluting Tamar Valley pulp mill in Tasmania remained unconstructed. By November, it was clear that Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, had yet to approve central parts of Gunns' environmental plan for the controversial mill. We teamed up with GetUp! and BankTrack in an online campaign to fund an advertising campaign in *The Australian* and *The Financial Times* in Europe and Asia. As a result, 14 leading banks and six pulp and paper companies worldwide have said they will not be involved in Gunns' polluting pulp mill.

Major successes for forest protection

In September 2008, the Victorian government announced the creation of the 27,000 hectare Cobboboonee Forest in new National and Forest Parks. The Cobboboonee forest lies inland from the coast, near Portland, in far South-west Victoria – one of the most highly cleared regions in Australia's most cleared state. The Cobboboonee is home to many endangered plants and animals: rare forest owls, the endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll precariously hanging on in the region, Yellow-bellied Gliders and ground mammals such as the Long-nosed Potoroo and Southern Brown Bandicoot.

The Victorian Government also announced the protection of 95,000 hectares of River Red Gums, including four new National Parks along the Murray, Goulburn and Ovens rivers. This spectacular win followed years of work by the Wilderness Society and other groups. The new deal reduces logging of River Red Gums by around 70%, with logging and cattle grazing to cease in the new national parks. This will help take the pressure off our increasingly stressed and fragile Murray River system.

A significant task ahead for the Wilderness Society Sydney Inc is to extend this protection north of the border to NSW, where River Red Gums are still under threat. Unconvinced by claims from NSW government and industry that protecting these forests would lead to job losses, we commissioned research from independent economic consultants Economists At Large. Their report, released in May, demonstrated that protection would actually generate around \$100 million in new economic activity for the region.



Tiwi Islands

We are also working in the Tiwi Islands north of Darwin – home of some of the healthiest remaining tropical savannah left on the planet, as well as rainforests and wetlands. Over the past decade, 30,000 hectares of Tiwi forests and woodlands have been cleared and burnt, and replaced by single species

acacia plantations grown for export as woodchips. In March 2009, the Wilderness Society worked with the NT Environment Centre to produce a submission to the Senate Enquiry into Logging, Land clearing and Mining on the Tiwi Islands. We urged that further clearing does not occur but rather, the islands' internationally significant natural and cultural values be protected.



Above: Traditional Burning. One major area missing from a national climate strategy is the invaluable contribution Traditional Owners in Northern Australia can make through improving fire management of the North's tropical savannahs. PHOTO: CHUULUNGAN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION.

Above right: Rock art detail from the Giant Horse Gallery near Laura, Cape York Peninsula. PHOTO: KERRY TRAPNELL

Below: Respecting and protecting the rights and interests of Indigenous people is critical to the successful implementation of conservation initiatives on Cape York Peninsula. Here Wilderness Society staff meet Aurukun elders in May 2009. PHOTO: KERRY TRAPNELL



National Indigenous Conservation Program

Indigenous Conservation is a rapidly expanding area of environmental protection in Australia and an integral part of our WildCountry program. Building on our relationships and work with Traditional Owners and Indigenous partners, the Wilderness Society's national Indigenous conservation program is supporting landscape-scale conservation outcomes on Aboriginal lands and seas around Australia.

The year that was 2008/2009

Over the past twelve months, there have been major advances in the field of Indigenous Conservation. With a staggering \$2.25 billion committed over five years to the Caring for our Country program by the Federal Government, including a major emphasis on Indigenous conservation and partnerships, the seeds of transformation are growing in an area that will be leading many landscape-scale conservation strategies well into the future.

In Queensland, we played our part in the protection of Australia's largest tropical rainforest wilderness, resulting in an Aboriginal owned and jointly managed National Park. KULLA National Park, created on the 6th August 2008 was an incredible outcome for Traditional Owners, conservationists and all Australians – providing conservation for these traditional lands and critical habitats of endangered species like the Southern Cassowary.

Still in Queensland, the Government's Indigenous Wild River Ranger Program is developing in tandem with the declaration of Wild River areas and creating real jobs on Country while recognising the wealth of skills and knowledge held by Traditional Owners.

This year in Victoria, a Native Title settlement framework has progressed. The Barmah and Nyah-Vinifera forests are now protected in National Parks, to be jointly managed between the parks service and the Traditional Owners.

This achievement is partly a result of our red gum campaigns in cooperation with the Murray and Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations and other environment groups including Friends of the Earth and the Victorian National Parks Association.

This year we also saw a renewed emphasis by Governments and Indigenous leaders on bridging the gap in Aboriginal living standards. This is creating new tensions between conservation and development goals while also providing new opportunities for a Working on Country approach to conservation with Traditional Owners. Models of conservation, such as Indigenous Protected Areas, are emerging and expanding, supporting the achievement of social, cultural and economic goals and WildCountry-related outcomes.

Partnering for success

In fulfilling our commitment to Traditional Owners as the primary managers of their homelands and major contributors to a national conservation strategy, we are working with a number of Traditional Owner groups across the country. One highlight this year is the cooperation agreement achieved with Wik Projects – a Wik and Wik Waya Traditional Owner organisation on Cape York Peninsula. Another new initiative is our work with the Angkum Aboriginal Corporation on the development of an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) on their homelands on the east coast of Cape York.

In Western Australia, the challenge to protect the incredible Kimberley continues and we are in dialogue with the Kimberley Land Council and others to ensure the protection and sustainable development of this remarkable region. We are also working with the Gold Fields Land and Sea Council for the protection of the natural and cultural values of the Great Western Woodlands in southern WA.

We are working in the Top End with Tiwi Islands Traditional Owners who are opposing broadscale forestry operations and looking for alternative economic options. In South Australia, we are making significant progress with the Mirning on the Nullarbor wilderness declaration, and we are moving ahead with a cooperation agreement with South Australia Native Title Services.

The engagements above build on our groundbreaking effort in cooperation with Chuulangun, a Northern Kaanju Traditional Owner organisation in Cape York, to build a program of environmental protection and sustainable homelands development.

Looking ahead

As consumption and development pressures expand, water becomes increasingly scarce, and climate change continues, a WildCountry approach to conservation will become increasingly critical to our survival. In planning for the future, and with thanks to the members and donors of the Wilderness Society, we have built a robust Indigenous conservation program to tackle this challenging field of conservation across this incredible continent.

The year ahead is full of opportunities for expanding on our work towards the Indigenous conservation estate, a rapidly expanding part of the National Reserve System. This is a major plank of WildCountry which will deliver results for people and place well into the future.

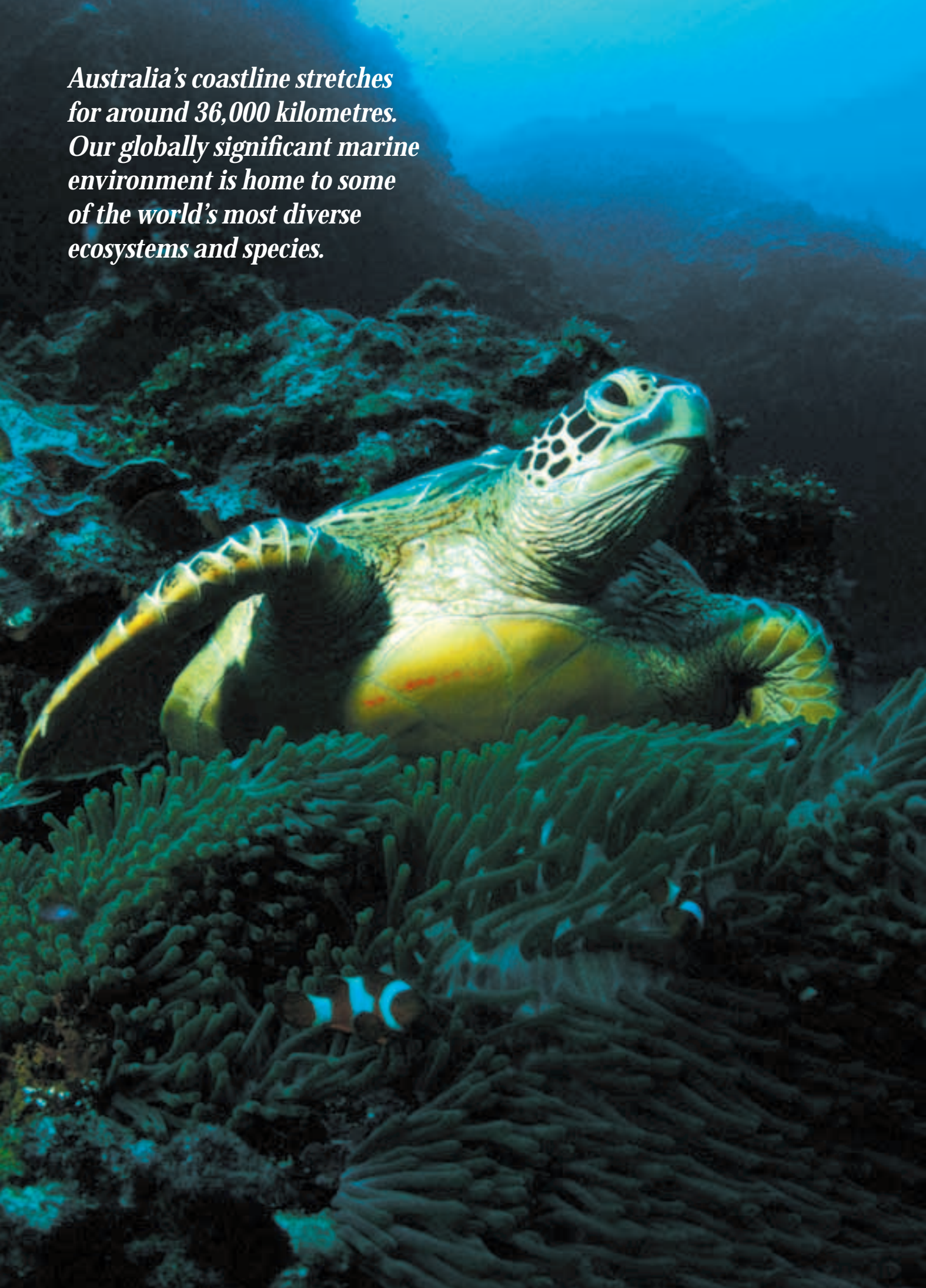
As the only environmental protection organisation with a dedicated national program in the area of Indigenous conservation we are well placed to continue building on our cooperative work, providing sustainable livelihoods on ancestral homelands, returns to the economy and ensuring the maintenance of a healthy, vibrant and living continent.



"...I think that Aboriginal people have been looking at ways in which they can protect the land appropriately. The Wilderness Society, to me, has been the mechanism and the organisation that has allowed this (Nullarbor) nomination in South Australia to happen and progress."

Clem Lawrie, The Wilderness Society SA's Country and Culture Advisor

Australia's coastline stretches for around 36,000 kilometres. Our globally significant marine environment is home to some of the world's most diverse ecosystems and species.



Marine & Coastal: making the right connections

Australia's marine environment is one of the largest, most diverse and least visible of all our natural ecosystems. Calm blue oceans can hide the serious ecological issues occurring beneath the waves. All over the world, marine life is under intense pressure from overfishing, pollution, mining and climate change.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has called for 20-30% of all marine habitats to be fully protected in marine sanctuaries by 2012 and Australia has the opportunity to lead the world in delivering on this vital target.

Our oceans are interconnected, to the land and each other. That's why the Wilderness Society has been campaigning, in collaboration with other groups, to create highly protected marine parks; to give our amazing marine life the protection they deserve. Currently we are active in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia, well over half of Australia's coastline.

Protecting South western waters

The huge marine region extending from Kalbarri in Western Australia to Kangaroo Island off the coast of South Australia covers 1.3 million square kilometres. Much of the marine life that flourishes here is unique to this very special region, which is warmed by the life-giving Leeuwin Current. For the first time ever, this region is being considered for a comprehensive network of interlinked marine protected areas by the Federal Government.

As part of the Save Our Marine Life Collaboration, in 2008-09 the Wilderness Society has campaigned alongside the Conservation Council of WA, Pew Environment Group-Australia, ACF and others for effective protection of the unique marine life of this region by creating large marine sanctuaries. A website (www.saveourmarinelife.org.au) highlights to policymakers and the public that only 1 per cent of Australia's south west marine environment off Western Australia is protected, despite having a wider array of marine species than the Great Barrier Reef. Postcards, online petitions, messages to local MPs, key publications and events have all been part of the awareness raising mix.

In May 2009, the Federal Government released a set of maps of initial 'areas of interest' for protection (some 700,000 square kilometres) which included the key areas the Wilderness Society is focused on in SA and WA. Final boundaries and sanctuary zones will be announced in 2010.

Respecting the Kimberley

The Kimberley is bounded by a vast stretch of spectacular, unspoilt coastline – but not a single kilometre of it is currently protected in marine sanctuaries. That's why the Wilderness Society has been campaigning together with the PEW Environment Group-Australia, WWF (Australia), Environs Kimberley and other groups to get a better deal for the Kimberley's oceans and coastline.

In June 2009, the group delivered 29 recommendations to WA's state government as part of the consultation process on its Science and Conservation Strategy for the Kimberley. These included a strong recommendation that the five marine areas suggested for protection by WA's government were inadequate; and a call for a comprehensive marine protected area network based on international best practice.

World Heritage for Ningaloo

Western Australia's Ningaloo Reef is the world's largest inshore reef. It is a seasonal home to giant, migratory whale sharks, and year-round sanctuary for a plethora of endemic marine species.

This year, we have been progressing work to get Ningaloo Reef and its limestone land catchment listed as a World Heritage area. In October 2008, SA State Campaign Manager, Peter Owen, successfully put the case for an expanded boundary to the IUCN World Conservation Congress, in Barcelona, Spain.

Zoning South Australia's marine parks

After passing the Marine Parks Act in 2007, the South Australian government released draft outer boundaries of 19 marine parks in SA for public consultation. Over 2,300 written submissions were received by government; the overwhelming majority

supported creating these parks. The park boundaries strongly reflect key areas identified by the Wilderness Society SA Inc, based on a values report prepared by marine scientist, Janine Baker in 2008.

Despite strong opposition from some private interests, the final outer park boundaries released in mid-2009 cover over 40% of SA's marine waters, which is a testament to our work. Shen Dycer, SA Coast and Marine Campaigner, with the rest of the Wilderness Society SA team, will turn her attention to the zoning within those boundaries to ensure the best possible protection for SA's marine ecosystems.

Northern Territory

Northern Territory waters share many marine species with the South East Asian countries to the north known as the 'Coral Triangle', the world's most biologically diverse marine region. What makes NT waters so important is that they provide a special haven, away from the huge environmental pressures of heavily populated SE Asia. These waters have been the provider of food and culture for Indigenous people across time and are relatively intact. We are keen to keep them that way.

Following a commitment to a marine parks strategy by the NT government at the last election, the Wilderness Society is building its campaign to secure a network of marine protected areas across NT coastal waters over the next three years. The Wilderness Society shares a marine campaigner, Prue Barnard, with the Australian Marine Conservation Society, based at the Environment Centre of NT in Darwin. This three way collaboration is maximising limited resources to do all it can for the precious marine life of the Top End.





National Management Committee Members 2008-09



Christine Olsen
A business consultant, life coach and event coordinator, Christine also arranges training events and public presentations. She has worked for local government, and was elected to local government in WA. She currently conducts business and personal life coaching.



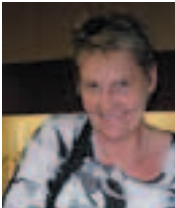
Rosemary Norwood
Rosemary has worked with conservation organisations including ACF, the Deloraine and Launceston Environment Centres and Friends of Jackeys Marsh. From 1996-2007 she worked in policy development and programme delivery for the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Heritage and the Arts. She works as an environmental consultant in partnership with her husband. She has established and run two ecotourism ventures, the latest in 2008.



Murray Houghton
A biological science graduate, Murray has worked as a Management Systems Auditor for 15 years. He works independently as a subcontract auditor, conducting audits to international standards for quality, environment, and safety management systems.



Mike Dontschuk
A Wilderness Society member since the Franklin campaign, Mike has broad expertise in investment management, financial and treasury services and financial risk management. He provides independent corporate and financial advisory services through his company, Dontschuk and Associates.



Lyn Goldsworthy
Lyn has worked as a campaigner, lobbyist, and director internationally with the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and Greenpeace International. She conducts organisational and programme reviews, strategic planning, and training for non-profit organisations. In 1991, Lyn was awarded the Order of Australia (Member) for services to conservation and environment; and in 1990, the New Zealand Antarctic Conservation Trophy.



Peter Langoulant
Peter is highly experienced in financial strategy, small business marketing and computer retail management. He recently undertook two volunteer assignments for Australian Business Volunteers – Young Entrepreneurs Scheme, including a sustainable village aquaculture project involving business training, systems and developing business plans.

National Management Committee Report

The Wilderness Society Inc

The Wilderness Society Inc has had another year of campaign success and important conservation outcomes.

It is hard to believe that it is 25 years since the High Court decision to ‘Let the Franklin run free’ (July 1983). Motivated by this inspiring decision, we have been working tirelessly this year to continue to protect and restore our vulnerable wild places.

In March 2009, the Wilderness Society celebrated a victory in our four-year long Gunns 20 Court case. Gunns agreed to pay a significant proportion of our legal costs and agreed that legal action against the Wilderness Society, and individuals currently or formally with the Wilderness Society, be discontinued. This is a significant win underlining our right to peacefully protest the destruction of Tasmania’s ancient forests.

Our People

The continued dedication, commitment and passion for purpose of the Wilderness Society Inc staff, volunteers, the WildCountry Science Council, members and supporters is gratefully acknowledged.

The National Management Committee is largely a new Committee as of the October 2008 AGM. We bring much enthusiasm and a range of skills and experience to the table. We held a retreat in February 2009 to establish our own work plan and priorities, and have identified a range of

measures to improve accountability and professionalism in the organisation as our first priority.

Organisational development

Activities undertaken to enhance organisational capability and sustainability included:

- Auditing and planning of a comprehensive human resources framework
- Development of an organisation-wide strategic plan
- Implementation of new fundraising segmentation software and database
- Significant improvement of financial and performance reporting
- Completion of an organisational audit with resulting action plan
- Ongoing roll-out of strategic thinking training
- Restructuring of our database systems to maximise functionality with fundraising.

Financial Performance

The financial result for The Wilderness Society Inc is a deficit of \$856,182. This is an improvement on the 2007-08 year’s deficit of \$1.35 million.

This result is attributed to the following:

- a positive result in our Fundraising activities, namely our June 2009 appeal which exceeded budget by over \$100,000
- finalisation of the Gunns 20 case which resulted in a recovery of costs of more than \$300,000

- a saving in administrative costs of around \$50,000 on expected budget.

Net assets for the organisation are \$1,207,974 as at 30 June 2009.

The decision to operate a deficit budget funded from reserves was taken to consolidate organisational internal structures and to enable the organisation to build capacity for the future.

The Wilderness Society Inc continued to provide project funding for all of its WildCountry campaigns and programs across Australia. This amounted to some \$5.5 million spent on campaign related activities, in accordance with our budget.

The investment of our bequest donations in the *Forever Wild* Trust to ensure ongoing funding for our WildCountry vision for future generations has continued to have steady growth, with a further \$334,131 added to the Trust for the year ended 30 June 2009.

The Wilderness Society Inc has been the recipient of some substantial and generous grant donations during the year for its continued work on specific campaigns and projects. During the year some \$1 million was brought to account in grants, with a further \$1.2 million brought to account as Unspent Grants as at 30 June 2009.

The Committee remains very optimistic about the future of the Wilderness Society, as a successful and effective national environmental organisation.



Financial Statement – The Wilderness Society Inc

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2009

ASSETS		
Current assets	2009 (\$)	2008 (\$)
Cash and cash equivalents	3,553,114	3,698,221
Trade and other receivables	281,080	390,445
Other assets	39,131	53,475
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,873,325	4,142,141

Non current assets	2009 (\$)	2008 (\$)
Investments	319,640	311,780
Property, plant and equipment	462,659	499,957
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	782,299	811,737
TOTAL ASSETS	4,655,624	4,953,878

LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	2009 (\$)	2008 (\$)
Trade and other payables	1,250,544	1,417,085
Borrowings	14,532	30,848
Short term provisions	295,916	320,103
Other liabilities	1,338,159	592,007
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,899,151	2,360,043

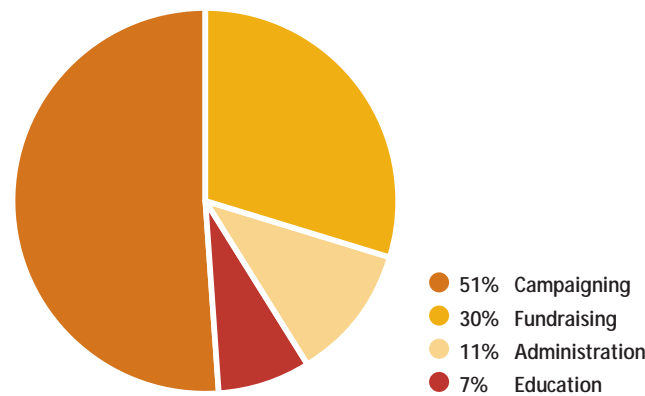
Non current liabilities	2009 (\$)	2008 (\$)
Trade and other payables	350,000	350,000
Other long term provisions	198,499	179,677
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	548,499	529,677
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,447,650	2,889,720
NET ASSETS	1,207,974	2,064,158

Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2009

2009	Retained Earnings (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 1 July 2008	2,064,158	2,064,158
Profit attributable to member	(856,182)	(856,182)
SUBTOTAL	(856,182)	(856,182)
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2008	1,207,976	1,207,976

2008	Retained Earnings (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 1 July 2007	3,414,367	3,414,367
Profit attributable to member	(1,350,209)	(1,350,209)
SUBTOTAL	(1,350,209)	(1,350,209)
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2007	2,064,158	2,064,158

Where we spend our money



Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2009

REVENUE	2009 (\$)	2008 (\$)
Sales	242,958	178,370
Interest income	162,198	273,038
Dividend income	11,772	10,762
Member subscriptions	1,534,401	977,182
Grants - Non-Government	509,982	254,041
Donations	12,460,469	12,556,120
Expense reimbursements	108,014	272,906
Other income	14,721	11,178
TOTAL INCOME	15,044,515	14,533,597

LESS: EXPENSES	2009 (\$)	2008 (\$)
Accounting and audit	30,197	34,200
Advertising and promotion	417,564	23,083
Bad debts	–	(5,000)
Bank and credit card fees	178,255	183,223
Campaign centre grants	3,640,790	3,539,157
Campaigning costs - other	356,502	957,760
Commission expenses	13,202	–
Computer costs - other	–	99,898
Conference and seminar costs	21,693	82,357
Consulting and professional fees	657,067	410,099
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	106,428	104,873
Donation to Forever Wild Trust	334,131	319,580
Donations	102,456	46,186
Employment costs	112,745	217,141
Equipment	15,536	–
Events	70,849	5,599
Insurance	80,911	105,253
Legal fees	48,310	518,357
Licences and registration	47,969	61,242
Market research	–	4,773
Memberships subscriptions	108,663	–
Office premises lease	383,552	212,506
Other occupancy costs	51,084	131,504
Postage & packaging	569,915	741,198
Printing and stationery	412,663	411,740
Publications	9,721	–
Repairs and maintenance	38,383	2,754
Research and development costs	185,185	15,000
Resource library	2,201	5,405
Sub-contractor payments	357,522	11,006
Sundry expenses	54,663	116,908
Telemarketing	–	(375)
Telephone and fax	272,342	286,470
Training	74,897	125,737
Travel – domestic	540,285	627,483
Travel – overseas	156,720	126,608
Wages, salaries and on costs	6,448,296	6,362,081
TOTAL EXPENSES	(15,900,697)	(15,883,806)
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS	(856,182)	(1,350,209)

Thank you

The Wilderness Society sincerely thanks all members, donors, staff and volunteers for their invaluable support during 2008 – 09. Whether it be financial, skill and/ or time, all contributions are gratefully received. Together we are protecting our water, wildlife and climate.

In particular, we would like to acknowledge the following Trusts and Foundations:

- Caroline Durre Foundation
- Google Grants
- Harris Pain Family Gift
- Ivor Ronald Evans Foundation
- Kahn Friedlander Family Foundation
- Reichstein Foundation
- Richardson Organisation
- Rob Mere Foundation

Kimberley awareness raising made possible by outstanding support

A very successful fundraising dinner held at Barbarino + Wong in Melbourne, in March 2009, raised in excess of \$40,000 towards our campaign in the Kimberley, a region of global importance.

We would like to extend a very special thank you to Jeannette Abrahams who generously donated the venue and catering, Ernie Dingo who gave a heartfelt account of his connection to the Kimberley and Bill McHarg for his auctioneering expertise.

We are extremely grateful to all our supporters who donated and purchased auction items on the night and made significant donations to support our work in the Kimberley, one of the least impacted and largest naturally functioning ecosystems left on the planet.

Deep in discussion at the Kimberley Fundraising dinner. BEN LIQUETE



A special thanks to these individuals for their generous financial contributions:

Over \$600,000	Over \$20,000	Turpie, L	Gardner, J
Anonymous	Anonymous	Xipell, E	Halley, H
Over \$100,000	Allen, C & F	Over \$5,000	Harrison, C
Dara Foundation	Snape, D &	Abrahams, J	Hosking, S
West, R & Haigh, C	Snape, B AM	Allen, J	Howard-Smith, R
Over \$50,000	Torrens, A	Anonymous	King, S & S
Abercrombie, J	Over \$10,000	Atkinson, J	Korosi, M
Anonymous	Anonymous	Campbell, E	Loughnan, M
Murrell, F &	Balint, T	& O'Keefe, A	Newman, B
Leece, D	Bennetts, J	Chaplin, D	Simpson, R
Over \$25,000	Gross, B	Collins, J	Taylor, R
Emms, C	Harris, G	Cook, M	Walton, J
Woollen, T &	Luck-Grillon, M	Fernandes, L	Winton, T
Woollen, P OAM	and Taaffe, K	Gantner, N	Woodroffe, D
	Tertini, J		



WildCountry Small Grants Program to run for another three years

The Dara Foundation is once again supporting our WildCountry Small Grants Program through a generous grant.

Established in 2005, the Program aims to support community groups across Australia involved in landscape scale projects focused on understanding, protecting and restoring important ecological processes and connections at the national, regional and local scale.

The Wilderness Society thanks The Dara Foundation, that saw benefits in collaboration and capacity building among small environmental NGOs to deliver good local environmental outcomes.

We deeply appreciate their support and foresight.

“WildCountry Small Grants enable North East Bioregional Network and local conservation groups to access funds and carry out conservation projects or reports that otherwise would not have been funded... It is good for small local groups because there is not a lot of administration [and] you get a lot of good results for the amount invested.”

– Todd Dudley, North East Bioregional Network, Tasmania

Major Gifts play a significant role in the Wilderness Society's campaign outcomes enabling us to plan long-term conservation initiatives.

If you are considering making a major gift and would like more information, please contact Stefan Swadzba, Major Gifts Manager, on (03) 9038 0822 or email majorgifts@wilderness.org.au

Leave behind a healthy planet

Our bequest program

Over the last year, we have had a tremendous amount of support for the *Forever Wild* bequest program and we have had the pleasure of meeting many fantastic supporters.

A huge thank you to all our wonderful supporters who have chosen to remember wilderness in their Will, or are intending to do so. A gift in your Will to the Wilderness Society is one of the most important commitments anyone could ever make to our precious environment. It's also one of the greatest investments that you can make to help keep Australia's wild places safe for future generations.

We would especially like to acknowledge the generosity of the following people, from whom we received a bequest or In Memory Donation in 2008-09. We offer their family and friends our deepest sympathy.

Bequests

- Aldridge, Pamela D
- Campbell, Colin
- Dover, Bruce
- Finnie, Helen

- Gale, Marie
- Giddens, Neil C
- Maher, Claire A
- Randell, Peter
- Richards, Jean
- Sheppeard, Roger S
- Steggles, Susan
- West Lau, John A

In Memory Donations

- Baynes, Rosslyn
- Blanchard, Ivan and Joan
- Brooks, Sally
- Hamilton-Roberts, Joan
- Lewis, Anne
- Mark, Gerda E
- McLean, Joy and Darryl
- McLean, Kelly
- Perry, Janine
- Port Melbourne Yacht Club
- Purdy, Marion
- Templeton, Alastair R
- Webster Hyde Health Insurance

Thank you to these special and dearly departed individuals, their memory lives on through the Wilderness Society's conservation efforts to protect and restore Australia's fragile natural environment.

Forever Wild Trust

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. This provides long-term, ongoing financial support to our WildCountry program, both now and beyond our lifetimes. See the National Management Committee report on page 15 for details.

Every gift, large or small, makes a real difference. Even a modest gift in your Will can help future generations.

Have you left a gift to the Wilderness Society in your Will and haven't let us know? Would you like more information on remembering wilderness in your Will?

Please contact Gaye French, Bequest Manager, on 03 6270 1778 or visit www.wilderness.org.au/gifts-in-wills



*To all our supporters, volunteers,
staff, and our WildCountry Science
Council for your passion, integrity
and untiring commitment...*

Thank you

www.wilderness.org.au

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

Printed on 100% recycled post-consumer waste paper.

The Wilderness Society Australia

For membership, donations and
bequests call 1800 030 641

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Email: info@wilderness.org.au



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY