

26 YEARS LOOKING AFTER THE
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KIMBERLEY

Annual Report 2022

environs
KIMBERLEY
SAVING THE NATURE OF THE KIMBERLEY





Chairperson's Report

Natalie Davey, Chairperson

It's been an uplifting year as the Chairperson of EK. Getting to know the depths of the organisation's long-term relationships across the region and beyond has been very positive, despite the challenges we face. The wide range of work we do is phenomenal, with our research and conservation projects extending from deep in the desert to the sea, all of it informed by Aboriginal people on the ground.

Working with ten Aboriginal ranger groups across such a vast area, with its ecological complexities, different languages and groups with different challenges, is a significant feat and I applaud the great work staff do to make this successful. I congratulate the Kimberley Nature Project team for their work, including the interns who have joined us and contributed so much to the organisation.

The longevity of our projects, like the Seagrass monitoring in Nagulagun Roebuck Bay, gives the community confidence that we are here to protect the environment. Gathering data through the different seasons over the long term, builds a holistic picture and provides a base for us to see any changes to the environment. We can then inform the community and make appropriate management decisions.

The challenges to the Martuwarra Fitzroy River and its tributaries including the Margaret are still serious, with no sign of pastoralists changing their mind on taking vast quantities of water out of the system. We will never back down.

It was a huge feat to pull off a concert attended by 2,500 people at Walmanyjun Cable Beach, and the message was clear – Don't frack the Kimberley! It's so good the community, particularly the arts community, joined us to celebrate and protect the Kimberley, and it makes for such a positive feeling. Thanks to the campaigns team for keeping the threats at bay and for working on many other projects that don't necessarily make the headlines.

The events all rolled out brilliantly, with the work of the events team and volunteers aided by strong communications – thanks to the team for doing this so well. Holding everything together is, of course, the finance work, which has once again been impeccable.

After the AGM last year, we said goodbye to Isaiah McKenna (left Oct 2021), Monica Edgar (left Nov 2021), Rebecca Laird (left Nov 2021) and Peter Mitchell, a founding member, who had been on the EK Board since 1998. Thank you all for your service. I'd also like to thank Kate Golson, who had been the Chair for 12-years and has provided significant mentoring support over the year, and also for the support of Craig Phillips, the Deputy Chair. I also thank all the other Board members, without whom the organisation couldn't operate – Laurel Sutcliffe our Treasurer, Kat Taylor, Alexis Harper and Secretary Carmel Leahy – it's been great working with you.

We will be heading into new territory in the next financial year, with the aim of finding a CEO. It's amazing that we've only had two Directors over the past 26 years: Maria Mann and Martin Pritchard. With Martin keen to concentrate on advocacy, campaigns and fundraising, a new CEO will bring us more sustainable workloads and increased capacity to protect the nature of the Kimberley.

Wali
Natalie



Director's Report

Martin Pritchard, Director

It's been a year of historic wins with more pressure piling on to our precious environment here in the Kimberley. As an organisation we've been evolving and growing to keep ahead of the changing circumstances.

Much of the year was spent developing new strategies and plans like our 'Social media and digital fundraising strategy' as well as producing materials and merchandise to encourage people to protect the Kimberley. The organisational restructure gathered pace and the search for a CEO will commence in the next financial year. The new position will enable us to work more efficiently and smoothly, and gear us up for even greater efforts protecting the Kimberley. I look forward to leading our campaigns in a more focused way.

Our new Chair Natalie Davey, who took over from Kate Golson in November, has been doing an excellent job of steering the organisation and providing a perspective from Fitzroy Crossing that strengthens our work. The EK Board has been productive, positive and supportive through the year. Thank you.

The management team members, Louise, Christine and Malcolm have been working closely to ensure the smooth running of EK. I thank them for their support, particularly Louise for taking on some of the organisational responsibilities.

The Kimberley Nature Project's achievements continue to build and our relationships with rangers and Traditional Owner groups are growing and strengthening. The amazing story of our staff's longevity in the organisation continues with Kylie celebrating ten years – thank you! We also thank departing staff and welcome new, talented people to the organisation. Our internship programme has also brought gifted young people into the fold.

We were honoured to take part in the first Yajilarra Festival at Danggu (Geikie Gorge). Our collaboration with the Bunuba people on the 'Celebrating Bandjaralngarri' concert, thanks to brilliant musicians, EK staff and volunteers, was one of the highlights of the year. To extol the virtues of the river and broader Kimberley with musicians from the Fitzroy Valley, John Butler

and Mama Kin, to Andrew and Nicola Forrest, former Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and former Woodside Chair, now Chair of Wesfarmers, Michael Chaney, as well as an enthusiastic local crowd was quite something. Shortly afterwards the Forrests pulled out of fracking the Kimberley.

We proudly supported the Aboriginal Heritage march in Perth by the Kimberley Land Council in August, with its strong message to protect the Martuwarra Fitzroy River.

The damage from climate change continues to become more apparent across the globe and the predicted impacts and outlook worsen, making it imperative that we keep fossil fuels in the ground. The 2,500 people who supported our Kimberley Calling concert at Walmanyjun Cable Beach showed the depth of feeling for protecting the region from oil and gas fracking. Once again, we thank the arts community for the outstanding support to protect the Kimberley.

We continued our engagement with the McGowan Government and welcomed new Environment Minister Reece Whitby in December; we look forward to meeting him. On the Federal front, we welcomed a new Labor Government and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in May, as well as a significant increase in Greens and Teal MPs. After nine years of government inaction on climate change, we now have an opportunity to make headway on this critical issue. We will need to work hard, given the stranglehold on government of the fossil fuel industry. The environmental movement has secured commitments for adding sites to World Heritage listing in the Kimberley, improvements in regulating fracking, a new national EPA and increased funding for protecting threatened species. There are tough times ahead but we know from past experience that, with broad public support regionally and nationally, we can protect the nature of the Kimberley.

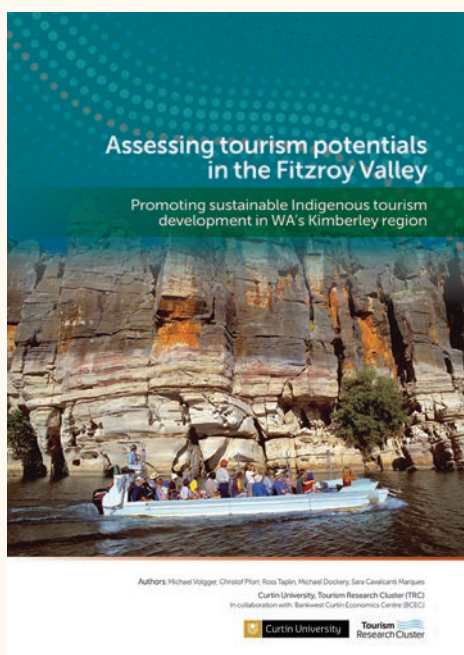
Campaigns Report

Martin Pritchard, Director

According to the World Meteorological Organisation, “...four key climate change indicators – greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification – set new records in 2021. The most recent seven years, 2015 to 2021, are the seven warmest years on record.” This is critical information that has particular relevance to us here in the Kimberley. We are sitting on one of the world’s largest onshore gas basins, and companies are vying to get the gas out of the ground through fracking. The carbon pollution would be extreme if they got their way. It is a testament to the domination of the fossil fuel industry that the McGowan Government is ignoring the worsening climate situation. We have no choice but to change this around.

Previous Health Minister Roger Cook has given in-principle agreement to Texan fracking company Black Mountain to export gas via a pipeline from Noonkanbah to the Pilbara. This could lead to the sinking of thousands of oil and gas wells across the Kimberley’s world renowned landscape. It is a great source of concern to people, not only in the Kimberley but across Australia. Thanks to generous donors, EK’s Shaun Clark (see report page 10) and contractor Peter Robertson assisting us remotely, our work on fracking has ramped up significantly. Next year will be pivotal for the industry, and we have geared up to keep it in check.

Along with our campaign partners, we broke the state record for the highest number of submissions to protect the Martuwarra Fitzroy River from Murray-Darling style development; 43,000 people sent a message to the McGowan Government. After more than 25 years of campaigning, one of the sites proposed for a dam, the Margaret River Gorge, as well as the river itself, has been protected in the Warlibirri National Park, thanks to the hard work of the Gooniyandi people through the Gooniyandi Aboriginal Corporation and Gooniyandi Rangers. This victory has come in the face of threats to the river from wealthy absentee pastoralists such as the Harris Family, and Ms Gina Rinehart. We continue to work alongside Traditional Owners to make sure the river isn’t harmed by big pumps, channel offtake and chemical and fertiliser pollution.



Willare Bridge Protest sending a strong message to McGowan Government to protect the Martuwarra Fitzroy River, 27 March 2022. Photo: Damian Kelly

In March we ventured out to Willare to send a message to Premier McGowan that the community wants the Martuwarra protected. This came after the release of a new report we commissioned by Curtin University into the potential for tourism in the Fitzroy Valley. It shows that, instead of destroying the ecosystems and river, we can have an economic future based on tourism, earning an extra \$43 million income for the industry with expanded National Parks. Long-lasting benefits to the community could be created with 160 new full-time jobs.

As if protecting the Kimberley from fracking and the Martuwarra from billionaires weren’t enough, we’ve also been working on other fronts. We found land clearing near Horizontal Falls by a copper exploration company, made sure it came to the attention of the public and called on the government not to allow mining in this sensitive area. We provided a submission to the EPA on the proposed Broome Boating Facility at Entrance Point, which has been opposed by over 1,000 people in a petition to the WA Parliament. The Kimberley Mineral Sands backflip to export through Broome instead of Derby was challenged and this is an ongoing matter. We’re also working through the proposed Walmanyjun Cable Beach development, which includes a sea wall, and we are advocating for the closure of the beach to vehicles during turtle nesting and hatching time.

While we continue to have significant wins for the environment in the Kimberley, we can only do as much as our resources allow. Thank you to all supporters, donors and funders to our campaign work to protect the Kimberley.

Kimberley Nature Projects

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



The Kimberley Nature Project (KNP) is part of Environs Kimberley. Since 2007, KNP has worked on practical projects that assist Aboriginal communities to make Country and culture healthier by documenting, valuing and protecting species and ecosystems. We have grown with the Aboriginal ranger network in the Kimberley, and the support we provide has grown and changed with it.

We have been much more active than in previous years in ecological research and conservation economy projects. Rangers are requiring less support from us for on-ground weed, feral-animal and fire management work, and more assistance with spatial GIS analysis and answering questions about how Aboriginal management is keeping Country healthy. Our recent efforts to increase the economic value of healthy Country and culture is starting to bear fruit, and many projects are being funded to support Aboriginal rangers and governance bodies. COVID-19 finally arrived in the Kimberley, so that many of our field trips were delayed or cancelled. This gave us more time for office-based research and project development.

We can only provide a snapshot of our work in these few pages, so if you are interested in getting more information, please contact us.



Fire burning on Bunuba country. Destructive fire burns the canopy, cooler fires do not, 14 December 2021. Photo: Matt Macdonald

1) ON-GROUND CULTURAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

To improve the health of species, ecosystems and cultural heritage, by building resilience and reducing threats.

Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, we still:

- Worked with six Aboriginal ranger groups to monitor wetlands, remove weeds and fence out grazing cattle through our Kimberley Wetlands project
- Took part in several weed management days to reduce infestations threatening endangered monsoon vine thickets
- Supported four Aboriginal ranger groups with their annual fire management, to make sure that it was informed by sound science and would improve habitat for threatened species
- Initiated planning work with the Gooniyandi Rangers to control foxes to conserve bilby sites, which will be a first for the Kimberley
- Supported a number of Aboriginal communities to document and then incorporate their biocultural knowledge into their land-management programs; Bardi Jawi Rangers produced a new plant book and fish poster.

Kimberley Nature Projects

2) RESEARCH

Increase the understanding of Kimberley ecosystems through scientific research, integrated with traditional knowledge, to improve management and protection.

We continue to grow research projects and partnerships with three universities, consultants and government departments. These projects always start from a knowledge gap, interest or management need of Aboriginal rangers, who prioritise and shape the questions, projects and partnerships.

Projects included:

- Completing another successful year surveying seagrass beds in Roebuck Bay, finding that seagrass and seed-banks are abundant and healthy.
- Co-authoring two scientific papers for a special edition of 'Ecological Restoration and Management' focusing on Indigenous and cross-cultural ecology – perspectives from Australia. One paper described 15 years of conserving the endangered monsoon vine thickets of the Dampier Peninsula; the second discussed mapping historical fire scars on Karajarri country
- Collaborating on four projects through the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP) with rangers, University of Western Australia, University of Queensland and Charles Darwin University. These projects covered monsoon vine thickets, managing Ngurrara jila, contemporary and traditional fire management in the desert, and monitoring Kimberley bilbies
- Co-authoring a case study in the Australian Government's 2022 State of the Environment Report, detailing Indigenous-led conservation efforts to find the Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*)
- Developing and funding the new multi-year Sandy Deserts Fire and Biodiversity Project. We will work with five desert ranger groups, Dr Sarah Legge, Parks and Wildlife, WA Museum and Indigenous Desert Alliance to document the relationship between fire and biodiversity, and better inform fire management in the Great and Little Sandy Deserts
- Initiating a research project with the Bardi Jawi, Nyul Nyul and Yawuru Rangers to map monsoon vine thicket patches from historical and satellite images, to track changes over time
- Supporting ranger groups to monitor the faunal diversity of their wetlands using environmental DNA analysis of water samples
- Contributing to the drafting of the 'Addressing Weed Threats to Biodiversity' research and publication by Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute
- Initiating research into how savannah habitat responds to fire through one project with CSIRO and Yawuru, and another with the Dampier Peninsula Fire Working Group.



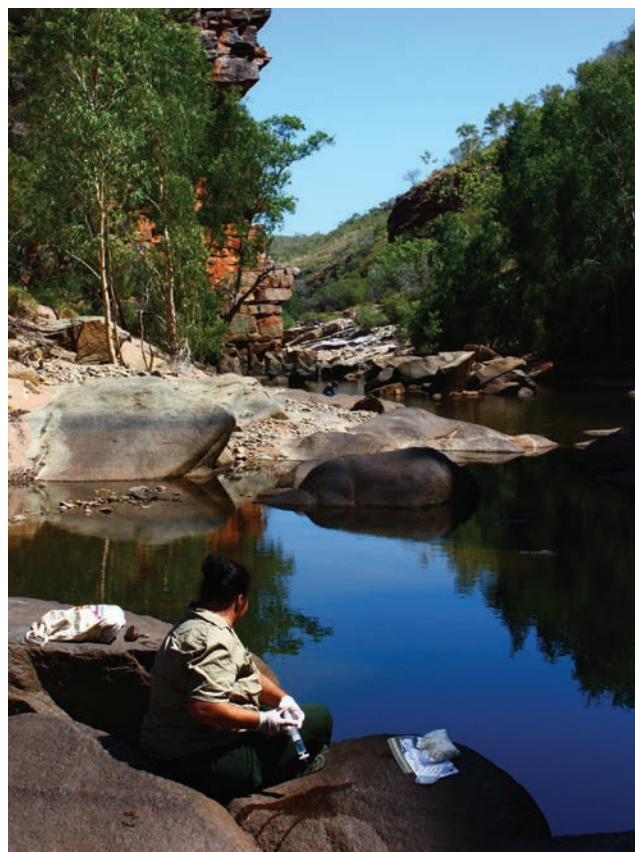
Desert Rainbow Skink (*Carlia triacantha*) on Karajarri Country, Yilpi Edgars Ranges, 10 September 2021. Photo: Matt Macdonald

3) PARTNERSHIPS

a) Build strong long-term partnerships with Aboriginal people to protect Country and culture. b) Collaborate with community groups, government and industry to protect Country and culture.

This year we:

- Maintained projects and healthy, respectful partnerships with Bardi Jawi, Nyul Nyul, Yawuru, Karajarri, Bunuba, Gooniyandi and Ngurrara Rangers, their registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs) and communities
- Developed new project partnerships with Ngurrupa, Nyangumarta and Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (Martu) Rangers and communities from the Great and Little Sandy Deserts
- Maintained strategic and project partnerships with regional or national Aboriginal organisations that support Aboriginal rangers and their communities, including the Kimberley Land Council, Desert Support Services, Indigenous Desert Alliance and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation
- Continued to support volunteer group Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals with their work in the Broome community collecting seeds, growing native plants and revegetating bushland
- Expanded our partnerships with researchers from University of Western Australia, University of Notre Dame, Charles Darwin University and University of Queensland.
- Collaborated closely with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, as our project partner and consultant providing technical expertise.
- Contracted expert consultants to add to our team's expertise, including Dr Rebecca Dobbs (UWA) and Dr Sarah Legge(UQ).



Bunuba Ranger Monique Middleton taking an eDNA sample from Richenda Gorge, Bunuba Country. 13 December 2021. Photo: Matt Macdonald

Kimberley Nature Projects



Seagrass Volunteers working to survey three 50m line transects and 25 seed bank samples at sunrise at Demco Beach 27 July 2021.
Photo: Matt Macdonald.

4) COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING AND PARTICIPATION

Increase the public's understanding of nature and culture, and capacity to protect them.

- We improved knowledge-sharing opportunities and community capacity through the Kimberley Weeds Network newsletters, field days and online mini-forums
- Our Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project engaged citizen scientists in monitoring the health of Roebuck Bay, and gave talks to schools about our local, globally significant wetland
- We developed regular stories for social media about KNP projects, partnerships and people
- We produced numerous radio and print pieces for traditional media
- We increased the scientific community's understanding of right-way science projects with Aboriginal rangers through multiple scientific papers, a State of Environment case study, and presentations with rangers to conferences and the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.



Hannah Tucker and Adelaide de Bruyn posing inside a quadrat used for surveying seagrass at Demco beach, 7 Mar 2022.
Photo: Victoria De Bruyn.

5) CONSERVATION ECONOMY

Develop economic opportunities that enhance the health of communities and landscapes.

Our Social Enterprise project is now more formally funded, and incorporated into the KNP team as our sustainable community development branch.

Between July 2021 and June 2022 we have brought in and helped manage over \$2.6 million in external project grants and donations for Aboriginal organisations in language and culture revitalisation, literacy and education, alcohol and drug rehabilitation consultation, tourism and cultural enterprise development, connecting to Country, cultural and historical knowledge repatriation and cultural heritage protection.

Some examples include:

- Providing support to Dabu Jajikal Aboriginal Corporation (Queensland) in their bid to secure traditional lands and establish a ranger group.
- Providing support to Jalng-ga and Gurama Yani U in their Therapeutic Communities project, an Aboriginal-led consultation for culturally-aligned alcohol and drug services in the Fitzroy Valley.
- Working with Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC) to establish the Bunuba Cultural Conservation Institute (BCCI) as its not-for-profit projects arm. BCCI projects include language and culture revitalisation, cultural knowledge repatriation and digitization, natural resource and cultural land management, and nurturing creative, conservation and cultural businesses for a sustainable local economy.
- Aided the design and development of the 'Bunuba Country' website www.bunuba.com launched in November 2021. The site is to establish Bunuba Country as a tourism destination, create on-Country employment and engage visitors in authentic Aboriginal cultural experiences.
- Helping to establish the two-year Bunuba Living Language, Culture and Country Project, to create a living language database and digital platform for the preservation, revitalisation and teaching of Bunuba language and stories across the generations.

Although some of these examples may seem a little left-field for an environmental organisation, we have learnt from Aboriginal communities to view things more holistically. Healthy country needs healthy people and healthy culture.

By funding and carrying out projects, we are demonstrating the economic importance of conservation. Grant funds we have received have enabled us to support Aboriginal communities through employment.



Volunteers Ellen D' Cruz, Connie Grohmann and Matt Macdonald surveying a seagrass quadrat at Demco Beach, 7 March 2022. Photo: Victoria De Bruyn

6) STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLANNING AND PROTECTION

Improve regional strategic planning, networks, resourcing, and legal protections for species and ecosystems.

We continue to play an important role at a regional, state and sometimes national scale. Regionally, our Kimberley Weeds Network shared knowledge amongst the various land managers dealing with weeds. We coordinate a number of threatened species or threatened habitat working groups, which bring together the relevant rangers and scientists in the Kimberley and northern deserts to share knowledge and resources.



Yawuru Country Manager, Leroy Pigram weeding at Mimyagamon. Calotropis (*Calotropis procera*) is a declared pest in WA, 5 November 2021. Photo: Matt Macdonald

At a state level, we are regularly invited to provide input on conservation matters, for example on landcare and bush regeneration with the WA Landcare network, on weed threats with the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute, and desert reptile zoology with the Western Australian Museum. Nationally, we are increasingly recognised as one of a number of conservation organisations that work respectfully with Aboriginal communities. We were invited to join the Indigenous Desert Alliance's Desert Conservation Partnerships Network alongside larger national conservation organisations such as Bush Heritage and Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

7) HEALTHY WORKPLACE

We will continue to provide an inclusive, family-friendly workplace and value collaboration, diversity, flexibility, growth and baking.

The core to our success is our team and the great working culture that exists throughout Environs Kimberley. This year:

- We increased our team size from 5.4 FTE across 9 positions (July 2021) to 7.3 FTE across 11 positions (June 2022)
- We enabled three staff members, Louise Beames, Tessa Mossop and Michelle Pyke (now a contractor), to return from maternity leave by providing flexible working conditions
- We said hello and goodbye to Adrian Boyle and goodbye to Liz Jack in the KNP team
- We welcomed Sam Younis, first as an intern and now as Project Officer heading up our Bilby projects with Gooniyandi Rangers
- We employed three interns, who are studying science or have recently graduated with science degrees: Elsa Fuentes-Hares, Bevan Grant and Amos Smith, a CareerTrackers Indigenous Intern.
- We provided professional development opportunities. Staff attended the following courses: Women's Environmental Leadership Australia, Writing Clear Science, The nuts and bolts of writing, Newsletter writing boot camp and Bachelor of Science university units (Charles Darwin University).
- Ayesha Moss joined the Nyangumarta Rangers for a secondment through the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Cooperation.



EK Events

**Eliza Arnold, Community Engagement,
Fundraising and Events Officer**

Environs Kimberley is grateful for the generosity of our supporters, who ensured our yearly events were a success. We held three major events in 2021/22, while the border restrictions, in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19, meant that a concert planned for September 2021 had to be cancelled. Artists based outside of Western Australia were unable to travel to Broome.

In the first half of 2022, people in the Kimberley directly experienced the pandemic and EK did not plan any large gatherings. Maddie, our Community Engagement, Fundraising and Events Officer, focussed on two successful art raffles and new products for the EK Shop. Each event offers an opportunity to come together; to celebrate the talents of our community, to raise awareness and promote action to protect the Kimberley and raise funds to ensure our work can continue. We could not do these events without our volunteers.

EK Art Auction 2021

Our 18th Annual Art Auction was a huge success and a highlight of Broome's social calendar. Over 300 art lovers and supporters of EK joined us for a wonderful evening and exciting live auction at the Broome Convention Centre. DJ Alessandro Di Ponti provided great music to warm up the crowd. Chris Maher did his usual auctioneering magic. We once again ran an Online Auction, which allowed our remote bidders the chance to take home a stunning art piece. All pieces found a new loving owner and we raised much-needed funds to sustain our important work and support artists.



Art lovers at the 18th Art Auction, 7 August 2021. Photo: Don Bacon



Event DJ Alessandro De Ponti provides the viewing soundtrack at the 18th Art Auction, 7 August 2021. Photo: Don Bacon



Ernie Skinner and Patrick Davies performing at Yajilarra Festival, July 10 2021. Photo: Shane Hughes

EK joined the Bunuba people at the 'Celebrating Bandaralngarri' Concert

EK has been working with the Bunuba people for 25 years to protect the Fitzroy River and keep it free flowing. This year, we were honoured to be asked to organise and run the concert, 'Celebrating Bandaralngarri' (Bandaralngarri is the Bunuba name for the Fitzroy River), which was part of the inaugural Yajilarra Festival. Highlights of the festival included local bands and artists Fitzroy Express, Men's Shed, No Strangers, Olive Knight and Patrick Davies, as well as Kimberley favourites John Butler and Mama Kin performing to a captivated crowd by the river, and Elders and other well-respected speakers sharing ancestral knowledge, stories and ceremony. We thank the Bunuba people for sharing their connection and celebration of the Fitzroy River and look forward to continuing to work alongside them.

Kimberley Calling – A Frack Free Kimberley Concert

The campaign to protect the Kimberley from the oil and gas industry hit another high with this outstanding concert at Walmanyjun Cable Beach. Mangala Traditional Owners led the charge with powerful speeches, followed by Yawuru Traditional Owner Micklo Corpus, who has since passed away, and EK Director Martin. A line-up from the Kimberley and elsewhere provided a feast of music. A huge thank-you to Albert and Woody Gray, Mama Kin, Wil Thomas, Tanya Ransom, Olive Knight, Clifton Girgiba, Sarah Mortimer, For Sure, the Mexicans, John Butler and Stephen Pigram. Bart Pigram was awesome as MC and Marjardee gave a welcome to country. The number of cars in town with Frack Free Kimberley triangles on them increased tenfold overnight.

With thanks from EK

These successful events all rely on the generosity and hard work of many and EK sends a heartfelt thank-you to all the musicians, speakers, auctioneer, artists, art centres, volunteers, photographers, rangers, partner organisations, venue owners, supportive businesses and individuals, staff members and Board.



John Butler inspiring crowds at Yajilarra festival July 10, 2021. Photo: Shane Hughes



Martin Pritchard, EK Director and Nuriah Jadai, Mangala Martu Traditional Custodian speaking at Kimberley Calling Concert, July 17 2021. Photo: Damian Kelly

Frack Free Kimberley Report

Shaun Clark,
Frack Free Kimberley Coordinator



Standing side by side with the community, we've held back fracking on a large scale in the Kimberley for over 10 years. Fracking is supported by virtually no one except those in the industry and certain elements of government.



Huge support from the 2,500-strong crowd at the Kimberley Calling concert, Walmanjun Cable Beach, 17 July 2021. Photo: Damian Kelly

Our struggle for a Frack Free Kimberley is to protect the region's water and most extensive intact tropical savannah left on the planet, and prevent emissions that would dwarf Australia's carbon budget under the Paris Agreement. The Kimberley Calling concert at Walmanjun Cable Beach in July 2021, with 2,500 people in attendance, sent a strong message to government and industry.

Our campaign is building and our partnerships are growing as we defend this rich region from the dying throes of the fossil fuel industry. In October, we joined a nationwide week-long campaign against Origin Energy, which had joined forces with Buru Energy to open up the Canning Basin's unconventional resources.

At the same time, the government announced an in-principle agreement with Texan fracking company Black Mountain, to send gas from the Kimberley to the Pilbara and then sell to overseas markets. This is the first serious pipeline threat since Buru Energy's pipeline application a decade ago and has the potential to open up the region to vast-scale fracking wells, roads, traffic, pollution, processing plants, petrochemical factories and the like. Fracking can only be financially viable if it is scaled up, leading to a pockmarked and fragmented landscape.

We continued to highlight regulatory failure and worked with Traditional Owners determined to protect their Country from fracking. We commissioned reports on damaging emissions and sustainable development alternatives; we received legal and scientific advice to prepare us for action.

Along with our partners, we held a webinar to raise awareness and show the reality of what has occurred in the US, while kick-starting a new chapter in the campaign. We provided valuable information and footage for the development of a new film "Fighting Giants", which is dedicated to a much-loved and respected Kimberley Traditional Owner who bravely stood for years in the face of the industry. We will continue to honour the legacy of Micklo Corpus, who passed away this year.

As the threat to frack the Kimberley increases, we are making sure the public is informed of the plans, in Perth and across the country. We are spreading the message through the oil and gas industry, investors and government.

As we strive to protect this beloved place, we thank our members, supporters, volunteers, partners and donors for their continued support. With you, we march towards a Frack Free Kimberley future.



Pipeline protest at Entrance Point, Broome, 17 October 2021. Photo: Damian Kelly



The magnificent Walakarr Edgar Ranges. Photo: Paul Bell



Treasurer's Report

Laurel Sutcliffe

Environs Kimberley continued to demonstrate its financial resilience in the reporting year ended 30 June 2022.

Total Income was \$2,291,136 (2021: \$1,380,548). Of this, Grant Income for projects was \$1,091,626 (2021: \$363,535). The increase in grant income for 21/22 is a result of being successful in a number of large grant applications for the Kimberley Nature Project and receiving large grant instalments with majority of the work and funds being rolled over and spent in 2022/23.

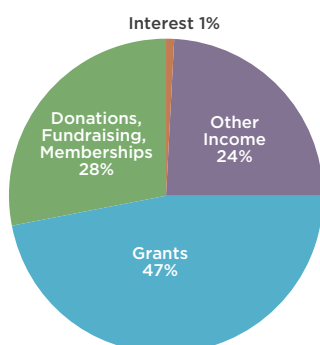
Income from Donations, Fundraising and Membership increased by 55% to \$634,303 (2021: \$409,031), with donors expressing their concern about climate change and large-scale industrial projects. Our work on non-grant related projects continued to increase to \$465,562 (\$388,499 in 2021). Income from Other Sources overall was down by 7% to \$565,207 (2021: \$607,982 incl COVID stimulus).

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30th June 2022

	2022	2021
ASSETS	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	2,533,186	1,337,378
Trade & Other Receivables	83,645	48,279
Inventories	13,823	8,323
Other Financial Assets	125,028	430,073
Other Assets	49,524	28,876
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,805,206	1,852,929
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant & Equipment	37,305	51,028
Right of Use Asset	123,142	26,019
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	160,447	77,047
TOTAL ASSETS	2,965,652	1,929,976
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade & Other Payables	350,800	114,946
Lease Liability	25,492	27,034
Employee benefits	133,829	103,030
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	510,123	245,010
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease Liability	96,170	
Employee benefits	29,634	26,116
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	125,805	26,116
TOTAL LIABILITIES	635,928	271,126
NET ASSETS	2,329,724	1,658,850
EQUITY		
Reserve	1,850,825	474,898
Retained Earnings	478,899	1,183,952
TOTAL EQUITY	2,329,724	1,658,850

Where our money comes from



Total Expenditure was \$1,620,262 (2021: \$1,351,970), with a considerable increase in employment and project costs connected to larger grant funded projects.

Employment costs continue to be Environs Kimberley's major expense, accounting for 70% of our spending. Expenditure on Projects accounted for 18% of our spending, and Operating costs 12%.

Operating surplus for 21/22 of \$670,874 gives Environs Kimberley Members Funds a total of \$2,329,724 (2021: \$1,658,850). This includes \$1,348,210 set aside for Future Service Delivery of our grants and projects, as well as \$502,615 in the EK Future Fund to future proof Environs Kimberley. 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.

Statement of Change in Equity

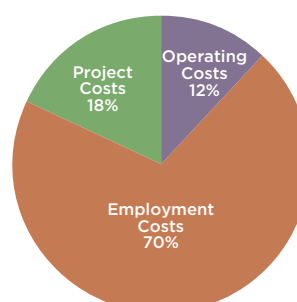
For the year ended 30th June 2022

	Retained Earnings	Future Fund Reserve	Capital Reserve	Total
2022	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 1st July 2021	1,183,952	2,615	472,283	1,658,850
Transfer to Reserve for Future Service Delivery	(875,927)		875,927	-
Transfer to EK future fund	(500,000)	500,000		-
Surplus for the year	670,874			670,874
Balance at 30th June 2022	478,899	502,615	1,348,210	2,329,724
2021				
Balance at 1st July 2020, restated	1,627,657	2,615	-	1,630,272
Transfer to Reserve Future Service Delivery	(472,283)	-	472,283	-
Surplus for the year	28,578	-	-	28,578
Balance at 30th June 2021	1,183,952	2,615	472,283	1,658,850

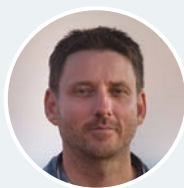
Income Statement For the year ended 30th June 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grant income	1,091,626	363,535
Donations, Fundraising, Membership	634,303	409,031
Interest	6,574	10,595
Other Income	558,633	597,387
Total Income	2,291,136	1,380,548
EXPENDITURE		
Employment Costs	1,142,448	906,816
Project Costs	288,174	244,615
Operating Costs	189,640	200,539
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,620,262	1,351,970
NET INCOME	670,874	28,578

Where our money goes



Environs Kimberley Staff



Martin Pritchard, Director

From a rural Welsh background, Martin has extensive agricultural experience gained in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia. He holds a Higher National Diploma and Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Agriculture (Agric.), 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 WA, chaired several environmental non-government organisations and been a member of ministerial-appointed boards. Martin has been the Director of



Louise Beames Program Manager, Kimberley Nature Project

Louise has worked as an ecologist since 2002, and with EK since 2007, transforming a small project into the regional Kimberley Nature Project (KNP). Louise led Cultural Natural Resource Management (CNRM) projects in Dampierland, achieving an endangered listing for Dampier Peninsula monsoon vine thickets (MVTs) in 2013 under the Commonwealth EPBC Act (1999). Louise co-leads the KNP team and collaborates with Aboriginal rangers, scientists, and others to document and protect Kimberley ecocultural values. Leading EK's not-for-profit consultancy work through Nature Projects Australia, Louise provides CNRM project management support as well as community and organisational sustainable development executive support services to groups within and outside the Kimberley. Louise has a BSc (Applied Biology), first-class honours (Hons).



Dr Malcolm Lindsay Program Manager, Kimberley Nature Project

Malcolm hails from Melbourne and holds a BSc (Hons) 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 one at the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands. Malcolm joined EK in 2012 and co-leads the KNP team.



Dr Matthew Macdonald, Project Coordinator, Kimberley Nature Project

Matt grew up in central Victoria and completed a biological science degree at La Trobe University, majoring in animal ecology with honours in conservation genetics. He then worked in local government, managing a range of ecosystem types, before completing a PhD in Botany from the University of New England, investigating weed invasion of floodplains and wetlands in the Murray Darling Basin. Matt moved to WA in 2009 and has since undertaken flora and fauna assessments across the state. Matt joined EK to work on the Kimberley Wetlands Project, with six Aboriginal ranger groups and their communities, to protect and manage wetlands on their Country.



Shaun Clark, Frack Free Kimberley Coordinator

A long-term Kimberley resident and former Danggu Geikie Gorge Park Ranger, Shaun has a particular interest in 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, land care 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."



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 organising the printing and binding of books. After moving to Australia in 1998, she worked in various office roles for a number of organisations, including Magabala Books, Broome's Aboriginal publishing house. Christine joined EK in 2007.



Danielle Bain, Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project

A Melbourne girl, Danielle graduated from Monash University with a BSc (Environment) in Zoology and Conservation Biology and completed her honours at James Cook University (Townsville), researching the impacts of boat traffic on Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphins. Danielle tried her hand at being a public servant at the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Canberra) 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 EK. After a long break, Danielle has returned to EK and now facilitates the Kimberley Weeds Network and provides mapping support for the Kimberley Wetlands Project and Google Desert Eyes and Ears Project.



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 a 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 MVT and Karajarri Pirra Warlu Projects.



Adrian Boyle, Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project (Oct 2021-Jun 2022)

Adrian grew up in the south-east of South Australia. He moved to Broome in 1998 to follow his passion for birds by working at the Broome Bird Observatory while studying migratory shorebirds with the Australasian Wader Studies Group and the Global Flyway Network. Adrian has travelled extensively around the world while conducting shorebird research and as a tour guide in the Kimberley and polar regions. In March 2017, Adrian was a member of the four-person team that rediscovered the endangered Night Parrot in Western Australia – after an absence of confirmed records for over 100 years. Adrian is a keen photographer with a deep regard for all wildlife, who loves sharing his knowledge with others. Adrian joined EK to work on the Night Parrot project, supporting Aboriginal ranger groups from the Northern Deserts to better understand the birds' distribution, abundance, threats and needs.



Victoria de Bruyn, Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project

Victoria grew up in south-eastern Australia and has always enjoyed the outdoors and marvelled at nature. She has first-class honours in Conservation Biology from Monash University. During her undergraduate studies, Victoria started supporting a South African leopard conservation project. She relocated to South Africa and built a decade's worth of experience working with multiple stakeholders to improve the conservation status of leopards in northern Zululand. Victoria joined EK to facilitate and raise awareness of the Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project, working with Traditional Owners, ranger groups and the greater Broome community.

Environs Kimberley Staff



Ayesha Moss, Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project

Ayesha moved to Derby from Melbourne in 2011. She worked in a local government community development role until 2014, when she moved to Broome and joined EK. Ayesha works on the Enhancing the Skills and Capacity of Kimberley Native Food Producers and Enriching Ecosystems, and the Kimberley Community Seedbank projects. She has a BSc (Hons) and a Diploma of Information Systems from the University of Melbourne and a Diploma of Project Management from North Metropolitan TAFE.



Tessa Mossop, Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project

Tessa is originally from a small coastal town on the midnorth coast of NSW. She completed a combined law and communications 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 EK. Initially, Tessa assisted EK with engagement, community projects, events, fundraising and organisational capacity. She now provides strategic, organisational governance and project support services to groups within the Kimberley.



Dr Michelle Pyke, Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project (left EK Sept 2021)

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 began work on EK's Kimberley Wetlands Project.



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 Edith Cowan University (ECU). Kylie also holds qualifications in fine art, and conservation and land management. She has worked in human services, community development, tourism, art and science. Kylie joined EK in 2011. She is the contact person for the Broome land care group, the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals (SKIPPA).



Sam Younis, Intern then Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project (commenced as staff Oct 2021)

Sam grew up on Kirrae Whurrung Country on the Great Ocean Road in Victoria and moved to Naarm (Melbourne) on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country to complete a BSc and a Master of Environment. Sam recently completed a yearlong research project looking at the effects changing fire regimes can have on the temperate rainforests in the central highlands of Victoria. Sam first joined EK as an intern to help conduct research into how fires and fire regimes are affecting the savannahs and woodlands of the Dampier Peninsula and to look at the individual species responses of plants in the Peninsula to fire. Sam is now employed at EK to support the development of project management systems and bilby conservation projects in the Fitzroy Valley.



Anomie, Communications, Media and Digital Fundraising Officer

Anomie grew up on Whadjuk Nyoongar Boodja (Perth and surrounds), where she completed an arts degree (BA), majoring in Anthropology at UWA, and a Graduate Diploma of Arts (Media Studies) at ECU. She is an award-winning writer and published researcher, having worked in film and television education, production, and events, as well as for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equity. Her methods and ideas have been presented at international conferences across a range of fields. With extensive experience in communications and publicity, Anomie joined EK to promote our work, continuing her commitment to social and environmental justice through care of Country.



Maddie Edwards, Community Engagement, Fundraising and Events Officer (left EK Jun 2021)

Maddie is a Jaru woman who grew up on Miriuwung Gajerrong Country (Kununurra). She attended Presbyterian Ladies College then UWA in Boorloo (Perth), graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce with a major in Marketing. Maddie was employed in marketing and community engagement roles in Boorloo but missed the Kimberley and moved back to take up a position at EK.



Liz Jack, Project Coordinator, Social Enterprise Development (left EK May 2022)

Liz has spent 15 years developing cultural tourism and native food enterprises with Aboriginal entrepreneurs across the Kimberley region. Before that, Liz worked in agriculture, having grown up on a farm in the WA Wheatbelt and graduated with a BSc (Agric.) Hons from the University of Western Australia (UWA). Transitioning from agriculture to socio-economic development entailed completing postgraduate qualifications in History and Politics, and then Business, at Notre Dame University (NDU). A subsequent two-year stint teaching Business to Aboriginal students at NDU, Broome campus, deepened Liz's understanding of the history shared by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and started her on the path of socio-economic development. A recently completed 'Next Economy' MBA via the United States, revisiting key business fundamentals from a socially just and environmentally regenerative perspective, has cemented her passion for supporting social enterprises.

Environs Kimberley Interns



Bevan Grant, Intern, Kimberley Nature Project

Bevan grew up in Walyalup (Fremantle), recently completing his undergraduate degree in Geographical Sciences nearby at UWA. After a visit to the region in 2021, Bevan was keen to return to the Kimberley to further his interest in climate governance, fire, and atmospheric science. He believes that nurturing the health of intact, restored, and degraded ecosystems is paramount, and that modern conservation should be conducted in a way that is supportive of Indigenous values and interests. Bevan worked with the KNP team to collate historical fire data in the Kimberley with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).



Elsa Fuentes-Hare, Intern, Kimberley Nature Project

Elsa is studying marine science at UWA under a Fogarty scholarship and is co-founder of UWA Students for Environmental Action. While growing up in Berlin, Germany, Elsa developed a strong passion for marine conservation, climate activism and writing. During her time at EK, Elsa updated the Broome Conservation Monitoring Project iNaturalist page with species observations from seagrass surveys in Roebuck Bay, mapped endangered vine thicket habitats, and compiled Bardi Jawi marine species names for an information resource.



Amos Smith, CareerTrackers Indigenous Intern, Kimberley Nature Project

Amos is a Balanggarra man, who grew up on Minang Country (Albany), spending much of his early childhood on Wongatha Country in Kalgoorlie. He attended Guildford Grammar on a Madalah scholarship, graduating in 2019. He is now studying Conservation Biology at UWA. Amos is concerned about the impacts of mining and human activity on the earth's biodiversity. He wants to help keep the environment intact for future generations. Amos is interning with EK during university breaks. Amos planned and carried out a valuable project on arboreal mammals in the MVT.

Environs Kimberley Board



Natalie Davey, Chairperson

Natalie Davey comes from Fitzroy Crossing. She is a content creator working with local organisations. For Baya Gawi, the Children and Parenting Centre (CPC) and Early Childhood Learning Unit (ECLU), she is creating an educators' resource system based around the local Aboriginal seasons. Natalie is a broadcaster at Wangki Radio, the local station, and with her father, presents a morning language program called 'Danggujarra'. With Mangkaja Arts, Natalie is developing a jewellery collection inspired by Country. As part of the 2019 NAIDOC Week Speaker Series: Voice. Treaty. Truth, Natalie travelled with the Australian Consulate General and the founder and General Manager of Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre (MALTC) to share knowledge about the conservation of language with many First Nations people of the United States. Natalie is dedicated to sharing the world around her and bringing people together through cultural understanding.



Craig Philips, Vice Chairperson

Craig moved his young family from Perth to the Kimberley in 1994 and started his own IT business. His previous roles include Victorian sales manager of Columbus Mufflers, and West Australian sales manager of Lukey Mufflers. In Broome, Craig runs an IT consulting company. He is currently on the Committee for the Community Resource Centre and has served on the boards of the Broome Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Centre West Kimberley. Craig has been an EK member since 1996 and joined the EK committee in 1999.



Laurel Sutcliffe, Treasurer

From Victoria, Laurel gained a BA and a Diploma in Education from the University of Melbourne 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 teaches at Broome Senior High School.



Carmel Leahy, Secretary

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 in a support role with Yiyili Aboriginal Community School. Carmel is an active member of the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals (SKIPPA). 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.



Monica Edgar (left Nov 2021)

Monica is Lead Country Manager for Nyamba Buru Yawuru (NBY). She has a passion for 'looking after Country'. Monica loves 'our home in the Kimberley' and wants to help protect it from the pressuring outside world. In her role at NBY, she works in collaboration with others and finds that the majority of the Kimberley's residents work hard looking after Country, keeping it safe.



Kate Golson

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



Alexis Harper

Lexi is passionate about health in a holistic sense and values local environments, food systems and communities and the roles they each play in individual wellbeing. Her academic background includes a BA in Naturopathy and a Master's in Public Health. She has been a resident of northern Australia for over 10 years, having lived in Darwin for several years before moving to Fitzroy Crossing in 2016. Now based in Broome, Lexi is interested in creating local, sustainable food systems as well as ensuring the wild spaces of the Kimberley are preserved for future generations.



Rebecca Laird (left Nov 2021)

Rebecca grew up in small WA country towns before moving to the Kimberley as a teacher 20 years ago. She has taught in remote and Broome schools and has a B.Ed in Intercultural Studies and a Master of Applied Linguistics. Rebecca is interested in sustainable practices and planning within education and has contributed to developing the sustainable schools community in Broome. She is passionate about digital education and supports teachers to integrate technology into their work. While living in remote communities, Rebecca became a member of EK to help preserve the beautiful Kimberley environment and support the people who care for it.



Isaiah Mckenna (left Oct 2021)

A newly graduated Year 12 student from Saint Mary's College and Head Girl, Isaiah is an enthusiastic and driven young Indigenous person excited to be joining the EK Board. When Isaiah was 15, she represented the Kimberley in the YMCA WA Youth Parliament as a member for Arts and Culture — the youngest in the youth chamber. Her committee's 'Arts and Culture Redevelopment Bill' passed in the Youth Parliament and was given to the Premier.



Kat Taylor

Kat arrived in the Kimberley in 2010. She is a researcher at the Water Justice Hub, based at the Australian National University (ANU), and is an adjunct with the Nulungu Research Institute at Notre Dame University. Kat completed a PhD in water policy at ANU in 2020 and holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Environmental Science (Hons) and a BSc in Conservation Biology from Murdoch University.



Peter Mitchell (left Apr 2022)

Peter grew up in the South West of 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, and a former board member of the Australian Men's Health Forum, and received the 2017 Kullarri NAIDOC Person of the Year Award.

Thank You

Environs Kimberley is grateful to all our funders, partner organisations and donors and we thank them for their support. We couldn't do it without you!

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Partners and collaborators



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