



THE ARK

FIRST KOALA JOEY

New hope after the bush fires, our newest member
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BARRINGTON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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DIRECT FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Our Past, our present and whatever remains of our future, absolutely depend on what we do now.”

Sylvia Earle

2020 was a year of complete uncertainty, one that no one was prepared for. As we step into a new year, we bring new hope and prospects for Australia's unique wildlife. We are 12 months on from the Black Summer that annihilated our wildlife and their ecosystems. In its wake ash and debris has made way for a new era of wildlife conservation. One that makes us hopeful. As we continue to rebuild, we must also adapt to a new and ever-changing way of life for our families, friends and colleagues. 2020 literally shut down our world, yet Aussie Ark still delivered, and we know that 2021 will be just as epic.

With our Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary officially opened and the rewilding of lost species well underway, myself and the team at Aussie Ark are eager to expand, purchasing and protecting vast areas of land for our wildlife. With your help, Curricabark has been secured and now falls safely under the protection of Aussie Ark. 2021 will bring with it the fencing of additional sanctuaries, meaning our rewilding efforts will DOUBLE!

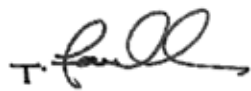
The benefits of the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary are already being felt. Aussie Ark Rangers have spotted the first wild Koala Joey born in the sanctuary since the devastating bushfire crisis. This little joey doesn't know it, but he is a beacon of hope – one that Aussie Ark will rally behind.

Monitoring shows that the return of Tasmanian Devils and Eastern Quolls to the wild in the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary has been a success. Our cameras have been able to show that they are all displaying the right signs, they have been spotted hunting, swimming and interacting with one another. We hope that 2021 leads us to the announcement of the first wild born joeys!

It's been a ride, and as we step into our 10th year of operation, I can't help but get a little sentimental. I never in my wildest dreams could have imagined the path that Aussie Ark has taken and the goals we have been able to achieve. The support from our partners is unbelievable and the support from our community continues to blow me away. Aussie Ark is all that it is because of YOU!

So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you. Here is to decade of conservation and a lifetime more. We can't wait to continue this truly wild ride with you.

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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CURRICABARK FALLS UNDER AUSSIE ARKS PROTECTION

Aussie Ark is thrilled to announce that it has acquired the Curricabark property after a month of fundraising. The Curricabark property, sitting on 250 hectares of land, will one day be home to some of Australia's most endangered species that Aussie Ark is currently caring for.

The Curricabark property is located near the Aussie Ark site, high up in the Barrington Tops of New South Wales. Considered a wildlife refuge since 1974, the property protects about 30 threatened native species within its perimeters.

"We are absolutely astonished by the generosity of everyone who donated to our crowdfunding campaign. All the species the property is protecting - and will protect in the future - are so thankful to all of you,"

Tim Faulkner, Aussie Ark President.

Over a month of fundraising, more than \$50,000 was raised to allow Aussie Ark to purchase the wildlife refuge. In line with its mission to rewild the Barrington Tops region and bring balance back to the bush, Aussie Ark's new acquisition is paving the

way to the development of additional sanctuaries that will protect some of our most vulnerable native species.

From the 10th to the 12th of November, Aussie Ark hosted the Aussie Ark Wild Ride, its first-ever sporting charity event, in an effort to raise funds for the Curricabark crowdfunding campaign. Two riders, Tony and Andrew, embarked on a 300km journey to bike from the Australian Reptile Park on the Central Coast to the Aussie Ark facility in the Barrington Tops.

Fundraising for a cause that matters to you can take on many forms. For Tony and Andrew, it was a courageous 300km biking adventure up the Barrington Tops.

Through its sanctuaries and the vigorous work of its team, Aussie Ark allows native ecosystems to evolve naturally without the threat of unnatural predation. Aussie Ark is slowly providing ecological restoration to the Barrington Tops by reintroducing key species - ecosystem engineers - to its grounds.

You can help Aussie Ark create healthy ecosystems and continue to protect Australian wildlife by donating at aussierk.org.au ❖



FIRST KOALA JOEY BORN AT AUSSIE ARK AFTER DEVASTATING BUSHFIRES

Aussie Ark is proud to announce their FIRST Koala Joey born within their sanctuaries. The Joey brings new hope for the species and to Aussie Ark after the 2019 - 2020 fires.

Aussie Ark is so excited to see the first wild born Koala Joey in the sanctuary, living a healthy and protected life. It is a representation of the hard work put in by Aussie Ark, ensuring Koalas are protected from the threats that have affected their wild numbers and populations.

“As I walked through the sanctuary looking at the thriving habitat, I could not believe my eyes. Koalas are so difficult to spot due to their colouration and camouflage against the tall, grey trees. There was however a Koala that was moving down the tree and so easier to see. Not only was the vision incredible but she had a small Joey on her back.”

Manager of Life Sciences, Hayley Shute

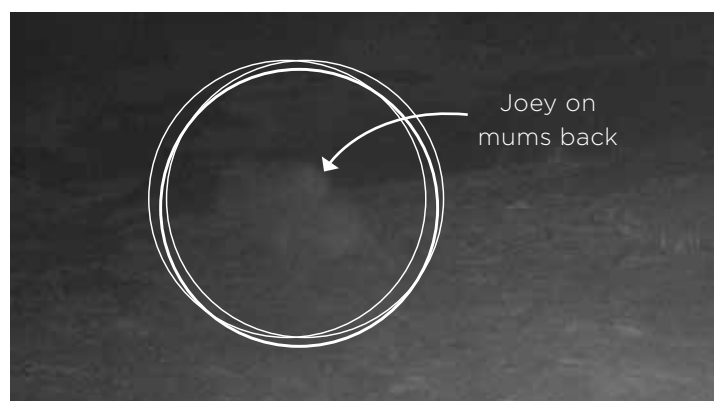
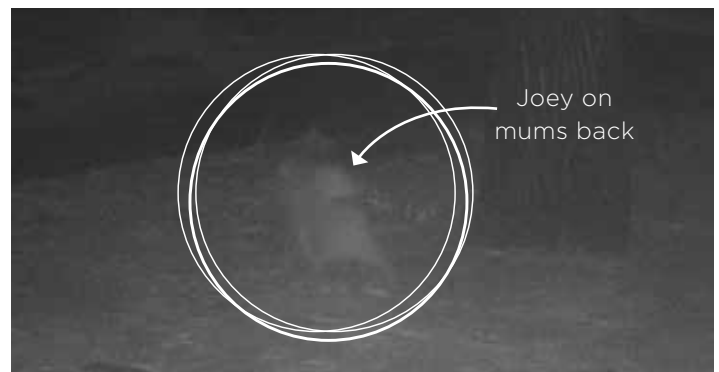
Aussie Ark provides established habitats with food trees, the exclusion of feral predators such as dogs, cats and foxes and protected areas away from cars and roads to significantly improve Koala numbers and help build a robust, Barrington population of Koalas.

The birth of the Joey reflects the need for protection against threats of habitat destruction, feral predators, fire and consequently increased disease. What this sighting signifies is that when habitat and ecosystems are protected, Koalas can repopulate and live a healthy, long life.

The past fire season killed a suspected one billion animals. Koalas were severely affected by these fires, however, not only are Koalas threatened with habitat destruction and fragmentation, but their survival is also compounded by car-strike, feral predators and disease. To protect and further grow the population of Koalas, Koala Ark was introduced. This project is delivering a safe haven preventing the extinction of Koalas with protection of critical remnant Koala habitat, protection from intense bushfire, weed management, removal of introduced species and long-term monitoring of the sanctuary. During the bushfires, Koalas died horrifically days and weeks later from burns, starvation and dehydration.

The Joey signifies hope for Koalas after the recent bushfires. The burning bush and the wildlife in it were brought into our living rooms and the aftermath will undoubtedly forever be etched into our minds.

Support Aussie Ark in its quest to further continue to protect our beloved wildlife well into the future. Donate today at aussieark.org.au ❖



“ WE NEED TO PROTECT AND
FURTHER GROW THE POPULATION
OF OUR KOALAS FOR THE FUTURE

”

— HAYLEY SHUTE
MANAGER OF LIFE SCIENCE



\$850,000 SUPPORT FOR BUSHFIRE AFFECTED SPECIES



PHOTO BY JAKE MENEY

Aussie Ark has just been granted \$850,000 from the Australian Government as part of a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation initiative. The purpose of the Grant is to provide funding to assist bushfire affected wildlife through emergency interventions, such as captive breeding, under the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Program.

Aussie Ark are experts in the field of insurance population breeding programs and rewilding. The funds will go towards the expansion of already existing programs for the endangered Manning River Turtle and Brush-Tailed Rock-Wallaby. Additionally, Aussie Ark will use the funds to establish a new conservation breeding program for the Giant Barred Frog and Stuttering Frog. Both species of frog were impacted by the devastating bushfire season 12 months ago.

The programs will involve the construction of specialised facilities onsite at both the Australian Reptile Park in Somersby and Aussie Ark in the Barrington Tops. The facilities will allow for the housing, breeding and development of species. Additionally, the funds will also be used to conduct in-situ surveys, to help establish locations and population abundance of the species in the wild.

“These funds will have such an impact on the species. The expansion and creation of breeding programs is critical to their survival in the wild, without these programs our wildlife will disappear”

Aussie Ark president, Tim Faulkner

Aussie Ark have shown how rescue, rehabilitation and insurance population breeding programs can be successful in conservation. We rescued multiple Platypus during the bushfire season, and relocated over 200 turtles. The Platypus have all since returned to the waterways they were rescued from. Additionally, Aussie Ark is known for rewilding many lost species back to the Barrington Tops landscape. These programs outline the positive outcomes they can have on wildlife conservation and rewilding.

Tim Faulkner says “Rewilding is critical to the long-term survival of species, but rewilding is only possible when insurance populations are established. We are looking forward to working with the Australian Government to see these long-term outcomes” ❖

THE BLACK SUMMER - 12 MONTHS ON



Although it may feel like a lifetime ago, it has only been 12 months since the devastating bushfires roared through the state of New South Wales. Known as the Black Summer, the 2019-2020 bushfire season was the worst that New South Wales has seen on record and ranked as the worst wildlife disaster in modern history. Contributing to these bushfires was higher than average temperatures, low moisture and several years of drought, leaving firefighters to fight what seemed to be an endless battle.

Australian wildlife suffered tremendous damage with billions of animals deceased, millions of hectares of land burnt, and entire ecosystems threatened. Not to mention the impact on the wider New South Wales community including farmers, local businesses and the general public.

Aussie Ark president, Tim Faulkner, explains “The fires were undoubtedly just catastrophic. I mean, how can you explain a billion animals dying and tens of millions of hectares burning. There’s no other word for it than catastrophic. The fires should be a big reality check for everyone. What we’ve lost, it’s questionable if we can ever bring it back to what it was, but we have to at all costs prevent it from happening again.”

Aussie Ark is working towards rebuilding the wildlife and ecosystems that were severely impacted from these devastating fires. By preventing the severity of these fires from reoccurring, ecosystems have a chance of recovery

and survival. Already after just 12 months, we can see these ecosystems slowly starting to repair and regenerate and by giving an extra helping hand this recovery can continue. As part of recovery from the bush fires, Aussie Ark proceeded with food drops and continued to control weed and other hazardous material that could potentially ignite fires.

“Forests are regrowing, and we can see lots of green, but it is an ecological ghost town and it was before the fires. Its entire mammal suite has disappeared, other than kangaroos, wombats and species that are too big for the feral fox or feral cat to eat, its lost all of its natives.”

Aussie Ark president, Tim Faulkner

To help wildlife come back and thrive in the future, Aussie Ark is continuing their breeding programs for native mammals such as Tasmanian Devils, Long-Nosed Potoroos, Eastern Quoll and Brush Tail Rock Wallabies, as well as putting in place multiple projects aiming to support and facilitate the recovery of diverse native threatened species and their habitats. This will continue long after the burnt land has regained some control after the Black Summer fires. ❖

AUSSIE ARK OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS 400 HECTARE BARRINGTON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



Aussie Ark's fight against Australia's extinction crisis has led to the official opening of its 400 hectare Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary. Aussie Ark President Tim Faulkner stood next to Aussie Ark staff, partners and Joe Thompson from the Department of Biodiversity and Conservation, to celebrate this milestone.

"The long-awaited moment has finally arrived! We are delighted to officially open our biggest sanctuary yet," says Aussie Ark President Tim Faulkner.

"Returning native species to an area they once roamed is an important part of what Aussie Ark stands for. We have a unique opportunity to rewild Australia - one we won't pass up"

Aussie Ark President Tim Faulkner

The Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary encloses 400 hectares of wilderness and is primarily made up





of open forests and grasslands. Aussie Ark aims to protect and preserve the habitat within the sanctuary through the removal of noxious weeds, habitat augmentation and of course in the return of lost species.

The fencing of the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary was completed as of November 2019, in addition to the removal of feral predators such as the cat and fox from its perimeters. Without the threat of introduced predators, Australian native species

are given the opportunity to survive and thrive in an environment that was once theirs. Despite the sanctuary being officially opened as of November 2020, many animals have been released into it over the past year.

Aussie Ark has a vision of creating a long-term future for Australia's threatened wildlife and aims of rewilding the Barrington Tops – returning a suit of missing mammals' species back to the landscape. ❖



A photograph of a forest path with tall white-barked trees and green grass. The path is made of dirt and leads into the distance. The trees are tall and thin, with white bark and green foliage. The grass is green and tall. The sky is blue with some clouds.

“ THIS IS THE FUTURE OF
AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ”

– TIM FAULKNER
PRESIDENT OF AUSSIE ARK

Aussie Ark presents Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary

The 400-hectare Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary lies within Australia's south eastern wet temperate forests. The New South Wales Barrington Tops region is one of the highest storage units for carbon on earth, and considered a biodiversity hotspot, with over 15% of all vertebrate fauna calling the area home. Sadly, many of these species have either already disappeared or are in rapid decline due to invasive predators like the feral fox and cat.

Aussie Ark has a vision of saving Australia's most threatened wildlife from extinction through species recovery, habitat recovery and rewilding. We aim to return the area to a pre-European and natural ecosystem. Within the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary wildlife are able to thrive safe from the threats they face outside of the sanctuary fence.

The Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary is the first of many areas of remaining wilderness to be protected by Aussie Ark, and is a leap forward in the conservation of Australia's threatened species.

Project Partners



In Loving Memory Of Paul Andrew 1953 - 2020

Paul's passion for native wildlife conservation helped to shape Aussie Ark into the organisation that it is today. The rewilding of Tasmania devils to mainland Australia on November 26th, 2020 is Paul's legacy.

"To sit at a habitat in tune with its species, is to recognise its value."



This plaque commemorates the opening of the

Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary

By
The Aussie Ark Board and its Partners
On November 26th, 2020

Extinction is not an option.

Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary

Dedicated to
Chris Chapman

For his continued and lifelong commitment to native wildlife conservation, along with his mentorship, friendship and professionalism and commitment to the overall success of Aussie Ark.

AUSTRALIAN GLIDERS RECEIVE RECOVERY GRANT



Conservation organisations WildArk, Aussie Ark and Global Wildlife Conservation, have awarded \$16,000 to Native Mouse Ecological Consulting (NMEC) and Atkins Ecological Contracting (AEC) for their project 'Testing the post-fire resilience of the Yellow-bellied and Greater Glider in Far East Gippsland', as part of their Australian Endangered Species Recovery Grants.

The 2019-20 bushfires burned through large areas of Yellow-bellied and Great glider habitat and it is believed thousands of gliders may have perished in the aftermath. Lead Ecologist Dr Phoebe Burns and Dr Atkins' research will identify how the species fared within the fire scar which

will help land-management agencies to accurately assess the species status, and plan for the long-term conservation of this unique gliding marsupial. Their surveys are targeting remote areas of Far East Gippsland where surveys are critically needed.

"This grant has helped fill a massive gap in funding for post-fire data on many species,"

Dr. Phoebe Burns of Native Mouse Ecological Consulting.

"The data we've already collected has helped contribute to state and federal bushfire elicitation and planning,



making sure our projects have maximum impact!"
Continued Dr. Phoebe Burns

The Australian Endangered Species Recovery Grant is part of the Koala Comeback Campaign and aims to provide funding for organisations carrying out research projects that quantify the bushfires' impact on Australia's threatened species and identify urgent needs that exist for wildlife living in fire-affected areas.

A further nine additional add exceptional projects will be awarded grants of up to \$16000 for their outcomes-based research that has measurable outcomes in the next 12 months. Much of this research includes species population



surveys, protecting unburnt habitat, or implementing other critical interventions identified by species experts.

Thanks to generous donations, the #KoalaComeback campaign, a partnership between WildArk, Global Wildlife Conservation and David Yarrow Photography, has supported many organisations working on the frontlines bushfire recovery and habitat protection in the wake of the 2019-2020 bushfires.

Read more about the Australian Endangered Species Recovery Fund wildark.org/journals/australianendangeredspeciesrecoveryfund or to donate [head to aussieark.org.au](https://aussieark.org.au) ❖

SUMMER HOLIDAYS MADE BETTER WITH AUSSIE ARK



For the third year in a row, Aussie Ark welcomed the general public to walk through its doors during the Summer School Holidays. Following the great success of the previous open days, Aussie Ark was thrilled to greet its supporters once again and share its passion for wildlife conservation.

From January 1st to the 27th, 2021, visitors had the opportunity to meet some of Australia's most endangered species.

“Open days are the perfect opportunities for our supporters to experience the conservation work that our team is doing every single day. I believe it is so important to show our supporters exactly what it is we do at Aussie Ark,”

Aussie Ark President, Tim Faulkner.

Whilst Aussie Ark already runs small private tours each month, opening its doors for the school holidays encouraged a large number of people to join their conservation crusade bringing more opportunities to protect Australia's most venerable mammal species.

“Open days constitute a lot of work, but it is so worth it! It is precious for our staff to be part of people's journey to connect or reconnect with nature,” continues Tim Faulkner.

Whilst on the tour, it was guaranteed that visitors would see and encounter Tasmanian Devils in their wild enclosures and get up close to Eastern Quolls. Encounters with joey animals are available and are perfect for all ages!

Just like the years before it, January open days saw an influx of people of all ages, sharing the vision and goals of what Aussie Ark has to offer. Together with the help of all supporters, Aussie Ark can continue to protect Australia's threatened species and create healthy ecosystems within sanctuaries and through rewilding. ❖



HELP FROM OUR PARTNERS

WIRES



WIRES, Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation, has been rescuing and caring for native animals 365 days a year for almost 35 years. WIRES' mission is to actively rehabilitate and preserve Australian wildlife and inspire others to do the same. Annually, WIRES provide rescue advice and assistance for tens of thousands of sick, injured, orphaned and displaced animals and run around 100 wildlife training courses for thousands of participants. Aussie Ark is proud to have WIRES as a partner and is committed to achieving great things for wildlife conservation alongside this partner.

Global Wildlife Conservation



Saving wildlife species from extinction is the driving force behind Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC), working with partners such as Aussie Ark, to ensure species are around for generations to come. GWC has built its success upon a foundation of excellence in Exploration, Research and Conservation. GWC's three key goals are; Save Species, Protect Wildlands and Build Capacity.

SPREADING LOVE THIS VALENTINES DAY



February is the month of love and giving and this year for valentine's Day, Aussie Ark decided to keep the love alive by introducing Valentine's Day Cards that go towards protecting a dozen trees! The traditional gift of a dozen roses that only last a few weeks, was transformed into protecting twelve stunning native trees. With every card purchased, Aussie Ark will protect unique Australian landscapes, helping to re-establish broken ecosystems and protecting Australian wildlife such, as Koalas!

Not only cute and cuddly and potentially the best Valentine's Day ambassadors, Koalas need your help. Although Koalas are still reasonably common in some areas, they face many problems including habitat destruction, disease and introduced predators.

Aussie Ark is working to protect thousands of unique and vulnerable habitat in the heritage listed Barrington Tops of New South Wales, through exclusion fencing, protection from intense bushfire, weed management and long-term monitoring of the sanctuaries.

We need YOUR help - Adopt a Koala Today!

You can adopt a Koala today and help make a difference for tomorrow! For just \$25 a month you can make a BIG impact on Koalas and Australian Wildlife. Your adoption will help fund Aussie Arks work with the conservation, breeding and preservation of Australian native wildlife and their habitat. Aussie Ark adoption packs also make wonderful gifts and 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.

You can make a difference for a Koala by adopting today! Head to aussieark.org.au/donate/

SUPPORT AUSSIE ARK TODAY!



PHOTO BY DAVID STOWE

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

