24 years looking after the DEDEE Annual Report 2020



Chairperson's Report

Kate Golson, Chairperson

EK began the 2019/20 year in good shape (with Kimberley Nature Project's recent securing of several considerable multi-year grants, among other things) and ended it in the midst of the COVID-19 lockdown and facing a very uncertain time on all fronts.

The adaptability and responsiveness of the organisation in the face of change, born from the many years of operating without funding certainty, put us in good stead – as did our strong networks of committed members and supporters (thanks to you all).

Without fail, every year since 2005, local volunteers have worked with EK to ensure that the Annual Art Auction, our supreme fundraiser, is a success. The 2019 event provided over three hours of action, the culmination of weeks of planning. The raffle of a painting by Kukatja artist Lucy Loomoo set a record for the number of tickets sold well in advance of the draw on the night.

In July, the masterful Stephen Pigram, along with friends and family, headlined EK's third Concert for the Kimberley. Also featuring was a long list of local musicians and special guests who, like Steve, have generously supported EK and the environmental cause through the years.

In August, KNP recruited two new ecologists, and in October, Shaun Clark replaced Phillip Walker as the Frack Free Kimberley campaigner. By the year's end, EK had begun a partnership with Perth-based Impact Seed (www.impactseed.org/), through which we will support and promote social enterprises in the Kimberley.

At the November 2019 AGM, we welcomed Sarah Dobson and Cassie Douglas-Hill onto the Board. Both have brought fresh perspectives to our discussions. The Board continues to prioritise the strengthening of internal communications and decision-making processes in the organisation. In a late-year workshop on governance and strategic review, staff and Board members gathered for the first time in a long while. All agreed that these all-of-EK occasions will be held more regularly and that the next occasion, a review of our strategic plan, would take place as early as possible in 2020.

All our good intentions were upended with the unfolding of the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia in early 2020. EK's various arms moved rapidly to assess what needed to happen, including ensuring our staff remained safe and healthy and that the wellbeing of partners and project participants and volunteers was protected. While the Board spearheaded the development of an epidemic and pandemic policy, the projects and the campaigns teams adjusted their work programs accordingly. By late March, the office was closed, with staff working from home and the Board meeting online. During the Kimberley's time of lockdown, in true EK form, the team took stock and maintained the momentum. This was exemplified by the decision to proceed with the Art Auction and Concert as virtual, if they couldn't be face-to-face, events.

In early 2020, the Broome community farewelled Kevin Smith. Kevin gave his time generously to EK in many capacities – as EK treasurer, as a long-time member of the Gift Fund committee, as a die-hard seagrass-monitoring volunteer, at the art auction and on and on. We miss him.

All the best and keep safe, Kate



Director's Report

Martin Pritchard, Director

The Coronavirus came late in the 2019–20 financial year, overshadowing another period of high concern about the global climate crisis.

While the bushfires over East dominated the media before Covid, a report about the WA Marine Science Institute's work on the Kimberley coast showed that we are far from immune from the effects of climate change. 80% of the Kimberley's super-strong inshore coral was bleached after El Niño weather conditions sent the sea surface temperatures soaring, up by anything from 4.5C to 9.3C between November 2015 and April 2016. 70% of sub-tidal coral was bleached. Kimberley coral, despite being the toughest in the world, will not survive the repeated heatwaves that come with climate change, yet both State and Federal governments prevaricate.

While we thought COVID-19 would bring some respite from destructive proposals to industrialise the Kimberley through mining, infrastructure or industrial agriculture, this was not the case. From the push to seal the Tanami to facilitate mining, the gradual opening up of the Kimberley to fracking, and a bauxite grab in the North Kimberley to the paving of Entrance Point beach in Broome, the pressure is relentless.

As Kate has mentioned, when COVID-19 came we took quick, decisive action to safeguard staff, partner organisations and communities. A potential disaster was averted in the Kimberley when the community took strong action and the WA Government acted to keep everyone safe. We commend both the State and Federal Governments for their response to the virus and the support they have provided to ensure the continued viability of the not-for-profit sector.

Our experienced Board has once more steered us valiantly through the difficulties of the year under Kate's leadership. A more steadfast Chair would be difficult to find. The admin, finance and community engagement work are critical to our success, Christine and Tessa have done this with skill and dedication. The projects carried out by the KNP team led by Malcolm and Louise continue to ground our work in the highest quality research, deep relationships and leadingedge innovation, with extremely high calibre staff. One of the keys to our success is our workplace culture, which is embraced by everyone, whether working on campaigns, KNP, administration, fundraising or community events.

Our vision for the future of the Kimberley, to ensure that its greatest assets - the relatively unspoilt natural landscapes and the oldest continuing culture in the world - are not undermined or destroyed, remains inviolable. Our work is made possible through generous donors, members, volunteers, partner and philanthropic organisations and government grants. We are proud to work together on our shared vision and thank you for your support.

Our partnership with the Pew Charitable Trusts, Kimberley Like Nowhere Else Alliance and work with Traditional Owners have been critical to our success in continuing to protect the Martuwarra Fitzroy River.

We always support and promote economic activity that doesn't destroy the magic of the region, and next financial year we will be providing practical support for social enterprise start-ups, in partnership with Impact Seed.

With a State election due next year, we're calling on the McGowan Government to ensure Kimberley ecosystems remain intact, that the push to industrialise is curbed, and that any development is sensitive to the environment here, so that the region's species are allowed to thrive and future generations can enjoy this very special place.

Campaigns Report

Martin Pritchard, Director

The protection of the Kimberley's tropical savannah, the most intact in the world, and the Martuwarra Fitzroy River, continued to be top priorities for us this year. The McGowan Government's decision to allow fracking for oil and gas in the Kimberley has seen new players investigating our region. Banning fracking in Perth and the South West, while allowing it in our region, is one of the worst environmental decisions the Kimberley has ever seen.



Protecting the Kimberley from fracking

It is just as well that opposition to this polluting industry remains strong in the Kimberley and across the continent. We now have experienced frackers, Bennett Resources from Texas, targeting land in the Fitzroy River catchment. The Government continues to roll out its 'Implementation Plan' for fracking and we're keeping tabs, ensuring the highest level of scrutiny, and facilitating community feedback. More than 6,500 people called for further protection of the Kimberley from fracking by sending submissions to the government on its 'Iconic Natural Heritage Places' consultation. We look forward to seeing many more of the Kimberley's special places protected from fracking.

We also commissioned a report, 'Heatwatch – Extreme heat in the Kimberley', which referred to projections by the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology of the severe impacts on people, communities, industries and ecosystems if fracking begins here and fossil fuel emissions are not reduced in a major way.

Buru Energy AGM – virtual protest



Protecting the Fitzroy

The threats to the health of the Fitzroy continue with Gina Rinehart's Hancock Agriculture proposal to take 325 billion litres of water a year and Gogo station's plans to take 50 billion litres a year, ostensibly to feed cattle but with the door left open for cotton. Following the deaths of more than 40 critically endangered sawfish on Liveringa pastoral lease in late 2018, we learnt of another fish kill, of breeding Barramundi, in a pool on Snake Creek, where Ms Rienhart's pumps take water for thirsty crops. We have called for an investigation by the WA Government. If this is happening when 1-2 billion litres a year are being extracted, 375 billion litres a year would be disastrous. We are still waiting for the report on the sawfish deaths. Despite intimidation and aggression at a meeting convened by the WA Government for Traditional Owners, conservation groups and industry to discuss the future of the Fitzroy, development interests failed to kick us out. As part of the Kimberley Like Nowhere Else Alliance campaign, 13,700 signatures were sent to the Premier on World Sawfish Day, calling for the protection of the Fitzroy. Concerned about the future of the river, 500 people turned up to a concert in the dry river bed at Old Crossing in Fitzroy Crossing (see report p. 7). Traditional Owner leaders spoke eloquently about the importance of the river and the imperative to protect it.

Landclearing

We successfully helped Nyikina people to stop illegal landclearing at Yakka Munga, with over 2,300 emails to the Minister for the Environment. A year later we are still awaiting the outcome of the investigation. We are now seeing more landclearing sanctioned by the WA Government, including more than 50 hectares at Skuthorpe for crops that have never been commercially tested in the Kimberley. This land, released by the government for a peppercorn rent and likely to be made freehold in the future, is habitat to threatened species like the Greater Bilby.

Landclearing in the East Kimberley is also set to increase. Chinese-owned KAI, which has the Carlton Hill lease, has approval to clear 3,000 hectares of land on the north bank of the Ord west of Kununurra and is likely to attempt to grow cotton. We are still waiting to hear from the Commonwealth about our submission under the EPBC Act on a proposal to clear 1,200 hectares at Shamrock pastoral lease 64km from Broome, again to feed cattle and also on prime Bilby habitat.

Looking ahead

Other threats to the environment include proposals for jetties and infrastructure along the Broome coast. Despite COVID-19, damaging environmental proposals continue to come at us; fracking and the push for cattle and cotton are things we have to continue to be on guard against.

We were shocked to see a proposal for a bauxite mine on the North Kimberley coast near Kalumburu. Even ex-Premier Colin Barnett agreed that areas north of the Gibb River Road should be protected from industrialisation.

Particularly heartening is the mounting support we have for protecting the Kimberley and the huge responses to our calls for action. We cannot do this alone; a vanguard for protection gives us hope that we can defend the nature and culture of the Kimberley from the industrialisation surging across the globe, threatening the future of our planet.

Kimberley Nature Projects

Malcolm Lindsay and Louise Beames, Program Managers—Kimberley Nature Project



Within the Kimberley Nature Project we have set ourselves seven strategic goals for our regional and local projects with Aboriginal rangers, Traditional Owners and their communities, community groups, government departments, researchers and other land managers. We have an array of funders, whom we thank for their contribution to and support for our projects. Their flexible approach has enabled us to work through the challenges presented by Covid-19 from March 2020. This year we report our major achievements towards the seven KNP strategic goals and encourage you to read more detail about projects and collaborations on our website.

1) ON-GROUND CULTURAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Reduce the negative impacts of weeds, fire and feral animals etc., whilst restoring affected ecosystems.

- We undertook extensive restoration projects with rangers and community to weed and revegetate monsoon vine thicket and pindan woodland.
- We have worked with the Yawuru and Karajarri Rangers to map wattle-seed resources and find a site for yaminyarri/nyaminyari savannah enrichment trials.
- We continue to provide technical, practical and financial support to Aboriginal rangers managing weeds, fire and feral species.

2) RESEARCH

Increase our knowledge about Kimberley ecosystems and species, and improve their protection.

- We are working with the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub researchers, Aboriginal ranger groups, the Dampier Peninsula Working Fire Group and Monsoon Vine Thicket Working Group to study 30 years of satellite imagery to better understand the effectiveness of our collaborative fire management in the recovery of monsoon vine thickets in the Dampier Peninsula.
- We produced a report and instructional video detailing our investigation into innovative ways of controlling Neem.
- We developed a project brief with CSIRO, UWA and WABSI specifying the research, application and engagement components of a Northern Australian neem project.
- We are trialling methods to treat coffee bush (*Leucaena leucocephala*) in Broome's Minyirr Park to determine their efficacy and help rangers and land managers plan weed management.
- We completed a second trip for the the Pirra Jungku project, a long-term biodiversity monitoring program with the Karajarri Rangers and Dr Sarah Legge from the NESP Threatened Species Hub, to investigate the impacts of fire on desert animals and vegetation.

3) PARTNERSHIPS

Facilitate healthy partnerships that support Aboriginal communities and community groups, and collaborate with research institutions and government departments..

- In October, Environs Kimberley, with the Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation, released the Yarrangu Thangani Lundu: Bunuba trees and bush foods publication. The 100-page book profiled Bunuba names and cultural knowledge of 70 plants, Bunuba country types, seasons and animals.
- We continue to work closely with seven ranger groups and their communities (Bardi Jawi, Nyul Nyul, Yawuru, Karajarri, Nyikina Mangala, Bunuba and Ngurrara) and are working on formalizing these partnerships with Memoranda of Understanding. We are starting with the Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation, capturing the longevity (24 years!) of our good-faith relationship and shared objectives.



Co-authors Patsy Bedford and Diane Chungal enjoy the new Bunuba Trees and Bush Foods Book (Damian Kelly)

Kimberley Nature Projects

4) COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING AND PARTICIPATION

Increase community understanding, capacity and passion for the protection of the Kimberley's nature and culture.

- We established the Kimberley Weeds Network to engage with land managers across the region and create a platform for sharing knowledge about weed distribution, threat and control, develop stronger relationships and enhance collaborations. Due to Covid-19 the planned Kimberley Weeds Forum has been postponed to 2021; however, the network meetups have maintained momentum in the form of mini-e-forums.
- We assisted the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals (SKIPA) to access funds for nursery equipment and facilitated many weeding, planting and propagation events.
- · Despite the limitations of COVID-19, the Broome Seagrass Monitoring Project undertook surveys in 2020 and continued to engage citizen scientists in caring for Roebuck Bay.



Jamon (Ngurrara Rangers) and Jesse (EK) collecting cut bulrushes during a weeding trip



Regional weeds forum and network







Karajarri Rangers with lizard caught during a biodiversity survey

5) CONSERVATION ECONOMY

Increase economic opportunities that celebrate and protect the Kimberley's nature and culture.

- We have been directly supporting the establishment of the Bunuba Cultural Conservation Institute and working with Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation and key partners to identify, design, fund and operate a suite of cultural, social, economic and environmental projects prioritized by the Bunuba community.
- We continue to support an Aboriginal-led bush-plant products industry, through bush-resource industry workshops, and ranger training and assistance.
- We helped provide wages for Aboriginal rangers in the region, by co-writing funding submissions or undertaking Fee-for-Service projects.

Kimberley Nature Projects

6) STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLANNING AND PROTECTION

Increase strategic conservation planning and regulation protection for Kimberley's nature and culture.

- Within the monsoon vine thicket (MVT) working group we have been collaborating with the Bardi Jawi and Nyul Nyul Rangers, Yawuru Country Managers and DBCA to develop a Conservation Action Plan and MERI Plan to protect MVTs on the Dampier Peninsula. If our application to transition the working group to a National Recovery Team is successful, the group will become Australia's second Aboriginal-led National Recovery Team.
- We have been undertaking significant work for desert threatened species in the region, through collaborative on-ground bilby projects and by facilitating the Kimberley Night Parrot Working Group.

7) HEALTHY WORKPLACE

Maintain an efficient, happy, inclusive, financially stable and healthy workplace, valuing long-term knowledge and relationships.

- Through grants, consultancy contracts and philanthropic donations we have been able to maintain our staffing levels and ensure remuneration is competitive.
- In 2019/20 we had a number of staff changes, with the departure of Jessica Miller, the recruitment and then departure of Alex James and Andrew Morton, the departure of Fiona West to the Broome Shire Council, and, in early 2020, our long-time project officer Kylie decided it was her year to travel (Covid had other plans — sorry, Kylie). We welcomed aboard Jesse Alai, Danielle Bain, Hamsini Bijlani and Michelle Pyke, who were able to fill critical gaps in our projects team. Meanwhile, our planned recruitment of an additional project officer and coordinator was delayed significantly by Covid-19 and the uncertainty about how and when projects could be delivered in a pandemic environment.
- Covid-19 sent everyone to their home office for a while, and we used this space as an opportunity to invest in better systems for communication, organization and project management. For some time our twice-weekly wellbeing meetings were a way to keep everyone connected and ensure that we were supporting each other through the new experience of working from home, navigating working relationships via technology, and, in some cases, managing homeschooling/pre-schooling while doing so. A number of our projects were delayed or paused during this time and, though challenging professionally and personally, it has strengthened our resilience muscle as a team and an organization.



Seed cleaning in the field with Karajarri



Monica Edgar (Yawuru), Tim Willing and Malcolm Lindsay (EK) conducting post-fire regeneration surveys in Minyirr Park



Dampier Peninsula Monsoon Vine Thicket Working Group at Kooljaman







Kimberley Weeks



EK Events

Tessa Mossop, Community Projects and Event Coordinator

Community Concert for the Fitzroy

It was a hot October day and rainclouds heralding the coming wet loomed in the distance as people gathered on the dry riverbed for the Community Concert for the Fitzroy and Margaret Rivers.

The crowd was treated to excellent music from Kimberley legends Fitzroy Express, Stephen Pigram, Patrick Davies, Olive Knight, and others. Passionate speeches were given by Traditional Owners from across the Fitzroy Valley, as well as Environs Kimberley's Director, Martin Pritchard.

Long-term EK members remembered, with a touch of nostalgia, how the organisation was originally formed over 20 years ago when concerned Broome locals came together with the Fitzroy Valley communities to protect the river. There was not too much time for reminiscing, however, as there was dancing to do – sometimes saving the nature of the Kimberley can be great fun.



Community Concert for the Fitzroy and Margaret Rivers, October 2019 (Damian Kelly)

Art Auction and Concert for the Kimberley



A jam-packed Art Auction, 2019 (Kevin Smith)

2019/20 also saw another successful Art Auction and a lively Concert for the Kimberley at the Broome Convention Centre. These two annual events are significant sources of EK self-generated income, and have become highlights of the Broome social calendar.



A special birthday Surprise for Fitzroy Express's Danny Marr – Joe Ross sings and EK Director Martin Pritchard presents the elaborate guitarshaped birthday cake (Damian Kelly)



Concert for the Kimberley 2019 with Stephen Pigram (joined by a lively mix of friends and family, including Bart Pigram, Ngaire Pigram, Michael Pigram, Michael Manolis and Andy Reid). The concert also featured Albert Wiggan, Tanya Ransom and Wil Thomas, joined by special guests Harry Jakamarra, Elwood Gray and Kevin Jones (Damian Kelly)

With thanks from EK

Thanks are due to many people for making these great events happen – musicians, artists, art centres, volunteers, photographers, rangers, partner organisations, supportive individuals and businesses, staff and Board – you know who you are and we could not do it without you!



Treasurer's Report



Laurel Sutcliffe

COVID-19 had some unexpected impacts on EK's financial position throughout the year. From the initial worry about the extent of COVID at both a human and a financial level, we managed to find our way through this challenging time by adapting timelines of projects and finding new ways to run fundraising events while learning to work efficiently from home. We were fortunate that the government's financial support through Jobkeeper and Cashflow boost, as well as COVID-specific grants, softened the financial impact of delayed grant income and having to cancel our market stall and some fundraising events. A huge Thank YOU to our supporters, who were able to donate to a similar level as the previous year despite the economic downturn.

New accounting standards (revenue and leases) have been adopted, effective 1 July 2019, which required prioryear published financial statements to be restated. For full disclosure of the impact of the adoption of the new standards please refer to the 2020 financial report (Note 1). Cash is restricted to the value of unexpended grant funds. For full disclosure please refer to the financial statements (Note 2).

Total Income was \$1,394,568 (2019 restated 1,612,519). Of this, Grant Income for projects was \$515,733 (2019: \$845,286). Some grant instalments were postponed to 20/21 as a result of COVID-related delays in the project delivery. Income from Donations, Fundraising and Membership was \$452,439 (2019: \$475,629), with donors expressing their concern about the Fitzroy River and Fracking in the Kimberley by supporting EK.

Total Expenditure was \$998,454 (2019 restated: \$851,599), with increases in employment costs and project costs, and a decrease in operating costs due to our cancelled fundraising events.

Employment costs continue to be Environs Kimberley's biggest expense. The current year has seen an increase to \$671,391 as we have increased staff numbers for the Kimberley Nature Project, as well as for our campaigns.

Expenditure on Projects accounted for 60% of our spending, with 19% on Advocacy, and 21% Governance, Fundraising and Administration.

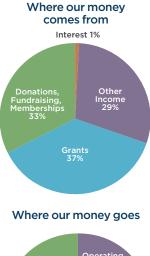
Operating surplus for 2020 is \$396,114 — thanks to a steady income in Donations and Fundraising as well as COVIDrelated government support — gives Environs Kimberley Members Funds totalling \$1,630,272 (2019 restated: \$1,234,158). Environs Kimberley is in a very sound position as it moves into the new financial year, with significant large projects and consultancies set to continue.

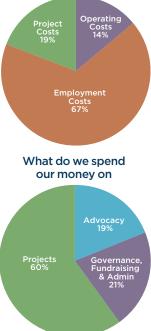
EK would like to thank Alison Fong for her auditing work and her assistance with the new accounting standards.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30th June 2020

		2020	2019	2019
			Restated	Published
ASSETS		\$	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash & Cash Equivalents	2	1,229,996	1,184,131	1,184,131
Financial Assets		425,481	120,285	120,285
Trade & Other Receivables		41,920	88,032	88,032
Inventory		5,271	-	-
Other Current Assets		49,741	8,000	8,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,752,409	1,400,448	1,400,448
NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Property, Plant & Equipment		49.387	16,672	16,672
Right of Use Asset	1	57.241	- 10,072	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		106,628	16,672	16,672
			,	
TOTAL ASSETS		1,859,037	1,417,120	1,417,120
LIABILITIES				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Trade & Other Payables		79,600	109,447	687,986
Lease Liability	1	31,324	-	-
Provisions		61,991	51,482	51,482
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		172,915	160,929	739,468
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Provisions		28.816	22,033	22,033
Lease Liability	1	27,034	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		55,850	22,033	22,033
TOTAL LIABILITIES		228,765	182,962	761,501
NET ASSETS		1,630,272	1,234,158	655,619
TOTAL EQUITY		1,630,272	1,234,158	655,619





Statement of Change in Equity

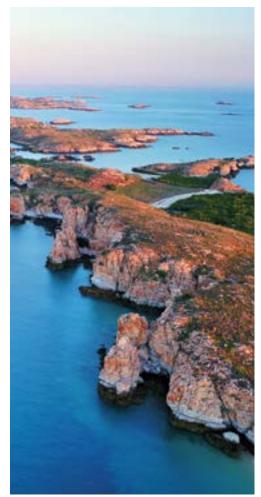
For the year ended 30th June 2020

		Retained Earnings	Assets Gifted	Total members Funds
		\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 1st July 2018		395,841	2,615	398,456
Retrospective adjustment - adoption of AASB15 & AASB1058	1	74,780		74,780
Balance at 1st July 2018, restated		470,621	2,615	473,236
Net income to members		760,920		760,920
Balance as at 30 June 2019		1,231,542	2,615	1,234,158
Net income to members		396,114		396,114
Balance as at 30th June 2019		1,627,655	2,615	1,630,272

Income Statement

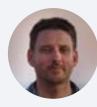
For the year ended 30th June 2020

		2020	2019 Restated	2019 Published
INCOME		\$	\$	\$
Grant income	1	515,733	845,286	341,528
Donations, Fundraising, Membership		452,439	475,629	475,629
Interest		15,773	12,473	12,473
Other Income		410,623	279,131	279,130
Total Income		1,394,568	1,612,519	1,108,760
EXPENDITURE				
Employment Costs		671,391	523,536	523,536
Project Costs		188,252	111,169	111,169
Operating Costs		138,811	216,894	216,894
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		998,454	851,599	851,599
NET INCOME		396,114	760,920	257,162



Bedford Islands, Buccaneer Archipelago. (Matt Moreton-Deakin)

Environs Kimberley Staff



Martin Pritchard, Director

From a rural Welsh background, Martin has extensive agricultural experience gained in England, Wales, New Zealand and Australia. He holds a Higher National Diploma and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Policy Studies, specialising in Ecologically Sustainable Development, from Murdoch University, Martin has worked in catchment management in the South-west of Western Australia, chaired a number of environmental non-government organisations and been a member of ministerial-appointed boards. Martin has been the Director of EK since 2008.



Louise Beames

Program Manager, Kimberley Nature Project Louise has worked as an ecologist with EK since 2007, transforming a small project into the regional Kimberley Nature Project. Louise and the team collaborate with Aboriginal rangers, scientists and others to document, and protect Kimberley eco-cultural values. Co-leading Nature Projects Australia, Louise provides CNRM support within and outside the Kimberley. Louise led CNRM projects in Dampierland, achieving an endangered listing for Dampier Peninsula monsoon vine thickets in 2013 under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. Louise has a BSc and first-class honours in Applied Biology.



Dr. Malcolm Lindsay Program Manager, Kimberley Nature Project

Malcolm hails from Melbourne and holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) and a PhD in marine ecology from the University of Melbourne. His professional marine and terrestrial ecology experience includes working for community groups, environmental consultancies, university researchers and government departments. He has also held international internships, including at the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands. Malcolm joined EK in 2012 and coordinates the Kimberley Nature Project jointly with Louise Beames.



Dr, Michelle Pyke, Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project

Michelle grew up in Donnybrook, graduated in Environmental Science (Hons) at Murdoch University and gained a PhD (Geography) at UWA. Michelle has worked for WA and NT governments in riparian assessment, and water conservation and planning. From 2012 to 2015 Michelle lived in One Arm Point and worked with Bardi Jawi, Bardi Jawi Oorany (women) and Nyul Nyul Rangers investigating local-cultural ways of managing freshwater places for her PhD. Michelle will work on EK's Kimberley Wetlands Project with six Aboriginal ranger groups.

Environs Kimberley Staff



Ayesha Moss,

Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project Ayesha is a project officer with the Kimberley Nature Project. She has a Bachelor of Science (Honours), a Diploma of Information Systems from the University of Melbourne and a Diploma of Project Management. She has worked in mapping, waterway management and community education. Ayesha moved to Derby in 2011 and worked in local government in a community development role. She joined Environs Kimberley in 2014. Ayesha currently manages the Enriching Kimberley Native Food Producers and Enhancing Ecosystems Project.



Christine Elsasser Administration and Finance Officer

Christine hails from Germany, where she gained a Master of Arts in German Mediaeval Literature and worked in the production department of a publishing house, calculating costs and organizing the printing and binding of books. In 1998, after moving to Australia, she has worked in various office roles for a number of organisations, including Magabala Books, Broome's Aboriginal publishing house. Christine joined EK in 2007.



Tessa Mossop Community Projects and Events Coordinator

Tessa is originally from a small coastal town on the midnorth coast of NSW. She completed a combined law and north coast of NSW. She completed a combined law and communication degree at the University of Newcastle. After graduating Tessa worked in north-east Arnhem Land as solicitor with the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency before moving to Broome in 2012 to work for an Indigenous Corporation, and later Environs Kimberley. Tess assists EK with engagement, community projects, events, fundration and experient constructions of the second s fundraising and organisational capacity.



Hamsini Bijlani

Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project Hamsini grew up in southern India, where she completed a Bachelor's degree in Zoology, Botany and Chemistry, and studied human-wildlife conflict near Bangalore. She moved to Sydney in 2016 to complete her Master's degree in Conservation Biology at Macquarie University. She worked as an ecologist for WWF-Australia, with Aboriginal ranger groups on projects such as protecting Wiliji (West Kimberley black-footed rock-wallaby) with Nykina Mangala Rangers. Hamsini joined EK to work on the Dampier Peninsula Monsoon Vine Thicket and Karajarri Pirra Warlu Projects.



Nigel Jackett, Project Officer, **Kimberley Nature Project**

Nigel grew up on the South Coast of NSW, and holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science (Hons.) from the University of Wollongong. Since 2006, he has worked on threatened species projects for government agencies in NSW and Canada, as an environmental consultant for resource and renewable energy projects throughout WA, and, most recently, managed the Broome Bird Observatory on the northern shores of Roebuck Bay. Nigel specialises in providing technical advice and monitoring threatened fauna, with a particular focus on migratory shorebirds and the enigmatic Night Parrot.



Grace Dungey, Media & Research Analyst (left EK in Oct 19)

Grace is from Victoria, and holds a Bachelor of Arts (Global) and Diploma of Languages from Monash University. Grace studied Indonesian law in Yogyakarta, Java. Before relocating to Broome, Grace was based in Chengdu, China, under the Hamer Scholarship Program. She has worked as an Indonesian Affairs consultant for global NGO Human Rights Watch in Indonesia and Australia, as a communications officer for the Melbourne-based Indigenous Education Foundation, and at Nulungu Research Institute in Broome. Her writing on the environment has appeared in national and international news outlets such as Al Jazeera, Asia Times, and The Jakarta Post.



Shaun Clark, Frack Free Kimberley Coordinator

A long-term Kimberley resident and former Geikie Gorge National Park ranger, Shaun has a particular interest ir Aboriginal knowledge of animals and plants. He has extensive experience with Dampier Peninsula communities and environmental management. Shaun has worked in computer programming, landscaping, irrigation, Landcare and community development. He has taken part in environmental projects, such as weed control, bush regeneration and coastal protection. Shaun says, 'From campaigns and protecting wildlife, to joining forces with Aboriginal rangers, EK works and advocates for the nature of the Kimberley.





Jesse Alai, Interim Seagrass Project Coordinator Jesse was born and raised just outside Brisbane, QLD, and

moved to Perth, WA, during his schooling. It was a nature-filled childhood, which inspired his undergraduate studies in Zoology and Conservation Biology at the University of Western Australia. After graduating in 2018, Jesse moved to Broome and initially worked in a pearling hatchery. He has become extensively involved in community and youth work around Broome. Starting as a volunteer for EK, Jesse was asked to step in to fill the role of managing the Broome Community Seagrass Project.



Danielle Bain, **Project Support Officer**

A Melbourne girl, Danielle graduated from Monash University with a BSc (Environment) in Zoology and Conservation Biology. She moved to Townsville to complete her Honours at Biology. She moved to Townsville to complete her Honours at James Cook University, researching the impacts of boat traffic on Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins. Danielle worked in the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry graduate program before moving to Broome. Danielle joined the Roebuck Bay Working Group and in 2007 went on to establish and manage the Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project with Environs Kimberley. Danielle facilitates the bush playgroup with YMCA in Victoria. She is avaited to be supporting EV projects again excited to be supporting EK projects again.



Kylie Weatherall Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project

Kylie was born in Northam, WA, and has a lifelong love of the state's landscapes and natural environment. She studied biological sciences at Murdoch University and has a Postgraduate Certificate in Indigenous Management Studies from ECU. Kylie also holds qualifications in fine art, and conservation and land management. She has worked in human services, community development, tourism and art and science. Kylie joined EK in 2011. She is the contact person for the Broome landcare group, the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals.



Fiona West, Seagrass Project Coordinator (left EK in Oct 19)

Starting life in Kalumburu, where her parents were teachers, Fiona has always loved the Kimberley. She worked as a journalist for newspapers in WA and the NT and completed studies in anthropology, sustainability and social research. Fiona worked as an anthropologist, historian and heritage consultant before joining EK in 2008 at the Broome Computity Socarace Meditoring 2008 as the Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project Coordinator. She is passionate about seagrass and educating the community about its importance



Jessica Miller, Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project (left EK in Oct 19)

Jess hails from the east-coast Hunter region. She has a diverse work background, including environmental and heritage management in the Australian and ACT Governments. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Natural History Illustration, a Master of Natural Resource Management and a soon-to-be-completed research Masters in Environmental Impact Assessment and Ecology. Jess volunteers in environmental education concernation and community advocative and soo education, conservation and community advocacy and she enjoys learning about sustainability leadership, adventuring with friends and making art.

Alex James Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project (left EK in Dec 19)

Originally from Sydney, Alex has ten years' experience working on field based ecology and conservation projects in northern and central Australia. She holds a PhD in Ecology, looking at the effect of bilby and bettong reintroductions on plant and soil restoration. Prior to joining Environs Kimberley, she was living and working in the central Kimberley based at Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary where she was involved in monitoring and research projects across a range of species. Alex joined EK to coordinate the new Wetlands Project.

Environs Kimberley Board



Kate Golson, Chairperson

Born in Canberra, Kate Golson first arrived in the Kimberley in 1992. She has worked with a host of community organisations as well as universities and government on projects ranging from community development, native title, cultural heritage protection through to sustainable development, cultural and natural resource management and tropical river research. She has extensive experience in social research, community engagement, communications, and monitoring and evaluation, and holds a BA and MA in Anthropology from Sydney University.



Peter Mitchell, Vice Chair

Peter grew up in South-west WA and holds a BA degree from Curtin University. His early work was in the mining and surveying industries in outback WA. In 1988 he settled in Broome, where he has worked in various roles including the Telecentre Coordinator, and for the Department of Child Protection and Kullarri Employment Services. Peter was a Broome Shire Councillor for six years and is a founding member and former chair of EK. He also spent several years living and working in Halls Creek, where his first child was born. He is the CEO of the Men's Outreach Service in Broome, is a board member of the Australian Men's Health Forum, and received the 2017 Kullarri NAIDOC Person of the Year Award.



Laurel Sutcliffe, Treasurer

From Victoria, Laurel gained a BA and a Diploma in Education from Melbourne University and taught at schools in Victoria and Papua New Guinea before moving to the Kimberley in 1986 to work in Aboriginal education. She lived at Yakanarra community near Fitzroy Crossing for 20 years as the school administrator and principal, while raising a young family. In 2006, she moved to Broome and has been teaching at Broome Senior High School ever since.



Kat Taylor, Secretary

Kat arrived in the Kimberley in 2010. She is an environmental educator and water specialist and has extensive experience working for Aboriginal and environmental organisations (including the Kimberley Land Council, and the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Arid Lands Environment Centre in the Northern Territory) and in government. Kat is studying for a PhD in water policy at ANU and holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (Honours) and a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology from Murdoch University. She co-presents The Sound Environment show on Radio Goolarri in Broome.



Sarah Dobson

Sarah graduated from University with a Bachelor of Business and moved to London, where she worked in corporate event management. After returning to Melbourne she worked with the Cancer Council Victoria for five years. Sarah visited Broome for a friend's wedding in 2013 and found it hard to leave. She made Broome her home and took on management of the Broome Civic Centre with the Shire of Broome. In 2018, Sarah started working with Nyamba Buru Yawuru in the Environmental Service team. Sarah is active in the community and is a committed member of Broome Volunteer Fire and Rescue.



Carmel Leahy

Born in central western NSW, Carmel is a teacher, linguist and literacy specialist who has worked at various schools and institutions, including Yakanarra Community School in the 1990s, Broome Senior High School, Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga language centre and Nyikina Mangala Community School. She is currently a teacher at Yiyili Aboriginal Community School. Carmel is an active member of the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals (SKIPA). She has a Bachelor of Education in Multicultural Education from Edith Cowan University, a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics from Charles Darwin University and Cert III in Conservation and Land Management.

Craig Phillips

Craig was born in Melbourne and moved to the Kimberley in 1994. His previous roles include Managing Director of OEM Supplies—Northwest, Victorian sales manager of Columbus Mufflers, and West Australian sales manager of Lukey Mufflers. In Broome, Craig runs a computer IT sales-and-service company. He has served on the boards of the Broome Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Centre West Kimberley and St. Mary's College, and has been an EK Board member since 1999.

Sean Salmon

After growing up in Country Victoria and attending University in Ballarat, seeking adventure Sean travelled to the Kimberley in 1996 and has remained here ever since. He enjoyed working in the Pearling and Fishing industries on the remote Kimberley coast, and finally completed his degree in Education in 2006 whilst working on community landscaping projects. Sean's teaching career began in Wyndham in 2007. In 2009 he returned to Broome with his partner and two sons and continues teaching in Broome, specialising in Indigenous Education.



Cassandra Douglas-Hill

Cassandra is social entrepreneur and business owner of True Leaf Farm, an aquaponic leafy-green and microgreens farm in Broome. She is passionate about the connection between the environment, health and sustainable local food systems. With an academic background in Environmental Science and Public Health, coupled with significant practical experience in farming, alternative food systems and communitybased food movements, Cassandra is keen to support the development of thriving and sustainable local food production, which in turn supports healthy people and a healthy environment.



Stephen 'Bart' Pigram

Bart is an extremely active Yawuru community member of Broome, and over the past six years has taken part in a wide range of award-winning cultural and arts projects. Bart is a former employee of Nyamba Buru Yawuru and former Yawuru PBC Director. His experience and passion for the maintenance of culture on country by the community in an environmentally sustainable manner is central to his vision for the Kimberley. Bart also independently owns and operates his tourism business, Narlijia Cultural Tours, in Broome, and strongly encourages community members to pursue employment in industries that are culturally, environmentally and economically sustainable.

Acknowledgement of Cover Photographs

Front cover: Turtle nest, Roebuck Bay, by Damian Kelly Back Cover: Community Concert for the Fitzroy and Margaret Rivers, by Damian Kelly

Thank You

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