

THE ARIK

EDITION #4



BEST BREEDING SEASON YET

Read all about our record breaking
Tasmanian devil breeding season.

Page 4

SUPPORT OUR BABY BONANZA

Donate to our Spring appeal today!

DIRECT FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Wildness is the preservation of the World.”

Henry David Thoreau

Aussie Ark is no stranger to hard work and this last financial year has been no exception. With the help of you, our supporters, Aussie Ark has had a stellar year. We have seen growth beyond our wildest dreams and remain committed to returning the Barrington Tops to its pre-European state, a thriving environment bursting with wildlife. Aussie Ark has an end in mind, and it is bright, securing our threatened wildlife and offering protection from those that threaten their future.

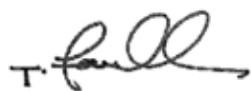
2019 has been spectacular. We have welcomed 69 new Tasmanian devil joeys to our sanctuary an amazing 44% increase on last year's count, which gives me, and the Aussie Ark team, great hope for the future. Eastern quoll pouch checks are just around the corner and we are so excited to see how many new arrivals we have. Each and every joey born into the Aussie Ark program will play an important role in our conservation quest.

We have also completed fencing our newest sanctuary – measuring a massive 400 Hectares in size, with animals due for release later in 2019. Aussie Ark now boasts over 2000Ha of natural bush habitat which also protects an additional 50 species of mammal, 278 species of bird, 42 species of reptiles and 18 species of frog already residing in the area.

As always, we are so thankful to our generous supporters for your contribution towards Aussie Ark and for your belief in our project as well as our project partners. Each organisation is committed to the conservation of wildlife and are steadfast in their mission to protect our species, we are so grateful to have their support and recognition. Our successes are your successes and I look forward to continuing this journey together.

I am so proud of how far Aussie Ark has come and how far it is yet to go. I feel empowered each and every day to make a change and I know I am not alone. We, Aussie Ark and our supporters, are a team working towards a greater good.

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
Aussie Ark

Twitter
@aussie_ark

ONE MILLION OF THE WORLD'S SPECIES ARE NOW UNDER THREAT OF EXTINCTION

The UN recently put out a report stating that one million of the world's species are endangered, an alarming statistic.

Based on a review of about 15,000 scientific and government sources and compiled by 145 expert authors from 50 countries, the global report is the first comprehensive look in 15 years at the state of the planet's biodiversity. This report includes, for the first time, indigenous and local knowledge as well as scientific studies. The authors say they found overwhelming evidence that human activities are behind nature's decline.

Australia is one of the few mega biodiverse countries in the world, we have more species than just about every country and yet Australia has the worst extinction rate of mammals in the world, and one in three of our native species are at risk of extinction. Since European settlement and the consequential introduction of feral pest, Australia's wildlife has been decimated. Australia's native plants and animals adapted to life on an isolated continent over millions of years. These new pressures from invasive species caused a major impact on our country's soil and waterways and on its native plants and animals.

“We need a complete overhaul of our legislative system and our society's mindset, we are losing our beautiful and unique animals at one of the fastest rates in the world.”

Aussie Ark President, Tim Faulkner

Our world is losing biodiversity and the destruction of biodiversity, at all levels, poses a significant threat. Solving this issue is going to take countries deciding to set aside more room for nature, in the form of sanctuaries. It's going to take addressing climate change head on. It's going to take policies that more strongly police the import of invasive species. It means protecting indigenous communities, protecting our wildlife, protecting our ecosystems, protecting our oceans. It's going to take innovation.

These frightening statistics are the reason why conservation facilities like Aussie Ark are crucial to the survival of keystone Australian species. Our project is creating long term futures for Australia's threatened wildlife. Aussie Ark provides sanctuary for some of Australia's most iconic and most threatened species. However, our sanctuaries also protect a diversity of threatened and vulnerable plants and animals that currently exist in the region, including 50 species of mammal, 278 species of bird, 42 species of reptiles and 18 species of frog. These sanctuaries are effectively breathing new life into an ecologically deprived environment.

You can help Aussie Ark rewild the Barrington Tops today! Visit aussieark.org.au.



BEST BREEDING SEASON YET



Aussie Ark is celebrating our best Tasmanian devil breeding season ever! Pouch checks revealed 69 Tasmanian Devil joeys - an incredible 44% increase from 2018. Numbers like this are incredible and prove only too well how important the Aussie Ark project is. Aussie Ark works closely with the Save the Devil Program in Tasmania to ensure that there is a bright future for this species.

"The Aussie Ark team has been working hard all year to ensure the health and wellbeing of our Devils, and we are over the moon with excitement at 69 joeys - our best ever breeding season," Aussie Ark President Tim Faulkner said.

The wild population of Tasmanian devils has decreased by 90% since 1996, with the unique Aussie animal facing extinction due to the contagious Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). The disease is spread by biting and physical contact between individuals, causing the appearance of tumours on the face or inside the mouth of affected Tasmanian devils. The tumours often become very large and result in the death of diseased animals.

Aussie Ark started in 2011 with the mission to save the Tasmanian devil from extinction, so these numbers are something big to celebrate. Aussie Ark has the largest devil population outside of Tasmania and the most successful breeding program on mainland Australia. These newest additions will continue building a large, genetically diverse population of Tasmanian devils free from DFTD.

"These joeys have the weight of their species on them as insurance populations like ours mean, if Tasmanian Devils in the wild do go extinct, we won't lose these animals forever."

Aussie Ark President, Tim Faulkner

Tasmanian devil mums give birth to up to four young, which stay in the pouch for about four months, and then remain with the mother for a further five to six months before becoming independent. We can't wait to see these newest joeys emerge and start exploring the Aussie Ark sanctuaries.

These joeys and their mums will be some of the animals released to Aussie Ark's largest ever sanctuary later this year. The 400ha area is fully fenced to ensure it remains feral free and will be home to a number of Aussie Ark species.

Did you know you can adopt a Tasmanian devil!? For just \$25 a month you can protect a devil into the future. Aussie Ark Adoption packs also make wonderful gifts! They include a cuddly plush toy, Aussie Ark sticker, Newsletter, Information sheet on your chosen species and photo.

Head to aussieark.org.au to find out more.



“

WE HAVE MORE TO LEARN
FROM ANIMALS THAN ANIMALS
HAVE TO LEARN FROM US

– ANTHONY DOUGLAS WILLIAMS



PHOTO BY MANDY KENNEDY

THE FUTURE IS FENCED



In answer to Australia's wildlife crisis, Aussie Ark has a vision of creating robust insurance populations of Australian threatened, native mammal species such as the Tasmanian devil, Eastern quoll and long-nosed potoroo, suitable for semi-wild release into large, predator proof fenced sanctuaries in the Barrington Tops, for eventual reintroduction to the wild.

The fencing of Aussie Arks largest sanctuary yet has been completed. 400 Hectares of pristine wilderness will soon come to protect some of Australia's most iconic species as well as an additional, 50 species of mammal, 278 species of bird, 42 species of reptiles and 18 species of frog already residing in the area. The sanctuary will provide long-term protection, giving at-risk species the space needed to recover and increase their populations numbers.

With the 400-hectare sanctuary due to open in November 2019 the challenge facing Aussie Ark now is the removal of the feral species found in the sanctuary. So far Aussie Ark keepers have encountered 1 feral cat and 4 foxes, as well as 17 feral pigs. These minute numbers of feral pests hold the ability to decimate the wildlife released into the sanctuary.

Cat detector dogs have been used to detect and passively indicate the presence of introduced vertebrate predators, their carcasses, scats, scent marking locations and live animals. Trained detector dogs have the potential to improve how we locate, capture and eradicate particularly elusive species such as the fox and cat.

In addition to detector dogs, pig traps have been set with cameras attached to monitor the wildlife movement in and around the area. Pig traps are a valuable method for managing feral pigs at relatively low densities, however

trapping is labour intensive and is not always a rapid method of population reduction. Not all pigs are trappable, some will not enter traps, some pigs will not like the bait and others will refuse to enter. With the first release scheduled for November 2019 Aussie Ark are working around the clock to ensure the sanctuary is fit for release, by removing and eradicating the pest species inside.

Whilst camera traps, night spotting and scat trails have revealed what feral species are found in the sanctuary, motion sensor cameras have also confirmed the presence of native wildlife within the sanctuary including Greater Gliders, Koalas, wallabies, possums and echidnas. There's much to be done, but it is so exciting to see this project come to fruition and to be able to make a difference to the future of those individuals under our protection.

Establishing these protected areas of land and insurance populations are crucial to the survival of our wildlife. Without action we stand to lose part of our national identity and it is clear that the future is fenced.

Collaborative partnerships with **Ellerston Station, Global Wildlife Conservation, Glencore, and Zurich Zoo** are changing the future of some of Australia's most unique wildlife, and the Aussie Ark team can't wait to see what the future holds!

You can help Aussie Ark bring our species back from the brink, visit aussieark.org.au today.

BANDICOOTS HARD AT WORK



Often confused with rodents, bandicoots are small, omnivorous marsupials. They are about the size of a rabbit, and have a pointy snout, humped back, thin tail and large hind feet! Bandicoots, like many of the small to medium-sized marsupials of Australia, have undergone several species extinctions and significant contractions in distribution since European settlement. Of the estimated 12 species of bandicoot in Australia, approximately half are now extinct, threatened with extinction or extremely rare. Reasons for their population decline include:

- Loss and habitat fragmentation for agriculture and urban developments.
- Burning regimes that impact on understorey species and floristic structures.
- Predation by introduced predators such as cats, dogs and foxes.
- Death or injury by fire and motor vehicles.

However, Bandicoots play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems! Ecosystem engineers, such as the bandicoots create disturbances in the form of nose pokes, scratchings, shallow and deep digs, long bull-dozing tracks and complex subterranean burrows. They improve soil health by turnover and mixing organic matter, bringing deep soils and their nutrients to the surface.

Aussie Ark is beyond excited to see this ecosystem transformation in the flesh. Aussie Ark keepers took a keen notice of one sanctuary and its flora change when bandicoots were introduced into the habitat. They noticed

a complete overhaul of the flora growing there, Australian grasses thrived while weeds and introduced species disappeared.

“This is just further proof that protecting our Australian wildlife is so important. Without them the entire landscape changes!”

Aussie Ark Curator, Hayley Shute

This rapid transformation is proof that the almost total removal of these mammals from the landscape has to be affecting ecosystem function!

You can help secure our wild areas, and protect our unique wildlife, creating a long-term future for generations to come. Your tax-deductible donation can help us provide sanctuaries of wilderness in the following ways:

- \$50 will buy five fence pickets
- \$100 will buy one fence strainer
- \$150 secures one metre of fence
- \$250 will buy 20 meters of netting
- \$500 provides essential monitoring camera equipment to monitor our wildlife without intervention
- \$1,000 will buy three Thomas traps for capturing/monitoring
- \$2,250 protects one hectare of land for our wildlife to call home

Visit aussieark.org.au today!



ACROSS THE GLOBE



Aussie Ark is so incredibly lucky to partner with nationally and globally recognised organisations. Collaboration is the key to success and is essential in conservation. Aussie Ark recently expanded our list of partners to now include **Pairi Daiza** and **Zoo Leipzig**. Both organisations are leaders in conservation and we are thrilled to have them on board.

Pairi Daiza offers an unforgettable day in paradise in the midst of wild animals. The park helps to sensitise visitors to the beauty and fragility of nature. **Pairi Daiza** houses more than 7,000 animals from around the world, including birds, mammals, fish and reptiles and it is located on the former site of the Cistercian Abbey of Cambron, featuring ancient trees and numerous historic buildings.

Pairi Daiza also participates in thirty scientific programmes in the active conservation of endangered species and assume responsibility for their reproduction within the Park.

Zoo Leipzig stands for a unique concept that includes animal welfare and husbandry, species conservation, education and exciting explorer tours. They are well on the way to becoming a Zoo of the future, accommodating about 850 animal species and subspecies. They are among the most renowned and most modern zoos in the world.

Zoo Leipzig demonstrate their commitment to species conservation with almost 60 breeding programs in countries all over the world. Thanks to Zoo Leipzig's participation in reintroduction programs the Eagle Owl, the Little Owl, the Przewalski's Horse and the Oryx dammah can now all be found again in their natural habitats.

The support of **Zoo Leipzig** and **Pairi Daiza** is taking Aussie Ark global, allowing people from around the world to learn and appreciate Australian wildlife.



FESTIVAL OF THE DEVIL



Aussie Ark in conjunction with the Australian Reptile Park hosted the first ever Festival of the Devil, over the June long weekend. The event saw the Australian Reptile Park come alive with jumping castles, face painting, fairy floss and so much more.

The weekend was entirely dedicated to celebrating devils. Perfect weather meant that there were plenty of visitors at the **Australian Reptile Park** contributing to the work being done at Aussie Ark. Terrence the Tassie devil mascot even made a surprise visit!

“There was extra fun around every corner in the park for the Festival of the Devil with a jumping castle, face painting, a Tasmanian devil show and plenty more to see and do.”

Aussie Ark Curator, Liz Vella

Proceeds from the day were donated to Aussie Ark to help stop the extinction of Tasmanian devils.

STAY AT DEVILS RETREAT

Looking for something different to do these school holidays? Organise a family getaway, a romantic escape or a special group stay at Devil's Retreat! Located just 11Kms from the amazing Aussie Ark site, your stay in our 4 bedroom retreat will get you in touch with your WILD side.

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. Your stay includes:

- 2 nights' Accommodation
- “Devils in the Wild” tour - a 2 ½ hour walking tour of the Aussie Ark facility

For more information or to book contact us on 02 4326 5333 or admin@aussieark.org.au.



BOODEREE PROJECT UPDATE



Earlier this year Aussie Ark, in conjunction with **Rewilding Australia**, released 17 of our own Eastern quolls back into the wild at Booderee national park. An additional 20 quolls from other conservation establishments were also used in the release. These quolls were part of a secondary release with 20 quolls already released in 2018. The project is a prime example of how organisations can come together and work towards a difficult but shared goal.

Aussie Ark and **Rewilding Australia** are thrilled with the recent news that all surviving female quolls from 2018 have successfully bred for the second year. Additionally, two females from the 2019 release have confirmed pouch young, and a further four females are showing signs of developed pouches, a key indication of successful breeding. The on the ground research team still have pouches to check so we have hope of even more young for this breeding season.

The project has seen some mortalities to feral foxes and dogs, cars and natural causes. However, these losses come as a stark reminder of the effects that invasive species such as the fox can have on our wildlife. Even at low densities, as they are in Booderee National Park, foxes still have the ability to decimate small mammals.

You can help support Aussie Ark and Eastern quolls by adopting one today! For just \$25 a month you can help create a brighter future for Eastern Quolls. Aussie Ark Adoption packs also make wonderful gifts! A cuddly plush toy, Aussie Ark sticker, Newsletter, Information sheet on your chosen species and photo!



HELP FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA – SYMBIO WILDLIFE PARK



Symbio Wildlife Park is a family owned and operated zoo which is located on the Southern outskirts of Sydney in the the suburb of Helensburgh.

Symbio started in 1975 as a small wildlife park and has now grown to become a multi-award winning and internationally publicised zoo, famous for getting visitors closer than ever before to amazing animals.

Symbio Wildlife Park have been long time partners of Aussie Ark and share our passion for educating others on the importance of our native, Australian Wildlife



SYDNEY HELICOPTERS

Founded in 1985, **Sydney Helicopters** are the longest running commercial helicopter operator in Sydney.

Operating for over 30 years **Sydney Helicopters** have earned the title of Sydney's premier helicopter service provider. As a multi disciplined helicopter service provider they undertake a range of flight operations, including assisting the NSW Rural Fire service.

Sydney Helicopters and Aussie Ark have been working closely together for some time now and hope to continue this partnership into the future.



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

