

# Annual Review

Protecting, promoting and restoring  
wilderness 2010-11



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Cover Image  
James Price Point, The Kimberley, WA. Photo | Glenn Walker

# National Director's report



**Lyndon Schneiders**  
National Director  
The Wilderness Society Inc

I'm very pleased to report that our members and supporters made possible some impressive campaign achievements during 2010-11:

- **We protected Wild Rivers in Queensland** from Tony Abbott's cynical attempt to overturn Queensland's Wild Rivers law in the Federal parliament.
- **We helped to negotiate the Tasmanian forests peace agreement**, bringing hope for a solution to Tasmania's 30-year conflict over logging in native forests.
- **We saved the Williams River from the proposed Tillegra Dam**, protecting world-class wetlands and valuable platypus and migratory bird habitat.
- **We launched a new campaign to protect Western Australia's unique Kimberley region**, and the stunning James Price Point, from becoming just another mining-scarred industrialised landscape.

- **We launched an innovative new Ethical Paper campaign**, encouraging businesses, organisations and individuals to pledge to replace Reflex paper with 100% recycled paper until the company stops sourcing its products from unsustainable native forest logging.

We also launched a new New South Wales Rivers campaign, continued our efforts to protect Arkaroola wilderness sanctuary from uranium mining, and were part of the Save Our Marine Life coalition's campaign to protect our spectacular south-west waters.

In addition, 2010-11 was an important period of review, consolidation and reform within the organisation, aimed at ensuring we do what we do best – empowering communities to achieve protection for our remaining wild places – in the most effective way. To underpin this process, we undertook comprehensive reviews into our WildCountry vision and climate change policies.

A strong and independent Wilderness Society is absolutely crucial if we are to stand up for our wild places. That means squaring up to some tricky issues, including confronting the implications for nature of the mining boom and the increasingly conservative direction of Australian politics and society.

Thank you so much for helping us take important steps towards achieving this in 2010-11.



# Convenor's report



**David Mackenzie**

Convenor  
The Wilderness Society Inc  
Committee of Management

As I look over our list of achievements to protect nature in 2010-11 – keeping Queensland's Wild Rivers wild, protecting New South Wales' Williams River from a destructive dam, and working towards ending logging in Tasmania's native forests, to name a few – I am reminded what a well functioning Wilderness Society can do. The community-based, results-driven conservation that we do best is essential if our wild places are to be protected from the forces that threaten them.

Five key values underpin everything the Wilderness Society does:

- A passion for nature
- A belief in the power of people to bring about change
- A staunch commitment to organisational independence
- Compassion for our colleagues and integrity in dealing with others; and
- A no-compromise approach to success in our mission.

In 2010-11, the Committee of Management set about making sure that these values were once again embedded in our structures and processes.

The Committee is pleased to report that the organisational turbulence of 2009-10 is well behind the Wilderness Society. In 2010-11 we have had a period of stability, renewal and revitalisation. The hard work of staff and volunteers and the generous support of members, has achieved:

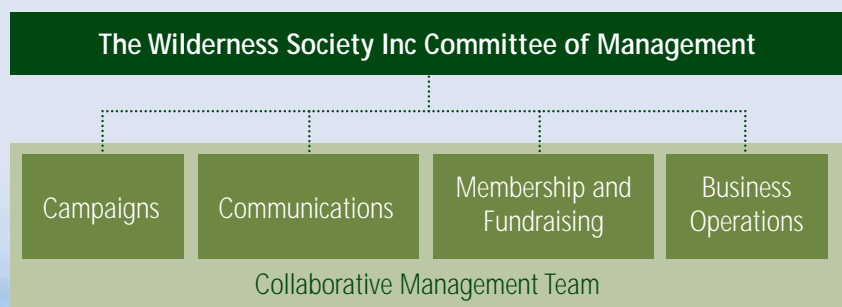
- **Financial health and stability.** We have delivered a healthy surplus as part of re-building a strong financial foundation.
- **A new management structure in tune with our values.** Four managers (Communications, Membership and Fundraising, Campaigns and Business Operations) now make up an innovative Collaborative Management Team to lead the organisation (*see diagram below*).
- **A clearer, fairer and stronger Wilderness Society Inc Constitution.** Changes to our Constitution included amending the notification process, timeline and decision making process for member meetings; improving the process for election and appointment of Committee members; updating the objectives of the organisation; and modernising provisions dealing with finances.

- **Improved pay and working conditions for staff.** We have initiated a salary review and benchmarking process, and are moving towards a collective employment agreement.

- **A road map for renewal and revitalisation,** to make our organisation as effective as possible to protect more of our irreplaceable and unique wilderness areas.

The Committee members for the first half of 2010-11, elected at the re-called AGM held on 30 June 2010, were David Mackenzie, Hilton Sentinella, Stephen Porter, Coral Robinson, Debbie Dunn, Glen Klatovsky, Daniel Beaver and Stephen Lodge. After the resignation of Committee member Glen Klatovsky, in November 2010, James Johnson was appointed to the Committee. These eight Committee members nominated again at the 2010 AGM held on 11 December 2010 and were elected by the membership uncontested.

We wish to thank everyone who has contributed to the Wilderness Society over the past 12 months as a member, supporter, volunteer or worker. Your ongoing support and involvement is vital as we secure the organisation's long-term success as an incredibly effective voice saving Australia's great wild places.



# Campaign achievements 2010-11

## Williams River reprieved

A huge effort from supporters in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales managed to stop the destructive and expensive proposed Tillegra dam. This protected crucial platypus habitat, migratory bird habitat and internationally recognised wetlands.



Williams River, Myall Lakes, NSW. Photo | Vanessa Culliford



Cape York Peninsula, Qld. Photo | Glenn Walker

## Wild Rivers stay wild

As part of ongoing opposition to Tony Abbott's bill to overturn the *Wild Rivers Act*, a delegation of Traditional Owners from Cape York made the long journey south to Parliament House to declare their support for Wild Rivers legislation that protects Queensland's rivers and wildlife from damaging over-development.

In addition, the spectacular Lake Eyre Basin – where Australia's arid heart is completely transformed into a lush, verdant landscape – was protected from destructive mining and irrigation following the passage of amendments to the *Wild Rivers Act*. Queensland is now a world leader when it comes to protecting free-flowing, healthy river systems

## Indigenous Conservation in action

- Nyah Vinifera River National Park was proclaimed on the Murray River with co-management arrangements between the State and Traditional Owners, protecting Regent Parrots and River Red Gum forests.
- Cape York Traditional Owners travelled to Canberra to deliver their strong message of support for Wild Rivers in Parliament House.
- Kutini Payamu National Park (formerly Iron Range on Cape York) was handed back to Traditional Owners, protecting the largest intact tropical lowland rainforest in Australia in an Aboriginal owned and jointly managed National Park.
- Rinyirru National Park is the largest National Park on Cape York Peninsula, home to spectacular and abundant bird life, beautiful lakes and waterholes and saltwater crocodiles. In late June 2011, the ownership and management of this special place was returned to its Traditional Owners after a 30 year campaign.

## Ethical Paper campaign launched

We acted to protect Victoria's native forests from destruction by launching a new Ethical Paper campaign. Thousands of organisations and individuals pledged to stop using Reflex paper until its maker, Australian Paper, stops sourcing its products from destructive logging of native forests. Meanwhile, our community actions generated media to keep this issue in the spotlight.



Central Highlands, Vic. Photo | Eli Greig



Upper Florentine, Tasmania. Photo | Rob Blakers



Lake Johnston, Great Western Woodlands, WA. Photo | Barbara Madden

## Tasmanian Forest Agreement signed

The historic Tasmanian Forest Principles Agreement, signed by environmental and timber industry representatives, is the first step towards long-term, permanent protection of Tasmania's internationally recognised native forests. It represents our best opportunity in a generation to resolve the long-running conflict over logging and promises to protect over 500,000 hectares of magnificent forest.

## Great Western Woodlands recognised

The Great Western Woodlands, an area of biological richness containing thousands of species found nowhere else on the planet, was marked for increased protection under a State Government Biodiversity and Cultural Conservation Strategy developed in consultation with conservationists, Traditional Owners, landholders and scientists.

# Our work around Australia



Photo | Kerry Trapnell

## Northern Territory

Working to conserve northern marine habitats, control landclearing and protect rivers.



Photo | Glenn Walker

## Queensland

Protecting Queensland's Wild Rivers, advocating World Heritage for Cape York, supporting Indigenous conservation.



Photo | Glenn Walker

## Western Australia

Protecting the Kimberley, the Great Western Woodlands and the unique marine environment.

### KEY

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

Note: Not to scale, indicative boundaries only



## National Indigenous Conservation Program

Supporting the creation of Indigenous Protected Areas, Aboriginal owned or managed National Parks, ranger programs and other natural and cultural resource management initiatives.

## WildCountry Small Grants

The WildCountry Small Grants program is run in partnership with the Dara Foundation and assists community groups to undertake nature conservation initiatives around Australia. In 2010-11 seven projects received support. These included projects to help Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory protect Sea Country; protect rivers and travelling stock routes in New South Wales through community engagement, and map conservation values in the Grampians and Little Desert country of Victoria.



Photo | Glenn Walker

### South Australia

Safeguarding the Murray River, lower lakes and Coorong, protecting South Australia's marine environment, working to achieve protection for arid areas like the Simpson Desert.



Photo | Glenn Walker

### New South Wales

Developing a program to protect the far west of New South Wales, beginning with rivers. Working to raise awareness of the Kimberley across New South Wales.



Photo | Rob Blakers

### Tasmania

Working to ensure the long-term protection of Tasmania's forests.



Photo | Peter Larsen

### Victoria

Working to end native forest logging in Victoria, and developing a comprehensive response to fire.

# Financial statements for the Wilderness Society Inc

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2011

Income	2011	2010
Fair value adjustments	-	225,700
Interest income	34,815	74,667
Member subscriptions	897,365	921,339
Grants - Non-Government	191,107	339,498
Donations	11,214,749	12,251,157
Expense reimbursements	100,000	100,000
Sales	234,103	260,030
Trust Distribution Income	138,616	14,275
Other income	51,446	296,436
<b>Total income</b>	<b>12,862,201</b>	<b>14,483,102</b>
<b>Less: Expenses</b>		
Accounting and audit	20,000	17,255
Advertising and promotion	148,917	261,213
Bad debts	1,475	46,600
Bank and credit card fees	177,912	167,195
Campaign centre grants	3,325,232	3,402,872
Campaigning costs	142,335	23,847
Commission expenses	(32)	(101)
Conference and seminar costs	8,922	61,238
Consulting and professional fees	566,796	740,623
Contractors	446,598	987,581
Cost of goods sold	67,392	190,407
Depreciation	27,529	108,654
Donation to Forever Wild Trust	49,584	92,805
Donations	152,166	109,306
Employment costs	64,988	36,123
Equipment	2,354	18,276
Events	45,874	40,486
Grants	191,524	81,701
Insurance	77,389	70,918
Legal fees	109,923	1,045,206
Licences and registration	46,745	52,503
Memberships subscriptions	53,350	82,858
Office premises lease	320,475	318,733
Other occupancy costs	74,490	79,872
Postage & packaging	268,385	348,068
Printing and stationery	273,629	254,114
Publications	25,533	12,811
Repairs and maintenance	16,890	25,974
Research and development costs	136,384	237,758
Resource Library	5,163	16,306
Sundry expenses	2,775	86,610
Telephone and fax	211,497	248,957
Training	20,542	25,568
Travel - domestic	410,507	435,605
Travel - overseas	23,208	43,887
Wages, salaries and on costs	4,850,374	5,707,292
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(12,366,829)</b>	<b>(15,479,121)</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>495,372</b>	<b>(996,016)</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>495,372</b>	<b>(996,016)</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 30 June 2011

Assets	2011	2010
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,236,712	1,541,809
Trade and other receivables	1,034,746	288,979
Inventories	60,436	75,544
Other assets	357,283	134,662
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2,689,177</b>	<b>2,040,994</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Investments	545,340	545,340
Property, plant and equipment	420,920	406,013
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>966,260</b>	<b>951,353</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,655,437</b>	<b>2,992,347</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	1,265,073	1,698,922
Borrowings	258,784	17,890
Short-term provisions	222,475	265,780
Other liabilities	472,339	307,124
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,218,671</b>	<b>2,289,716</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	350,000	350,000
Long-term provisions	51,846	140,673
Borrowings	327,590	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>729,436</b>	<b>490,673</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,948,107</b>	<b>2,780,389</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>707,330</b>	<b>211,958</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated surpluses	707,330	211,958
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>707,330</b>	<b>211,958</b>

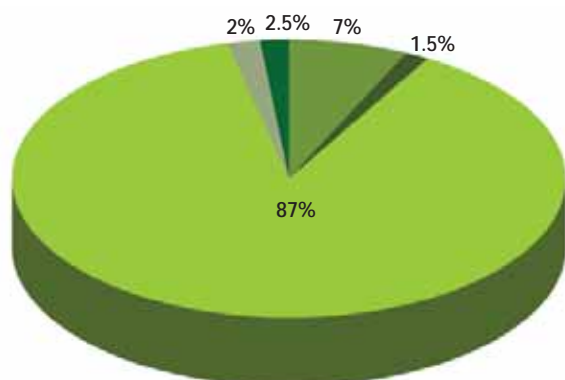
## Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2011

2011	Accumulated Surpluses	Total
Balance at 1 July 2010	211,958	211,958
Total comprehensive income for the year	495,372	495,372
Balance at 30 June 2011	707,330	707,330
<b>2010</b>	<b>Accumulated Surpluses</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance at 1 July 2009	1,207,974	1,207,974
Total comprehensive income for the year	(996,016)	(996,016)
Balance at 30 June 2010	211,958	211,958

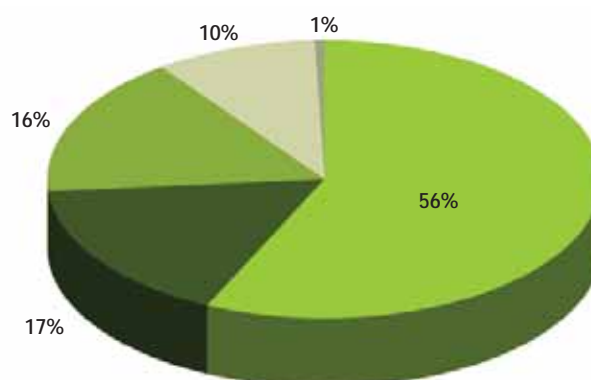


## Where our money comes from



- Member subscriptions
- Grants
- Donations
- Sales
- Interest, distributions and other

## Where our money goes



- Campaigning (including campaign information for supporters)
- Investment in new supporters
- Organisational support and governance
- Income generation
- Environmental education

## Treasurer's report



### Hilton Sentinella

Treasurer

The Wilderness Society Inc  
Committee of Management

The financial year ending 30 June 2011 is the first reporting year under the new Committee of Management elected at the 2009 AGM on 30 June 2010 and re-elected at the 2010 AGM on 11 December 2010.

On taking office at the beginning of the

financial year, the Committee of Management implemented a number of expenditure control and risk management actions to address the decline experienced over a number of years in the Wilderness Society Inc's financial position and ensure that financial performance was improved during 2010-11.

As a result of these actions, and the hard work of staff throughout the year in contributing to strengthening the organisation's financial position, the Wilderness Society Inc has achieved a positive operating result for 2010-11 as reported below.

#### Financial results for 2010-11

The organisation's operating result for 2010-11 was a surplus of \$495,372 and an equity position of \$707,330 at the end of the period. This compares to the 2009-10 operating result of a deficit of \$996,016 and equity of \$211,958.

Income for 2010-11 was \$12,862,201, with expenditure at \$12,366,829. The corresponding amounts for 2009-10 were \$14,483,102 and \$15,479,121 respectively.

The improvement in the operating result represents a turning point for the organisation

after a number of years of operating deficits. The driving factor underpinning this improvement was the significant reduction in expenditure across the organisation compared to 2009-10.

Underlying operational expenditure in 2010-11 was \$2.2 million less than for 2009-10 (after adjusting for the extraordinary legal costs in the 2009-10 year). A large component of the expenditure reduction was due to lower staffing levels during the year, but rebuilding of essential staffing capacity commenced towards the end of 2010-11 and is continuing in 2011-12. Expenditure on our campaigns was maintained and this facilitated significant campaign achievements during the year. The overall cost savings enabled the organisation to more than offset lower income in a challenging year for fundraising.

#### Continuing to improve financial health

The financial result for 2010-11 is a critical first step in restoring the Wilderness Society's financial health and resilience. The Committee of Management remains committed to returning the organisation to a healthy financial position and has strategies in place to continue our progress towards this in 2011-12.

# Thank you for your support

The Wilderness Society raises 96% of our funding from concerned citizens through membership subscriptions, appeals and online fundraising. The remaining 4% is raised from merchandise sales and grants from foundations and trusts.

We do not accept donations from corporations, nor do we seek grants from Government agencies for salaries or campaigns. Occasionally, funds for office equipment are sought from Government grants.

Australia faces two critical conservation challenges. First, there is an urgent need to conserve threatened species and ecosystems

in heavily cleared and fragmented landscapes. Second, it is essential to keep intact country which has yet to be subject to broad scale land clearing, mining and related developments.

To meet these ongoing challenges your continued support is essential. Our members and supporters are in themselves campaigners who advocate for conservation by donating; email/letter writing; attending events and rallies; calling their local member of parliament, and pressuring businesses to do the right thing.

Without your support, none of the achievements of the past year would have been possible.

*Thank you*



## Forever Wild Bequest Program

The Wilderness Society would like to acknowledge the generosity of the following people from whom we received a Bequest or Gift in Memory in 2010-11. We offer their family and friends our deepest sympathy and we will continue to honour their passion for protecting Australia's wild places.

### **Bequests:**

William D Coombs  
Judith Wheeler  
Jill Jordan  
Lois E Jones  
Doreen G Jones  
Anne M Goldstone  
Lynda M Brook

### **Gifts in Memory:**

Simon Inkson  
Joan Anderson  
Max Costelloe  
Christine Buckner  
Patrick White  
John Morgan  
Elvie Chidzey



**Our values** | Passion for purpose,  
the power of people to make change,  
organisational independence and integrity,  
compassion, and a commitment to  
success in protecting the environment.

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

The Wilderness Society Australia  
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