

27 YEARS LOOKING AFTER THE

KIMBERLEY

Annual Report 2023

environs
KIMBERLEY
SAVING THE NATURE OF THE KIMBERLEY





Acting Chairperson's Report

Craig Phillips, Acting Chairperson

This year has been marked as much by changes within EK as outside it. While some have been sudden and unexpected, most have been in train for a while and are indicative of a growing organisation.

After a period of significant growth, with an increase in staff from 4 to 20, we decided to restructure EK and create a new CEO position. Having spent 14 years at the helm of EK, Martin Pritchard chose to take on a new role as Director of Strategy. The Board thanks Martin for his work as Director of EK, leading the organisation and many successful campaigns to protect the Kimberley.

We advertised the new CEO position and in December appointed Andrew Batt, who moved into the office in February. Andrew's background is in business. His wealth of skills and experience are in financial and organisational management. He was a perfect fit for EK, with an existing connection to Kimberley nature conservation. That he was living locally was a bonus; aside from knowing something of EK's activities and reputation, he had already adjusted to living in the north.

At the time of writing, the Board has worked well with Andrew to see through a successful handover period with Martin. Andrew has given priority to the 2023-2025 strategic planning process.

The new year started with the record-breaking monsoonal floods, which damaged the National Highway, destroyed the Fitzroy Crossing Bridge and locked off the west Kimberley, including Broome, from the rest of the world. Many communities were evacuated, and families made homeless.

EK's Chairperson Natalie Davey experienced the full force of the monsoonal flooding when her home went under. Natalie was dealing with her own dislocation as well as that of so many in her community, and asked me to take over as Acting Chairperson, as I did for the next six months.

Sally Wilkinson and Wil Bennett joined the Board during the year. Wil's term was cut short, but in May we welcomed Brendan Renkin in his place.

In May, the Environs Kimberley community had great pleasure in joining the crew on board the Rainbow Warrior, which was visiting Broome — a wonderful experience.

In mid-2022, we appointed our community engagement officer Eliza Arnold, and celebrated three significant anniversaries: 15-year terms for Christine Elsasser and Louise Beames — who, when they joined us, doubled EK's staff to four — and 10 years for Mal Lindsay, who came on when we were facing one of the Kimberley's greatest existential crises, the potential industrialisation of the coast.

Our Management Team leaders and all staff have continued to provide dedicated professional service during extremely busy and stressful times over the past few years, while our loyal volunteers put great effort into our various fundraising events.

Thank you to everyone for your support while I was acting Chairperson, especially Kate Golson, Martin Pritchard, Andrew Batt, Malcolm Lindsay and Louise Beames.

All the best, and keep safe,

Craig



Director and CEO's Report

Martin Pritchard and Andrew Batt

Director's Report

My last six months as Director of Environs Kimberley has been much the same as the previous 14 years: full of challenges to protect the region's environment. I'm still astounded at the lack of political commitment to protect the globally significant environment of the Kimberley with its cultural riches and profound nature experiences. Nonetheless we've had some great wins this year.

As an organisation and in partnership with others we've been highly effective over the past 27 years in defending Country from industrialisation and agribusiness, and supporting its management and regeneration. While this is a product of our myriad partnerships with Aboriginal organisations, other conservation groups and government, with the help of our Board, volunteers, supporters, donors and funders, a vital component of our success is undoubtedly our staff. We've had exceptional service from Louise Beames and Christine Elsasser, both having put in 15 years, and from Malcolm Lindsay and Kylie Weatherall, who have been with us for 10 years apiece. It's not just the years, it's the quality of work that has been outstanding. We thank them profusely and note that many of our other EK staff have notched up significant milestones and contributions. We are also enormously grateful to our Board members, some of whom have been with us for longer.

To enhance our workplace culture, we began a staff-driven journey towards a Diversity and Inclusion Plan and began reviewing our Occupational Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.

Pairing on-ground conservation and advocacy has achieved remarkable results and led to us being finalists in the United Nations Association of WA Environmental Award. We've kept up our relationships with the WA Government; two Ministers attended our office to discuss our on-ground and advocacy work. We in turn attended the Community Cabinet meeting in Broome.

The stresses and strains of our growth and increased fundraising capability have finally led us to restructure and create a new CEO position to ease the load of getting necessary systems and strategies in place. In the restructure I decided to make the move to become the Director of Strategy. The transition took

a lot of work and I thank Louise, Kate and Natalie for leading the recruitment process and for the support of Malcolm and Christine during that time.

Our recruitment process has resulted in Andrew Batt becoming our new CEO. This was a great choice; the partnership with Andrew is a boon to our work. I look forward to some great achievements in protecting the Kimberley.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported, advised and nurtured me over the past 14 years as Director of EK; it has been a life-changing experience.

CEO's Report

It has been an honour and a privilege to have joined Environs Kimberley earlier this year in the newly created CEO role. What an interesting time to be joining this dynamic organisation, as we look to update our strategic plan into the late 2020s, enhance systems, policies and procedures, expand our support base, move to our own property to ensure we remain sustainable in the long term, and continue to develop a conservation economy. I see my role as being to empower the team to continue to do the important work they have been doing for many years, and ensure our common goals align. The transition has been smooth and I extend my thanks to Martin, Louise, Mal, Christine and the team for their enthusiastic welcome and support.

There have been significant highlights as well. These include the Rainbow Warrior visit and annual art auction, developing the Wattleseed Collective social enterprise, and lobbying government via the delivery of a 27,000+ strong petition to the Minister for the Environment as part of the campaign to protect the Martuwarra Fitzroy River, along with partners from the KLC, Martuwarra Fitzroy Council and PEW.

With a background in financial management and governance, I am pleased to report a positive year with a turnover of \$2.6M (up 12%), and a healthy surplus, which will contribute to the EK Future Fund and help ensure that we remain sustainable in the longer term. We have a comprehensive budget in place for FY24 and are working through a detailed process of strategic planning through to 2027, which will capture the increasing impacts of climate change and our energy transition in the future.

Lastly, a huge thankyou to our supporters, volunteers and partners. We can't do what we do without you!

Campaigns Report

Martin Pritchard, Director of Strategy



Handing over a 27,000 signature petition to Minister Reece Whitby and Kimberley MLA Divina D'Anna, calling for the protection of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River. Photo: Lisa Thomas

CLIMATE CHANGE

Our last Annual Report referred to the clear warnings about what will happen to the planet if we don't reduce carbon emissions from mega-polluters like the oil and gas industry. Fitzroy Crossing felt the full force of these climate change impacts in January this year, with record-breaking floods devastating large parts of the town and surrounding communities. The community will take a long time to rebuild and a serious concern is, when will it happen again? The physics is clear; for every degree C increase in temperature, the air holds 7% more water. Fitzroy Crossing is projected to have 225 days over 40 C by 2090. Our work to stop fracking and shut down the oil and gas industry gets more important by the day.

We are facing an onslaught of oil and gas fracking, and this year we had the tremendous boost of signing an MoU with Seed, Australia's first Indigenous Youth Climate Network. We look forward to a successful partnership to defend the Kimberley from this highly polluting industry.

We've also supported the Mangala People in defence of their Country. They are standing strong to protect their land and water from oil and gas.

In May we were graced with the presence of one of the world's best-known ships — Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior. A partnership with Greenpeace allowed us to highlight the fracking threat to the Kimberley by sailing up to Walmadany James Price Point, ten years after Woodside left, and hoisting banners up the rigging.

MARTUWARRA FITZROY RIVER PROTECTION

The floods came but our work to protect the river continued. In May we were part of a delegation from the Kimberley Land Council, Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council and The Kimberley – Like Nowhere Else alliance to the WA Parliament. We delivered a petition from 27,000 people calling for the protection of the river. We also held a special screening of EK's award-winning *Voices of the River* short film series for MPs.

MARINE PROTECTION — BUCCANEER ARCHIPELAGO

We've gone from zero protection of the Kimberley coast in 2008 to 3.1 million hectares in marine parks this year. The latest additions are the Bardi Jawi Gaarra, Mayala and Maiyalam marine parks covering the Buccaneer Archipelago. We've been working to create the Great Kimberley Marine Park for over a decade through the Kimberley-Like Nowhere Else alliance, which includes our partner organisation, Pew Charitable Trusts, with Traditional Owners, the WA Government, local communities and stakeholders. 17,000 supporters put in submissions calling for strong protections.

We congratulated the Bardi Jawi, Mayala and Dambimangari Traditional Owners on designing these new marine parks jointly with the WA Government.

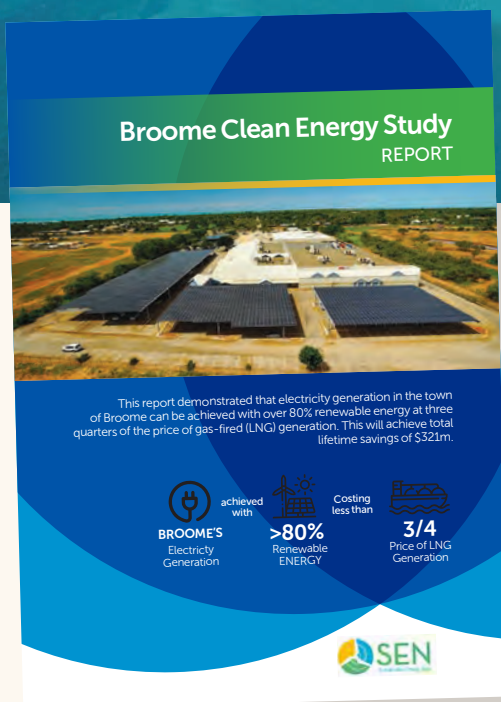
WORLD HERITAGE LISTING FOR THE KIMBERLEY

The Albanese Government committed to World Heritage Listing for the Kimberley before the election. The government is particularly interested in the nomination of cultural values, and as we know, there are plenty of environmental heritage values that would make the cut as well. We have begun the long journey of making this happen.



Mangala Martu Traditional Owner Nuriah Jadai and Martin Pritchard, Director of Strategy, EK. Photo: Sarah Landro

Campaigns Report



Irvine Island in the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park.
Photo: Martin Pritchard

KIMBERLEY MINERAL SANDS THUNDERBIRD MINE

The most environmentally damaging development in the West Kimberley's history, the Kimberley Mineral Sands Mine, had its plans changed to export through the Port of Broome instead of through Derby. The mine will clear over 1,700 hectares of intact tropical savannah, home to threatened species like the Greater Bilby. The export of the minerals will increase the pressure on Roebuck Bay, which is also facing an industrial floating jetty, mainly for the oil and gas industry, as well as outsized and overpriced boat launching facilities. The export of mineral sands through Roebuck Bay would necessitate one hundred truck movements a day through Broome and increase shipping, creating higher threats of marine invasive species and displacement of rare species like the Snubfin Dolphin.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CAMPAIGN

It's vital we stop fossil fuel projects and transition to renewables as quickly as possible. We've been working on renewables, and the 2018 Kimberley Clean Energy Roadmap set the scene for what's possible. This year we launched the Broome Clean Energy Report with Sustainable Energy Now and Lock the Gate. This report shows we can quickly transition to 80% renewable at 3/4 the cost of LNG and reduce emissions drastically. At the same time, Buru Energy is trying to develop a methane gas field to supply the Kimberley's energy needs. Meanwhile, cows are being fed seaweed to reduce their methane emissions. We will continue to support the community and make sure there is a real transition to clean energy.



Snubfin Dolphin. Photo: Dr Deb Thiele

The threats to the nature of the Kimberley seem to be coming at a faster pace every year. We still have a huge job to change the cultural mindset of government and industry to understand that the region is too precious to be plundered. With your support we can hold fast, but we need you now more than ever to protect the nature of the Kimberley.

Frack Free Kimberley Report



Shaun Clark,
Frack Free Kimberley Coordinator

We began the year with packed-out cinemas in Perth and Fremantle, the audiences there to watch the premiere screening of *Fighting Giants*. *Fighting Giants* is a call to defend the glorious landscapes and biodiversity of the Kimberley, highlighting the biggest challenge of our generation — our changing climate — and bringing people together to take action against fracking.

Mangala Martu Traditional Owners gave powerful speeches to help the audience understand what Country means to them, and the threat that fracking poses to their homelands. Our partner, Lock the Gate Alliance, gave screenings throughout the year, with letter-writing to government ministers at the end of each event. We have had requests from schools, environment groups from interstate, and other organisations, which we have assisted with further screenings. The film is dedicated to the late Micklo Corpus, who, tragically, passed away last year, and his outstanding contribution to keeping the Kimberley free from fracking.

The WA Government a Community Cabinet meeting in Broome which we attended in protest. Martin Pritchard asked the Premier a question, which ensured that every Minister who attended got the message loud and clear that the Kimberley is no place for destructive, polluting industries like unconventional oil and gas extraction.

At the end of the year, we joined SEED Mob to hold the first Broome screening of *Fighting Giants* along with their important film *Water is Life*. It was fantastic to have young Aboriginal people, from different parts of the country, come together with EK to share knowledge and experiences of fighting for Country, and clean water and air. SEED Mob went on to hold screenings in Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne.

We kept our unrelenting pressure on the WA Government, assisted Lock the Gate with many protests and events in Perth, had a presence and a question asked at Buru Energy's AGM, supplied Peter Garrett with a Frack Free t-shirt for Stompem Ground, and welcomed the Rainbow Warrior to Broome.

As we edge closer to the implementation of the twenty actions from the Scientific Inquiry, which is highly concerning, we can proudly say that in the 2022-2023 year we again saw no fracking in the Kimberley. The pressure on government is vital to keep oil and gas out of the Kimberley and never allow such a toxic industry to get a foothold. A huge number of alarming reports is coming out of the US concerning fracking's harmful effects on human health, water, and climate. World-leading

organisations like the International Energy Agency (which was set up as a pro-oil and gas body) are saying that, if we want a safe climate, there must be no new oil and gas. We will continue to work towards a ban of this industry, to keep the oil and gas in the ground and ensure the Kimberley remains frack free, forever.



Community Cabinet Protest. Photo: Damian Kelly



The Rainbow Warrior at James Price Point. Photo: Alex Westover, Greenpeace



Peter Garrett at Stompem Ground. Photo: Damian Kelly



Fighting Giants screening at Sun Pictures. Photo: Damian Kelly

Kimberley Nature Projects

Louise Beames and Malcolm Lindsay,
Project Directors



This year has been challenging and rewarding as we worked to overcome the lingering impact of Covid on our project timelines and brought new major projects onboard. Thanks to the support of Lotterywest, our new Landcruiser arrived in January, helping us to safely undertake remote field work, and taking some of the load off our ageing Hilux. With Andrew Batt in the new CEO position, we were able to refine our focus on grant-writing, team-building, systems and structure, and reset the social enterprise work within our Sustainable Communities team.

We again report our Nature Projects achievements against the goals in our strategic plan 2021–2023 and acknowledge the importance of our many partners and funders, who contribute to the overwhelmingly positive environmental, cultural, and social outcomes from our work to protect the nature of the Kimberley.



Pre-contact Elder, Bugura, showing EK's Project Coordinator, Hamsini Bijlani, the uses of different desert plants on a desert trip with Ngurrara Rangers and Traditional Owners to visit important Jila (desert wetland) sites for the Ngurrara Jila Project, July 2022. Photo: Ngurrara Rangers

ON-GROUND CULTURAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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

- We worked with the Gooniyandi and Kija Rangers to fence a culturally and ecologically important wetland on Gooniyandi Country in an effort to reduce the impact of cattle.
- We have used science, data analysis and fire-scar and habitat mapping to assist Karajarri, Ngurrara and Nyangumarta Rangers with fire planning in their contiguous Country across the Great Sandy Desert.
- We worked with Nyangumarta Rangers to survey, get permits for and implement cat management techniques, around key threatened species habitat on their Country.
- We worked with the Ngurrara Rangers to manage weeds and fire at culturally significant waterholes, or Jila, on Ngurrara Country.
- With Nyamba Buru Yawuru, we resourced the Casual Country Managers, a young Yawuru team new to land management, to protect the southern-most occurrence of the endangered monsoon vine thicket, initiating treatment of over 3000 tree-weeds across 183 hectares of Minyirr Park.

Kimberley Nature Projects

RESEARCH

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

- We published an article in the journal 'Ecological Management and Restoration', which provided an overview of the important collaborations in the Dampier Peninsula over the 16 years of the Kimberley Nature Project, and the solid achievements gained by working together to protect the nationally endangered monsoon vine thicket.
- We conducted vegetation surveys with the Bardi Jawi Oorany and Nyul Nyul Rangers to increase our knowledge of how fire affects vegetation on the Dampier Peninsula.
- We conducted surveys with the Gooniyandi Rangers and Gooniyandi Traditional Owner Claude Carter to better understand how fire affects Nyarlgoos (Greater Bilby) food resources.
- In partnership with the Yawuru Country Managers and DBCA, we contributed to the CSIRO Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Network by conducting 24 vegetation site surveys in three different vegetation types across Minyirr Park.
- With the Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa, Ngurrara and Nyangumarta Rangers we conducted surveys for the endangered Night Parrot at a number of sites through the Great Sandy Desert. We also co-produced a report with Indigenous Desert Alliance, Night Parrot scientists and 13 Ranger groups, documenting the sterling efforts of Aboriginal rangers in WA surveying for Night Parrots.
- We enhanced our mapping expertise and conducted fine-scale fire-scar mapping using LandSat imagery (30mx30m resolution), and coarse mapping of threatened species habitat. This informs the planning and management of Karajarri, Nyangumarta, Ngurrara and Ngururrpa Rangers in the Great Sandy Desert, and helps us better understand contemporary fire patterns and threatened species distribution.
- As a steering committee member, we provided advice to the WA Biodiversity Science Institute's 'Addressing Weed Threats to Biodiversity' research program.
- We continued managing Western Australia's longest-running seagrass monitoring project at 4 sites, 3 times a year, providing important information about the health of Roebuck Bay.



Country Manager Monica (left) and DBCA botanist Annika (right) checking over a plant on the species check list. Photo: Sam Younis

- With Gooniyandi, Karajarri, Bunuba, Ngurrara, Yawuru and Bardi Rangers we completed wetland health checks to establish benchmarks and ensure that no serious changes to wetland health goes unnoticed.
- We used scat sampling techniques to investigate how many Nyarlgoos (Greater Bilby) there are on Gooniyandi country and how they are using Country.
- We conducted trapping, sensor camera, drone, and sandlot surveys with the Karajarri and Nyangumarta Rangers to better understand the impact of different fire patterns on desert biodiversity.
- With the Nyangumarta, Ngurrara and Karajarri Rangers, we conducted broad and targeted rocky outcrop surveys for threatened species, including the Black-flanked Rock-wallaby, Northern Quoll and Brushtail Possum.



Nyangumarta Rangers checking animal traps during a survey to understand how different fire patterns affect desert biodiversity and help inform fire management done by rangers for the Sandy Deserts Fire and Biodiversity Project, May 2023. Photo: Hamsini Bijlani

Kimberley Nature Projects



Dawn at Black Ledge, Nagulagun Roebuck Bay, for the Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project, July 2022. Photo: Volunteer, Rosemary Porter

PARTNERSHIPS

Build strong long-term partnerships with Aboriginal people to protect Country and culture.

Collaborate with community groups, government, and industry to protect Country and culture.

- We supported an important knowledge exchange between Gooniyandi, Ngurrura and Kiwirrkurra Rangers at Gooniyandi Nyarlgoo (Greater Bilby) sites, where Kiwirrkurra Rangers showed how they control a major Bilby predator (cats) using traditional hunting methods.
- With the Nyangumarta Rangers we attended the WA Feral Cat symposium to learn more about how to manage feral cats on Country, and initiated partnerships with researchers and funders to start implementing feral cat control in the Kimberley.
- We cultivated strong partnerships with DBCA and the WA Museum, whose staff support trapping surveys and intertidal invertebrate surveys.
- We established our role within the WA Feral Cat Working Group with the Nyangumarta Rangers.
- We established a strong working partnership with the Indigenous Desert Alliance.
- With DBCA we coordinated kick-off weeding events for the new Friends of Minyirr Park community group.



This sign was created in collaboration with Claude Carter (Claudie), Gooniyandi Traditional Owner and cultural advisor, the Gooniyandi Rangers and EK. L- R Claude Carter, Cody, Kaunell, Daniel, Idas and Ranger Coordinator, Russell Chestnut. Photo: Sam Younis

- We signed an MoU with Australian Seed Bank Partnerships.
- We explored collaborative opportunities with wattleseed industry supporters.
- We started a major new Desert Fire and Biodiversity project, with Ngurrara, Nyangumarta and Karajarri Rangers and new partners Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa and Ngururpa.
- We have strengthened and expanded our relationship with Charles Darwin University, putting in a joint Australian Research Council and a Federal Government environmental application.

COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING AND PARTICIPATION

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

- We co-designed and installed a beautiful Nyarlgoo (Greater Bilby) sign at the Ngumban Cliffs rest area, acknowledging the great work that Gooniyandi Rangers are doing to protect Bilbies, and providing instructions to tourists on how they can help protect Nyarlgoo.
- We continued to support the Society for Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals, facilitating community events to improve people's knowledge, awareness and skills in plant identification, land restoration, seed collection, seed cleaning and propagation.
- We hosted a community weeds education talk at the Broome Public Library in collaboration with Incredible Edible, SKIPA and local weed experts.
- We ran a two-day 'Sharing Solutions' workshop in Broome, reviewing demonstration sites with SKIPA and the Kimberley Weeds Network, enhancing networks and knowledge in revegetation, restoration and weed management.
- We convened the online Kimberley Weeds Network, supporting wider engagement, knowledge, and networks for those working in the Kimberley to manage weeds.
- We worked with rangers to refine eco-cultural knowledge resources, continuing to develop the Bardi Jawi Aarli (fish) poster, Plant Stories second edition, and Nyul Nyul Mayi bush foods booklet.
- We conducted a number of Intertidal Invertebrate information events, where WA Museum marine biologists came to Broome to share their knowledge of intertidal habitats with Broome community members.

CONSERVATION ECONOMY

Support the development of economic opportunities that enhance the health of communities and landscapes.

- We resourced and guided five young Yawuru people to gain experience in weed control and land management, initiating a 12-week intensive at Minyirr Park in Broome.
- We established the groundwork for commercial wattleseed harvesting, working with the Bardi Jawi Oorany Rangers, Yiriman Women's Bush Knowledge Enterprises, Nyangumarta Rangers, Yawuru Country Managers, and Karajarri Rangers. This included providing harvesting kits, and developing skills in sustainable wattleseed harvesting, cleaning, and storage.
- We engaged in comprehensive discussions and consultations to develop and refine the business plans for 3 social enterprises, including Wattleseed Collective, and two products as part of the Kimberley Seeds initiative: Bardi Jawi Gaanyi and Karajarri Jangka.

We conducted market research with rangers at the Broome markets, assembled marketing/promotion plans and supported the product development, marketing/promotion, and sale of Gaanyi and Karajarri Jangka at our market stall and online shop.

- We worked with those engaged in the Wattleseed Collective to co-design a logo using artwork from Karajarri artist Anita Kitty.
- We produced a Wattleseed Collective pilot product, engaged with the Wattleseed industry, and initiated partnerships to help bring these products to the market.
- We developed sustainable harvesting and cleaning guides for wattleseed to encourage more groups and individuals to participate in the 2023 Wattleseed Collective harvest.
- We continued to provide support to Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation, Bunuba Cultural Conservation Institute, and others, to establish and manage projects to better meet their Healthy Country targets, including managing Country, revitalising language and culture, and establishing cultural enterprise.
- We assisted groups to access more than \$720K in grants to undertake projects identified as important by their RNTBC.
- We wrote applications for over \$1.6 million in grants for other organisations/rangers to undertake caring for Country activities.



EK's Project Officer, Ayesha Moss, with *Acacia colei* seed being dried and prepared for machine cleaning. Photo: Environs Kimberley

STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLANNING AND PROTECTION

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

- We completed weed action plans for Yawuru and Bunuba DBCA Rangers to help improve strategic weed management in estates managed by DBCA.
- With Bardi, we initiated a strategic weed action plan consultation process, developing a draft plan and linking it to on-ground projects.
- We continued to coordinate the Monsoon Vine Thicket Working Group with three Dampier Peninsula ranger groups, DBCA and community representatives.
- We initiated and coordinated the first meeting of the Northern Deserts Fire Working Group, where rangers, Environs Kimberley, Indigenous Desert Alliance, and Kimberley Land Council can come together to share knowledge and information to improve fire management in the Great Sandy Desert.

HEALTHY WORKPLACE

We are an inclusive, family-friendly workplace valuing collaboration, diversity, flexibility and growth, and baking.

- This year we welcomed Michelle Pyke back to the team following her maternity leave, to continue her important work in developing cultural monitoring systems as part of our Kimberley Wetlands Project.
- Louise also returned from maternity leave and continued to contribute to the EK restructure, the recruitment of the CEO, and improvements to our policy and procedures.
- We established our conservation economy work within the Sustainable Communities team, led by Louise, working with Tessa Mossop and Ayesha Moss, and welcomed aboard Tahnee Carter as an Indigenous Project Trainee (quickly becoming a Project Officer). We also wished Ayesha luck as she wrapped up her major project commitments and moved to Indonesia for 12 months.
- We welcomed Sid Rankin to our casual pool, who ably assisted the Yawuru Casual Country Managers weeding intensive at Minyirr Park.
- Professional development included:
 - Making a Masterclass in Facilitation and Conflict Resolution Skills available to all staff and other emerging leaders in NRM.
 - A Protected Areas Collaboration scholarship was received for both Sam and Kylie to study Desert Field Ecology. Kylie then undertook two more units toward a Bachelor of Environmental Science: Introduction to Ecology, and Flora and Fauna Surveying.
 - Tess received an Institute of Community Directors scholarship to study a Diploma of Governance.
 - Tess and Ayesha attended the Social Enterprise World Forum to access new knowledge, skills and networks, to be able to confidently grow our own social enterprise.
- We decided that we wanted to capture the heart of the EK family through an EK culture statement and an EK Diversity and Inclusion plan, with staff continuing to work towards these goals.
- Both Louise and Malcolm celebrated longevity milestones at EK: 15 and 10 years respectively, verifying that there is something very special about being part of the EK family.



Tamara Moore, Bardi Jawi Oorany Ranger, and Dr Michelle Pyke, EK Project Officer and UWA scientist, at the Freshwater Sciences 2023 conference in Brisbane, where they presented on the Bardi Jawi Oola (freshwater) Place Monitoring Project. Photo: Environs Kimberley



EK Events

Eliza Arnold, Community Engagement,
Fundraising and Events Officer

Environs Kimberley's events offer an opportunity for us 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 hold these events without the willing efforts of our volunteers and supporters.

EK Art Auction 2022 and EK Art Auction 2023

Last financial year was jam-packed with opportunities for our supporters to purchase their very own piece of the Kimberley. Held in August 2022 and June 2023, our 19th and 20th Annual Art Auctions filled the Broome Convention Centre walls and online platform Galabid with exquisite artwork. Artists and art centres contribute the work — original paintings, photographs, artefacts — and we are happy that many of them earn whatever proportion of the selling price they choose to retain, while EK benefits from the rest — in some cases, 100%. We are grateful for the ongoing support of this event. A special shout-out to the extraordinary number of volunteers who assist to make the live events possible!



EK's founder, Pat Lowe sits on stage while her portrait by local artist Amelia Jajko is auctioned. Photo: Anna Mardling

'The Martuwarra Fitzroy River – Lifeblood of the Kimberley' at the WA Maritime Museum

As a member of the Kimberley – Like Nowhere Else alliance, we celebrated the launch of our multi-media exhibition, 'The Martuwarra Fitzroy River – Lifeblood of the Kimberley' at the WA Maritime Museum in October 2022. The exhibition took viewers on a journey along the Martuwarra to meet the people and wildlife that live beside it. Stunning photography by Damian Kelly and Adam Monk highlighted the beauty of the river and its lifecycle, from raging floodwaters in the wet season, to remnant pools and billabongs in the drier months. Also featured was a life-size, seven-metre replica sawfish art installation, representing the river's importance to the critically endangered freshwater sawfish and other wildlife. Our award-winning *Voices of the River* documentary series plays throughout the exhibition, as Traditional Owners share their powerful connection to the river and their Country.



L – R Hozaus Claire, Mervyn Street, Dr Anne Poelina, Tim Nicol, Martin Pritchard, Russell Chestnut at launch of exhibition, October 2022. Photo: Miles Tweedie

Frack Free Kimberley *Fighting Giants* Movie Screening

Our first collaborative action with Seed Mob was to host a screening of the films *Fighting Giants* and *Water is Life* at Sun Pictures in Broome last November. *Water is Life* is a documentary about the Aboriginal communities fighting against fracking plans in the NT and is available on the Seed website. *Fighting Giants* is about the epic struggle for a Frack Free Kimberley. The evening included inspirational speeches from Mangala Martu Traditional Owner Nuriah Judai, and saw our community come together to stand for a Frack Free Kimberley.



EK Director and Seed Mob at Sun Pictures in Broome, 24 November. Photo: Damian Kelly.

Mangala Martu Traditional Owner Nuriah Judai speaks proudly for Country at Frack Free Kimberley movie. Photo: Damian Kelly

Martuwarra Fitzroy River Film Festival returned home

In October 2022 the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Film Festival came home and was screened for the Fitzroy Valley community. The Festival included our award-winning short documentary series *Voices of the River*, which has received international acclaim, screening at film festivals across the world and winning multiple awards. Special thanks to the stars of the films for sharing their spiritual connections to the Martuwarra and Country. We were humbled to have the late Bunuba elder and cultural warrior Mary Aiken give the Welcome to Country, and heard from Gooniyandi elder and painter, author and illustrator Mervyn Street, Walmajarri elder Mr Brown, Walmajarri man Anthony McLarty and Bunuba woman Natalie Davey — all featured in the films.



Martuwarra Fitzroy River Film Festival, Fitzroy Crossing October 2022. Photo: Lisa Thomas



Early arrival at the Between the Tides Opening. Photo: Michael Torres

Between the Tides

In February 2023 *Between the Tides* festival provided a busy four days for the Broome community to learn about, experience and celebrate the culturally and ecologically rich intertidal habitats of Broome. The festival was presented in collaboration with WA Museum scientists, Traditional Owners, local artists and citizen scientists, and contained eleven events including:

- *Between the Tides: Discovering the Intertidal Marine Life of Broome* – public presentation by WA Museum scientists and traditional owners.
- *Identifying Broome's Invertebrate Life: the basics* – An introductory workshop looking into marine invertebrate taxonomy.
- *Reef, Seagrass and Mangrove Walks* – with WA Museum scientists and local cultural experts, exploring local intertidal habitats and the creatures that they sustain.

- *Between the Tides: Art and Photographic Exhibition* – an exhibition of local Broome artists portraying marine habitats and species.
- *Marine Science in Schools* – WA Museum scientists and cultural experts providing two-way marine science learning in three Broome schools.

Between the Tides developed out of EK's Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project, a citizen science project that has been monitoring the seagrass of Broome for 17 years. The purpose of the festival, besides informing people about the treasures of the intertidal zone, was to expand the Seagrass Monitoring Project. This expanded project broadens the focus to include the mangrove, reef, beach and mud-flat habitats as well as seagrass meadows, and will culminate in the production of an Intertidal ID Guide Book.

With thanks from EK

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 and Board members. You make these events possible!



Treasurer's Report

Laurel Sutcliffe

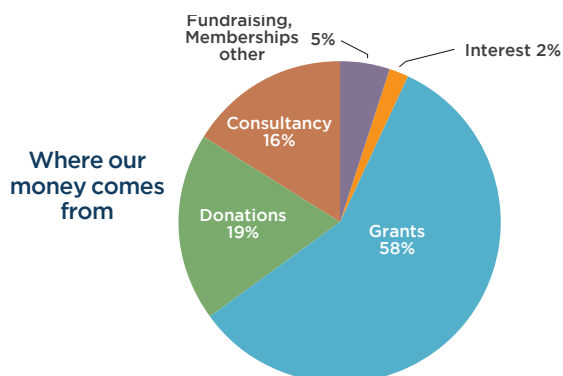
Environs Kimberley continued to demonstrate its financial resilience in the reporting year ended 30 June 2023. Total Income was \$2.49M (FY22: \$2.29M – up 9%). Of this, Grant Income for projects was \$1.45M, which is up 33% for FY22 due to ongoing project delivery for existing grants, as well as continued success in grant applications for the Kimberley Nature Projects. Future delivery of project work has also grown and is now \$1.6M in Grants Reserve, ensuring ongoing sustainability into next year. Income from Donations \$475k, Consultancy services (\$392k) and Fundraising & Membership (\$125k) are all down from the increases in FY22, but this is more than offset by the Project work, as well as interest received which is a small upside of the interest rate rises.

Total Expenditure was \$2.06M (FY22: \$1.62M), with an increase in employment (+15%) and project costs (75%) connected to larger grant funded projects, plus the recruitment of the CEO role part way through the year.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30th June 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | \$ | \$ |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents | 2,761,706 | 2,533,186 |
| Trade & Other Receivables | 129,594 | 83,645 |
| Inventories | 21,662 | 13,823 |
| Other Financial Assets | 126,929 | 125,028 |
| Other Assets | 6,166 | 49,524 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 3,046,057 | 2,805,206 |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Property, Plant & Equipment | 230,550 | 160,447 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS | 230,550 | 160,447 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 3,276,607 | 2,965,652 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Trade & Other Payables | 225,697 | 350,800 |
| Lease Liability | 28,605 | 25,492 |
| Employee benefits | 171,186 | 133,829 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 425,488 | 510,123 |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Lease Liability | 63,764 | 96,170 |
| Employee benefits | 22,791 | 29,634 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | 86,555 | 125,805 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 512,043 | 635,928 |
| NET ASSETS | 2,764,564 | 2,329,724 |
| EQUITY | | |
| Reserve | 2,102,949 | 1,850,825 |
| Retained Earnings | 661,615 | 478,899 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 2,764,564 | 2,329,724 |



Employment costs continue to be Environs Kimberley's major expense, although this has dropped to 64% (was 70%) of our total spending and accounts for 53c in every dollar received. Expenditure on the increased Project work accounted for 25% of our spending, and Operating costs 11%. Of note is that Operating costs came in at only 9% of the total Revenue. Net result was a surplus for FY23 of \$434,840 which is a very positive outcome, and gives EK Members Funds a total of \$2.77M (FY22: \$2.33M) in Equity. We have \$1.6M set aside for Future Service Delivery of our grants and projects (up \$252k), as well as \$502,615 (no change) 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.

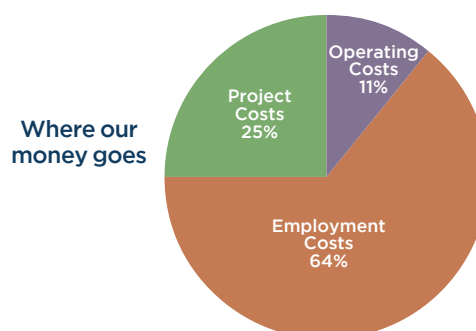
Statement of Change in Equity

For the year ended 30th June 2023

| | Retained Earnings | Future Fund Reserve | Grants Reserve | Total |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2023 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Balance as at 1st July 2022 | 478,899 | 502,615 | 1,348,210 | 2,329,724 |
| Transfer to Reserve for Future Service Delivery | (252,124) | | 252,124 | - |
| Surplus for the year | 434,840 | | | 434,840 |
| Balance at 30th June 2023 | 661,615 | 502,615 | 1,600,334 | 2,764,564 |
| 2022 | | | | |
| Balance at 1st July 2021, restated | 1,183,952 | 2,615 | 472,283 | 1,658,850 |
| Transfer to Reserve 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 |

Income Statement For the year ended 30th June 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| INCOME | | |
| Grant income | 1,450,407 | 1,091,626 |
| Donations | 475,235 | 549,646 |
| Consultancy | 392,197 | 456,562 |
| Fundraising, Memberships, other | 125,373 | 186,728 |
| Interest | 49,725 | 6,574 |
| Total Income | 2,492,937 | 2,291,136 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Employment Costs | 1,319,245 | 1,142,448 |
| Project Costs | 504,234 | 288,174 |
| Operating Costs | 234,618 | 189,640 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 2,058,097 | 1,620,262 |
| NET INCOME | 434,840 | 670,874 |

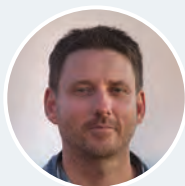


Environs Kimberley Staff



Andrew Batt, Chief Executive Officer (commenced Jan 2023)

Andrew has over 30 years' experience in small and medium-sized businesses (SME), including 15 years in key senior financial positions across market sectors throughout Australia, Asia, and the UK, the last six years as CEO. He has run a small advisory business for over a decade, supporting SMEs and Not for Profits in all things financial and strategic, using his strong decision-making skills, analytical excellence, and a level-headed approach to ensure stability and success. After spending six years on the Board of The Thin Green Line Foundation, supporting rangers on the front line of the battle to save the natural environment, he became determined to use his skills to make a difference. Of the CEO role, Andrew says, 'This is for the 11-year-old me who plastered my school books with 'No Dams' stickers to support the campaign to stop the damming of the Franklin River in Tasmania. To protect the nature of the Kimberley is an esteemed purpose, and one that I am determined to live and breathe.'



Martin Pritchard, Director of Strategy

Martin has been working to safeguard the natural environment for over 20 years, protecting endangered species, rivers, threatened ecosystems and Ramsar-listed wetlands in South West WA. In partnership with Traditional Owners and other conservation organisations he has led EK's efforts to have 30,000 km² of the Kimberley coast secured in marine parks, to stop a coal mine from being built on the Martuwarra Fitzroy River and a copper mine at the Horizontal Falls, as well as to prevent James Price Point from being destroyed by one of the world's biggest gas factories. He advocated, with the leadership of Traditional Owners, for the National Heritage listing of 19 million hectares of the West Kimberley and new National Parks along the Martuwarra, as well as against having its surface water taken for irrigation. Martin was the Director of EK from 2008 to 2023, recently stepping into the role of Director of Strategy.



Louise Beames, Projects Director, Kimberley Nature Project (KNP)

Louise has worked as an ecologist since 2002, and with EK since 2007, transforming a small project into the regional 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, Projects Director, KNP

Malcolm 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.



Christine Elsasser, Finance and Administration Manager

Christine holds 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. 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.



Shaun Clark, Frack Free Kimberley Coordinator

A former Dangggu 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.'



Hamsini Bijlani, Project Coordinator, KNP

Hamsini completed a bachelor's degree in Zoology, Botany and Chemistry, and studied human-wildlife conflict near Bangalore, India, before gaining 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 Nyikina Mangala Rangers. Hamsini has been leading EK's Sandy Desert Fire and Biodiversity Project, mapping fire patterns in the desert and studying how these patterns affect threatened species and other biodiversity.



Dr Matthew Macdonald, Project Coordinator, KNP

Matt 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 has since undertaken flora and fauna assessments across WA. He 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.



Anomie, Communications, Media and Digital Fundraising Officer

Anomie completed an arts degree (BA), majoring in Anthropology at the University of Western Australia (UWA), and a Graduate Diploma of Arts (Media Studies) at Edith Cowan University (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.



Eliza Arnold, Community Engagement, Fundraising and Events Officer (commenced Aug 2022)

Eliza completed a Bachelor's Degree in Health Science and a Master's in International Community Development. Eliza has worked in the Community Development Sector for the past 10 years, in Cambodia, South Africa and Naarm Melbourne; her roles included Teaching, Events and Fundraising, Volunteer Management and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Mentoring and Coordinating. Each role has allowed for reflection on her deep love and passion for environmental protection, people-powered organisations and the importance of positive action and education.



Danielle Bain, Project Officer, KNP

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 before joining 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 returned to EK and now facilitates the Kimberley Weeds Network and provides mapping support for KNP.

Environs Kimberley Staff



Tahnee Carter, Project Officer, KNP (commenced Feb 2023)

Tahnee has always had a strong spiritual connection to the environment, especially to Bardi and Mayala Country. She studied medicine for three-and-a-half years but realised that wasn't the field for her and went on to do a variety of short-term jobs around town, including events, handiwork, as a marine park ranger, writing, and camerawork. In 2022 she started her own sustainable microgreens business. She joined EK's Sustainable Communities team to work with the Social Enterprise Project.



Victoria de Bruyn, Project Officer, KNP

Victoria 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.



Ayesha Moss, Project Officer, KNP

Ayesha worked in a local government community development role in Derby until 2014, when she joined EK. Ayesha worked 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. Recently, Ayesha has been working on the Social Enterprise Project, assisting women rangers with seed and plant-based conservation and economic opportunities.



Tessa Mossop, Project Officer, KNP

Tessa 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, and then for an Indigenous corporation in WA. Initially, Tessa assisted EK with engagement, community projects, events, fundraising and organisational capacity. She now provides strategic project support services to Aboriginal organisations, as well as working on the Social Enterprise Project.



Dr Michelle Pyke, Project Officer, KNP (returned Feb 2023)

Michelle graduated in Environmental Science (Hons) at MU 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 working with Bardi Jawi, Bardi Jawi Oorany (women) and Nyul Nyul Rangers, investigating local-cultural ways of managing freshwater places for her PhD. Michelle is now working on EK's Kimberley Wetlands Project.



Sid Rankin-Smith, Casual Project Officer, KNP (commenced Jun 2023)

Sid has worked across a variety of sectors including building, disability, hospitality and conservation. He has taught life skills to young children with intellectual disabilities and cleared lantana from the entrances of cave systems to help the vulnerable Little Bent-wing Bat. His diverse experience has given him a toolkit of skills, such as working at heights and in heat, communication, patience and empathy, scaffolding and basic carpentry. Sid joined EK to tackle the weeds within Minyirr Park, helping to protect the MVTs alongside Yawuru Country Managers, and has assisted with wattleseed harvesting.



Kylie Weatherall, Project Officer, KNP

Kylie has a lifelong love of WA's landscapes and natural environment. She studied biological sciences at MU 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, art and science. Kylie joined EK in 2011. She currently assists ranger groups from the Dampier Peninsula with protecting and documenting ecologically and culturally important habitats such as the Endangered MVTs.



Samuel Younis, Project Officer, KNP

Sam holds a BSc and a Masters of Environment. He 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 responses to fire of individual species of plants on the Peninsula. Sam is now employed at EK supporting Gooniyandi Rangers to keep their Country healthy, as well as leading research into how fire affects plant communities on the Dampier Peninsula.

Environs Kimberley Interns



Shilpa Adhikari, Intern, Kimberley Nature Project (KNP)

Shilpa completed a bachelor's degree in Forest Science before working in disaster recovery and human-wildlife conflict, and studying the long-snouted crocodile at Chitwan National Park, Nepal. In 2019, Shilpa moved to Australia to complete a Master's degree in Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development at the University of Newcastle. During her time at EK, Shilpa assisted with project activities including fire-scar mapping.



Bevan Grant, Intern, KNP

Bevan recently completed his undergraduate degree in Geographical Sciences 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 practices should be conducted in a way that is supportive of Indigenous values and interests. At EK, Bevan collated historical fire data in the Kimberley with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Environs Kimberley Board



Natalie Davey, Chairperson (to Jun 2023)

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 on 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.



Kate Golson (commenced as Chair Jun 2023)

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.



Craig Philips, Acting 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.



Alexis Harper, Secretary

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.



Wil Bennett, Board Member (AGM 2022 – Feb 2023)

Wil grew up by the Murray River in country NSW. After a lap of the world and a fair few laps of the Sun, he moved to live by the Fitzroy River at Noonkanbah in 2007. Wil has since worked with Aboriginal rangers right across the Kimberley, supporting their work in natural and cultural resource management for the good of people and Country alike. Wil's academic background includes a BSc and BA from the University of Sydney, and a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Management from Charles Darwin University (CDU).



Carmel Leahy, Board Member

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 CDU and Cert III in Conservation and Land Management.



Brendan Renkin, Board Member (commenced Jun 2023)

Brendan has worked across the Kimberley and Pilbara with various organisations since 2006, doing legal work, mediation, facilitation and evaluations. He holds degrees in Law and Arts (International Community Development), and a Masters in Applied Linguistics. Brendan joined EK's Board because he considers that the future of the planet is important. He is interested in the question of how EK's strong advocacy, high achieving workers and broad scope of activities can be managed, sustained and grown without EK losing its local and personal touch.



Kat Taylor, Board Member

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 BSc in Environmental Science (Hons) and a BSc in Conservation Biology from Murdoch University.



Sally Wilkinson, Board Member (commenced Jul 2022)

Sally comes from Melbourne and in 2012 moved to Broome, where she has worked on native title matters as the future acts and heritage manager at Nyamba Buru Yawuru and as a writer and consultant for several local organisations. She has also worked in climate change policy and as a policy manager on the Victorian treaty process. Sally holds a BA (Hons) in German and a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of Melbourne and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from ANU.



Amos Smith, Intern, KNP

Amos is a Balanggarra man, who grew up on Minang Country (Albany and surrounds) and spent much of his early childhood on Wongatha Country in Kalgoorlie. He attended Guildford Grammar on a Madalah scholarship. 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 interned with EK during university breaks. In 2022, Amos helped with fire scar mapping.



Holly Timperley, Intern, KNP

Holly travelled across south-east Asia, where she became interested in sustainable development and wildlife conservation. Holly has a BA in International Relations with a minor in Asian Studies and a BSc in Conservation Biology. She has worked in community development and is interested in how communities can work together to care for Country. For EK, Holly helped with fire-scar mapping before securing employment as the Bardi Jawi Oorany Ranger Coordinator.

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!

Funding Support



Partners and collaborators



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Front and Back image: Danggu Geikie Gorge - Adam Monk

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