



EDITION #2

THE ARK

BRUSH TAILS TO BARRINGTON

Meet Aussie Ark's newest residents
Page 3

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Details Inside

DIRECT FROM THE PRESIDENT

"No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced."

David Attenborough

We need people to experience our wildlife to enable them to care about them. As a young boy I had so many wonderful life experiences. None more important than the experiences I had as a kid in the bush- as every kid should. I encourage everyone to get outdoors and experience the natural world. Perhaps you already have. Perhaps you were one of the thousands that visit the Ark this Christmas.

For the first time in our eight-year history, Aussie Ark opened our doors to the public in January of 2019 for visitors to see the facility, experience our wildlife, and see first-hand, the exciting and ground breaking work Aussie Ark is doing. We are thrilled and humbled that over 2000 visitors came to see what we have built together. Between meeting our wildlife, cuddling joeys, exploring the unique and rugged bushland and chatting to our experienced wildlife keepers, our visitors immersed themselves in all Aussie Ark is. My hope is that they left with a fire in their belly, to join us. To spread the word and support Australia's wildlife.

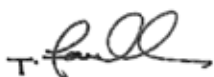
Collaboration is key! We are proud to have reputable existing and long-term project partners to work alongside. We are also delighted to welcome new partners **Leipzig Zoo**, Germany and **Pairi Daiza Zoo**, Belgium who are committed to conservation. We look forward to building a strong and long-lasting relationship that benefits our threatened wildlife. It's exhilarating to think that Aussie Ark is now a globally recognised conservation organisation, and with the help of our partners we can continue to encourage the world to care for the cause we are so passionate about.

We are focussed on results. In 2018 we achieved great things including the completion of a fully-fenced feral-free predator proof-sanctuary of 400ha in size, to be repopulated to a pre-European era with initial reintroductions of Eastern Quoll and Brush-tailed rock-wallabies happening in mid-2019. We've built specialised facilities for both the Brush-tail rock-wallaby and the Manning River turtle. In early 2019, the first Brush-tail rock-wallabies arrived and were released into their new homes, and our official collection of founding Manning River turtles is scheduled for March 2019! Two years of dedication and hard work will pay off in April with the release of 20 Eastern quolls back to the wild in Booderee National Park, and Tasmanian devils have already been placed for breeding which is due to begin in February! It's a whirlwind of activities at the Ark - all with tangible outcomes for native wildlife conservation.

We are a strong force because we work together, and you share this journey with us. By telling a friend about what we do, you help spread the word and knowledge about our cause. By donating you are contributing to the on the ground outcomes we create for our wildlife.

We know that you care. In 2019 let's encourage more people to care just like we do!

Yours sincerely,



Tim Faulkner - President
Aussie Ark



VISION

Creating a long-term future for Australia's threatened wildlife.

MISSION STATEMENT

- To protect Australia's threatened species with robust insurance populations,
- To create healthy ecosystems within Aussie Ark sanctuaries and through rewilding,
- To have long-term tangible outcomes for the species in our care,
- To be a proactive, professional, transparent, and effective organisation

CONTACT DETAILS

PO Box 192,
Gosford, NSW, 2250

PHONE
(02) 4340 8610

FAX
(02) 4340 2990

EMAIL
admin@aussieark.org.au

WEBSITE
www.aussieark.org.au

SOCIAL HANDLES

Facebook
@AussieArk

Instagram
@aussieark

Youtube.com/tassiedevilark

BRUSH TAILS TO BARRINGTON



Aussie Ark recently welcomed its newest species, the Brush-tail rock-wallaby (BTRW). Two individual wallabies were introduced to their new home – a state of the art, purpose built facility, only a few weeks ago. They are the first of their species to be introduced to Aussie Ark and form the founding animals of an insurance population.

Inhabiting rocky escarpments, outcrops and cliffs, the Brush-tail rock-wallaby can be found from south eastern Queensland, right down to western Victoria. Facing threats from foxes, wild dogs and habitat degradation, their numbers have significantly declined leaving populations fragmented and vulnerable. It is believed that there are less than 20,000 left in the wild, with numbers rapidly decreasing.

With the recent completion of Aussie Ark's largest sanctuary, these new additions will join other endangered Australian mammal species in 400 hectares of feral free, pristine, wild bushland in late 2019. By 2021, Aussie Ark aims to have over 35 Brush-tailed rock-wallabies, equalling 1 wallaby per 11 hectares of sanctuary wilderness; increasing the captive Brush-tailed rock-wallaby population by 263%!

The Aussie Ark team is excited to be partnered with the **NSW Office of Environment and Heritage**, who generously donated \$15,000 to help establish a breeding program for the Brush-tailed rock-wallabies.

"We are very proud to be working closely with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage to save this species,"

Aussie Ark President, Tim Faulkner.

You can help support this species' return to the wild by donating today!

- **\$50** will provide 1 week's worth of food
- **\$100** will provide vital veterinary health checks to ensure the wellbeing of each animal
- **\$200** will provide critical ongoing observation from the Aussie Ark Team



400HA SANCTUARY TAKES SHAPE



Aussie Ark proudly completed fencing a 400Ha sanctuary of protected wilderness (to be formally named this coming year) in December 2018. With over 8kms of fencing, the sanctuary will protect the endangered Brush-tailed rock-wallaby and Eastern quoll as well as the Northern brown bandicoot. Sitting high on the mountain top at 1,100-1,300m elevation the sanctuary is predominated by snow-gum and button grass understory with the Eastern boundary dropping to 900m elevation into wet sclerophyll border line subtropical rainforest. A spectacular location to call home.

While the construction phase has been completed, there is much work to be done prior to the release of endangered fauna. Aussie Ark field officers and wildlife keepers are busily reviewing night footage from our remote camera equipment. Introduced predators including 17 feral pigs, and multiple foxes have been observed in the sanctuary which pose significant risk to our natural fauna. Once feral species are removed in February 2019, further monitoring in March will confirm the sanctuary is safe. An official trial release is planned for May 1st with a full-scale reintroduction scheduled for November 2019.

Australia is considered as one of the world's 'mega-diverse' countries, with many of our species endemic, that means, unique to this continent. Between 7-10% of all species on Earth occur in Australia, yet 10% of globally recorded extinctions have occurred here and continues to escalate. We cannot afford to repeat the scenarios of species already gone forever.

The primary threats to Australian wildlife are introduced predators, including the Red fox and cat. With cats alone killing an estimated 20 billion individual animals every year – and fencing being a necessary tool and a proven method for protection against them.

Professor Mike Letnic – School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UNSW, and Aussie Ark Partner says “Our native mammal species are in serious trouble. We need to explore bold, new solutions to our conservation challenges. If we don't restore ecosystems and their predator networks now, we risk losing even more of our native mammal species”. We have taken up the challenge and are striding towards exciting results for our wildlife.

Aligned with Aussie Ark's vision to create a long-term future for Australia's threatened wildlife, the sanctuary will protect both the endangered fauna released and also resident native fauna already existing in the area. With 52 species of mammal, 236 species of bird, 22 reptiles, 18 amphibians, and 509 species of plant able to find protection in the sanctuary, the area is fauna rich and diverse. Some highlights include the Hastings River mouse, glossy black cockatoo, platypus, tiger snake and Verreaux's tree frog, that currently are all vulnerable to unnatural predation.

Aussie Ark management aims to create a demographically self-regulating system, where native wildlife can live naturally in the absence of unnatural pressures. Founding sources of animals

have been secured to ensure a genetically robust population is maintained, and sufficient monitoring and management techniques employed allows for population densities to be optimum. The sanctuary will enable not only a protected wilderness area for our threatened fauna to thrive, but also a sustainable source of suitable individuals to release back to the wild.

In preparation for these releases Aussie Ark has secured founding individuals of the endangered Brush-tailed rock-wallaby, the endangered Eastern quoll, and the Southern brown bandicoot with a forecasted 20 individuals of each species to call the sanctuary home in late 2019.

We are so excited to see this project reach fruition and delighted that our supporters can share this journey with us. We are thankful to our project partners, in particular; **Global Wildlife Conservation**, **Glencore**, and **Zurich Zoo** for contributing to this major project. Together we are making our vision a reality and changing the future of some of our most unique and threatened wildlife!

Our Next Challenge

Right next door to the Aussie Ark, lays an additional 500Ha of untouched natural habitat Aussie Ark has secured for further protection. We are thankful to partners **Ellerston Station** for their support in acquiring this bushland!

Positioned at a lower 1,100-900m elevation, the sanctuary features a spring fed creek, and is lined by Antarctic beach forest. The area is dominated by mountain ash forest, and showcases a mixture of fern, lomandra and button grass understory. Also setting the sanctuary apart is it's north easterly aspect, capturing higher rainfall and generally more sunlight for a native fauna and flora to enjoy.

Ambitious plans for this sanctuary include a Tasmanian devil research study to be conducted in partnership with Zoos Victoria and the University

of NSW, investigating the transition of Tasmanian devil behaviour in preparation for release back to the wild.

Additionally, the sanctuary will take a step back in time to a pre-European environment where our native wildlife can flourish in the absence of unnatural pressures. The sanctuary will hold a suite of native fauna including the Tasmanian devil, Tiger quoll, Rufous bettong, Northern brown bandicoot and Long-nosed bandicoot. The choice of species allows for a top order predator, mid-level predator, and ecosystem engineers to fulfil their ecological roles naturally for the benefit of all.

Following the success of these sanctuaries Aussie Ark will pursue larger areas of habitat between 2,000 – 10,000Ha in size creating a mega-sanctuary where all Aussie Ark species are combined to live as they do in the wild.

You can assist in securing safe habitat for our threatened wildlife! Fencing for conservation is critical if we are to save our wildlife but it is also expensive. Your tax-deductible donation today can help us return areas of wilderness back to its natural state.



OFF TO A SWIMMING START

Following a commitment to act from the Aussie Ark Committee of Management, and a successful crowdfunding campaign in mid-2018, the Aussie Ark team, partnered with the Australian Reptile Park have moved swiftly to save this species.

Showing a rapid decline, the Manning River turtle is vulnerable to a range of threats including primarily predation and habitat destruction from introduced species, the feral fox and feral pig.

We are proud to announce that construction is completed of a purpose built facility inclusive of 10 state of the art breeding ponds, within a predator proof facility at the Australian Reptile Park. This turtle haven will be home to an insurance population to protect this species' future.

In September of 2018 'Manny', a juvenile female Manning River Turtle, was delivered to the Australian Reptile Park. Manny was originally one of a pair that were illegally poached and ultimately seized by authorities. Sadly, she is the only one of the two to survive. Manny is the first of her kind to arrive at any conservation organisation, such as this, in Australia, or the world. Manny has settled in well, and will be joined by additional Manning River turtles that will soon call the facility home.

In partnership with the **NSW Office of Environment and Heritage**, Aussie Ark will collect a small group of founding individuals to form an insurance population. This insurance population will safeguard the species from extinction into the future. Aussie Ark President, Tim Faulkner, recently spent 3 weeks snorkelling the upper reaches of the Manning River, accompanied by his two enthusiastic protégés, Billy and Matty Faulkner! Data collection is critical in gaining insight into the natural occurrences of the species. Details of shell length, sex, general health, water quality, recent rain, temperature of water and location, were recorded from the 17 individual sighted.

While in field surveys have confirmed many sightings of the species in the wild, they also highlighted some of the devastation the species is facing. Multiple nest sites were completely destroyed. Raided presumably by foxes, these nest sites were void of any life and absent of any eggs.

The Aussie Ark and Australian Reptile Park teams, along with representatives from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, and Australian turtle experts will join together in March 2019 for the first ever collection of Manning River turtles. We are excited to be working to save this local species, and thankful to you, our supporters, for joining us in making a difference.

Keep up to date with Manny's progress at www.aussieark.org.au



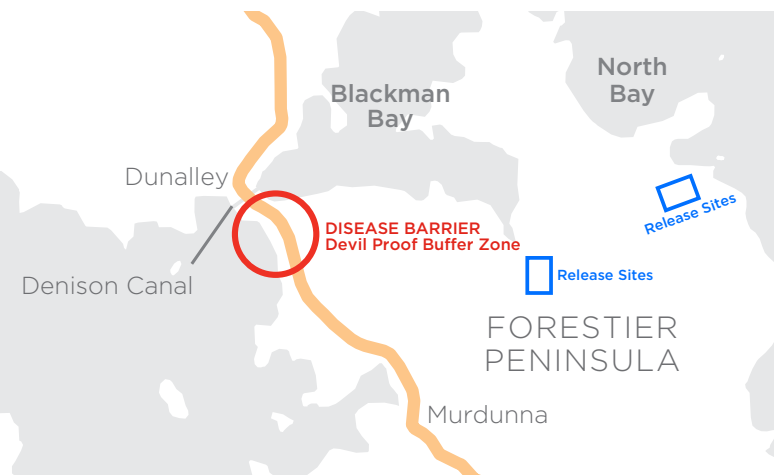
“ ONLY IF WE UNDERSTAND... CAN WE CARE
ONLY IF WE CARE... WILL WE HELP
ONLY IF WE HELP... SHALL THEY BE SAVED

– JANE GOODALL



PHOTO BY LACHLAN GILDING

DEVILS RETURN HOME



Tasmanian devil breeding season is just around the corner, with devils usually mating between February and May. Aussie Ark keepers have been busily preparing to ensure another productive season for this species. We have been busy helping last year's joeys move into their pre-school sanctuaries to learn important social skills and provide mums with some well-deserved rest prior to being joined into their new social groups for the year.

Following mating in February, there is a 21-day gestation period, after which each mum will have approximately 40 jellybean sized joeys! It's survival of the fittest from there, with only four teats available the first to arrive will be the ones to survive, with most females nurturing 2-4 joeys at a time. Each joey, still firmly attached to the teat, will be carried around for approximately four months, before leaving their mother in December 2019 and venturing into the big world alone.

Excitedly, Aussie Ark welcomed 12 new individuals from around Australia in December 2018 and January 2019. These individuals will help ensure that the Aussie Ark population remains healthy, strengthening genetics and ensuring a robust population that is ready for release back to the wild.

We are also proud to announce that 6 Tasmanian devils returned home to Tasmania in December 2018! Two of these have already been released into safe, disease-free areas of Tasmania, with another 4 due for release in late 2019. Individuals will continue to be monitored by the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program to see what they get up to!

Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas, where 'Rolo' and 'Havannah' were released, are an important landscape for the Tasmanian devil. The peninsulas are naturally separated from mainland Tasmania in two places; the Denison Canal at Dunalley and

the Isthmus at Eagle Hawk Neck. The area contains ideal devil habitat, having supported a wild devil population in the past. It is large enough to provide for a self-sustaining population of devils for the long-term recovery of the species. We have reintroduced healthy devils on Forestier Peninsula after the original diseased population was removed in 2012. By fencing at Dunalley, future re-entry of potentially infected devils from the Tasmanian mainland is prevented. The wild devil population on Tasman Peninsula will be managed for genetic diversity and encouraged to flourish naturally.

Tasmanian devils remain a focus for the Aussie Ark team, and we are committed to their recovery in the wild.

Aussie Ark remains the most cost-effective solution to managing Tasmanian devils at only \$2,200 per year, per devil, maintaining the largest breeding population of Tasmanian devils on the mainland. We are committed to supporting the Tasmanian initiatives through the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program that work to restore this species in their wild environment.



We are happy to report that Havannah has already been sighted and remains healthy in her wild landscape!

OPEN DAYS SUCCESS

January saw the doors of Aussie Ark open up to you, our supporters. We have been completely overwhelmed by the support, seeing nearly 2,000 people walk through our gates! With guests visiting from all parts of Australia and even Scotland and the UK, we are so proud and humbled by all the support that has been shown to us and the interest in our wildlife. The open days have allowed visitors to see firsthand the running of a conservation organisation such as ours, listen to the passion that each keeper has and understand the difference we are making.

During the open days, visitors experienced one hour guided tours that saw them get up close and personal to Tasmanian devils, witnessing them feed and experiencing the sounds that earned them their “devil” name. Visitors also met the quieter Eastern quolls, as well as our brand new Brush-tailed rock-wallaby enclosures. Guests were also treated to an encounter with some of our newest arrivals, Phantom and Phoenix the Tasmanian devil joeys and Riley the Eastern quoll.

A big thank you to Upper Hunter Country Council for their assistance in advertising and marketing throughout and in the lead up to our open days. The Orchard Lodge, located in the Gorgeous Moonan Flat and nestled at the junction of Omadale Brook and Hunter River is also to be thanked for their assistance - local collaboration is key to our mutual success!



COMMISSIONER VISITS AUSSIE ARK

We were lucky to have Australia's new Threatened Species Commissioner, Dr Sally Box, visit the Aussie Ark facility. She was accompanied by Global Wildlife Conservation's Director, Don Church and Sunrise presenter (and avid Aussie Ark supporter) Mark Beretta. Aussie Ark's President, Tim Faulkner, joined them on the tour of the facility where we proudly showed off everything that Aussie Ark has to offer.

The Threatened Species Commissioner champions the implementation of the Threatened Species Strategy and practical conservation actions to recover our most threatened plants and animals. Using the principles of science, action and partnership, the Commissioner works with conservation organisations, governments, community and the private sector to improve the trajectory of our threatened species.

Dr Box has a PhD in Plant Sciences and began her career in the Department of the Environment and Energy working on threatened species assessments. Since, she has worked with the community to design and deliver programs focused on threatened species conservation, including through her leadership of the Green Army.

We look forward to working with Dr Box in the future to ensure Aussie Ark reaches its full potential in the landscape of Australian wildlife conservation.



BACK TO BOODEREE - UPDATE



Aussie Ark Eastern quolls are booming! Following last years record breeding season, our young quolls are in preparation for release back to the wild. While 10 Aussie Ark quolls will be released into the 400Ha Sanctuary this year, the remaining 20 individuals are destined for the wild in Booderee National Park NSW.

Booderee National Park stretches across 6,379 hectares at Jervis Bay on the South Coast of New South Wales. This spectacular National Park showcases varied habitats from eucalypt woodland, Bangalay sand forests, to rainforests, coastal heathland, mangroves and saltmarshes. The region is diverse and home to over 200 species of bird, 30 species of mammal, 37 species of reptile, 17 species of amphibian and 180 species of native fish. The perfect home for our unique and most charismatic species – the Eastern quoll.

Partnering with **Rewilding Australia** for the release of our quolls, Aussie Ark has supported this project with \$20,000 to help with post-release monitoring. Quolls will be fitted with GPS/VHF collars, which will allow the project team to keep a close watch on each quoll. This information from the trial release held in 2018 provided the Rewilding Australia team with valuable information on preferred habitat selection, home range size and the interactions between each quoll. It has also helped researchers better understand the threats to eastern quolls on mainland Australia and threats facing newly released individuals. This will assist the team when Aussie Ark animals are released in April 2019.

Once common along the south eastern mainland of Australia Eastern quolls suffered huge loss and now are restricted to only Tasmania. These pint size carnivores were lost to mainland Australia in 1963, feral cats, foxes, dogs; roadkill, poisoning and trapping are all contributing factors. Eastern quolls are edging closer and closer to extinction, BUT it's not too late.

We are excited to be sharing this journey with you! You can help support our quolls being released back to the wild in the following ways:

- **\$50** will provide 1 transport box to carry our quolls home to Booderee
- **\$100** will provide important health checks to ensure our quolls health prior to release
- **\$200** will provide critical field observations by the Aussie Ark team



HELP FROM AROUND THE GLOBE – ZURICH ZOO



Zoo Zurich is a cultural and educational institution of the town of Zurich, Switzerland and serves as an ambassador between people, animals, and nature. Promoting an understanding of natural phenomena and conservation, Zoo Zurich is constantly working towards preserving its own resources and optimising sustainability.

Through a long-term collaborative partnership, Zoo Zurich has helped raise the profile and cause of Aussie Ark at a global level. This allows people from around the world to see our wildlife at their world class facilities, learn and understand the conservation challenges faced in Australia, and how Zoo Zurich is helping to protect our native wildlife into the future.

To learn more about Zoo Zurich, visit www.zoo.ch/en



JETPETS

Jetpets Animal Transport are Australia's leading pet travel experts and worldwide service provider for transporting animals not only within Australia but also around the world!

With a team of expert animal Travel Consultants and Vets to make this possible, Jet pets has investments in state of the art facilities including;

- a custom built road transport fleet,
- modern, comfortable transit lounges
- qualified staff in areas of pet care and veterinary science

There's no one else we would trust our animals with. We are so thankful for their continued support in transporting Aussie Arks residents from point A to point B!

For more information on Jetpets head to www.jetpets.com.au





SAVE *the* DATE



AUSSIE ARK GALA DINNER
6 NOVEMBER 2019

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



DONATE

Australia has the worst mammal extinction rate in the world. You can help us build a brighter future for Australia's threatened wildlife by donating today. All donations will help fund vital conservation work at Aussie Ark- with every donation over \$2 tax deductible.



STAY

Looking for a getaway? Aussie Ark's "Devils Retreat" is perfect for you. With all of the essentials to ensure a relaxing getaway in the mountains, you'll find yourself wishing to stay longer! Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you'll remember for years to come.



SUPPORT

Aussie Arks success isn't possible without people like you, our supporters, we cannot thank you enough. Aussie Arks mission is mammoth and we will not stop. Help us help them by providing feral free sanctuaries. \$150 will provide 1 meter of fencing, your contribution goes directly to serving Australia's wildlife.

PROJECT PARTNERS OF AUSSIE ARK



GLOBAL
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION

FAME

Australian
GEOGRAPHIC



zoo*h*!
Z U R I C H



Office of
Environment
& Heritage



GLENCORE

