



THE ARIK

AUSSIE WILDLIFE BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Find out how you can help.
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AUSSIE ARK OPEN DAYS

A great day out for the whole family.

DIRECT FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Nature is not a place to visit. It is home.”

Gary Snyder

Wow, this is my last presidents report for 2019 and what a ride it has been. 2019 has fostered so many achievements and has seen exponential growth, with more still to come. Our focus remains on outcome based, on the ground conservation and our results speak for themselves.

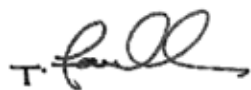
Here is our year in review. We welcomed the first Brush-tailed rock-wallabies to the Barrington Tops, the first of their species introduced to Aussie Ark. Fencing on our largest sanctuary yet was completed, completed construction of a 10 state-of-the-art predator proof ponds for the endangered Manning River Turtle. Aussie Ark opened their doors and welcomed over 3,500 guests to witness first hand what it is we do. We participated in a historical release of Eastern quolls to mainland Australia and welcomed 69 Tasmanian devil joeys and 51 Eastern quolls joeys, our best breeding season yet!

As we continue to grow and develop as does our focus on species and habitat recovery. The improvement of habitat as a mechanism for species recovery cannot be underestimated.

As of late, 2019 has also seen great loss. Loss of life, habitat and wildlife, due to catastrophic bushfires burning in New South Wales and Queensland. I am heartbroken to see the sheer magnitude of loss these fires have created and am at a loss of words to describe the devastation they have caused. Our community faces a mammoth recovery, one that we feel a need to help with. So, in partnership with **Global Wildlife Conservation** we have launched the ‘*Aussie Wildlife Bushfire Appeal*’, with all monies raised going to those who need it most. Our Rural Fire Service, wildlife rescue groups, local communities worst affected, Aussie Ark critical refuge habitats and bushfire rehabilitation and prevention. Aussie Arks sanctuaries and proposed lands protect up to 19% of all Australian vertebrate species and we must protect them at all costs. We must protect our home.

Aussie Ark is blessed to have a large support base that continues to back our vision and mission. We have one more ask, dig deep and support our community. Please donate to the ‘*Aussie Wildlife Bushfire Appeal*’ today to make a difference tomorrow.

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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PHILANTHROPIC ALLIANCE MOBILIZES TO ADDRESS URGENT THREATS TO LIFE ON EARTH

Aussie Ark is incredibly fortunate to have the support of many proud partners, including **Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC)**. In just ten short years GWC have worked with partners in more than 50 countries worldwide and helped establish more than 30 new protected areas home to more than 150 endangered species and a staggering 20,000 species overall. Through strategic partnerships **Global Wildlife Conservation** continue to push the boundaries of cutting-edge science and technologies for conservation and achieve unprecedented economies of scale for maximum impact. The world's current global crisis sparked further action from **GWC**, and in August 2019 **Earth Alliance** was created.

Launched in response to a growing climate crisis and staggering loss of biodiversity threatening the stability of life on Earth, the Alliance marks a shared commitment to addressing these intertwined threats. The Alliance convenes the communicating power of the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (LDF) with the talent and capacities of Emerson Collective and Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC).

“Our planet is at a critical turning point, and we have an opportunity to transition our society to a sustainable one in harmony with – and in support of – all life on Earth”

Board chair of GWC, Brian Sheth

Aussie Ark would like to congratulate **Global Wildlife Conservation** on the creation of Earth Alliance's Amazon Forest Fund with an initial commitment of \$5 million — and more than \$1 million and counting in small donations to protect the Amazon.

“Global Wildlife Conservation has been a major supporter and advocate of Aussie Ark since the very beginning, they are a true champion of the environment and of our native wildlife. We congratulate our friends at Global Wildlife Conservation and Earth Alliance for their commitment to protect the Amazon.”

Aussie Ark President, Tim Faulkner



AUSSIE WILDLIFE BUSHFIRE APPEAL



Australia is on fire.

As New South Wales and Queensland continues to be ravaged by fire, our communities and wildlife have been left in disrepair. Millions of hectares of land have been devastated by bushfires in the past two weeks alone, and it doesn't look to be easing anytime soon.

It is heartbreaking to see this catastrophe unfold and our native wildlife dying, injured and losing the land they call home.

“I feel that it is our, responsibility to step up and take action. Our community needs us, now more than ever”

Aussie Ark President, Tim Faulkner

In response to this emergency Aussie Ark, in partnership with **Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC)**, has launched the ‘Aussie Wildlife Bushfire Appeal’. The appeal has been kicked off with a whopping \$50,000 donation from **GWC**. Funds raised will go directly to worst affected communities and wildlife, Aussie Ark critical refuge habitats, along with bushfire prevention, rehabilitation and species/habitat recovery.

In just 48 hours we were able to raise an additional \$25,000, but that is just the beginning. The fires are still burning and Australia needs your help. Our ask is simple – dig deep and donate to help stop these fires and save our native wildlife.

Horror conditions will continue to spell disaster for New South Wales and Queensland. Aussie Ark send their sincerest thanks to our Rural Fire Service for their tireless efforts to protect so many and so much. We would also like to thank our partners **Sydney Helicopters** for their efforts in water bombing these volatile flames from above. As these fires look set to continue blazing we urge you to listen, watch, act and stay safe.

Head to aussieark.org.au to donate.



A dramatic photograph of a forest fire at night. Intense orange and yellow flames are visible through the dark silhouettes of trees. The fire's light reflects on a calm body of water in the foreground, creating a mirror-like effect. The scene is dark, with the fire providing the primary light source.

“

WE NEED TO FOCUS ON SAVING
LIVES, AND THE COMMUNITIES WHO
ARE DOING IT TOUGH.

– GLADYS BEREJKLIAN
NSW PREMIER

2019 AUSSIE ARK GALA DINNER



PHOTO BY DAVID STOWE

Aussie Ark was thrilled to host its third Gala dinner, celebrating eight years of ambitious wildlife conservation. Hosted in the beautiful Curzon Hall, Aussie Ark welcomed 300 guests to celebrate 8 ambitious years of wildlife conservation and devilish success.

Emcee Mark Beretta entertained and thrilled the audience all night, whilst speakers Professor Mike Letnic, and 2018 Australian Geographic Young Conservationist of the Year, Sophia Skarparis also delivered powerful messages of conservation. Aussie Arks newest and cutest joeys delighted guests all evening, showing them exactly what we are working towards protecting and insuring for the future.

Aussie Ark would like to thank their event sponsors The Botanical Work Shop, Captain Cook Cruises, Northcote Pottery, Taronga Zoo, Featherdale Wildlife Park, Port Stephen 4WD Tours, Moonshadow Cruises, Kelly-Anne Love Artworks, Shannon Dwyer, Danielle Burford, Australian Reptile Park, Marini Ferlazzo, Crowne Plaza Terrigal, Symbio Wildlife Park, Birdsnest and James Patrick. An event such as this only comes together with many hands and we are grateful for their support. We would also like to thank Curzon Hall and their staff for all the behind the scenes work to help run a smooth event, Helping Hands, CT Productions, Flock Wildlife and Jay Productions for jumping on board and creating a seamless event.

“It is humbling to see so many individuals come together to show support and solidarity for Australian wildlife conservation”

Aussie Ark Director, Liz Gabriel

Additionally, as another year draws to a close Aussie Ark is forever grateful for the support of their partners Australian Reptile Park, Global Wildlife Conservation, FAME, Australian Geographic, Ellerston, Zoo Zurich, Sporting Shooters Association, Office of Environment and Heritage, Sydney Helicopters, Australian Wildlife Society, Glencore, Pairi Daiza, Zoo Leipzig and Symbio Wildlife Park.

Each organization is committed to the conservation of wildlife and are steadfast in their mission to protect our species.



PHOTO BY DAVID STOWE

INTRODUCING POPPY



Aussie Ark keepers were surprised on morning rounds in October, when they discovered an orphaned Parma Wallaby joey. While it is not uncommon for mothers to reject their joeys if they are unfit to care for them, the likelihood of the six-month-old surviving on its own was very slim. The pint-sized Parma was lucky to be found so quickly and, for now, is calling Aussie Ark keepers mum.

Fondly named Poppy, this little wallaby will go on to become an important and integral part of the Aussie Ark insurance population and breeding program. The soon-to-be opened 400-hectare sanctuary at Aussie Ark will come to host a suite of native fauna, including the endangered Parma wallaby.

Parma wallabies are one of Aussie Ark's keystone species. Their numbers are rapidly declining in the wild due to feral pests such as cats and foxes, and habitat destruction.

“Unfortunately, the population of Parma wallabies is declining, once found almost down to the Victorian border, their habitat now finishes at Gosford on the Central Coast,”

Aussie Ark Director, Liz Gabriel

It is estimated that there are less than 10,000 mature Parma wallaby individuals still found in the wild. Without insurance populations like the one at Aussie Ark, Australia stands to lose more of its native fauna species.

Australia's native plants and animals adapted to life on an isolated continent over millions of years. New pressures from invasive species have caused a major impact on our country's soil, waterways and on its native plants and animals. Sadly, Australia now has the worst mammal

extinction rate in the world, and a high proportion of our surviving animals and plants are listed as threatened or endangered.

You can support Poppy and the other animals at Aussie Ark this Christmas by making a tax-deductible donation to Aussie Ark. Give the gift that keeps on giving.



WAR ON WEEDS



Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is present in the Barrington region, and is considered a noxious weed in NSW. The plant out-competes most native species and excludes native grasses and shrubs. This has significant impact on native fauna who rely on natural vegetation communities for food and habitat.

Scotch broom was introduced to Australia from Europe and thrives in conditions like the Barrington Tops where the temperature is cooler.

It poses a number of threats including; increased fire risk because of the dense thickets it forms, providing shelter for feral species such as pigs and foxes and altering the nitrogen levels in soil which can harm the ecosystem.

Scotch broom is prolific on the Aussie Ark site and surrounding properties, and poses an extreme risk to local vegetation and fauna species. Also present are the small/ dwarf stinging nettle (*Urtica urens*) and nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*) which although are not as impactful as Scotch broom, also are considered noxious weeds in the region.

To achieve the goal of bringing the World Heritage Area of the Barrington Tops back to its pre-European settlement state, Aussie Ark is working with the Hunter Weed Authority to eradicate the weed.

“Aussie Ark’s aim is to bring the bush back to what it was and see our native flora and fauna thrive once again. We’re using a multi-faceted approach that is labour intensive, but has the best chance of success. It involves using fire, herbicide spraying and the cut and painting method.”

Aussie Ark Curator, Hayley Shute

In preparation for its opening, Aussie Ark staff are working tirelessly to remove over 50 hectares of Scotch broom from the 400 hectare sanctuary.

You can support Aussie Arks war on weeds this Christmas by making a tax deductible donation.

Head to aussieark.org.au for more information.

AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION



October 28th - 30th saw 16 adventurous individuals join Tim Faulkner for a unique hands-on experience at Aussie Ark in the beautiful Barrington Tops of NSW.

The expedition aims to get people working hands on with our wildlife and experiencing first hand the work that goes into running and maintaining a program such as Aussie Ark. It wasn't all work though, the adventurers were also taken spotlighting by Aussie Ark President Tim Faulkner, who showcased a plethora of native wildlife found in the region.

Thank you to **Australian Geographic** for their support and for supplying all the participants with caps and polar fleece to keep them warm! We cannot wait for the 2020 expedition and getting more individuals hands on with Australia's native wildlife. If you're interested in joining us next year, head to aussieark.org.au to find out more.

A POEM BY AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONIST BETTY JACOBS

Nobody likes a dead gum tree!
A danger to have around.
It could fall on the house or on a friend,
The fears for life abound.
A branch might snap in a sudden storm
And fall - CRASH - to the ground
Or the whole huge tree might topple down
With a terrible deafening sound.

Nobody likes a dead gum tree!
Or is it really so?
A dead gum tree makes a cosy home
For lots of friends I know.

I saw a dead gum tree in the bush
Where bees had built their hive,
An owl had a nest in a hollowed out branch
That couldn't have been alive,
A glider slept in a cosy bed
In the hollow trunk, unseen,
And a family of lorikeets raised their young
In a hole where a branch had been.

Millions of tiny creatures too
Took advantage of the tree.
Cicadas shed those dry brown skins
As they climbed up to be free.
They sing a song for all to hear,
They've seen the day at last
And shrill the praise of their gum tree
To all who happen past.
The ants find food, the slaters rest
And the fungus grows supreme
And spiders spin their silvery webs
In the dead gum trees I've seen.

And what a gnarled and twisted shape
It forms as it lives and dies.
Through wind and storm, fire and drought
It looks so old and wise.
The shape inspires a thousand dreams
Of ghost or witch or sage
Or caves of treasure rich and rare;
A shape that comes with age.

Nobody likes a dead gum tree!
What rubbish! How absurd!
About its ugly useless form
I won't believe a word.
Nobody likes a dead gum tree!
No-one at all 'cept those
Who live in it or hide in it
Or just admire its pose.

AUSSIE BUSH WILDLIFE SLEEP OUT



Ever wanted to wake up surrounded by nature? Campers at the **Australian Reptile Park** were treated to just that at Aussie Arks, '*Aussie Bush Wildlife Sleep Out*'. Guests experienced the thrill of sleeping out under the stars amongst wildlife, plus an evening of interactive and hands on wildlife shows, animal encounters, an Aussie bush tucker BBQ, marshmallow toasting over campfires, and damper making.

Campers were delighted to meet some of the **Australian Reptile Park's** stars including Adina the Dingo, Timmy and Tammy the Tasmanian devil joeys and Gizmo the Koala.

All proceeds from the night were donated to Aussie Ark to help continue our vital work with endangered Australian wildlife.

If you want to help Aussie Ark this christmas, head to aussieark.org.au to donate.

DEVILS DASH

Getting dirty for devils has never been so much fun. In early October, 40 individuals tested their limits on a 3.5km obstacle mud run, in the name of wildlife conservation. 40 obstacles challenged runners to face their fears, work as a team and have fun doing it!

2 hours and a whole lot of sweat and laughs later, participants were treated with the opportunity to meet with Timmy and Tammy, the Tasmanian devil joeys.

Aussie Ark is grateful to have the ongoing support of so many passionate individuals and we look forward to hosting many more events in the future.

All funds raised from Devils Dash go towards continuing Aussie Ark's vital conservation work.

Head to aussieark.org.au/getinvolved to stay up to date.



HELP FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE – ZOO LEIPZIG



Zoo Leipzig stands for a unique concept that includes animal welfare and husbandry, species conservation, education and exciting explorer tours. They demonstrate their commitment to conservation by partaking in almost 60 breeding programs all over the world.

Zoo Leipzig has often been referred to as the 'Zoo of the Future', and this is thanks to their state-of-the-art facilities, educational programs and breeding programs. Aussie Ark is proud to partner with a world renowned facility such as **Zoo Leipzig**, as collaborative conservation is key.



PAIRI DAIZA

Since its inception, **Pairi Daiza** has been actively involved in the preservation of countless endangered species, including birds, mammals, fish and reptiles. Their objective is to promote the conservation of endangered species globally.

Global awareness for Australia's extinction crisis is critical to the success of the project. We are immensely appreciative of the support received from Pairi Daiza and their commitment to the survival of so many iconic Australian Species.





AUSSIE ARK OPEN DAYS

AUSSIE ARK WILL BE OPENING ITS DOORS FOR THREE TOURS A DAY THIS JANUARY!

GRAB THE WHOLE FAMILY AND COME ALONG FOR A UNIQUE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

YOU'LL HAVE THE CHANCE TO GET UP CLOSE WITH TASMANIAN DEVILS AND EASTERN QUOLLS - AND CUDDLE SOME JOEYS

IT'S A GREAT DAY OUT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

TICKETS GO ON SALE NOW! AVAILABLE AT:

AUSSIEARK.ORG.AU

ALL PROCEEDS WILL HELP SAVE OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE FROM EXTINCTION

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



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zoo!
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