

Annual report

2022-2023



**AUSTRALIAN
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION**

**Nature
needs us,
now**

Nature needs us, now.

**We see an Australia where nature
and people thrive (our vision).**

**We empower people to stand up
for nature (our purpose).**

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this country and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to their Elders past and present and to the pivotal role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play in caring for country across Australia.

Cover. Young agile Wallaby during the late afternoon golden hour_Edmonton, Cairns, QLD.
Photo. David Clode / Unsplash

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Message from the President and CEO

From momentum to scale

The emu and kangaroo were chosen for our nation's Coat of Arms because they only walk forwards. ACF is doing the same with your support – moving our nation forward on nature and climate action.

The 'lost decade' left our nation bereft of effective national climate policy. At the same time, Australia's weak nature protection laws enabled the destruction of habitat and an alarming increase in extinctions. With climate listed as the most important issue for the majority of voters in the May 2022 election, and a change in federal government, our opportunity has been to advocate for genuine policy change to cut climate emissions and protect nature.

You've helped us achieve real progress in climate policy in Australia over the past year – a 43% emissions reduction target; a climate policy that will drive down pollution from Australia's most carbon intensive industries; commitments to cut methane pollution and transition to net zero, as well as billions more invested into renewable energy and renewable powered exports.

The momentum for nature is building too. The federal government has committed to ending extinction, rebuilding nature protection laws and creating a national environment protection agency that will take the politics out of environmental decision-making. Australia helped create a global agreement to end extinction, protect habitat and create a nature positive world this decade.

These are game-changing commitments for nature and climate. But commitments need action and to date, there is not nearly enough action being taken by our governments and businesses to curb the climate and nature crises. There are things Australia needs to stop doing, and things we need to start doing. ACF will keep speaking up to ensure we are moving forward on nature and climate.

You can't end extinction by destroying forests and bush; can't cut emissions while burning more fossil fuels. For our climate, that means no more polluting coal and gas mines should be built. For nature, that means an end to clearing threatened species habitat and logging native forests.

ACF will always speak up against damaging actions that need to stop, and we'll always identify the actions we need to take. This includes powering Australia, and our exports, with renewables, and protecting and repairing our magnificent natural world and life-giving ecosystems. We can't protect nature without a safe climate, and we can't solve the climate crisis without protecting nature. We now need to turn the momentum into ambitious action for a better world. We don't do this alone. We do this with you, with our ACF Community and other environmental groups.

We also know that by stepping outside our 'natural habitat', we can activate business, unions, government, farmers and civil society, to help achieve big goals and change our country for the better. We have seen major shifts just by having conversations with these sectors.

This past year is the time in our planning cycle where we refresh the skills of ACF's Board. We farewelled Miles George, and welcomed new Board members – Sarah English, Leon Cermak, Melanie Birtchnell and David Hood – elected to the Board from ACF's Council. We welcomed Terence Jeyaretnam, Grace Vegesana and Joshua Gilbert, co-opted from ACF's membership for their

expertise across business, finance, youth, multicultural communities, farming and First Nations. Also, this year, Liana was privileged to join as ACF's 13th President and Chair of the Board.

To our members, donors, supporters, grassroots community groups, our Board, Council, staff and volunteers, we say thank you. You've helped us create real momentum, on which we now must build. The nature of these crises mean we must acknowledge our collective successes, while ramping up our efforts to achieve a future where nature and people thrive.

Liana Downey, Board Chair and President
Kelly O'Shanassy, CEO

Our **impact**



Outcomes for **climate**

- We helped make Australia’s new and updated laws to cut climate pollution more ambitious. We now have an emissions reduction target that aims much higher than before, and we helped strengthen legislation to close loopholes being used by some of Australia’s biggest climate polluters to avoid reducing their emissions.
- We helped move Queensland – the state with the highest carbon emissions – towards greater climate action. The Palaszczuk government announced a plan for a clean energy transition including an 80% reduction in coal use by 2030 and sees the state free from coal by 2035. Our community campaign in regional Queensland lifted community awareness and support for a clean energy transition. In Gladstone, we had over 300 community conversations involving 35 community organisations.
- Our work to lift the game of banks and superfunds saw Australia’s second largest superannuation fund – the Australian Retirement Trust – bring external climate expertise onto their investment committee to help develop their climate change road map.
- In a major victory for First Nations rights and environmental responsibility, ACF actively supported Barngarla Traditional Owners in successfully blocking a proposed national radioactive waste facility in Kimba, South Australia.



Outcomes for **nature**

- Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek announced a goal of no new plant or animal extinctions in Australia. ACF has been a leading voice in elevating Australia’s urgent extinction crisis over many years. Now Australia is committed to protecting and conserving more than 30% of our country’s land mass, and Minister Plibersek has committed to a much-needed overhaul of our failing national environment laws.
- We raised awareness of the extinction crisis and solutions for protecting nature across our communities. We ran a major advertising campaign that reached approximately 12.5 million people. 4,600 children aged 5-12 contributed artworks to the Wild at Art threatened species art competition for kids, and more than 5,000 people signed up for our first Platy-project month of action in August 2022. This all brought conversations into our communities and to our elected representatives about the urgent need to protect nature.
- We supported the community-led campaign to save Toondah Harbour. More than 25,000 comments were lodged against a proposal to develop the internationally significant wetlands on Brisbane’s doorstep.
- Australia signed a global deal for nature to stop and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. ACF campaigned heavily in the lead up to the UN Convention and was on the ground in Canada when the momentous deal was signed.
- ACF exposed the banks and superfunds financing nature destruction. Thanks to our work, CommBank joined Westpac in undertaking an assessment of nature risks for the very first time.



Other big **wins**

- We welcomed another 92,167 new supporters to the ACF community and four new community groups.
- We had a whopping 1,568,203 new visitors to the ACF website.
- 314,356 donations were received to support ACF’s vision, and we welcomed 4,498 new monthly donors into the EarthVoice community which is now 24,559 supporters strong.
- We welcomed 310 new members to our Living Legacy Community recognising all those who have chosen to leave a gift in their will to ACF.
- ACF was all over the news. We appeared in print and online news and were heard on the radio and seen on TV over 10,915 times (an average of 29 stories every day!).
- 2,100 keyboard-volunteers scanned images of 3.7 million hectares of at-risk native habitat and identified 500 areas of potential land-clearing. We’ve successfully stopped clearing at the first site - important Regent honeyeater habitat in NSW. Four hundred and ninety-nine sites to go.



Thank **you**

Thanks to your support and action, together we’ve achieved great things this year.



OUR WHY

Nature needs us, now.

We see an Australia where nature and people thrive (our vision).
We empower people to stand up for nature (our purpose).



OUR WHAT

We champion big solutions for big impact because nature is in crisis and needs us, now.

Save our big backyard

Protect and regenerate nature to end extinction and create a healthy natural world.



Renewable Powered Australia

Power everything we can with renewables so Australia does its fair share to slash climate pollution.

Our big goals

Before 2025

- National nature laws that protect nature.
- Investors & food companies commit to end land-clearing.
- Investors don't fund new coal and gas projects.
- End fossil fuel subsidies.
- End political donations from fossil fuel companies.

Before 2030

- End land-clearing.
- Native habitat is net positive.
- Australia is powered by renewables.
- 80% of coal, gas & uranium exports are replaced with renewables.
- Investors & food companies are coal, gas & land-clearing free.

OUR HOW

Disrupt business-as-usual that harms nature



We expose undemocratic and unlawful acts and shift the public debate.

Create solutions for nature and people



We inspire communities, business and governments to find better ways of doing things.

Activate people to stand up for nature



We change the hearts and minds of people across Australia and empower them to take action in their workplace, communities and electorates.

OUR HEART

We go big!

We advocate for big, bold change because that is the only way to deliver the scale and speed of change we need.

We're for fair

We welcome anyone from Australia's diverse community to join us to create fair outcomes for nature and all people, especially First Nations Peoples who have cared for nature since time immemorial.

Everything we do is evidence based.

We use the available evidence and our judgement to take decisive action.

Team first

Together Everyone Achieves More. That's why we bring people together to have the biggest possible impact for nature.

We shake things up but never give up

We never stray from our big goals but we try new ways to achieve them because the clock is ticking on nature.

We're the foundation: As the national environment group we connect and support Australia's environment movement.

Save Our Big Backyard

ACF had an incredible year advocating for nature. We've seen a significant shift in the way the new Australian government and federal crossbench are engaging with issues impacting Australian nature, and our long-term advocacy on nature law reform is making strides.

We've had enormous success in building a groundswell of support for Australian nature by growing our movement in exciting and creative ways. We've also focussed on the role of business in nature destruction, pressuring banks and superfunds to lift their game.

Grow a thriving movement for nature

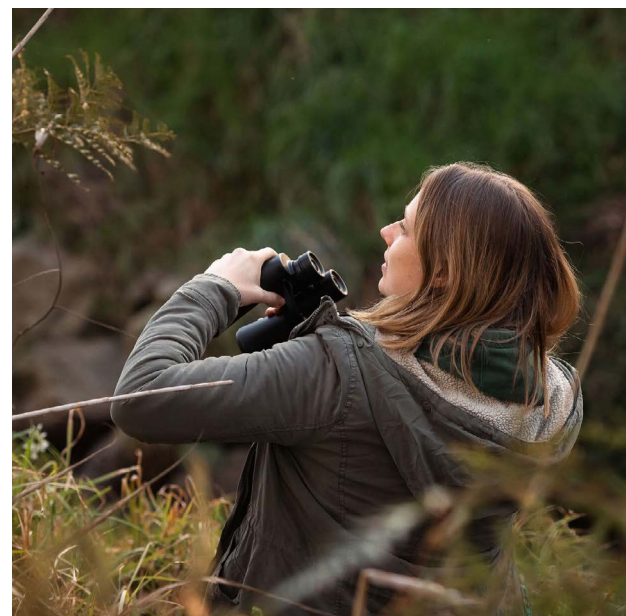
Across Australia, ACF community groups have been engaging nature lovers from all walks of life to protect and restore nature where they live. From tree-planting with local sports clubs to birdwatching and bushwalks with MPs in forests threatened by logging.

ACF's Bayside Community Group continues work with the Toondah Alliance to campaign against Walker Corporation's proposal to destroy internationally significant wetlands that are home to endangered shorebirds and koalas. The community-led campaign continues to go from strength to strength and more than 25,000 comments opposing the project were submitted during the Environmental Impact Statement consultation.

More than 5,000 Australians signed up for our inaugural Platy-project month of action in September, along with Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, preschools and numerous councils. They spotted 860 platypuses, helping researchers understand more about this elusive animal and how we can better protect them. Forty percent of the participants in the Platy-project month of action were new to ACF.

We ran a multi-channel advertising campaign designed to raise awareness and concern about nature destruction in Australia. While Australians love nature, the vast majority (84%) incorrectly believe nature in Australia is healthy and only 34% of Australians understand we're facing an extinction crisis. In contrast, the State of the Environment report found nature in Australia is in poor health and getting worse. Our campaign included a nationally televised commercial as well as state-based billboards and digital advertising. We reached approximately 12.5 million people across all paid channels and our campaign helped increase by 3% (nearly 800,000 people) the number of Australians who agree we are in the midst of an extinction crisis.

Our Wild at Art competition was an incredible success, receiving 4,600 entries in total. The competition drew attention to Australia's extinction crisis and many entrants subsequently sent their artwork to their local MPs with a message to protect nature. The winning artwork was displayed by The Guardian Australia, and some MP's sought permission to display the artwork in their offices or to create electorate postcards.



Campaigning for strong laws that protect nature with funding to restore it

In July, the Australian government released a comprehensive assessment of the state of our environment and ACF was a leading voice in the media coverage of the report. While the news was sobering, we rallied Australia's – and the world's – media around our extinction crisis.

In December, the environment minister released the Albanese government's response to the independent review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act – our national environment law. The minister's speech featured a number of commitments ACF has been campaigning for, particularly around new, strong nature laws. While the response isn't perfect, it is an encouraging start – including commitments to create a new national, independent Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and set national standards that create environmental outcomes applied to all industries, including forestry and agriculture.

For more than a decade, we have been working to stop successive governments' attempts to weaken our environmental laws. We're now heading in the direction of protecting and restoring nature in Australia. The current federal government's plans don't go far enough – or quickly enough to end nature destruction and restore it to health so, as the government moves to draft legislative reforms, we will keep the pressure up.

We continued working with our Places you Love allies to advocate for strong new laws that actually protect nature and an independent regulator to enforce them. Supporters and community groups across the country wrote, called and met with their elected representatives, and handed over petitions demanding strong nature laws.

Left. Platy-project, Melbourne launch event
Photo. Cathy Ronalds / MAPgroup

Top. Toondah Rally Photo. Greg Sullivan / Sunburst Studio



Renewable Powered Australia

A goal to end extinction

As part of the Threatened Species Action Plan, the Albanese government announced a goal to prevent new extinctions of plants and animals. ACF has been a leading voice in elevating the need for urgent action to address Australia's worsening extinction crisis. Australia has a woeful record when it comes to protecting unique wildlife and plants; we're a world leader in the extinction of mammals.

The goal of zero extinctions is ambitious but essential if future generations of Australians are to see animals like Koalas, Mountain pygmy possums, Greater gliders and Gang-gang cockatoos in the wild.

A global deal for nature

In December, we sent a small team to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Nature COP). In the lead up, thousands of community members called on the government to advocate for strong global goals to reverse nature destruction. During the convention, our team successfully strengthened some of Australia's negotiating positions and ensured the Nature COP was on the news agenda in Australia. In Montreal, Australia began what we hope is a real shift from laggard to leader.

What we got was a relatively good deal – it isn't perfect, but it could be a game-changer for nature. The resulting Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's mission is to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, with four goals for 2050, and 23 targets that need to be met by 2030, to ensure the world is on track to deliver on this mission. Now we need to turn these commitments into reality.

Shifting business to change

In collaboration with investment and advisory firm Pollination and Australian Ethical Investments, we released a report exposing how much we depend on nature and how closely our economic prosperity is linked to the state of our natural environment. The report highlights the need for businesses and governments to start accounting for the true value of nature. The report has since been quoted in the federal government's Nature Positive Plan.

This year we began our work to shift banks and super funds from financing nature destruction to financing the transition to a more nature-friendly economy. We released Risky Business, a first of its kind survey-based benchmark of Australian banks and super funds to assess how the financial sector is addressing nature related impacts and dependencies. We mobilised members of our community and expert ecologists to make banks' impacts on nature (including their financing of deforestation) a key issue at their Annual General Meetings for the first time.

The Banking on Nature Destruction report – developed in collaboration with our investigations and corporate campaigns team – investigated Australian banks financing of deforestation via their lending portfolio. Our supporters raised questions about nature risk at the bank's AGMs and we also engaged directly with the banks. As a result, CommBank recently joined Westpac by conducting and disclosing high-level analysis of where the bank's most significant nature risks lie, listing agriculture and mining as the two natural capital priority areas.

Platypus on moss in Cradle Mountain National Park
Photo. wernermuellerschell/ Shutterstock

After Australia's 'lost decade' on federal climate policy, we now have a federal parliament more committed to climate action, and 2022-2023 has been the climate program's most successful year.

We've been focused on ensuring the Albanese government's election promises are delivered with maximum ambition. The federal government has begun lowering our domestic emissions, but greater ambition is needed to replace our coal and gas exports with renewable exports and manufacturing.

Australia's federal Climate Change Act becomes law

ACF played a leading role to ensure our Climate Change Act was as strong as possible. We provided testimony at parliamentary committee hearings and lobbied for best policy decisions, whilst ACF community groups deployed pressure tactics.

While the Albanese government's emissions reduction target of 43% by 2030 is not ambitious enough to secure a safe climate, it's a significant improvement on the previous government's target of 26-28%.

We helped align this legislation more closely to the Paris Agreement through legislating the 43% target, the setting of temperature goals and requirements, strengthening the role of the Climate Change Authority in advising on climate targets and annual statements to parliament, and pushing for greater transparency.

ACF also successfully pressured for the ratcheting expectation – built into the Paris Agreement – to be reflected in the legislation, to ensure targets are considered a floor, not a ceiling on ambition, and can only go up!

We advocated on a range of amendments across 14 Commonwealth Acts relating to climate, energy, infrastructure investment, and science research. These amendments included blocking several pathways the previous federal government used to deliver subsidies to the coal and gas industry.

The Safeguard Mechanism (SGM) is the Albanese government's signature piece of climate legislation, designed to deliver its emissions reduction target. While it was already in place as policy from the previous coalition government, it was riddled with loopholes, was poorly implemented and lacked ambition. ACF played a leading role in pushing the Albanese government to strengthen this legislation to slash climate pollution from Australia's biggest polluters and make new coal and gas harder to build.

Queensland to get off coal by 2035

Most of our political advocacy is focussed federally, with the exception of Queensland. Queensland is the state with the highest carbon emissions, it's the epicentre of Australia's coal and gas exports, and its natural wonders, like the Great Barrier Reef, are especially vulnerable to climate change.

We pressured the Palaszczuk government to announce a plan to switch Queensland's electricity system from dirty to clean energy. The Queensland government's 10-year plan sets out a transition to clean energy that includes an 80% reduction in coal use by 2030 and sees the state free from coal by 2035. This plan is a big leap forward for the sunshine state. However, Queensland's 2030 emissions reduction target of just 30% is among the weakest in the country and is inconsistent with the emissions reduction we need for a safe climate. ACF continues to pressure the Queensland government to adopt the ambitious, science aligned emissions reduction targets we need.

Building support for a community led transition in Gladstone

Key to reducing climate pollution in Queensland and Australia is Gladstone – home to some of Australia's biggest industrial emitters like Rio Tinto and the Gladstone coal power station. The city also houses one of the world's largest coal and gas export terminals.

ACF has been working on the ground in Gladstone, helping drive a community-led plan to transform the city



into a major green industrial hub for domestic industry and exports. ACF's work to lift community awareness and support for a green transition delivered over 300 community conversations, involving 35 community organisations.

In July, ACF launched the Community Listening Report A Real Deal for Gladstone. ACF was joined by the Gladstone mayor, along with representatives from the Rail Tram & Bus Union and Lionheart Disability Inclusion Services. The mayor voiced his support for our work and committed to working with our alliance to find community-led solutions to Gladstone's transition opportunity.

Keeping Australia nuclear free

ACF's nuclear free Australia campaign has been in overdrive, particularly since the announcement of the AUKUS nuclear submarine plan, which has provided momentum for both military and civil nuclear industry promoters.

We highlighted the nuclear and environmental risks and threats of the AUKUS agreement and continue to pressure the Albanese government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

ACF actively supported Barngarla Traditional Owners in blocking a proposed national radioactive waste facility near Kimba, South Australia. This outcome is a major win for both First Nations rights and environmental responsibility and is the culmination of seven years of

sustained campaigning from Barngarla, environmentalists and broader civil society groups.

We maintained our long relationship with the Mirarr people through watchdog work on the clean-up and rehabilitation of the former Ranger uranium mine in Kakadu and engaged with West Australian efforts to keep that state's door closed to uranium mining.

ACF supported the first face-to-face gathering of the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance since 2019, participating in the powerful three-day event in South Australia's Flinders Ranges.

We continued our work to lift awareness and community support for the transition to renewables, contesting the renewed promotion of domestic nuclear energy as a dangerous and costly distraction to effective climate action.

From dirty to clean energy exports and manufacturing

ACF is increasingly focussed on decarbonising Australia's exports, which are among the most carbon polluting on earth. We have the best solar and wind resources, deep ports, sophisticated supply chains close to Asian markets and a skilled labour force. These advantages mean Australia can remain a leading energy exporter, but in clean energy and manufacturing.

We've been working on a range of government policies and initiatives to realise Australia's export opportunities while campaigning to end coal and gas exports. We're



working with (some unusual) partners – the Business Council of Australia, the Australian Council of Trade Unions and WWF-Australia – to produce reports showcasing the renewable exports opportunity to political leaders, industry and the public. We're also deploying a national communications strategy to educate Australians and lift support for making the switch from dirty to clean exports.

We're pushing Australia to sign the Glasgow Statement, an international commitment to stop overseas financing of coal and gas and we're pressuring superfunds to drive down emissions. The corporate campaigns team continued its work engaging Australia's largest superfunds to drive down emissions in their portfolios. We exposed the large stake that Australia's 15 biggest superfunds have in companies expanding coal, oil and gas production, highlighting their responsibility to rapidly reduce emissions. ACF supporters took action, writing to their funds asking them to tackle the climate crisis at the speed and scale required. Australia's second largest superannuation fund, Australian Retirement Trust (ART), was a primary focus. ACF supporters who invest with this fund ensured climate change was a top issue at the ART AGM. Continued pressure saw ART this year bring external climate expertise to their investment committee to help develop their climate change road map.

We continued our work to get Australia's big four banks to stop financing the coal, oil, and gas industries, with a particular focus on ANZ – the worst of the big four. ACF worked with Archibald prize winner Yvette Coppersmith,

to create a video calling on ANZ (a sponsor of the Archibald prize) to stop financing new and expanded coal and gas.

ACF also launched a federal court case against Woodside's giant new Scarborough gas hub proposal. If successful, this case could force other large offshore gas projects to have their climate pollution impacts on natural wonders, like the Great Barrier Reef, assessed.

Corporate campaign team

In the beginning of the year, ACF's economy & democracy team was reimagined as the corporate campaign team. The establishment of the corporate campaign team reflects the important role businesses must and will play in Australia's transition to a net-zero economy that protects, restores and regenerates nature. The team brings important expertise in engaging with businesses. While the corporate campaign team is a stand-alone team, its annual goals are integrated with the climate and nature campaign teams' work, delivering additional capacity and expertise to meet ACF's overarching nature and climate goals.

Above left: Archibald Prize winning artist Yvette Coppersmith paints climate activist Ella Simons in ACF's video about ANZ financing coal and gas. *Photo:* ACF

Above: Jaelyn ACF Gladstone campaigner with Shawn Higgins is an organiser with the Electrical Trades Union *Photo:* Tom Kinsman

Building people power

We got more Australians to raise their voices for nature and push decision-makers to take action.

The ACF community is a resilient bunch. We had to take on and shake off a lot of bad news – like coal mine approvals and illegal land clearings – and persevere to show the rest of the community that there is a path forward for nature to thrive in Australia.

Over the past year, we’ve delved into our creative sides and explored new ways to grow and flex our people power. It’s been a lot of fun; we’ve learnt a lot and we’ve had a real impact.

In September, supporters, new and old, headed out to our local waterways to launch the ‘Platy-project’ to spot and record platypus sightings. The data we gathered has built a stronger evidence base so campaigners can better advocate for platypus habitat protection. The local platypus spotting events our community groups hosted got hundreds of people into nature, connecting with our unique wildlife.

Across the country, our community groups have been hosting nature outreach events to get more people – and more politicians – out into nature.

Community groups in Victoria hosted tours of Toolangi State Forest, exposing more locals, and federal MPs Monique Ryan, Michelle Ananda-Rajah and Josh Burns, to the devastating impact logging has had on the forest. Groups across the country hosted film screenings, orienteering days, a nature sculpting event, bushwalks, picnics and many other activities that brought people from all walks of life into the ACF community.

The more we grow and diversify our movement for nature, the more influential our voices will be.

Kids across Australia submitted 4,654 entries to our Wild At Art threatened species competition – and 1435 parents chose to also send their child’s artwork to their local federal MP. These incredible artworks draw attention to Australia’s extinction crisis and provide a new, unique way for politicians to engage with our issues. MPs and their staffers displayed the artworks in their offices, shared them on social media posts and wrote thoughtful replies back to their creators.

ACF Community Groups unleashed their creativity and in the last financial year ran a massive 479 events. Groups have also taken our national campaigns and make them locally significant:

- ACF Bayside is part of the Toondah Alliance working to save Toondah Harbour from development and they’re using this campaign to highlight the need for stronger nature laws.
- ACF Inner West ran a local government area- wide campaign asking the community to identify an endangered species as their community mascot. The community selected the Grey-headed flying fox and is now campaigning locally to protect tree canopies while calling for stronger nature laws.
- ACF Eden Monaro have joined forces with the Cooma Multicultural Centre connecting with each other and nature through Platypus spotting.



- ACF Chisholm have connected with the Chinese community in their area, regularly attending “English Speaking Corner” - where they practice English and chat about nature and climate.
- In Queensland, the ACF Community have signed petitions, held meetings and hand-delivered the Queensland Climate Action Now (CAN) report to politicians which highlights opportunities for the sunshine state to lift climate and nature ambition.

In February and March, 6,411 people in our community spoke up and pushed our government to deliver a stronger Safeguard Mechanism that will force Australia’s biggest polluters to actually start reducing their CO2 emissions. We sent thousands of emails to the prime minister, made hundreds of calls to the offices of cabinet ministers, volunteered at calling parties in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and online and held snap meetings with key government MPs.

We still have a long way to go to raise Australia’s climate ambition, but until our community and the movement intervened, legislation loopholes were going to allow polluters to avoid cutting their emissions.

Now we have it written in law that emissions must come down, and we have a national framework to build on and keep polluters accountable.

Walk for Toondah event Photo: Gregory Sullavan / Sunburst Studio



Changing the story

Communicating the extent of the nature and climate crises facing Australia, the solutions we know exist, and the urgency with which they must be adopted, is at the heart of our work.

Building on ACF's reputation as a trusted and independent voice on these critical issues, and engaging the powerful support of our community, was a key focus in 2022-2023.

Ushered in by the election of a new federal government in May, the new financial year kicked off with the release of the much-anticipated State of the Environment report.

This comprehensive assessment of the health of Australia's environment is released every five years. The latest scorecard was dire, confirming that habitat destruction, climate change, pollution and invasive species are fuelling a rapidly worsening nature crisis.

ACF was a leading voice in the public response to the report. Our consistent, clear calls for stronger nature laws and adequate funding to restore and protect nature were featured across the media, including television coverage on the ABC, Channel 10, BBC World and Al Jazeera.

We then garnered significant media attention on a global stage in December, at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (the Nature COP). This summit brought together representatives from 188 governments in Montreal, Canada – and ACF was there, represented on the ground by our CEO Kelly O'Shanassy and members of our campaign and media teams.

Our reports from Montreal shone a spotlight on the summit for Australian audiences. We also produced billboards calling for urgent action to protect and restore nature, which were located in high visibility locations around the summit venue.

In the absence of an Australian media contingent, ACF's presence at the Nature COP helped secure landmark commitments from Australia's delegation, led by federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek. ACF's team did

extensive pre-summit work, running an online briefing for journalists and creating media attention in the lead up to this crucial meeting.

2023 opened with a new partnership with national broadcaster triple j for its Hottest 100 annual music listener poll. ACF was chosen as this iconic event's charity partner, introducing our work and campaigns to new audiences.

Throughout the year, changing the story remained a priority – through our public calls for more effective action on the climate and extinction crises, by providing evidence-based solutions, insights and investigations, and by supporting the growing movement of Australians determined to drive change.

These efforts included:

- Our reports and analysis on topics such as fossil fuel sponsorship of sport, land clearing and political donations, which were featured across various media channels and outlets.
- We provided expert comment around significant initiatives and policies, such as the federal government's Samuel Review response, its threatened species commitment to preventing new extinctions, and the AUKUS nuclear submarine funding announcement.
- Our ground-breaking investigative work into land clearing and methane emissions, including our first ever crowdsourced investigation, which involved 2,100 volunteer investigators.

ACF staff and Dr Karl celebrate JJJ hottest 100 partnership.
Photo. Ash Witoslawski

- Our petition for stronger nature laws reached a milestone 500,000 signatures in October.
- Our national advertising campaign which successfully called for effective reforms of the Safeguard Mechanism.
- Sharing updates about our ongoing legal action against Woodside’s climate-wrecking Scarborough gas project.

Engaging the community was also central to our highly successful Platy-project, which saw around 1,000 people head into nature to look for these shy creatures, more than 860 platypus recorded in the wild and 52 community-run events held. Meanwhile, our enormously popular 2022 *Wild At Art* threatened species art competition attracted almost 5,000 entries from talented and passionate young artists from across the country.

After a busy year, 2022-2023 closed strongly with a multi-channel advertising campaign launched in June. Crafted to supercharge public awareness and concern about nature destruction, this campaign was built around a TV ad depicting the destruction of the Sydney Opera House, along with state-based billboards and digital adverts focusing on other Australian landmarks.

The campaign reached more than 12.5 million people and was publicly supported by a range of high-profile Australians, including author Tim Winton, actor Aaron Pedersen and Olympic gold medallist Cathy Freeman.

Telling our story clearly and consistently, informed by evidence and supported by people power, will remain vital as we accelerate effective action on the climate and extinction crises.


Media snapshot



10,915
media mentions*




323
on tv



9,383
in print & online news



191
Facebook ad campaigns



1,190
on radio



4000 +
new followers on TikTok



1,568,203
new website visitors



351,273
new followers across
social media platforms

ACF Investigations

The 2022-23 financial year was a big one for the Investigations Unit. Our work over the years on carbon credits, the *Aggravating Extinction* report, the *Emissions Expose* report and investigations into the Safeguard Mechanism continue to make waves.

The Safeguard Mechanism — a flawed policy which we’ve been investigating since late 2018 — suddenly transformed into a hot topic. Our data analysis, revealing the top ten emitters under the policy, became a movement-wide resource which put us in the room for important conversations, and ultimately helped to strengthen the Safeguard Mechanism.

We exposed an Anglo American mine in Queensland which was allowed to double its emissions without penalty under the policy. We also exposed an attempt by a coal miner to escape the soon-to-be-reformed safeguard altogether through a loophole in the legislation. New reforms have since closed that loophole.

Our discovery that the Queensland gtreasurer and minister for trade and investment stated; “It represents a significant shift from a major media outlet that has been a long-term friend of the industry.” Talk about changing the story.

We kick-started our work exposing Australia’s methane problem, an international stream of work we expect to grow over the coming years. In June 2023, we undertook four weeks of fieldwork detecting methane releases at fossil fuel facilities in Queensland and New South Wales. Using an infrared camera and an expert thermographer from the international Clean Air Task Force, we showed that methane is underreported and under-regulated, and that gas projects (the worst offenders) are not a solution to the climate crisis.

We worked together with the nature team and expert Dr Martin Taylor on the *Double Standards* report, looking into illegal land clearing in Queensland. We showed that in one year 200,000 football fields worth of mature



woodland and forest were cleared, none of which was referred to or approved by our federal environmental regulator.

We released the Banking on *Nature Destruction* report, for the first time, linking Australian financiers with the deforestation they are funding. NAB, Rabobank and Commbank were linked to over 105,000 hectares of deforestation in Queensland in two years. Most of the forest was destroyed for beef production. Our report is vitally important as the banks commit to ‘nature-positivity’, and the European Union considers import restrictions on Australian beef linked to deforestation.

In February 2023 we launched our crowd-sourced investigation ACF Investigates: Habitat Destruction and knocked every single target out of the park. We’ve now started investigating over 700 leads generated by the project — including a huge ongoing clearing event in Woodsreef New South Wales. In June, we stopped the bulldozers in their tracks, protecting the critically endangered Regent honeyeater that was in the path of destruction.

We also caught beef producers in Queensland destroying koala habitat and stopped them, saving hundreds of hectares of habitat. Every time we catch deforestation in the act, it helps us show the Australian public – with rare and compelling footage – that nature is in trouble.

Regent Honeyeater Photo. 4FR

Launching ACF's first crowdsourced investigation

In February this year, ACF launched our first ever crowdsourced investigation. More than 2,000 people joined forces to help us detect illegal habitat destruction.

We know habitat destruction is one of the major issues contributing to Australia's nature crisis. We live in a big country where land clearing in critical habitat often goes unseen and undocumented. This landmark project was critical in shining a light on this problem.

Together we scanned over three million hectares of at-risk habitat across the continent, from Mallee scrub in Western Australia to monsoon forest in the Northern Territory, from the foothills of mountains in Tasmania to the Central Highland forests in Victoria, from tropical rainforest in Queensland to Kangaroo Island in South Australia.

In just four weeks:

- 3,681,000 hectares of at-risk native habitat was scanned by 2,100 volunteers
- 2,045 locations across Australia were analysed
- 41,051 tasks were submitted, totalling an estimated 2,052 hours – that's equivalent to more than a year's full-time dedicated work by a trained investigator.

We started by mapping out three million hectares of high conservation value habitat using a change-detection algorithm that detected possible clearing.

Our citizen scientists were then tasked with spotting the difference between composite satellite images of the 2021 wet season and the 2022 wet season. That's already a year ago, but it's still more recent than the official data we get from the government about land cover loss, so having this data is a game-changer for us and nature.

Every location was scanned by 20 different volunteer investigators, meaning we could give every square kilometre a confidence ranking, not just a binary yes/no classification for clearing detected. This allows us to further investigate the locations where a clear majority of volunteers told us they spotted clearing.

A whopping 4,025 square-kilometre tiles were marked as containing clearing by ten or more volunteers, grouped into about 500 separate locations. That's a lot of alleged clearing for our team to investigate further!

This volunteer opportunity clearly resonated with people, and most had never volunteered or taken action with ACF before. The gamer community turned up especially, with dozens of people scanning more than 100 locations each, and three extremely dedicated detectives scanning more than 1,000 locations each.

"Being able to see in front of you just how much of the Australian landscape is being cut down is really impactful."

Jamie, 19, South Australia

"For me, this was a way that I could make a change, in however small of a way from the comfort of my own home and only costing a little of my time, no less."

Brodie, 20, Victoria

Our goal was to investigate at least one million hectares. In the end, we scanned 3.6 million hectares, and we completed the project in just four weeks because our community investigated far more and way faster than we expected, which is a great problem to have! This means that next time we can be even more ambitious with the scope of our investigation.

The ACF Investigations Unit is now using the data gathered by volunteers to build evidence-based briefs on habitat destruction events. We'll then hand that brief over to the parties best able to action that information, including federal, state and local government authorities, compliance officers, and the media. We will also consider our own legal options. Already, we have stopped the clearing of important Regent honeyeater habitat in New South Wales and reported it to the federal authority.

We hope this is the first of many high-impact ACF crowdsourced investigations.

Left. Land clearing on a private property in NSW.
Photo. Daniel De Silva

ACF's First Nations changemaker

Josie Alec is a proud Kuruma Marthudunera woman and traditional healer from Western Australia and the co-founder of the Save our Songlines campaign. She joined ACF in October 2022 as First Nations Lead.

What drew you to this newly created role?

The main opportunity I see is education. I'm a teacher at heart and by training, I have a Bachelor of Education and I'm also a healer. As soon as I saw the position description I thought wow, this can have such an impact. And I thought, this is my job – did someone write this for me? (laughs)

Do you still feel that same level of excitement?

All the time. Because everything is always changing. If you want a really deadly, awesome job that keeps your mind going and keeps you thinking, right, how can we change this, how can we do this, that gets you to be the changemaker and actually equips you and supports you to do that, then this is the place. That's how I honestly feel. I have had nothing but support from every single person here.

I've heard you talk about the importance of deep listening – what does it mean to you?

Deep listening is not only with our head, it's through our heart and with every part of our body. You might be out on Country and you can smell something that's not right. There may be a mine somewhere around there and it gives you a feeling in your body that something is not right – you might get tingles, you might get chills up and down your body, thinking there is something wrong – that is what deep listening is and it's that listening that sparks emotions and sparks that physical reaction. We need to really get into deep listening to understand what is happening on Country.

There's a lot of difficult news in our work. Where do you draw your energy from?

I'm a very, very deeply spiritual person. I am connected all the time and I tap into that source energy, tune into my ancestors, ask for guidance and am open to receiving and accepting help from things that are unseen.

How optimistic are you about achieving the change we need?

I am positive change (laughs). That's my purpose – to be a changemaker. I didn't know I was going to be a changemaker, I didn't know what a changemaker was. I just actioned everything in my life the way I did it and all of a sudden I have done things that made changes.

Can you tell us about Heart of Country, the ACF documentary you're working on?

It's incredibly powerful. It's giving a heart-to-heart exclusive with Aboriginal people on their Country that a lot of people have never seen, felt or heard. Capturing that connection to Country and telling that story, to bring a new story to people's minds and capturing their hearts. Because what I have been taught as a lore woman and culturally is that we need to step into the world with our hearts centred. Everything we need to do is connected through the heart. Our intellect and our speech, everything, needs to connect and we need to project that through our heart. It's mind, words, heart. Heart of Country is about showing everyone that connection. That we are the same and we are uniting now, coming together and rising up. Not only Aboriginal people, it's all people. To protect Country.

Photo. Chris Grose / ACF



The art of being wildly inspired

More than 4,600 children entered our 2022 Wild At Art threatened species art competition – and the results were spectacular.

So many young artists showed just how much they love and want to protect Australia’s precious plants and animals, including Lola Rowe, who champions cassowaries – and the role of art in defending our astonishing wildlife.

With its sharp claws and horn-like casque, the cassowary is, to many, a formidable sight. To 11-year-old Lola, this endangered Australian bird, found in the tropical forests of Far North Queensland, is instead a shy treasure which urgently needs our help and attention.

“I think many of our native animals are quite misunderstood,” says the Melbourne schoolgirl. “I love the cassowary and I wanted to shine a spotlight on it.”

So when it came to choosing a subject for her entry in our 2022 Wild At Art competition, it was an easy pick for this talented young artist.

Lola spent many hours in an “intense but enjoyable process”, working with coloured pencils and oil pastels, using photographs to meticulously recreate the cassowary’s stunning hues and that prehistoric gaze.

Lola then approached a local cafe to ask if she could sell prints of her artwork as a fundraiser for ACF. They agreed and so far, Lola is thrilled to have raised \$90.

“I hope that my actions and art can raise awareness of native Australian endangered animals so they can be protected for the future,” she says.

“I’ve learnt from this that everyone can make a difference and hopefully create a domino effect. We all need to support each other and our planet and do something about problems like habitat loss.”

Lola’s mother Jade says her highly creative daughter’s lifelong passion for animals and for raising awareness through her art is a powerful combination.

“Lola is wonderfully tenacious,” says Jade, “and she simply refuses to be a helpless bystander.”



Left. Beauties of Nature by Zahra, 11 - 2022 Wild At Art Competition

Right. Lola Rowe holding her 2022 Wild at Art entry

Thank you, your love
of nature powers our work.



Thank you

Nature needs us, now – and you, our incredible donors, have proven time and again just how committed and passionate you are about protecting the places we all love. Your unwavering dedication powers our work, and we couldn't be more grateful!

Your deep love and care for nature inspire us every day. Your generous donations and gifts in wills contributed a record \$16.5 million this year, making up 91% of ACF's total income. You have given us the independence and courage to make this country a better place.

An astonishing 314,356 donations poured in through our Giving Day, Nature's Champions program, Night Out for Nature event, appeals, community and workplace fundraisers, general donations, and monthly gifts. We're proud to welcome 4,498 new monthly donors into our EarthVoice family, bringing our EarthVoice community to 24,559 strong.

We're equally grateful for the incredible gifts received through wills. These enduring legacies, left by 26 donors in their wills, total over \$2.4 million. To these remarkable donors and their families, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your commitment to securing a better future for generations to come. We're also honoured to welcome 310 new members to our Living Legacy community, recognising all those who have chosen to leave a gift in their will to ACF.

At ACF, we're dedicated to ethical and responsible fundraising practices, in line with the Fundraising Institute Australia (FIA) Code. Our commitment to transparency and honesty underscores our promise to manage every donation entrusted to us with the utmost integrity. It's worth noting that for every dollar invested in growing ACF's fundraising this year, we generated a return of \$2.85, a testament to the efficient and impactful use of your contributions.

*Left. Cute sugar glider hanging at a tree
Photo. DikkyOesin / iStock-Photo*

You are the heartbeat of our organisation. Together, we can and will achieve our vision of an Australia where nature and people thrive.

Thank you for partnering in our mission, for standing with us and other nature-lovers, and for your unwavering determination to protect our unique wildlife, beautiful beaches and bush.





Patron

The Hon Peter Garrett AM

Honorary Life Members

From time to time, ACF awards Honorary Life Membership to a member in recognition of their outstanding contribution to our work.

Honorary Life Members	Date of award
Dr Moss Cass	1982
Dr Geoff Mosley AM	1987
Dr Aila Keto AO	1990
Mr Geoffrey Goode OAM	1990
Ms Annelie Holden	1992
Mr Trevor Blake	1999
Mrs Beryl Blake	1999
Mr Mark Wootton AO	2001
Ms Eve Kantor AO	2001
Dr bro Sheffield-Brotherton	2005
Ms Penelope Figgis AM AO	2005
The Hon Peter Garrett AM	2005
Mr Bill Paine	2006
Ms Cate Blanchett AC	2011
Mr Gavin Wigginton	2013
E. Prof Ian Lowe AO	2014
Mr Geoffrey Cousins AM	2018

Sun at sunset over Joffre Gorge in Karijini National Park, WA
Photo. ChristianB/ iStock

Nature’s champions

We would like to recognise and thank our committed supporters whose annual donations were \$5,000 or more in the 2022-2023 financial year.

Leader

- Boundless Earth
- Gum Tree Foundation
- Jaramas Foundation
- Dr Matthias Krups and Marlies Krups
- Roo Rawlins
- Mr Brian Snape AM

Guardian

- Oranges and Sardines Foundation
- Skellern Family Foundation
- Dr Bill N Holsworth
- Ross and Julie Mallam

Steward

- Alice Arnott Oppen OAM
- Eldon and Marilyn Ball
- John Bennetts and Ann Ryan
- Bill and Mary Bush
- Peter Cockbain AM
- Marich Foundation

Protector

- Dr Susan Adams and Andrew Kirk
- M & I Arnold Family PAF
- ATS Charitable Trust
- Ms Joanna Baevski
- Dr Barbara Baird
- Betty Barker
- Mr John Barkla and Dr Alison Street AO
- The Bluesand Foundation
- Simon Buckingham and Annie Crawford AM
- H and J Farrow
- Ferris Family Foundation
- Dr Geoffrey and Dr Ann
- Roslyn Gordon
- Mark Hardy
- Graham N. Harrington
- Professor Gernot Heiser and Trudy Weibel
- Ms Annelie Holden
- Emeritus Prof Andrew Hopkins and Heather McGregor
- Felicia Huppert
- Kamener Family
- Mrs Pamela Knight
- Declan King and Anne Latham
- King & Wood Mallesons
- Sid Larwill and Samantha Bews
- Caroline Le Couteur
- Professor Michael Leigh
- Renée Ferster Levy and Michael Levy
- Midnight Oil
- Dr Ros Madden and Professor Richard Madden
- Carolyn M Vincent
- Norman Family
- Vicki Olsson
- Ms Pam Petschack
- Rellim Foundation
- Marietta Resek
- Greg Rowe
- Dr Angela Rutherford
- Sage Foundation
- Scovell Gardner Family
- Brett and Maree Slater
- Toot Sweet Consulting Pty Ltd
- Triple M Holdings
- The Suzanne Elliott Charitable Trust
- The Ubuntu Foundation
- Professor Warwick and Dorothy Bruce Foundation
- Karl Williams
- Stephen Withall



Sustainer

Lindsay Adams
Award Force Pty Ltd
Mrs Penny Blazey
Ms Nan Brown
Margaret Chambers and the late Prof Carrick Chambers
Mrs Ann Crawford
Dr Andrew Danks
Diversicon Environmental Foundation
The Forbes Family
Esther Gallant
Goodmanors Pool + Garden
Greenstone Drinks Co.
Ruth and Evan Griffiths
Conny and Anthony Harris
Holmes Family Foundation
Will and Jennie Irving
Anne Jaumees
Knights Family Jabula Foundation
Koreen Conservation Ltd
Koshland Innovation Extension Fund
The Letcombe Foundation
James and Lisa Landon-Smith
Natalie Mamone and Laurence Stonard
Dean Mason

Kelly O'Shanassy
Stobart Strauss Foundation
David Ramsay
Barry Ryan
Mrs Marjorie White
Helen Winefield

We thank all our donors,
including those who have chosen
to remain anonymous, for your
dedication to protecting nature and
our climate. Learn more about
being a Nature's Champion:

www.acf.org.au/natures_champions
1800 332 510

Charging along the road less travelled

Conrad Pattinson wants to shake up Australia's long love affair with their polluting cars.

"It blows my mind to see people get into their cars for a short trip," says the Sydneysider.

He's on a mission to prove there's a better way – so one spring day, he travelled to Perth, put on his best pair of thongs and pointed his e-bike east, across the continent towards home.

"I'm not an athlete or a fitness freak," Conrad says.

"The whole point of the trip was to show that if I can cross Australia on an e-bike wearing thongs, anyone can step out of their comfort zone."

For the next 20 days, he clocked up around 200km a day. Icy cold toes were a hazard, as were fierce headwinds, constant roadkill to dodge and some white-knuckle encounters with road trains.

But 3,970km later, Conrad, who co-owns electric bike company Vamos, says his adventure has made him more

committed than ever to a clean energy future in which Australia's exceptional places are protected and its creatures thrive.

"I've travelled overseas a lot and there's a reason why I still live in Australia. It's spectacular. Lots of moments on the trip, like standing on the cliffs looking over the Great Australian Bight, made me think again how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful country."

Along the way Conrad spoke to Australians from all walks of life and was inspired by how many cheered him on and wanted to share their own concerns about climate change.

His e-bike odyssey has also raised over \$20,000 for ACF, including \$80 from two strangers in a pie shop on the Victorian-New South Wales border who emptied their wallets after hearing his story.

Conrad is now finishing a documentary about his trip and the daily choices we can all make about how we move around our neighbourhoods.

"This is about the future of Australia and how we source our energy," he says. "If I can do this trip, everyone should think twice about getting in their car next time to drive to the shops."

ACF’s Living Legacy community

ACF’s Living Legacy community recognises supporters who have decided to leave a gift in their will as a way of taking action for future generations.

Legacy leaders (bequest value \$100,000+)

We thank our supporters who have arranged to leave a gift in their will to ACF. This will form a living legacy for nature and our planet. Our Legacy Leaders have advised us they are leaving a significant gift and we gratefully recognise them here. We also thank all our Legacy Leaders who wish to remain anonymous.

Dr Barbara Briggs AM
Professor Byron Lamont
Mr Neil McDonald
Ms Rhonda Boyle
Ms Laurel Tsang
Mr Frank Pierce and Ms Janet Mattiske
Ms Marilyn Whimpey
Mr James Richardson
Mr David Fisher
Dr Jennifer Herrick
Mr Bruce D Lindenmayer OAM
Ms Margaret and Dr Grahame Hardy
Mr Kym Hancock
Ms Jan and Mr Stephen Blakeney
Mr Peter Timms and Mr Robert Dessaix
Ms N Mamone
Ms B Weynton
Ms Annelie Holden
Mr J Trezise

Mr A Marshall and Ms M Durham
Mr Harold Levien
Mr P Geschke
Ms Jane Crouch
Mr Geoffrey Shores
Mr Kahn Franke and Mrs Julie Franke
Mr C P Morris
Mr Brian Snape AM
Ms Helen Gillam
Dr Judy Williams
Ms Sandy Jennings
Mr Andrew and Mrs Clare Kavunenko
Mr Andrew Griffiths
Ms Patricia Williamsz
Ms Vicky King and Mr Paul Hudson
Mr Karl And Mrs Andrea Williams

Gifts in memory

Thank you to those who made in-memory gifts to ACF. Your kind tribute is inspirational and acknowledges the importance placed by your loved ones, friends and colleagues in caring for nature. The following people have been honoured with gifts in memory.

Liz Graham
Ali Bibby
Andrew Brakey
Beth Mylius
Bill Chandler
Brendan Burmeister
Cavin Adams
David Glaspole
Graham Dixon
Halina Cumbo
John Landy
Linda Wisher
Margaret Nelson
Richard Adams
Richard Hopkins
Stephanie Richards
Sylvia Tresidder
Vicky Tee
William Robert Chandler AOM

Legacies living on

We acknowledge the supporters from whom we received a gift in their will this year, and we express our appreciation to their family and friends. These gifts are a testament of how important nature is to them and their legacy beyond their lifetime to support conservation.

Alice Beauchamp
Betty Marshall Storrs
Bruce Miller
Charles Roxburgh
Chris Keys
Denis Klein
Edward Norman Osbourne
Eric Miller
Geoffrey McIntosh
Jennifer Lynne Hunt
John Alexander
John Edward Waller
John Stephen Lawrence
Lorraine Winks
Marian Rosalind Letcher
Meryl Joy McLeod
Miroslava Christina Roche
Pauline Sandra Jensen
Philippa Carter & Peter Currie
Robert Raymond George
Roger Norman Brown
Sidney David Forsey
Susan Maree Duncan
Veronica Barbeler
Violet Harding
William Richard James Finighan
William Sperber

ACF’s living legacy community

John and Rae Sheridan have been regular givers to ACF for more than 50 years and have also generously left a gift to ACF in their wills.

Their wonderful support over so many years is enormously appreciated. John shares his journey of activism with us.

John and Rae Sheridan have been regular givers to ACF for more than 50 years and have also generously left a gift to ACF in their wills. Their wonderful support over so many years is enormously appreciated. John shares his journey of activism with us.



Politicians have an absolute responsibility to fully inform themselves of all mitigable, recognisable serious threats and to earnestly address such threats with the fullness of the powers entrusted to them.

With respect to climate change, to which Australia is a massive contributor, promoting new coal and gas developments is to be complicit in a grievous intergenerational crime, a crime against humanity.

Innumerable scientists have spoken, and the IPCC has made a final plea for climate sanity. There is no excuse whatsoever for continued fossil fuel developments. Politicians must be increasingly held accountable for climate inaction and complicity with the fossil fuel industry. We must all do what we can to incentivise ethical governance!”

Photo. Ari Balle-Bowness

Pro bono and partner support

ACF is fortunate to receive in-kind and financial support from many businesses, individuals and partner organisations.

Legal services

- King & Wood Mallesons
- Arnold Bloch Leibler
- Maddocks
- DLA Piper
- Barrister - Amy Surkis
- Barrister - Marcus Fleming
- Barrister - Geoffrey Watson SC
- Barrister - Diana Tang

Nuclear free campaign assistance

- Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
- Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation
- Cat Beaton
- Electrical Trades Union
- Eve Kantor and Mark Wooton
- ICAN – International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
- Dr Jim Green/ Friends of the Earth
- Kirsten BlairGundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation
- Martine Middendorp
- Mia Pepper/ Nuclear Free WA

Workplace giving

A huge thank you to the following **11 organisations** and their amazing staff who kindly contributed **\$2000 or more** through workplace giving.

We raised a total of \$110,770 with this program and we deeply appreciate the generous contributions that support ACF’s work to protect our unique wildlife and our beautiful beaches and bush.

King & Wood Mallesons	\$17,659.42	Charles Sturt University	\$3,060.00
CAF America	\$15,491.21	PwC Services Trust	\$2,355.52
Westpac Group	\$6,069.00	Ernst & Young	\$2,230.00
Department Of Employment And Workplace Relations	\$5,620.00	Australian Securities & Investments Commission	\$2,170.00
Australian Taxation Office	\$4,968.00	Department of Health and Ageing	\$2,054.00
Suncorp Group	\$3,891.50		

Volunteers and fellows

Our community created ACF and our community powers us today.
Thank you to our amazing volunteers who **show up, speak out and act.**

Fundraising & operations volunteers

Agnes Koo
Lynn Wang
Nick Pastalatzis

Investigations Unit volunteers

Emma White
Evie Davey
Matt Whitting
Meryllyn Newnham
Nicole Bentley
Olivia Flower
Phil Ducroy
Tom Williams
plus over 2000 investigators in
ACF Investigates: Habitat Destruction

Engagement and campaigns volunteers

Aarti Mahajan
Alan Farrar
Alex Lieb
Ali Beikzadeh
Alison Mitchell
Amy Webster
Andrew Town
Bart Citroen
Beth Charleston
Bev Lloyd
Binu Ekanaike
Bob Stevenson
Bree Formenka
Brendon Donohue
Carolyn Berezovsky
Charles (Phil) Ducray
Chris Cook
Chris McIvor
Christine Butler
Dave Tucker
David Hudspeth
Di Glynn
Di Tucker
Diana Combe
Don Vogt
Emma Prior

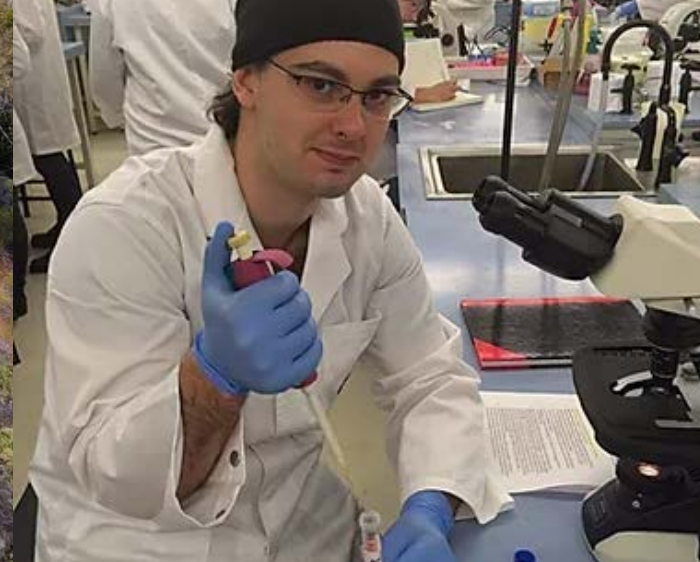
Gayle Dalston
Graeme Lechte
Greg Hardisty
HanneFalkiner
Heather Morecroft
Helen Lester
Helen Thompson
Isabella Barrow
Jan King
Jeanette Fielder
Jess Hardy
Joanne Fraser
Joe Earl
John Canning
Jonathan Wills
Joyce Erceg
Judith Seton
Julia Croatto
Julie Fraser
June Morris
Karyee Chiu
Kay de Ridder
Ken Rookes
Kerry Armstrong
Kirsten MacLeod
Klara Starr
Lani Casaclang

Liz Reen
Lynn Gunning
Maddy Piesold
Maelor Himbury
Maggie Cowling
Marilyn Wright
Mark Sherry
Martin Mansfield
Mary Swayne
Matt Vaughan
Maureen Phillips
Mauricio Pontalti
Merdedith Budge
Mitzi Tuke
Nethmi Goonasekera
Nicola Burford
Nikhil Sobti
Penelope Martin
Peter Cook
Phil Day
Philip Griffiths
Pippin Margaria
Richard Bentley
Richard Knight
Robyn Bodey
Roger Ferrett
Ros Vaughan

Rosalie Gebert
Sabine Carter
Sabrina Dong
Sal Fisher
Sally Faraday
Sandr Englart
Sarah Reid
Sheena Gilman
Stephen Lightfoot
Tania Kromoloff
Tim Budge
Tony Fisk
Udo Sarnow
Una Sandeman
Vicki Salisbury
Viola Temple-Watts
Wanda Rusek
Warren Fraser
Wendy Blake
Will Booth
Yadira Narvaez

Volunteers John and Don from ACF Community Groups
in Melbourne.
Photo. David Hudspeth





Our creative and committed community

What a year for community fundraising at ACF!
More than 900 incredible humans pulled up their sleeves to raise funds for ACF.

From epic electric bike journeys to brave haircuts, we've had fundraisers from all walks of life join our ranks.

We've been inspired by the weird and wonderful ways people have generated interest in ACF's work the creativity people have used to raise funds and awareness, helping to protect our environment.

You may have read about Conrad Pattinson, who rode 3,970 km from Perth to Sydney on his electric bike – in thongs – and raised a whopping \$20,168!

There was also Phil, who shaved his head and live streamed the event, all to support ACF. Phil's efforts brought in a hair-raising \$5,510 for ACF.

Twelve small businesses have generously pledged their support to raise funds through their work. Wildlife photographer Mick Kelly will donate \$1 for every sale of his beautiful birdlife calendar.

We had 884 participants spending a 'Night Out for Nature' in 2022, raising more than \$53,000 in the first year of this event. What a great way to stand up for nature!

Learning from this success we have exciting plans in store for a new community fundraising event in 2024, and we'll share these plans with the ACF community later this year.

We've loved getting to know all these incredible community fundraisers. They're an inspiring and energetic group of ACF supporters, and their commitment and creativity are helping us build a world where nature and people thrive.

If you would like to learn more about how to fundraise for ACF, reach out to us at fundraise@acf.org.au or call 0447 030 155.

Our Organisation

Over the last twelve months, we have focused on evolving our practices to ensure an impactful and flexible hybrid work model. We have launched initiatives to strengthen our collaboration - from a week-long in-person 'reviver' for all staff to come together, to introducing new project management software across the organisation.

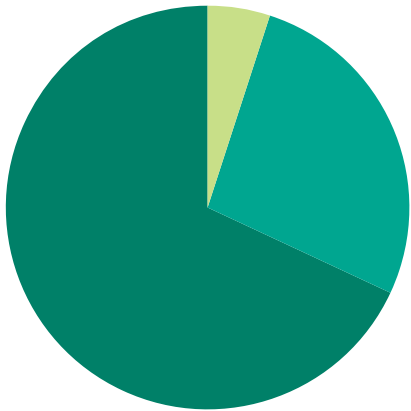
We continue to be exceptionally proud of our best-in-class enterprise agreement, and our conditions and culture are helping us recruit brilliant team members. We're also serving as an engine room for the environmental sector, and this year we've seen the continuation of a trend we have observed over many years, with more staff looking for a new adventure the year after a federal election.

Our recent staff satisfaction survey affirmed this focus on collaboration and culture, with:

- 94% of staff reported that there is a strong feeling of teamwork and cooperation in the organisation.
- 93% of staff reported that they understand how their work directly contributes to the success of the organisation.
- 93% of staff feel proud to tell people they work at ACF.

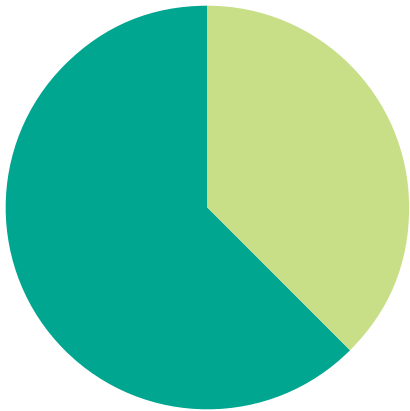
A more flexible work model has also affected the way we use our smaller offices, with a move to coworking spaces which provide staff with more flexibility at lower cost to ACF. Our head office, the Green Building in Carlton, Victoria, is an oasis of sustainability, with class-leading minimisation of energy and water usage. We are improving our technology to optimise for effective hybrid work, made improvements to the parents' room and are in the process of creating a prayer room. These changes make our space an appealing place to work and ensure it is inclusive and accessible for staff and visitors.

Generation



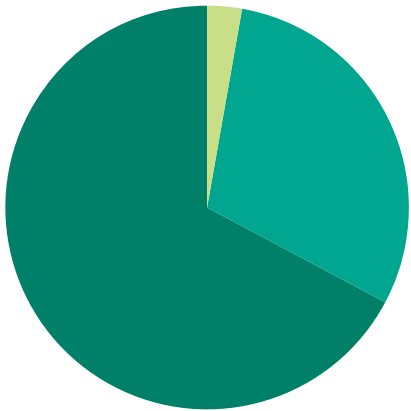
- Baby boomers 5%
- Gen X 27%
- Gen Y 68%

Gender in management



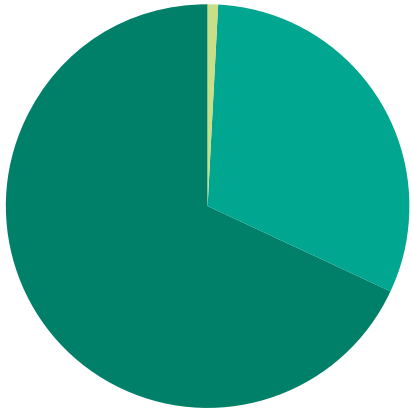
- Men 37.5%
- Women 62.5%

Staff composition



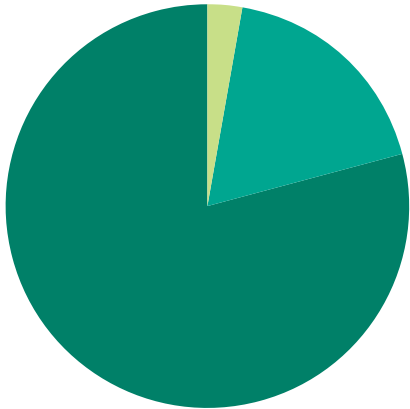
- Casual 3%
- Part time 30%
- Full time 67%

Gender



- Non-binary people 1%
- Men 31%
- Women 68%

Cultural diversity of staff



- 3% of staff are Indigenous Australians
- 18% of staff identify as from a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- 79% of staff are not First Nations people and are not from a culturally and linguistically diverse background

Staff turnover



15.3%

ACF is governed by a volunteer Board which contributes a broad range of expertise to the organisation. Our Board members are dedicated to ACF’s purpose, values and strategy for change.

The Board comprises six ACF Councillors – ACF’s Vice Presidents and four Councillors elected to the Board – and up to five further members appointed (co-opted) by Council.



Our Board

- Liana Downey – President (*Appointed February 2023*)
- Shar Molloy – Vice President
- Sarah English – Vice President
- Leon Cermak - Secretary
- Joshua Gilbert - Treasurer
- Melanie Birtchnell
- Ros Harvey
- David Hood AM
- Terence Jeyaretnam (*Appointed July 2023*)
- Sarah Reid
- Grace Vegesana

ACF is indebted to Board Member and Treasurer Miles George, who retired in November 2022.

We acknowledge the significant, voluntary contributions of the following external members of the Board’s Finance Audit and Risk Committee: Jonathan Andrews, Beenish Durrani, Damien Manuel and Katie Morris.

Our Council

The Council is ACF’s core representative body. ACF Members elect their state and territory Councillors to a three-year term.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Shar Molloy <i>Vice President, NT</i> | Sue Richardson, SA |
| Sarah English <i>Vice President, WA (formerly NSW)</i> | Jessica Hargrave, SA |
| Sarah Reid, ACT | Joana Cubillos, TAS |
| Jonathan King, NSW | Martyn Summers, TAS |
| Stephen Lightfoot, NSW | Melanie Birtchnell, VIC |
| Jade Kudrenko, NT | Kate Nobel, VIC |
| David Hood QLD | Liz Reen, VIC |
| Revel Pointon, QLD | James Eggleston WA (<i>retired July 2023</i>) |
| Narelle McCarthy, QLD | Bronwyn Campbell, WA |
| Leon Cermak, SA | |

Financial Summary

This past year has been a challenge from a financial perspective. The cost-of-living crisis has seen donations fall across the whole charitable sector, whilst at the same time costs are rising. It has been a year to tighten the belt and manage cash flows closely.

Despite the financial headwinds, total revenues increased by 6% to \$18.13 million, driven by larger than expected receipts of bequest income. Gifts in wills continue to be a powerful way to support ACF’s work. In recent years, the generosity of bequestors enabled ACF to fund major environmental campaigns, contributing to the Climate Election and a change in government policy towards climate and nature. Leaving a gift in your will is a meaningful way to ensure the things you care about can be protected for future generations. If this is something you have been considering, ACF offers a free online will writing service in partnership with Gathered Here.

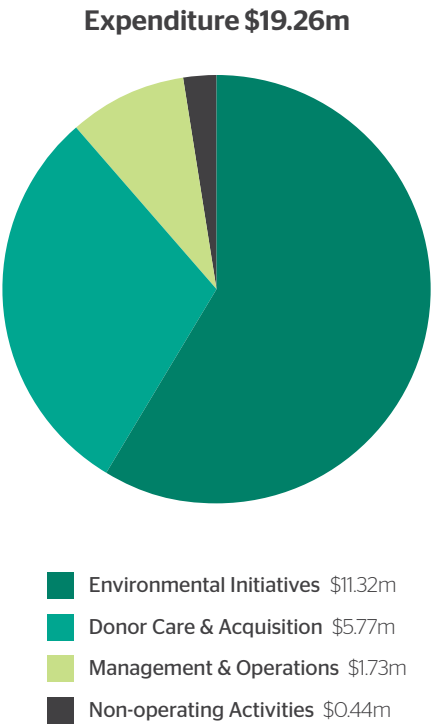
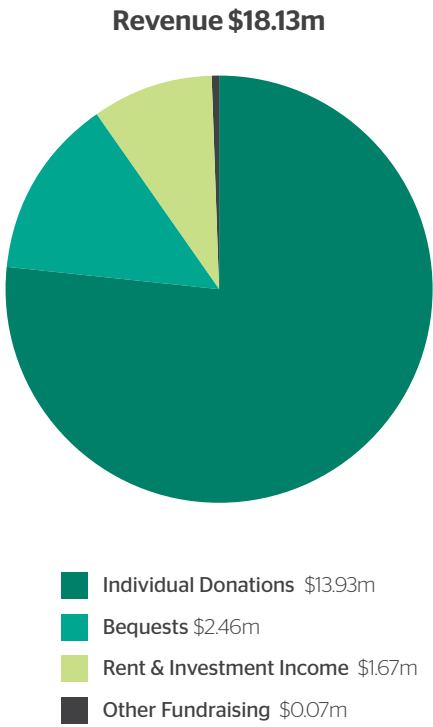
This year, our core donation income fell by 1.5% to \$13.93 million, and there is ongoing uncertainty about when we will return to a growth path. There are many important social causes competing for donors’ attention and it is necessary to find new ways of engaging with supporters. ACF continues to make necessary investments in fundraising capabilities, growing fundraising expenditure by 16% to \$5.77 million. For every \$1 we spend on fundraising we raise \$2.85.

In 2021-22, ACF’s Board decided to draw on our reserves and dramatically increase expenditure in advocating for nature. That year we incurred record expenditure on environmental activities. In 2022-23, we have again drawn on our reserves, this time to fund a prominent national advertising campaign, bringing attention to unacceptable habitat destruction. This year our environmental expenditure was the second highest ever at \$11.32 million, representing over 59% of total expenditure.

ACF generated a deficit of \$1.14 million for 2022-23. Importantly, this is entirely due to our decision to draw on reserves for environmental expenditure. Our underlying business generated a small surplus and the books are balanced. ACF remains in a very strong financial position, with \$11.94 million of cash and investments, which provides us with resilience and the capacity to be impactful at key moments.

Careful management of funds has seen ACF weather a pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis and we are cautiously optimistic that the worst is behind us. We appreciate the financial outlook for our 40,000 donors remains uncertain, but they can be assured that every dollar generously given to ACF will be spent wisely. Together we understand that the time for action is now. Governments and corporations cannot be allowed to delay implementing the changes needed to safeguard the climate, nature and the places we love.

We hope you join us in this pivotal decade for Australia’s environment. Thank you.



We love **our beautiful planet**

Australian Conservation Foundation

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**AUSTRALIAN
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**Nature
needs us,
now**