

# Forever Wild

SPRING 2013



After some great feedback from our members, we have been trialing some new events around the country which we are pleased to report have been well attended. We always welcome your thoughts about these events, and what you are keen to hear more about from the Wilderness Society, so please keep the feedback coming.

#### Upcoming Forever Wild events

- **NOVEMBER 10TH** — Hobart Forever Wild afternoon tea; MONA, Berriedale, Hobart
- **NOVEMBER 22ND** — Natural Industry exhibition opening; Incinerator Gallery, Moonee Ponds, Melbourne
- **NOVEMBER 28TH** — Natural Industry Art Auction; Incinerator Gallery, Moonee Ponds, Melbourne
- **FEBRUARY** — Melbourne Forever Wild afternoon tea
- **FEBRUARY** — Adelaide Forever Wild event
- **APRIL** — Perth Forever Wild event

## A Brave New World

Welcome to the Spring 2013 edition of the Forever Wild newsletter. From our incredible win in the Kimberley to the announcement of the world's largest ever network of Marine Reserves, it has certainly has been an amazing 12 months for the Wilderness Society. Perhaps most significantly to our long-time supporters, we saw the passage of the historic Tasmanian Forests Agreement. The Agreement has so far seen 170,000 hectares of native forest added to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Our supporters have been striving for decades for the protection of these extraordinary forests, and we are proud to stand next to this agreement.

The challenges facing our work might seem more daunting than ever, as the new Federal Coalition Government assumes power on the back of a platform seemingly set against environmental protection at all costs. But we are confident in the power of people to make meaningful change in society. It's what underpins our work, and it is our best bet against destructive industries and irresponsible governments. There's no denying that this is a massive undertaking and will require equally massive commitment, but with you behind us, we're up to the task.

It has been an absolute honour and pleasure to meet so many of you as I have travelled the country hosting Forever Wild events over the past year. We have some exciting events coming up, as well as some significant new campaign plans. As always, if you ever want to know more about our campaigns to protect nature and our work, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

For wilderness,

**Rayna Fahey**

Forever Wild Coordinator  
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# The Forever Wild Team

The Key Relationships Team has had a major refresh with the addition of two new staff members.



**Cherie Hansell**  
Key Relationships Executive

Cherie's passion lies in the health and well-being of people and the planet, and she feels blessed to be able to work for an organisation that is so closely aligned to her values. As well as her work at the Wilderness Society, she is a holistic healing practitioner assisting people and animals on their path to wellness.

Cherie enjoys bushwalking, camping and immersing herself and her kids in the wilderness so they too can grow their love for nature.

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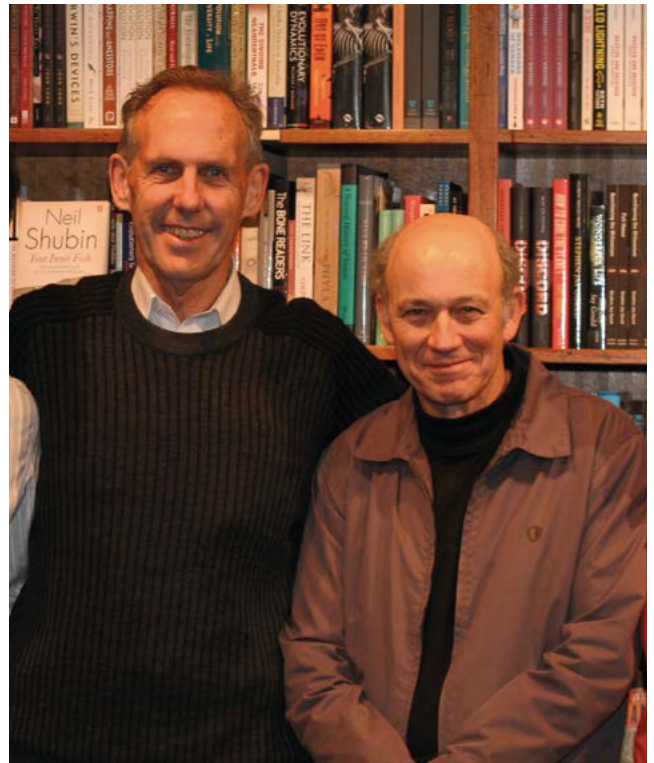


**Elsbeth McIntosh**  
Executive Assistant &  
Key Relationships Officer

Elsbeth supports the Key Relationships team by providing administrative support and managing our relationships with Trusts and Foundations closely alongside the Major Donor program.

Coming to the Wilderness Society was a welcome change for Elspeth, having previously worked in the arts; for the sideshow, opera, aboriginal art and as an arts business teacher in the TAFE sector from her Postgraduate Diploma in Arts Management. She has also worked as a surrealist artist herself, creating surrealist visual and written work. With a love of the environment and Indigenous cultures around the world, Elspeth is passionate about protecting wild land sacred to Indigenous communities, and ensuring that our extraordinary natural heritage is preserved for the spiritual and physical well being of all Australians.

**Contact Elspeth:**  
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## Meet Chris Bell...

Chris Bell is a passionate naturalist and talented photographer, having photographed wild places and wild things for over 30 years. He was a founding member of both Australia's Wilderness Society and the Tasmanian National Parks Association, and he has included the Forever Wild program in his will.

Chris has had five books published of his photography and writing, the most recent being *The Tarkine*. Chris spent three years photographing the Tarkine wilderness for his latest book, and describes it as a place of extraordinary beauty and charm.

The threats to the Tarkine are many; chief among them are multiple open-cut mine proposals and leases, which would heavily impact this ancient Gondwanan forest, and push one of its inhabitants — the critically endangered Tasmanian Devil — closer to extinction.

Chris' aim with his book was to capture the essence of the Tarkine for those who have never experienced it. He states:

*"It is crucial we re-establish our reverence of nature and regain an understanding of its workings if there is to be any future for humanity. I want to present beauty as a worth in itself, and for that beauty to act as a conduit to a new affirmation with the natural world which we so desperately need to establish."*

**We have also sadly said goodbye to Juanita Frost after an incredible three years with the Wilderness Society. We will all miss her incredible energy and passion and we wish her the best for her future endeavours.**



# Australia's mining madness

**All over Australia, we are witnessing resource giants planning massive projects that will not only destroy iconic Australian landscapes and seascapes, but threaten endangered species and disrupt local communities.**

## **Some of these threats include:**

- Coal mining interests in WA's Fitzroy River, Canning Basin and throughout the Great Artesian Basin – the only reliable source of freshwater through much of inland Australia;
- Nine new mines across Queensland's Cape York Peninsula, including Rio Tinto's giant South of Embley bauxite mine;
- Gas developments, including fracking, in far western Queensland's Channel Country by Santos and Chevron;
- Oil and gas mining off the Northern Territory's pristine Arnhem Land coastline by Paltar;
- Open-cut tin mining in Tasmania's iconic Tarkine region by Venture Minerals;
- Oil drilling in South Australia's Great Australian Bight by BP.

## **Did you know?**

The Forever Wild Program is now 10 years old.

Gifts received through Forever Wild have contributed to the protection of thousands of hectares of wilderness and countless native animals.

Thank you for considering such a personal contribution to the future of Australia's wilderness and wildlife.

All the while, the threat of climate change makes it more urgent than ever to preserve the wilderness we do have, and reduce emissions from fossil fuels. This is why the Wilderness Society is developing a new campaign agenda to address these challenges.

- We are devoting increasing resources to scientific and economic arguments for nature to counter the general negative discourse being spouted by politicians and businesses that should know better. We're also making a point of pursuing conservation objectives that are supportive of Indigenous rights and respectful of Indigenous ecological knowledge.
- We want to put you in the centre of the debate. We want to hear from you to keep learning about the many ways in which you are connected to this great land of ours. And we want to give you all the tools and support you need to help us stand and protect our Australian nature.
- We want to find out about the places you love because they inspire you, reconnect you to what is most important, and bring you a sense of meaning and belonging.
- We're also on a mission to keep as much carbon in the ground as possible, so the natural landscapes we have come to cherish will be maintained for generations to come rather than radically disfigured.
- And we want to continue to connect, learn from and work with all of you who make up this growing and passionate movement for nature, without whom all of our best efforts would be meaningless.

All the while we will continue to focus on iconic places across Australia that need immediate defence from ecological degradation and destruction by greedy developments.

# Forever Wild in Brisbane

It's been a wonderful year for Forever Wild events with some splendid days in Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Our last event was held at the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane and was solidly booked. We heard from the former State Environment Minister, Hon Rod Welford about the history of environmental policy in Queensland and nationally. He gave us some incredible insights into the current state of affairs in regards to our national parks and the threats they face. He summed up with the saying "if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything". It was a motivating speech indeed!

We enjoyed hearing from Alice Hungerford about her new book "UpRiver" and then went on a guided tour of the My Country exhibition. It was an incredible show with a huge amount of work exhibited. I had many comments from Forever Wild members afterwards about how thought-provoking and inspiring the show was.

We have a full line-up of fantastic events coming up over the next year, including Natural Industry, an exhibition Rayna is curating at the Incinerator Gallery in Melbourne. Victorian Forever Wild members should keep an eye on their mailboxes for invitations soon.

**As always, if you have an idea for a Forever Wild event in your area, drop Rayna a line on (03) 9038 0822.**



Forever Wild members may be interested to read *UpRiver*, a new book from Alice Hungerford about the untold stories of the Franklin River blockade. This incredibly well researched book contains images, stories and interviews from the blockade as well as a CD of songs, some of which were recorded at the time.



We were thrilled to have Alice at our latest Brisbane event talking about her book and many copies were snapped up! To get your hands on a copy and to read more about the book visit [www.upriverfranklinblockade.wordpress.com](http://www.upriverfranklinblockade.wordpress.com)



## Creature Feature: Spotted-Tail Quoll

Found in Victoria, Tasmania, and parts of New South Wales and Queensland, Spotted-tailed quolls vary from reddish brown to dark chocolate brown and have distinctive white spots on their body and tail. Shy and solitary with bright eyes, a moist pink nose and sharp teeth, these largely nocturnal creatures move around the forest floor on logs or in trees.

The main threat to Spotted-tailed quolls is the destruction of their native habitat through logging. A staggering 70% of Victoria's native bushland has already been cleared, making it harder and harder for quolls to find safe places to live and raise their young. The introduction of predators such as foxes, and accidental poisoning as a result of wild dog baiting programs also puts quolls at risk. In Tasmania, many quolls fall victim to deliberately laid poison baits designed to kill wildlife before they feed on post-logging regeneration seedlings.

Australia has some of the most magnificent and biodiverse forests in the world that help to mitigate the effects of climate change as well as maintain our water supplies. Yet many of these ancient forests are being clear-felled, burnt, and turned into woodchips for paper and cardboard.

Through your support for the Forever Wild Trust we can work to ensure the survival of the Spotted-tailed quoll and other unique wildlife that depends on this crucial habitat.