

THE ARIK



EDITION #3

QUOLLS GONE WILD

Read about our historic first wild release of
Eastern Quolls
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SUPPORT OUR SANCTUARY APPEAL

Details Inside

DIRECT FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Well done is better than well said."

Benjamin Franklin

For my children and grandchildren, I want a world full of wildlife. I have travelled this country really extensively, and everything is just being squeezed. Our wildlife is part of our national identity, we love it, but we are fundamentally ignorant to the fact that it's disappearing into oblivion. We can turn this around, we can restore nature, but we need to make a choice and we need to make a choice quickly.

The UN recently released its first global assessment of the natural world in 15 years. The report warns that up to one million species are facing the threat of extinction. Species loss is accelerating to a rate of hundreds times faster than in the past. Aussie Ark is hitting the brakes, with the recent completion of the 400-ha sanctuary fencing we are determined to restore the natural habitat back to a pre-European settlement state. Excitedly, in late 2019 the first species will be returned to this sanctuary to live wild. The choice of species released into the sanctuary will allow for a top order predator, mid-level predator and ecosystems engineers. Additionally, the sanctuary will also protect 52 species of mammal, 236 species of bird, 22 reptiles, 18 amphibians and 509 species of plant that already call the area home.

Collaboration is essential to conservation. Aussie Ark proudly works alongside project partners both globally and nationally. Recently, Aussie Ark and **Rewilding Australia** in collaboration with **Tasmanian Quoll Project**, **Parks Australia** and the traditional owners of **Booderee National Park**, released 17 Eastern quolls, back into mainland Australia. It was a proud moment for me and for the whole team. The quolls will continue to be monitored and hopefully build the wild population innumerable amounts. Research is important but outcomes are vital, and we are focused on results.

With the breeding season already begun, I can just feel that 2019 is going to be our best year yet! I can't wait to share this journey with you all and hope that we can encourage more to come along for the ride.

Together we are stronger, tell a friend about us, donate, come and visit, spread our message on social media, whatever you do makes a difference and creates tangible outcomes for Australia's most vulnerable.

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

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POTOROO JOEY SURPRISE



In April, Aussie Ark celebrated the arrival of two Long-nosed potoroo joeys, just in time for Easter! The Long-nosed potoroo is the smallest and most ancient member of the kangaroo family and represent, a living fossil, having remained relatively unchanged for around 10 million years. Once widespread along the East coast of Australia, and like many other smaller native mammals, its population has declined and fragmented since the introduction of foxes and cats, making it difficult for breeding, resulting in local extinctions.

The Long-nosed potoroos will give birth to single young after a 38-day gestation period, with the newborns weighing only 0.3grams, that's less than one jelly bean! Potoroo young will stay in the pouch for between 120- 130 days. After leaving the pouch they will remain near the mother and continue to feed for about 40 days. Long-nosed potoroos will generally breed once or twice a year depending on climate and habitat conditions – so Aussie Ark is off to a great start.

Long-nosed potoroos are so important to our ecosystem; they play a critical role in improving the health of forests by dispersing a host of beneficial fungi spores as they forage and move around. These fungi, which form a major part of their diet, assist eucalypt and acacia trees absorb more water and nutrients, and are essential for seedling survival. It also plays a key role in reducing the chance of fires by grazing undergrowth and turning over leaf litter.

The two joeys will become a part of Aussie Arks breeding program and help continue to build the

population, as preparations begin for release into both the 64Ha and 400 Ha, feral free sanctuaries.

Aussie Ark is protecting the habitat of this unique eco-engineer on Aussie Ark sites, by removing or managing stock and feral herbivores, conserving native vegetation, managing fire and controlling feral predators. By 2021 we will have nearly over 373 long-nosed potoroos, equalling 1 potoroo per hectare of sanctuary wilderness. By 2021 we will have increased the captive potoroo population by 450%! You can help support this species' future by donating today.



QUOLLS GONE WILD



On May 2nd, Aussie Ark released 17 Eastern quolls back to the wild at Booderee National park. More than 15 years of intensive fox management at Booderee National Park has laid the groundwork for this ambitious reintroduction. This provides an ideal opportunity to investigate factors determining successful re-establishment of species in unfenced, predator-managed systems on the mainland, and how reintroduced native predators interact with other species. The Eastern quoll is what is known as a 'critical weight range' species, lying in the 35g-5.5kg range of mammal weights, which are particularly susceptible to fox predation.

Booderee National Park, which is managed by traditional owners and Parks Australia, 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 and now the Eastern quoll!

Aussie Ark partner **Rewilding Australia** will keep a close eye on each quoll, using data collected from GPS/VHF collars fitted to each individual, providing invaluable information such as preferred habitat selection, home range size and the interactions between each quoll. Taking into consideration the successes and failures of the pilot release in March 2018.

“What a moment, this is what conservation is all about”

Aussie Ark President, Tim Faulkner.

Extinct on the mainland since 1963, Eastern quolls face many threats including; feral cats, foxes, dogs, roadkill, poisoning and trapping. Edging closer and closer to extinction Eastern quolls are in dire need of insurance populations like Aussie Ark, as well as rewilding projects such as this.

You can adopt one of our gorgeous quolls today! Aussie Ark Adoption packs include a cuddly plush toy, Aussie Ark sticker, Information sheet on your chosen species and photo! Each adoption will assist Aussie Ark to secure a long-term future for Australia's threatened wildlife.



“ WHAT A COUNTRY CHOOSES TO
SAVE IS WHAT A COUNTRY CHOOSES
TO SAY ABOUT ITSELF

– MOLLIE BEATTIE



PHOTO BY DAVID STOWE

NEW ARRIVALS COMING SOON

Tasmanian devil breeding season is upon us! Tasmanian devils become sexually mature at two years, generally mating between March and April. Once mated, the male devil refuses to let the female eat for the remainder of the mating period, which can last up to two weeks! So, it is important that our devils remain incredibly healthy prior to mating season.

A female Tasmanian devil will initially give birth to up to 40 young. These young are smaller than a jelly bean and must make their way to the mother's pouch, using only their sense of touch, in order to attach to the teat. The mother only has four teats and therefore can only raise up to four joeys at one time. Despite being able to raise 4 joeys, more often than not, only 2 – 3 will survive.

Joey Timeline

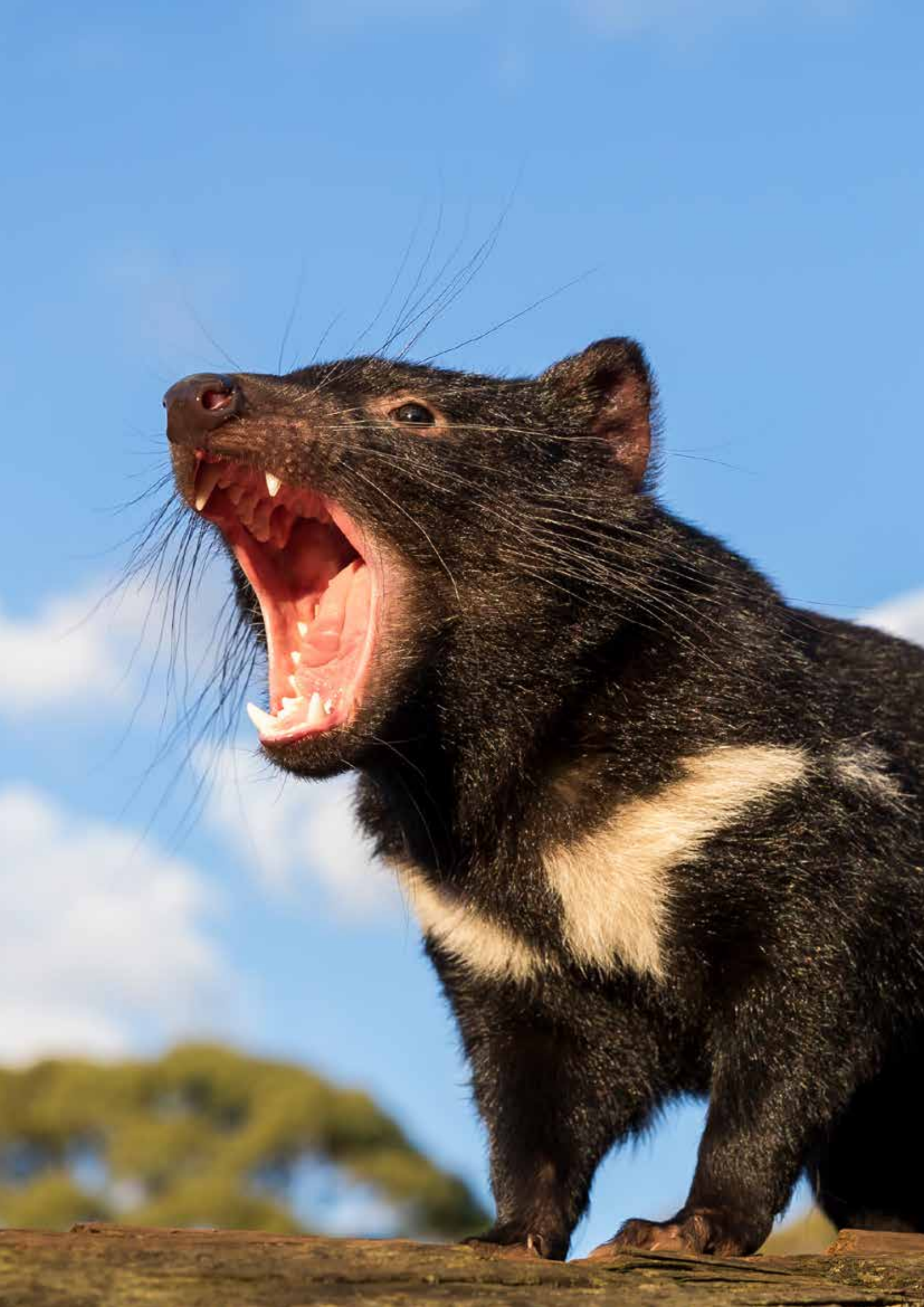
Approximate Age	Significant developmental achievements:
3 weeks	Formation of ears, lips and whiskers
6 weeks	They are the same size as a walnut!
2 months	Skin starts to thicken, and they lose the pink colour. Pigmentation starts at the tip of the nose and works down the body. This is the same time that individual markings will begin to appear.
3 months	At 3 months joeys will begin to make small squeaking noises and open their eyes.
4 months	Joeys will start to emerge from the pouch and play with siblings
5 months	Sibling play becomes more aggressive as they start to wean from mum
6 Months	Young are fully weaned
10 Months	Young will start demonstrating independence by exploring outside of the den without mum.
11 Months	Separate from mum
1 year	Become separated from siblings
2 years	Sexually mature and ready for breeding

On average a Tasmanian devil will only survive for up to eight years and are likely to only breed up until five or six. Much like humans, there are some indicators of age including; hair loss, scarring and tooth wear.

Keep an eye out on our social media for an update on how many joeys the devils at Aussie Ark produce in 2019!

By making a tax deductible donation to Aussie Ark, you will help us create a future for threatened species. All donations will help fund Aussie Ark's vital conservation work.





WINTER WONDERLAND AT AUSSIE ARK



Snow blanketed Aussie Ark creating a winter wonderland in early June. Keepers were delighted to wake to a very cold and very white morning!

Aussie Ark is located 1,350m above sea-level, mimicking the Tasmanian landscape, meaning that our Tasmanian devils felt right at home in the snow. They could be seen running about, and even enjoyed a social feed in the snow. Smaller marsupials such as Rufous Bettongs and Southern Brown Bandicoot snuggled up in burrows and nests to keep warm!

“All of our animals are used to this type of climate and have their natural ways of keeping warm in the snow. The devils, especially, are loving it, running around and playing in the snow.”

Aussie Ark Keeper, Max Jackson.

The snow certainly made for a cool start to the keeper's morning rounds, there were plenty of icy puddles and cold sludge to contend with, however there wasn't much that could wipe the smile off Aussie Ark Keeper Max Jackson's face, "Aussie Ark is beautiful anytime of the year, but the snow adds a little extra magic to the landscape"

With winter just beginning, this hopefully won't be the last snow fall for the Aussie Ark animals!



LOVE IS IN THE AIR



On the most romantic night of the year, February 14th, Aussie Ark hosted its first ever Valentine's Day Picnic. There was no better place to host the event than the Australian Reptile Park, picnic rugs set up under the stars, sweet tunes and the sound of native Australian wildlife really set the scene. Twenty-three loved up couples came to celebrate love, with one couple having just been MARRIED!

Wine and nibbles were enjoyed on the night, whilst the Reptile Park's ultimate bachelor, Zookeeper Dan, put on a show. Delighting guests with tales of the animal kingdom's best love stories. The couples got to meet some of the park's cutest residents including Roo-paul the Kangaroo Joey and Grace, the wombat.

Thanks to all of those who attended, Aussie Ark raised over \$3,000 for wildlife conservation. This is a massive success for the first year and we hope that 2020 will be bigger and more romantic!

A big thank you to our partners the Australian Reptile Park for allowing us to host the event, as well as assisting with the advertising and marketing in the lead up to. Collaboration is key to success!

ART FOR AUSSIE ANIMALS

Aussie Ark in collaboration with Australian Reptile Park held its first Art for Aussie Animals art exhibition, in March. Local artists Kelly- Anne Love, Shannon Dwyer and Aussie Arks own keeper, Lachlan Gilding each supplied varying artwork focused around Australian native wildlife. Profits from ticket sales were all donated to Aussie Ark as well as some incredible artworks to be auctioned at this year's Aussie Ark gala dinner.

The night was a great success with over 100 wildlife and art enthusiasts attending the evening to support Aussie Ark – with local MP, Lucy Wicks, taking home a piece of her own.

Thank you to all those who attended, with your help we raised \$2,883. Art for Aussie Animals is set to become an annual event showcasing local talent and promoting our native wildlife. We hope that 2020 will be even more successful!



WALLABY POPULATION HOPPING ALONG



Earlier this year Aussie Ark welcomes its founding two Brush-Tailed rock-wallabies to their state-of-the-art, purpose-built facilities. The two founding animals have settled in well to their new home in the Barrington Tops and were recently joined by a third female Brush-tailed rock-wallaby, an exciting development in the establishment 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. With less than 20,000 left in the wild, insurance populations and fenced sanctuaries, are vital to the survival of this species. Brush-tailed rock-wallabies are a unique species; these beautiful acrobats leap and bound their way around rocky outcrops and cliff ledges in rugged and steep country. They have the ability to climb tall trees and near vertical rocks.

In addition to threats from introduced species, such as the feral fox and feral cat, Brush-tailed rock-wallabies have also been deprived of suitable habitat due to a number of issues including clearing of native vegetation, exotic plant invasion and changed patterns of fire across the landscape. They must also compete with other feral species for food and sustenance, pushing them to search in areas outside their natural range.

The introduction of Brush-tailed rock-wallabies to Aussie Ark is vital to their species survival. Aussie Ark is protecting the habitat of this unique wallaby on Aussie Ark sites, by removing or managing stock and feral herbivores,

conserving native vegetation, managing fire and controlling feral predators. With construction on the 400Ha sanctuary complete our Brush-tailed rock-wallabies will soon call this home!

By 2021 we will have nearly over 35 brush-tail rock-wallabies, equalling 1 wallaby per 11 hectares of sanctuary wilderness. By 2021 we will have increased the captive brush-tail rock wallaby population by 263%!



HELP FROM AROUND THE GLOBE – GWC



Global Wildlife Conservation is a US based organisation working to save the diversity of life on earth by protecting and recovering endangered wildlife habitats through science-based field action. They envision a world with diverse and abundant wildlife, a truly WILD world, and remain dedicated to ensuring that the world doesn't lose any more species, rather that they prosper well into the future.

Global Wildlife Conservation has been a long-term partner of Aussie Ark and have helped to bolster and protect populations of native Australian species.

Global Wildlife Conservation and Aussie Ark hope to conserve Australia's biodiversity by reintroducing species into the wild, such as the Tasmanian Devil, and by building populations of other mammals. These species have the potential to help Australian ecosystems recover and to moderate the devastating fires the landscape has faced in recent years.

Whilst also, simultaneously working to suppress invasive predators and invasive plants.



**GLOBAL
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

FAME

In total 126 species of Australian plants and animals have vanished in almost 230 years. A further 182 species are classified as endangered and 201 species, including 63 mammals or 30% of what remains of our mammal species, are threatened with extinction.

Many more are locally extinct, endangered, or surviving precariously on offshore islands or in captivity. The **Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered (FAME)** is committed to facing this reality and believes that a partnership approach to saving endangered species is the best way to save wildlife.

As a founding partner, Aussie Ark is proud to have a long-standing partnership with **FAME**. We are thankful for the continual and ongoing support and are excited to see where the future lies for collaborative conservation.

FAME



AUSSIE ARK, ELLERSTON STATION AND THE PACKER FAMILY
WARMLY INVITE YOU TO THE 2019

AUSSIE ARK gala DINNER

CURZON HALL

53 AGINCOURT ROAD, MARSFIELD, NSW, 2122

6:30PM | WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2019

EMCEE FOR THE EVENING: **MARK BERETTA**

DRESS CODE: **BLACK TIE**

RSVP: **23RD OCTOBER 2019**

ADMIN@AUSSIEARK.ORG.AU OR 4326 5333

JOIN US FOR A MEMORABLE EVENING CELEBRATING 8 AMBITIOUS YEARS OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND DEVILISH SUCCESS. ENJOY A DELICIOUS THREE COURSE MEAL, STUNNING AUCTION AND, OF COURSE, MEET SOME OF OUR NEWEST AND CUTEST AUSSIE ARK ARRIVALS.

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

