

Wilderness Society
Life. Support.



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Annual Review 2021-2022

A year of big wins for nature



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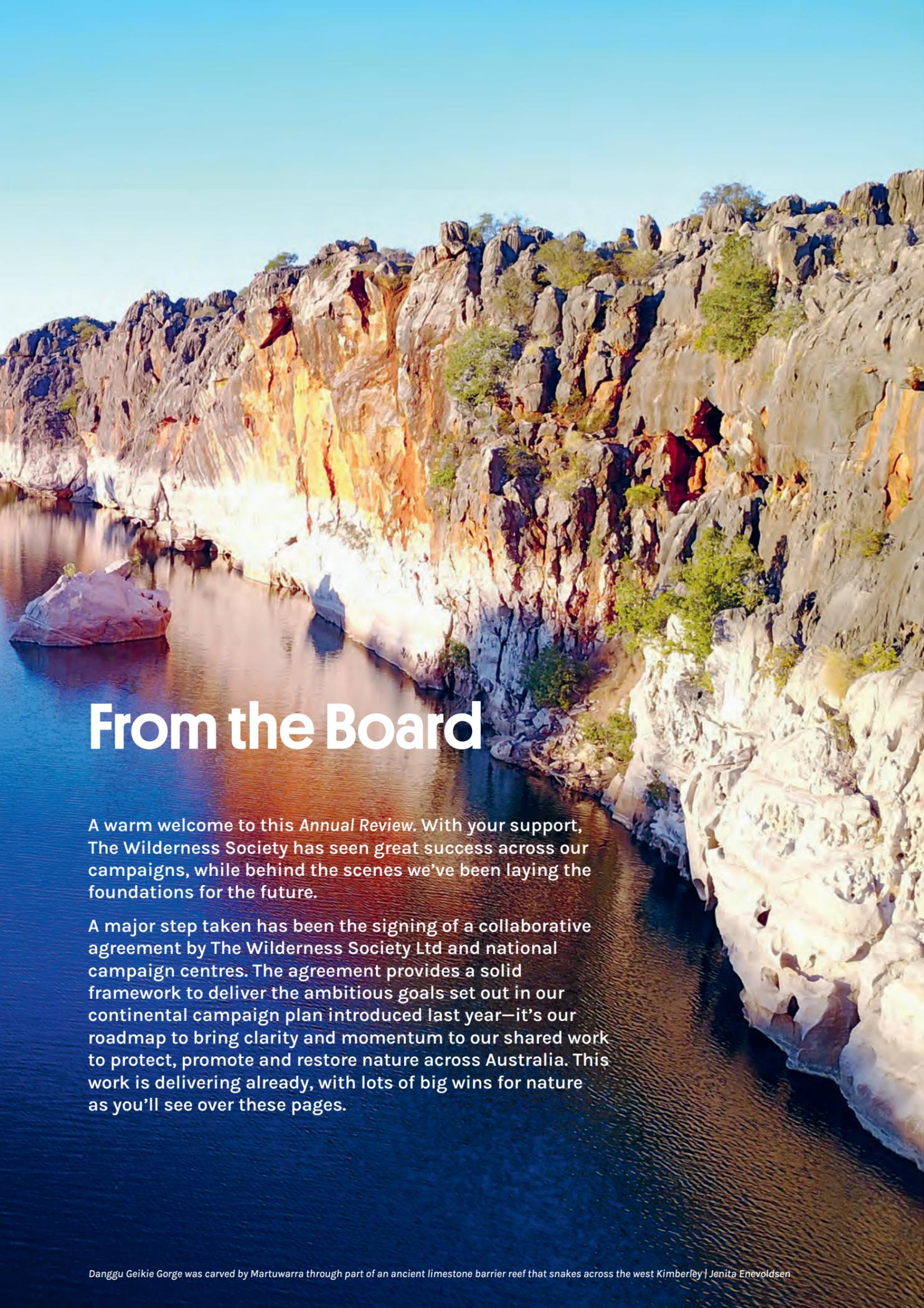
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Jarrah forest | Lewis Burnett





From the Board

A warm welcome to this *Annual Review*. With your support, The Wilderness Society has seen great success across our campaigns, while behind the scenes we've been laying the foundations for the future.

A major step taken has been the signing of a collaborative agreement by The Wilderness Society Ltd and national campaign centres. The agreement provides a solid framework to deliver the ambitious goals set out in our continental campaign plan introduced last year—it's our roadmap to bring clarity and momentum to our shared work to protect, promote and restore nature across Australia. This work is delivering already, with lots of big wins for nature as you'll see over these pages.

Danggu Geikie Gorge was carved by Martuwarra through part of an ancient limestone barrier reef that snakes across the west Kimberley | Jenita Enevoldsen

Without people like you there wouldn't be a Wilderness Society. The power of community was brought home to me during the 2022 federal election. Hundreds of people went door to door to engage on key issues of concern. It changed the make-up of the parliament to now reflect what the people want: strong protections for nature and action on climate change. Graduates of the Wilderness Society's community organising training used their skills to help get their local candidates elected!

People need strong community rights to be able to have a genuine say about the environmental issues affecting them. However, the system is currently rigged in favour of destructive industries with deep pockets. Below you can read about some of the steps we are taking to deliver systemic change on this front that will ensure community voices get a real say in environmental decision-making.

A healthy community needs a strong voice but it should also be a place where different ideas and perspectives thrive. The Wilderness Society's Board and staff meet regularly to discuss new ways to expand the diversity of the organisation across its members, governors, staff and volunteers. This enables the Wilderness Society to be a broad tent, a place where people from diverse backgrounds can feel included.

Finally, I often hear stories that make me so proud of the work we're doing. I was encouraged recently by something a colleague told me about a supporter: each month she picks three charities to support; each month she researches to make sure her support is going to a place that will use it most effectively; each month she picks the Wilderness Society. We are delivering for nature, and thanks to your continued support we are more effective than ever.

Leanne Craze

Leanne Craze AM
Convenor, The Wilderness Society Ltd



Your backyard, your say

WA Community Organiser Stephanie Poly on the need to give people a real voice with strong environmental community rights.

"It's important for communities and First Nations groups to have strong community rights in environmental decision-making, because they are the ones who will have to live with any negative consequences. And being involved in the process means that a community can bring forward their local expertise and ideas, voice concerns, and have some influence over decisions that industry proponents typically steer.

"Between April and May, the Wilderness Society's community organising teams worked with over 90 volunteers to hold seven community rights forums. We were able to reach communities all over Australia. More than 200 people participated and 40 federal candidates were made aware of the events. Our event in May, hosted by the Fremantle Wilderness Society group, was a great success—with many community members saying they can now see environmental issues through a human rights lens, and better share the systemic issues that enable destructive projects to go ahead.



Stephanie (kneeling, centre), with the Fremantle team.

"Right now, community organising teams across Australia are holding stalls, hosting community forums and having meaningful conversations within their communities. By raising awareness of this issue, we're hoping to build a strong case around the need for community rights, to ultimately get it built into environmental laws and business practices. Because when the community is involved in government and corporate decisions about the environment, there are better outcomes for climate, nature and people."

Now and for the future



Matt Brennan (in blue), on a very wet day running in the Pilliga.

This December marks 40 years since the Tasmanian Wilderness became a World Heritage area—it would prove pivotal in winning the Franklin campaign. Today, the Wilderness Society is seeking lasting protections for remarkable places all over the continent, and passionately continuing to defend the integrity of those, like the World Heritage of Iutruwita / Tasmania, that make up our legacy.

A never-say-die attitude was forged in the fight to save the Franklin, and that same spirit has helped see our staff and volunteers through the year—and perhaps for you, too. In the immortal words of the Grateful Dead, what a long, strange trip it's been. I'm proud of the resounding successes we've delivered through a difficult year.

To achieve our purpose, the Wilderness Society needs to share its vision with as broad and as diverse a range of people as possible. We do this by taking deeper dives, with stories of nature and people in *Wilderness Journal* for instance, inaugurally published in print in December 2021. We do this through Nature Book Week, where this year we launched the Karajia Award for First Nations children's authors and illustrators. Karajia is a Mirning word for storyteller, and we are thankful to Mirning Elder Bunna Lawrie for generously contributing the name and for being a judge.

Our work is made possible through our relationships with communities across Australia via our community organising program and campaigning. In March, I was lucky to join the local community and a group of amazing

trail runners to raise funds and awareness to oppose Santos' plans to drill for gas in the lands of the Gomeroi people in the Pilliga Forest.

The case is a clear example of the need to give people a real voice and strong environmental community rights, which will form a pillar of our work for the coming years.

In 2023 there is a huge opportunity to deliver some of the systemic change needed to protect, respect and restore the special places you will find in the centrefold. These places are all globally significant with extraordinary cultural and natural values, and represent critical habitat for unique species of plants and animals. With a new federal government, we are closer to seeing strong new nature laws delivered, something we've been advocating for years.

The government's commitment to protect 30% of Australia's land and seas by 2030—as part of the international 30x30 initiative—further reinforces the need for our work to protect these large, intact ecosystems. With your support we are working alongside Traditional Custodians and local communities to stop the industrialisation of these iconic places.

Together with you, the Wilderness Society will be doing everything we can to get stronger environmental laws in place over the coming months, and we look forward to continuing to leverage all the opportunities we have to protect nature in the years ahead.

Matt Brennan
CEO, The Wilderness Society Ltd



Protecting nature

To stop the climate and extinction crises, we need to end the mindless expansion of the fossil fuel industry, put an end to deforestation and land clearing, and give nature the strong legal protections it needs.

No Seismic Blasting!

In August 2021, with your help, we supported the King Island community in their opposition to seismic blasting by ConocoPhillips in the Bass Strait. The people of King Island understand testing and oil and gas extraction will harm the fishery and the marine environment, which is frequented by whales. The Wilderness Society engaged independent researchers to survey every household on King Island. The results reported in *The Australian* were staggering: 94% of King Islanders were opposed to any oil and gas exploration while 77% felt they had no say in the decision-making process! "The senseless annual release of oil and gas acreage has to end," says National Corporate Campaign Manager, Jess Lerch. "Last year, nearly 13,000 of you signed onto our submissions to put an end to this insanity."



Image: Tom Allen

The people have spoken: new nature laws urgently needed

The federal election results showed that the majority of people want strong national environment laws. Steady years of work by community organising teams and tens of thousands of supporters to address Australia's failing nature laws means there is now a commitment to deliver on this front. Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek has now set a timetable for nature law reform. In the coming year it will be crucial to ensure she delivers. "This is a long-overdue commitment to some action—and the ambition outlined must be matched by achievement," says National Campaigns Director Amelia Young.

Highlighting Queensland's deforestation crisis

Deforestation in Queensland continues to be a huge problem, but thanks to you, we've been able to shine a light on this issue. In December 2021, the Queensland government released new data that showed over 668,000ha of forest and bushland was bulldozed in one year, including 92,000ha of likely or known koala habitat.

The majority of that destruction was for beef production. So, we're holding the big buyers of Australian beef—supermarkets and fast food chains—responsible. With your support, we ran digital billboards for six weeks throughout Brisbane's busiest thoroughfares, drawing attention to the devastating effects that deforestation has on wildlife. We're also running a petition calling on big buyers to eliminate deforestation from beef products. Together, we'll continue to bring deforestation and land clearing to the forefront and protect endangered koalas' habitat.



Image: Goa

Taking your message to Brussels

"Thanks to your support, I was able to go to Brussels and deliver a letter signed by more than 10,000 people calling on European leaders to stop the financing of deforestation in Australia," says Corporate Campaigner Adele Chasson.

"I was able to talk to key European Union decision-makers. We have opened their eyes to the scale of the deforestation crisis in Australia and how that affects Australia's unique and special flora and fauna." Now in a landmark vote, the European Parliament vowed to limit destruction of the Earth's forests! For the first time, banks and companies the world over will have to make sure they are not involved in deforestation in order to do business in Europe.



Adele at EU headquarters in Brussels.

The campaign agenda

In September—for the first time in years—Wilderness Society campaigners from around the country gathered at beautiful teralina / Eaglehawk Neck in lutruwita / Tasmania.

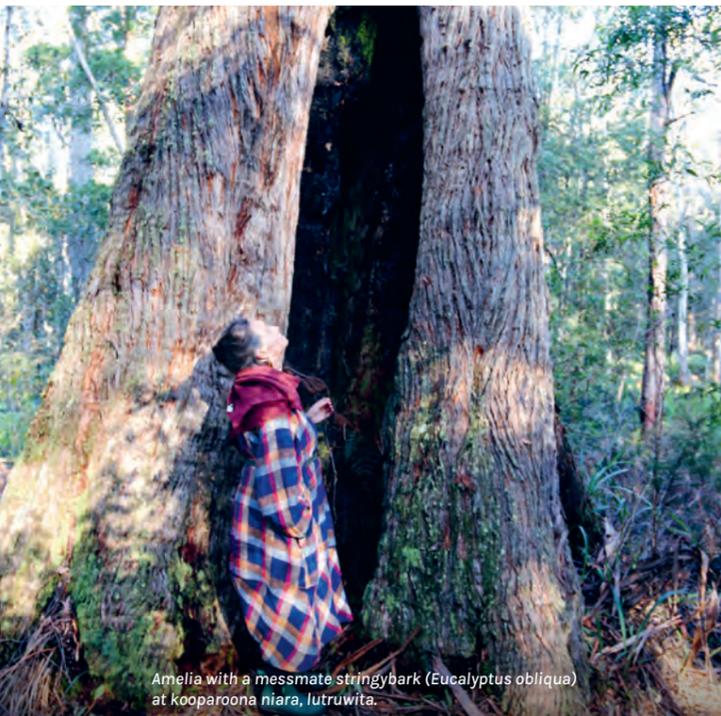
It was great to meet with colleagues in person to learn from recent achievements and to plan ahead.

The overall feeling was one of celebration. With your support, the past year has seen big wins across our campaign portfolio, which shows that our continental strategy is delivering.

In July 2021, like others before it, fossil fuel giant Santos walked away from drilling the Great Australian Bight. Now, together with the Mirning people, we're pursuing permanent protection for land and sea Country in this region.

Elsewhere, we've successfully campaigned to protect existing World Heritage areas from development.

Overleaf, read how just months after defending their homes, farms and local forests from the climate-fuelled Black Summer Bushfires, Rylstone locals realised the NSW government planned to open coal mining leases on the cusp of Wollemi National Park and the Greater Blue



Amelia with a messmate stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) at kooparoona niara, lutruwita.

Mountains World Heritage Area. Thankfully, together with the community and with your support, we prevailed: all three proposed coal leases were ruled out.

In lutruwita / Tasmania, the campaign to protect the integrity of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area continues. In 2021, Wilderness Society Tasmania won in the Supreme Court, challenging the legality of the state government's approval of helicopter-based tourism. And yet, the proponent still plans to go ahead. We'll continue working with fishers, walkers, the palawa community, lawyers and supporters to call for an end to government policies that result in inappropriate proposals like this.

When communities have a genuine say in decisions that corporations and governments make about the environment, there are better outcomes for people and nature.

Earlier this year we launched our Community Rights in Environment Decision-making campaign. Initial polling showed more than 61% of respondents believe that governments *rarely* or *never* take the community's views into account when making decisions that affect the environment.

The Albanese government was elected with a commitment to restore 'trust and confidence in environmental decision-making' as well as commitments to strong nature laws and an independent watchdog to enforce them. To do this, it needs to listen to the community.

As a founding member of the Places You Love Alliance, we have championed strong new nature laws for over a decade. Wilderness Society community teams held hundreds of meetings with MPs across the political spectrum about the need for new nature laws that actually reverse the wildlife extinction crisis and protect critical habitat. Now, we're campaigning to make sure the Australian parliament doesn't squib this once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect Australia's biodiversity and globally significant ecosystems.

In 2021, one of the planet's most significant large, intact, functioning ecosystems, Munga-Thirri / Simpson Desert, was proclaimed Australia's largest national park. Whilst

a significant victory, ongoing gas exploration is proposed for this area, likewise further to the north-east in the Channel County in Queensland. Protecting Kati-Thanda / Lake Eyre and the broader basin from destructive fossil fuel expansion will continue to be a key focus.

The mindless release of fossil fuel exploration licences continues to be a source of deep anxiety for communities across the country. In the past year we joined with the people of King Island off the coast of lutruwita, and people along the Surf Coast in Victoria, to sound the alarm about seismic testing in local waters.

In Queensland our billboards highlighted the state's rampant deforestation, largely as a result of land clearing for beef production. We also took Australia's shocking rates of deforestation to Europe, where we lobbied the EU Parliament in relation to new deforestation rules. These must be strong enough to prevent products riddled with biodiversity risk, like cardboard boxes made from Critically Endangered mountain ash forests, from entering supply chains.

In the Kimberley, Martuwarra / Fitzroy River—for Traditional Custodians a living, ancestral being—remains threatened by deforestation, fracking and mining. We

are working with the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council to secure cultural, scientific and conservation economies for the region, one of the largest intact tropical savannahs left on the planet.

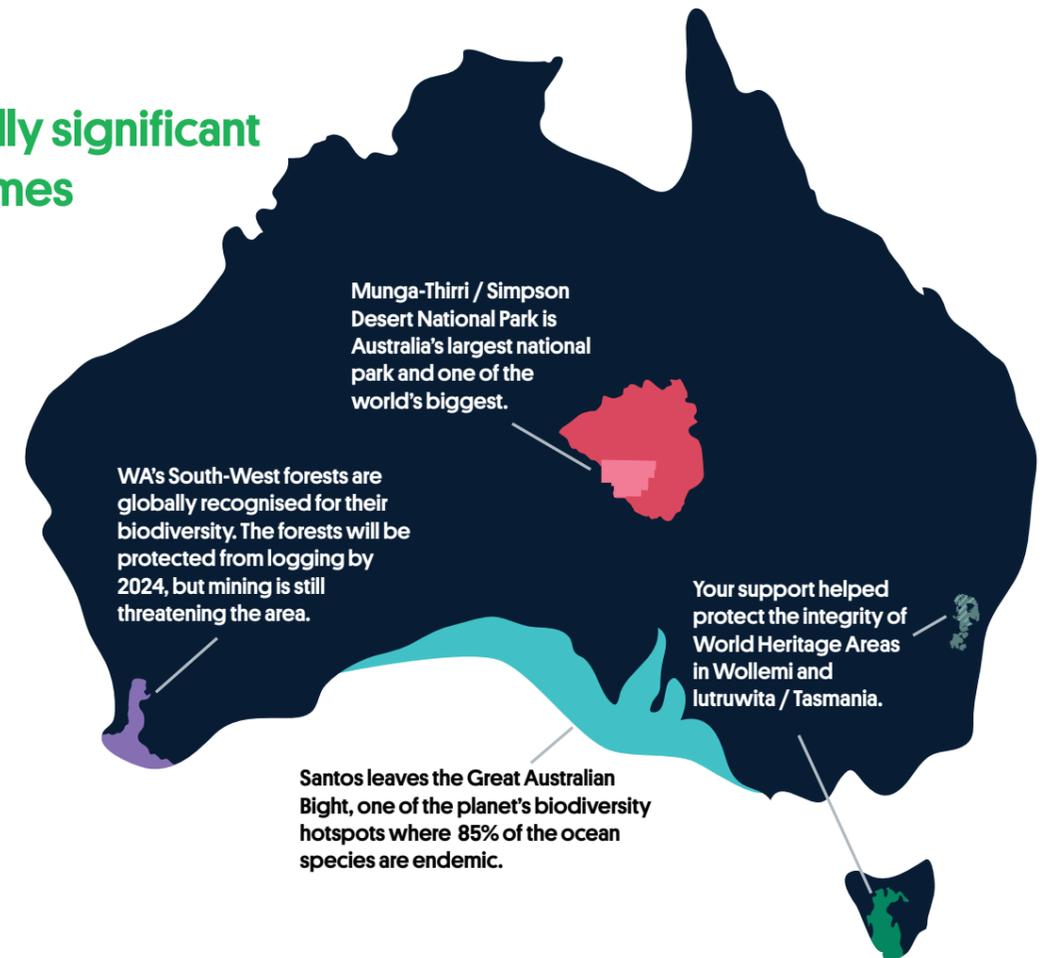
With a cracking team of campaigners across this continent, and your ongoing support, we look forward to delivering more wins for wilderness this coming year.

Amelia Young

Amelia Young
National Campaigns Director



Globally significant outcomes





Iconic places

With their rich evolutionary history, abundance of unique flora and fauna, and deep significance for First Nations people, the places we focus on deserve respect—and care. They support ancient Gondwanan forests, contain evolutionary adaptations and feature plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth. Here is some of the important, recent work that's safeguarding these iconic locations. All of it made possible by your support.



Australia's biggest ever national park announced



Thanks to your support for over a decade, we've helped deliver the biggest national park in Australia! The Munga-Thirri / Simpson Desert National Park will protect 3.6 million hectares of undamaged desert ecosystems and the species that call it home. On 25 November 2021, the South Australian government proclaimed this park—nearly twice the size of Kakadu National Park. It is a significant step towards a huge conservation corridor in the heart of Australia, allowing endangered animals and plants to move and adapt to a rapidly changing climate. It seems like madness, but fossil fuel companies still hold licences for exploration in what will be the new national park. "Proclaiming a national park sends a strong signal that an area is too precious to put at risk," says South Australia Director Peter Owen. "With your support we won't let the fossil fuel industry's senseless plans to expand into this spectacular new national park happen."

"If bulldozers were to rip through the Munga-Thirri's shifting sand dunes and drill into fragile groundwater tables like the Great Artesian Basin, it will destroy this unique wilderness area forever. The expansion of the fossil fuel industry must stop if we are to have any chance of a liveable climate into the future."

Wildflowers in the Simpson Desert | Matthew Turner



See wilderness.org.au/AR2022 for an in-depth look at this year's key events.



Victoria's tall forests: the Emerald Link

Big strides were made last year to deliver the Emerald Link, a community-led initiative based on nature-tourism opportunities and a positive vision for the forests and people of East Gippsland. One project, the Connecting With Giants walk, is being championed by Emerald Link advocate Birgit Schaedler. She has been hard at work developing a Conservation Proposal for the walk, engaging communities across the Errinundra region, as well as local groups like the Friends of Errinundra, alongside Emerald Link partners the Goongerah Environment Centre Office.

Situated on East Gippsland's Errinundra Plateau, the Connecting With Giants walk will join two existing trails through spectacular old-growth forest. The area has unique conservation values, with giant trees along the walk having an average trunk circumference of 10 metres. Radiocarbon dating has shown these giants to be between 550 and 600 years old. It's all home to many threatened bird species, including the powerful owl, sooty owl and square-tailed kite.

Just recently, Friends of Errinundra, with the help of Emerald Link, managed to secure funding to repair the Old Growth Walk in Errinundra National Park. Thanks to this grant by Bushfire Recovery Victoria, the boardwalk damaged by a fallen branch will be repaired and made accessible again. "Emerald Link is working to encourage visitors to the region. After an unprecedented few years, many people are seeking to reconnect with nature," says Victoria Campaign Manager Richard Hughes. "Some of the world's greatest remaining ancient forests are in the region, and we want to support opportunities for economic and social gains that benefit everybody while celebrating this unique natural environment."

Kuark Forest in East Gippsland | Rob Blakers



Wollemi saved!

It's been a dramatic year for the campaign to protect Wollemi National Park from coal mining on its doorstep. After you backed the people of Rylstone to knock out the first two coal release areas in late 2021, on 4 May 2022 the NSW government ruled out a third after receiving more than 26,000 emails from Wilderness Society supporters. With your support, we helped the local community stop three coal release areas before they even got to the stage of coal exploration! More on this fantastic result over the page from NSW Campaign Manager Victoria Jack.

A win for World Heritage and Lake Malbena

In September 2021, the Full Court of Tasmania's Supreme Court overturned a decision to grant a planning permit for Wild Drake's controversial tourism development on Lake Malbena in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It was a significant legal victory for the long-running Wilderness Society campaign to protect this special place. This outcome wouldn't have happened without the critical support of people like you who have kept this campaign moving forward.

At the time of writing Wild Drake hasn't changed its scheme, and is again seeking approval to go ahead with its reckless plans. "We are calling on the Tasmanian Government to end its parks privatisation policy and to recognise that it lacks social licence because the clear majority of people don't want public national parks privatised," says Tom Allen, Campaign Manager for lutruwita / Tasmania. "We won't stop until the integrity of the state's World Heritage is protected for good."

Halls Island on Lake Malbena | Grant Dixon



Santos leaves the Great Australian Bight

On 16 July 2021, Santos became the fifth fossil fuel giant to pull out of oil and gas exploration in the Great Australian Bight. Working closely with the Mirning people and partners, Wilderness Society South Australia helped coastal communities prove once again that the mindless expansion of the fossil fuel industry can be stopped. "We are now calling on the Australian government to listen to the people and permanently protect the unique waters of the Great Australian Bight from drilling for good," said Wilderness Society South Australia Director, Peter Owen.

South Australia Director Peter Owen (left), with Mirning Elder Bunna Lawrie | Micaela Jemison



Acting swiftly

Last year Wilderness Society supporters were asked to 'Act Swiftly' to spare critical habitat for the swift parrot, one of the rarest birds in Australia, from logging. Swift parrots are critically endangered with the principal driver of their decline being the logging of their habitat. Ecologists, citizen scientists and grassroots activists found them settling down in the threatened Lonnvale Forests during breeding season. These forests in southern lutruwita / Tasmania are rich habitat for the species, but are currently outside the 'Swift Parrot Important Breeding Area' (SPIBA). This means there are few restrictions that prevent the logging of this High Conservation Value forest habitat. Hundreds of supporters wrote to the Tasmanian government calling on it to immediately enforce a moratorium on logging of swift parrot habitat. "Thanks to your support, the Lonnvale Forests are being treated by managers as if they are a Swift Parrot Important Breeding Area. This is a great result: the next step is the government formalising this area in a SPIBA to ensure ongoing protection for these amazing birds," says Campaign Manager for lutruwita / Tasmania, Tom Allen.

Volunteers head out to try and spot swift parrots in October 2021 | Forestry Watch



WA's South West forests

Backed by your actions—and thousands of other people like you who raised their voice—the WA government announced the protection of South West native forests from logging by January 2024. This powerful campaign led by the WA Forest Alliance has resulted in one of the largest environmental reforms in Western Australia's history.

During the 2021 WA election, Wilderness Society supporters were asked to participate in a community survey on the future use of the South West native forest. Out of 17,000 respondents, 95% of people agreed with the need to protect more native forests, while 73% agreed that no native forest harvesting should occur. The message was clear—continued logging of high conservation value native forests is unacceptable. However, the WA government's logging policy omitted existing mining operations, which continue to clear large swathes of forest and bushland, including the precious and ancient Jarrah forests. "We can see the enormous impact of bauxite mining, which is ripping apart this biodiversity hotspot," says WA Campaign Manager, Patrick Gardner. "It is absolutely crucial that efforts are made to protect and restore this ancient landscape. Our Thousand Cuts Report details the necessary steps for the survival of the Jarrah Forests, beginning with the cessation of all clearing and fragmentation."

Jarrah Forest | Patrick Gardner



Protecting Martuwarra

A massive push from supporters like you enabled the Wilderness Society to work alongside the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council in the Kimberley, WA. You helped fund advocacy for the protection of the river alongside the First Nations communities, and we are working with them to help broadcast their important stories. "Billionaires plan to exploit Martuwarra and the Kimberley for their reckless irrigation and oil and gas projects," says Jenita Enevoldsen, Wilderness Society Senior Campaigner. "Martuwarra is the largest registered Cultural Heritage site in WA. It's also one of the last strongholds of the freshwater sawfish, and the catchment is home to one of Australia's oldest organisms—boab trees—thought to be growing here for over 1,500 years. With your support we can protect this diverse landscape and make sure the life-sustaining waters of Martuwarra flow free."

Martuwarra is one of the last strongholds of the freshwater sawfish | Damian Kelly





Case Study:

Wollemi

Victoria Jack, NSW Campaign Manager, reflects on the successful campaign to stop the advent of three massive coal mines on the edge of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

“The campaign to protect Wollemi National Park from coal mining produced a major win in 2021-22, with the NSW government ruling out three proposed coal leases on Wollemi’s doorstep. By acting quickly, we knocked this plan on its head before it even got to the stage of coal exploration.

“Thanks to our supporters, we were able to raise funds to shoot drone footage of Wollemi’s spectacular landscapes and threatened species habitat. The footage helped celebrate Wollemi’s forests and exposed the NSW government’s dirty coal plan, which put the largest and most intact part of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area at risk.

“We supported the Rylstone Region Coal Free Community Group, who led the campaign effort locally—even though many were still recovering from the trauma of fighting to save their properties from the Black Summer Bushfires.



The remarkable rock formations of Wollemi | Dan Down

“Among the locals we worked with was Dabee Wiradjuri man Peter Swain, who helped us shed light on the cultural significance of sites within the proposed coal release areas and how damaging a site would break a piece of a Songline.

“The Wollemi victory is proof that when the community is heard, we get better outcomes for the environment. But we urgently need strong community rights so that communities don’t have to spend every spare waking moment for years on end fighting to keep our globally significant places safe from destructive developments.”

“More than 80 kilometres along the western edge of the World Heritage area will be coal-free, and local communities are now free to shape their own fate, safe from coal’s long shadow.”

—Policy & Strategy Manager, Tim Beshara.



Victoria Jack (second from left), Tim Beshara (third from left) and Peter Swain (right) at a rally in Rylstone | Ingvar Kenne.

Read a special edition of **Wilderness Journal**
journal.wilderness.org.au/issue-014

The Board

The directors were asked, ‘Where is a place that for you best captures Australia’s unique natural values and why?’

We bid farewell to Sam Rando and Gabrielle Appleby who stepped down this year. Thank you for all your hard work.

1 Andrew Barker
Rather than a place, the thing that best captures Australia’s natural values for me is the rich diversity of our wilderness, and protecting this diversity we know is so important to saving us from climate change. If I was to pick one area, it’d be the lush forests around the lands of the Bundjalung people in northern NSW. These beautiful forests just teem with life and always remind me how important The Wilderness Society’s mission is.

2 Lisa Roberts
Visiting any of our wild places makes me feel privileged and lighter in spirit—whether it’s Australia’s beaches and rugged coastlines, forests and giant trees, deserts and vast open spaces. We should cherish all of these wonderful wild places, learn the stories of their past and those who walked before us, and continue to protect them now and in future.

3 Karl Tischler
Each year, I escape to deep South West lutruwita / Tasmania. It is just such a stunning place—achingly beautiful—and it is such an extraordinary privilege to hike there. I very often think that this is the kind of place that demands our best efforts. I am reminded that we are all indeed connected, and that ‘nature’ should exist in its own right—we are merely caretakers.

4 Junita Mushenko
The magic of Arakwal Country of the Bundjalung people, custodians of what we know of as Byron Bay. To experience the coastal wonders and whale migrations is spiritually so restorative. The meeting of the sea and hinterland captures Australia’s natural and cultural contrasts in a wondrous technicolour eco-scape.

5 Amanda Branley
The stunning area within the Pilbara Region of Western Australia, including the Murujuga (Burrup Peninsula) with its ancient rock art and beautiful coastline. I’ve been privileged to visit on a few occasions.

6 Leanne Craze
Currently known as Shanes Park, a 560-hectare parcel of land between Penrith and Blacktown in Western Sydney, is being gazetted as a national park. Valuing its remnant flora and fauna of the endangered Cumberland Plains ecological community, local communities are demonstrating the power of people to protect and preserve our natural places, even those in the heart of suburbia.

7 Jacqueline Mills
Once dismissed as a ‘desert wasteland’ there’s a growing appreciation of the complex ecology of the beautiful Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park within the traditional lands of the Anangu people. Spiritual home of Indigenous Australia, international symbol, no two dune formations the same, home to an incredibly diverse reptile population unparalleled in the world.

Learn more about the Board at wilderness.org.au/about/people



Image: Noah Thompson

The financials

from Jen Rowe, CFO

Despite the ongoing impact of COVID in the first half of the financial year 2021-22, and the inflationary pressures and recruitment challenges in the second half, The Wilderness Society Ltd produced another solid financial result. We have increased our fundraising income and spent more on our environmental campaigns and programs during a challenging period.

At the same time we've also strengthened our balance sheet by repaying borrowings and an upwards revaluation of land and building assets. Our secure financial footing supports the work of our continental campaign plan, and enables us to keep doing our important work in the face of macroeconomic challenges.

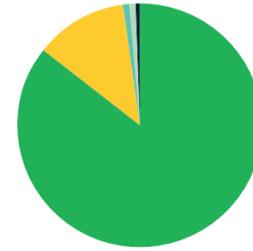
For the 2021-22 financial year, we delivered an operating surplus of \$1.5m (\$2.9m in 2020-21), after gain on revaluations the total comprehensive income is \$2.6m. Total income fell to \$11.9m (\$12.3m in 2020-21) as the COVID subsidies concluded. Our face to face fundraising program continued to be impacted by lockdowns, but our total fundraising income increased on the back of strong bequest income. We are incredibly grateful for this support and thank all our donors for their ongoing generosity.

The Wilderness Society holds around 78% of the units in the Friends of the Wilderness Unit Trust, which owns property in Tasmania. The value of these assets increased by \$1.1m based on an independent valuation of the land and buildings.

Overall spend on our environmental campaigns and programs increased by \$700k to \$5.1m (\$4.4m in 2020-21), even though COVID still impacted our work and staff capacity through this period. We have also continued to increase our reserves to support ongoing campaigns and programs.

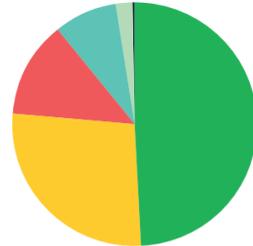
We continued to review our operational efficiency. Our governance finance and operating costs were 8.4% of total expenditures, compared to 9.6% in the prior year and 10.2% in the year before that. We increased our investment in fundraising activities to \$4.1m (\$3.8m in 2020-21), which supported our growth in fundraising income.

Revenues



- 85.8% Donations and fundraising
- 12.1% Bequests
- 0.0% Covid subsidies and rent relief
- 0.8% Investment income
- 0.9% Merchandise and sales
- 0.4% Subscriptions

Expenditure



- 49.4% Program
- 27% Fundraising
- 12.9% Member Recruitment
- 8.4% Operations
- 2.2% Depn/Amortisation
- 0.1% Interest

The Wilderness Society Ltd

Financial results (for the year ended 30 June 2022)

	2022	2021
Income from fundraising, donations, bequests and grants	\$11,769,727	\$11,318,754
Investment and other non-operating income	\$98,402	\$966,683
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,868,129	\$12,285,437
LESS: EXPENSES		
Environmental campaigns and programs	\$5,100,111	\$4,405,502
Recruitment of new supporters	\$1,329,128	\$1,178,384
Fundraising expenses – staff, appeals, supporter and costs	\$2,796,484	\$2,621,232
Governance, finance and operations	\$864,668	\$903,163
Depreciation and amortisation	\$225,239	\$230,749
Interest costs	\$13,832	\$22,692
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,329,462	\$9,361,722
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	\$1,538,667	\$2,923,715
Other comprehensive income (Gain on Revaluation)	\$1,100,000	\$-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$2,638,667	\$2,923,715

Financial Position (for the year ended 30 June 2022)

	2022	2021
Total Assets	\$11,377,238	\$10,450,999
Less: Total Liabilities	\$1,807,803	\$3,512,197
NET ASSETS	\$9,569,435	\$6,938,802
Accumulated Surpluses	\$1,890,967	\$1,793,466
Reserves	\$7,174,899	\$4,881,885
Non-controlling interest accum. surpluses	\$503,569	\$263,451
TOTAL EQUITY	\$9,569,435	\$6,938,802

This financial information is extracted from the full Consolidated Financial Report of The Wilderness Society Ltd for the year ending 30 June 2022, which you can find at wilderness.org.au/about/reports.