

# THE ARK



EDITION #14

## **26,000 TREES PLANTED AT MONGO VALLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

Aussie Ark, helping to reforest and rewild Mongo Valley  
Wildlife Sanctuary

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## **COMMUNITY HELPS SAVE THE BROAD-TOOTHED RAT**

The world's first breeding program for the endangered  
Broad-toothed Rat.

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# DIRECT FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new year brings with it exciting new opportunities for the Ark, and I am eager to share with you, over the next year, all that we will achieve. We remain committed to protecting Australian native wildlife and providing safe spaces they can call home. Further to this commitment we continue to work towards rebuilding and restoring ecosystems, removing feral predators and noxious weeds, undertaking intense fire management initiatives and regenerating damaged habitats.

Just two months ago Aussie Ark planted 26,000 trees at our Mongo Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, we regenerated 3 hectares of land surrounding the tree planting, by removing noxious weeds and protecting native growth. A massive effort from the whole team and our partnering organisations. We can't wait to watch as these new trees grow and develop!

In addition to our tree planting activities, the team at Aussie Ark have been busy out in the field collecting founders for new insurance populations of Bell's Turtles, Giant Barred Frogs and Stuttering Barred Frogs. These species will be housed at the newly opened "Conservation Ark" at the Australian Reptile Park, which visitors can visit and see just what Aussie Ark is doing to help native wildlife.

Excitingly, construction has started on our brand-new Broad-toothed Rat breeding facility. Thanks to those who supported our crowdfunding efforts last year, we look forward to sharing more updates on progress soon!

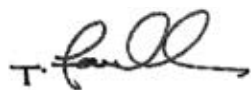
With January just wrapped up, I wanted to take the time to thank all those who made the journey up to visit Aussie Ark during our 2022 Open Days. It is always a pleasure to see so many people engage and get involved with wildlife conservation. It is an absolute privilege to share with you our work so thank you.

I am also proud to say that Aussie Ark recently won Excellence in Small Business at the NSW Business Awards and won Bronze in the NSW Tourism Awards for Outstanding Tourist Attraction. We are so proud of our achievements and know that it is our community of supporters that make this possible.

As always Aussie Ark is incredibly grateful to our community of supporters – our successes are shared. We are grateful for your ongoing support and belief in the Aussie Ark vision. Likewise our thanks go out to our partners without who Aussie Ark would not be where it is today – Re:wild, WildArk, Australian Reptile Park Glencore, Australian Geographic, WIRES, Volkswagen, FAME, Ellerston, Zoo Zurich, Pairi Daiza, Zoo Leipzig, Sydney Helicopters, Coles and Symbio Wildlife Park.

Big things are happening, and we are excited to have you along for the ride. Please where you can, continue to support Aussie Ark. Donate, share our message, visit us, and help us build a brighter future full of native wildlife.

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

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@AussieArk

Instagram  
@aussieark

Youtube  
Aussie Ark

Twitter  
@aussie\_ark

TikTok  
@aussieark



# 2022 SUMMER HOLIDAYS AT AUSSIE ARK



This Summer School Holidays, Aussie Ark opened their doors to welcome the general public to walk through and see what Aussie Ark is all about. This was Aussie Ark's fourth Summer Open Days following the great success and popularity of previous open days, Aussie Ark was thrilled to greet their supporters once again.

After being locked down for a significant time period, it was great for Aussie Ark's team and animals to share with their supporters exactly what they have been up to during this time and share their passion of wildlife conservation with their visitors.

***"Open days are the perfect opportunity for our supporters to experience the conservation work that our team is doing every single day. we love being able to meet our community and get them close to Aussie wildlife."***

- Aussie Ark President, Tim Faulkner.

From January 1st to the 30th 2022, visitors had the opportunity to meet some of Australia's most endangered species including getting up close with Tasmanian Devils!

Whilst on the tour, it was guaranteed that visitors

would see and encounter Tasmanian Devils feeding in their wild enclosures and get up close to many unique species that call Aussie Ark home. Encounters with joey animals such as Tasmanian Devils, Eastern Quolls and Rufous Bettongs were a hit with all visitors!

Aussie Ark already runs public tours however, opening their doors for the school holidays encouraged a large number of people of all ages to join their conservation crusade bringing more opportunities to protect Australia's most respected Australian species and sharing the vision and goals of what Aussie Ark has to offer.

***"Such an awesome experience and I cannot recommend it enough! Very thorough and knowledgeable staff who have great delivery... by far the best sanctuary experience I've had"***

- Aussie Ark Open Days visitor review.

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. Head to [aussieark.org.au/adopt](https://aussieark.org.au/adopt) to find out more.



# 26,000 TREES PLANTED AT MONGO VALLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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Aussie Ark and partners WildArk, Re:wild and the Australian Reptile Park have begun Phase 1 of our plans to reforest and rewild Mongo Valley Wildlife Sanctuary by planting 26,000 rainforest and eucalyptus trees. Mongo Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, which was secured earlier in the year by the organisations, is 1,500 hectares of bush habitat in Upper Mongogarie, New South Wales. The site is located approximately 30 kilometres from the world heritage listed Mallanganee National Park and 70 kilometres from the Richmond Range National Park. The soon to be sanctuary is located within one of the most bio-diverse regions in Australia, reflected by the diversity of vegetation communities which support a range of mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs and invertebrates.

The replanting of 26,000 trees was supported by Byron Bay based organisation ReForest Now. ReForest Now was created by an unabated passion to see large-scale reforestation and regeneration of Australian rainforest ecosystems.

A team of 32 individuals spent three full days onsite, drilling 26,000 holes, filling each hole with water crystals and fertiliser and of course planting each tree by hand.

***“At Aussie Ark we are working really hard to restore Mongo Valley Wildlife Sanctuary to its natural state – from the ground up. The replanting of these tree’s is just step one for us. We know that by rebuilding the habitat our wildlife will have a place to call home”***

– Liz Gabriel, Managing Director

Trees play a critical role in the survival of our wildlife – they provide food and shelter for endangered wildlife. We are so proud to get 26,000 plants back in the ground.



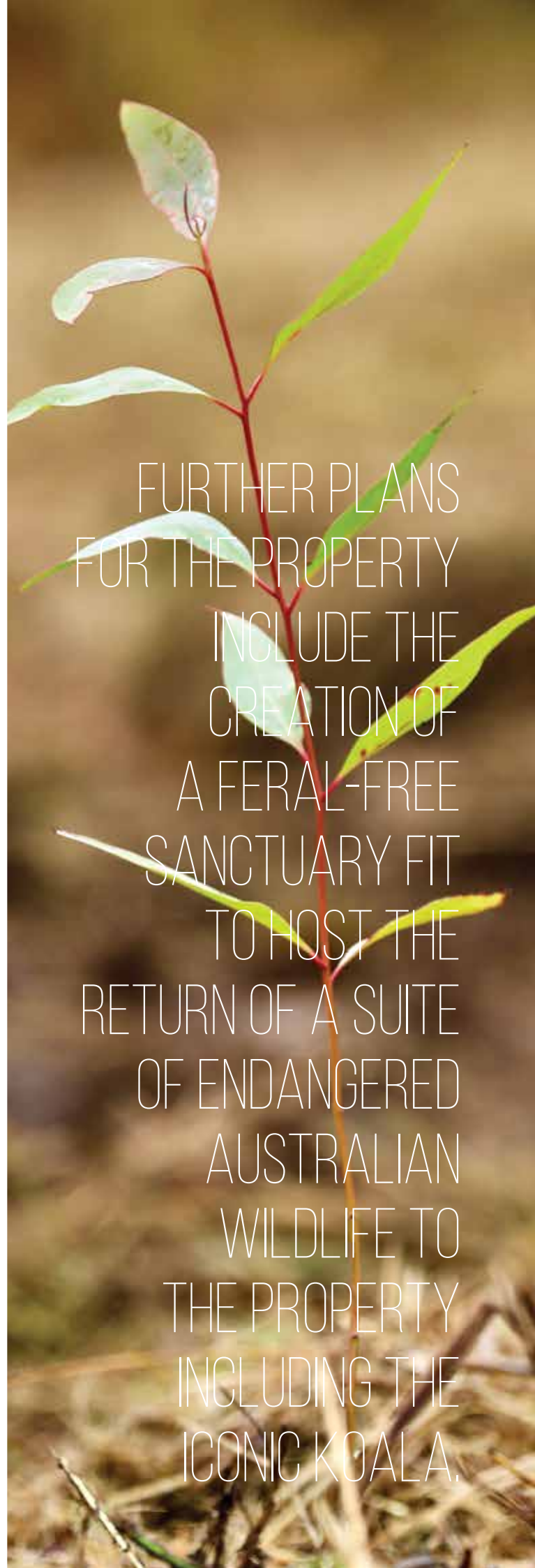


In addition to the 26,000 trees planted, the team also managed to regenerate an additional five hectares of existing bushland removing weeds, including lantana from the choked environment.

Further plans for the property include the creation of a feral-free sanctuary fit to host the return of a suite of endangered Australian wildlife to the property including the iconic Koala. The wildlife refuge will be modelled off Aussie Ark's successful Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary creation model started in the Barrington Tops of New South Wales.

Mongo Valley Wildlife Sanctuary holds so much hope for wildlife conservation, its significant biodiversity and ecological value will prove vital in the protection and preservation of Australian wildlife. You can support the Mongo Valley Sanctuary by donating today. Just \$5 equals one tree planted!

Support Aussie Ark's endangered frog facility by donating today at [aussieark.org.au/donate/](https://aussieark.org.au/donate/)



FURTHER PLANS  
FOR THE PROPERTY  
INCLUDE THE  
CREATION OF  
A FERAL-FREE  
SANCTUARY FIT  
TO HOST THE  
RETURN OF A SUITE  
OF ENDANGERED  
AUSTRALIAN  
WILDLIFE TO  
THE PROPERTY  
INCLUDING THE  
ICONIC KOALA.

# GROUNDBREAKING SIGHT RESTORATION SURGERY ON TASMANIAN DEVIL

Ground Breaking surgery on a Tasmanian devil has been performed, with Derrick the 11-month-old male devil undergoing the procedure to restore his lost sight. Derrick, who was born at conservation organisation Aussie Ark, is being hand-raised at the Australian Reptile Park by Head of Mammals Hewin Hochkins, who first noticed Derrick was losing his eyesight when small, milky white dots appeared in his eyes. They very quickly grew, and it became apparent that Derrick could no longer see.

Somersby Animal Hospital Vet, Dr Robin Crisman, quickly identified the cloudy coloured pupils and loss of sight were the result of cataracts. A debilitating condition often found in dogs, but not known to be seen before in a Tasmanian devil.

A cataract is an opacity of the lens inside the eye. The lens is usually clear and transparent and the lens helps focus an image on the back part of the eye called the retina. In humans, cataracts are one of the most common causes of blindness, especially in third world countries. The team at Eye Clinic for Animals in Sydney were contacted, as leaders in animal cataract surgery, to see if surgery was an option for Derrick.



***“In 10 years of operation, or my decades in the industry, I have never seen a Tasmanian devil undergo cataract surgery,”***

says Hayley Shute, Manager of Conservation at Aussie Ark.

It was quite startling, and of course, our only thought is of Derrick the devil and how we can ensure his health and future. Thankfully, Dr Robin Crisman from Somersby Animal Hospital, was able to get us in contact with the Ophthalmologist team at Eye Clinic for Animals – who jumped to action and were confident they could restore his vision.

Dr Kelly Caruso, surgeon at Eye Clinic for Animals, met with the team from Aussie Ark and the Australian Reptile Park and did some preliminary testing to determine the severity of the cataracts and the possibility of surgery. Following these preliminary tests, it was determined Derrick would need surgery to have any chance at being able to see again.

Surgery was performed the same day, as it was determined to be critical. Published success rates for cataract surgery in both eyes at the same time so that one eye, or both, has vision at one year after surgery is over 90% for household pets. The outcome was unknown for a Tasmanian devil, and thus the pending result nerve wracking for Aussie Ark staff.

Cataract surgery in animals is almost identical to that in humans. It involves the use of ultrasound energy using a process called phacofragmentation. During the surgery the eye lens was removed and an artificial lens was placed back in. In total the surgery took over four hours to complete.

Following the surgery, the team at Aussie Ark provided around the clock care to Derrick, administering antibiotics, monitoring the healing process and providing lots of TLC! In the weeks following the surgery, Derrick has made incredible progress and his veterinary team are confident in the success of the surgery to give Derrick his sight back.

Derrick the Tasmanian Devil is still recovering with his surrogate dad Keeper Hewin, however with his vision restored will soon come to call Aussie Ark home once again. He will join the conservation organisation's successful breeding program, protecting the species from extinction!

You can support Aussie Ark and their conservation crusade by donating today or adopting a devil just like Derrick at [www.aussieark.org.au](http://www.aussieark.org.au)





DERRICK WILL JOIN THE CONSERVATION  
ORGANISATION'S SUCCESSFUL BREEDING PROGRAM,  
PROTECTING THE SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION!

# OFF TO A FROGGING GOOD START

Aussie Ark and partners the Australian Reptile Park are celebrating World Frog Day (March 20) this year with the hatching of HUNDREDS of endangered frog tadpoles. The two frog species, Stuttering Barred and Giant Barred, call the Australian Reptile Park home in the new "Conservation Ark" facilities developed onsite with Aussie Ark.

Both species of frog were impacted during the bushfire disaster of 2019 - 2020. More than that, for many Australian frog species the prognosis is grim. Dramatic population declines in some Australian frog species have been reported since the 1980s, some of the more serious crashes occurring in pristine habitats. Habitat destruction, pollution, feral predators and, critically, Chytrid fungus are all playing a part in the downward trajectory of Australian frog species. The frogs are being supported to build up numbers in captivity after being pushed to the brink.

The impact that this newly constructed insurance population and breeding program will have on the species future is dramatic. Together Aussie Ark and the Australian Reptile Park will breed the frogs

and house them as they develop into fully grown frogs, before releasing them back into streams and waterways in the wild. Beyond this, the organisations are taking part in projects that are looking at cause and cure for Chytrid.

***"This world frog day we are excited to be celebrating with the hatching of hundreds of endangered frog tadpoles. Following the devastating loss during the bushfire disaster, drought and then floods it is exciting to see hundreds of these little guys swimming around"***

-says Jake Meney, Head of Reptiles at the Australian Reptile Park.

The effect of the natural disasters experienced over the last couple of years have been radical, plus they must battle Chytrid fungus. It is important that we have these breeding programs in place before we lose any more of our amphibian species.





Conservation Ark was jointly developed by conservation organisation Aussie Ark and eco-education and tourism organisation Australian Reptile Park as an extension of the Central Coast's premier tourism attraction to help bring wildlife conservation to the local community. The facility is supported by the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Program - an Australian Government initiative. Through this program Aussie Ark was awarded \$850,000 towards protecting endangered species including the Manning River Turtle, Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Giant Barred Frog and Stuttering Barred Frog.

There is still a long way to go in raising these tiny individuals, but the teams at Aussie Ark and the Australian Reptile Park are committed. Once the tadpoles are fully grown the organisations will release them back to the wild.

You can support their journey by making a donation this World Frog Day at [\*\*aussieark.org.au/donate\*\*](https://aussieark.org.au/donate).



# COMMUNITY HELPS SAVE THE BROAD-TOOTHED RAT

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Following a successful crowdfunding campaign which raised over \$60,000 for the development of a state-of-the-art breeding facility for the Broad-toothed rat, Aussie Ark have been busy getting to work on the construction of the new building. The facility which is being constructed at the Australian Reptile Park will become the world's first breeding program for the endangered Broad-toothed rat.

The Broad-toothed rat or Tooarrana is unique in nature and behaviour. They make and use runways through the dense wet grasses and tussocks they inhabit, which protect them from predators. They nest and shelter under logs and undergrowth, huddling in these nests to stay warm in winter. Their diet consists of almost all greenery and so their bright green faeces are very distinguishable.

The species numbers have decreased drastically due to the compounding threats they face. Introduced predators, such as foxes and cats, prey upon them. Feral horses, cattle, and pigs degrade their habitat and outcompete them for food. Weeds such as Scotch Broom take over their environment, decreasing food plants and shelter.

***“Without intervention the Broad-toothed rat’s demise is imminent. I refuse to sit back and watch, as they go extinct. I cannot stress enough how quickly they are disappearing, and that action is needed right now”***

- Hayley Shute, Manager of Conservation.

As construction continues, Aussie Ark have remained active in the field conducting surveys on the species in various swamps. The overwhelming outcomes from these surveys show that the Broad-toothed rat is on a crash course to extinction. Not only are the numbers of Broad-toothed rats incredibly low, but the numbers of swamp rats are significantly higher. Swamp rats outcompete the Broad-toothed rat for food, water, and shelter.

Construction on the new facility is due to be completed in the coming months and shortly following its finish the team at Aussie Ark will welcome its first arrivals. This has been a huge group effort with the support of our community as well as project partners **Glencore** and **Australian Wildlife Society**.





THE BROAD-TOOTHED RAT  
OR TOOARRANA IS UNIQUE IN  
NATURE AND BEHAVIOUR.





# GRIM “UPLISTING” OF KOALAS TO ENDANGERED

The Australian government has officially listed the koala as endangered after a decline in its numbers of due following years of land clearing and catastrophic bushfires shrinking its habitat. The upgrade of the koala's conservation status from vulnerable to endangered follows Scott Morrison's announcement that \$50 million has been pledged to protect the species. The Prime Minister said the funding would bring together the best of the best researchers, land managers, veterinarians, and citizen scientists to protect one of the most special species in the world.

The listing, which has been petitioned for since the black summer disaster, comes as no surprise to Aussie Ark. Aussie Ark have been working to protect koalas for years, creating predator free sanctuaries, managing threats of fire and planting thousands of koala feed trees.

***“The change in listing for the iconic koala has been a long time coming. It's not enough to just update their***

***status though! This needs to serve as a reminder that we must act. koalas need us to work together to ensure their future is long”***

- Hayley Shute, Manager of Conservation

Just last year, Aussie Ark announced the creation of Mongo Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, which is set to become a haven for koalas. Aussie Ark will undertake mass feral predator, weed and fire management activities and plant 100,000 trees on the site. Additionally, the organisation will work alongside tertiary education providers to determine the presence of disease and work towards its eradication to create a wild, disease free population of koala's within the sanctuary.

This work will actively protect and preserve Australian koalas. If you want to help Aussie Ark protect the koala you can donate to **Mongo Valley Wildlife Sanctuary** or adopt a koala today! Head to [aussieark.org.au](http://aussieark.org.au) for more information.





A close-up photograph of a koala clinging to a tree branch. The koala has grey, fluffy fur and a large, dark, leathery nose. Its eyes are closed, and it appears to be resting or sleeping. The tree branch is light brown and has a rough, textured bark. The background is blurred, showing more of the tree and some green foliage.

AUSSIE ARK... CREATING PREDATOR FREE  
SANCTUARIES, MANAGING THREATS OF FIRE AND  
PLANTING THOUSANDS OF KOALA FEED TREES.



# WHAT'S ON AT THE ARK! - COME AND VISIT US

*'One person can make a difference and everyone should try'* – John F Kennedy



## DEVIL'S IN THE WILD TOUR

Want to get up close with our devils?  
Well, now you can!

Devils in the Wild tour is a 2.5 hour fully escorted tour led by one of our Aussie Ark Rangers and starts off with an introduction of the project and the Tasmanian devil over morning tea at our Interpretation centre.

You will be privy to enter a huge free-range enclosure and experience a rare opportunity to really get up close and personal in the devils natural enclosure to witness a communal feed to encourage wild behaviour.

**To book visit [www.aussieark.org.au](http://www.aussieark.org.au)**

## STAY WITH US!

Come and enjoy a 2 night stay with us at Devils Retreat or Quoll Cottage! 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 also includes our "Devils in the Wild" tour – a 2.5 hour walking tour of the Aussie Ark facility.

**What are you waiting you for? Head to [www.aussieark.org.au](http://www.aussieark.org.au) or contact us via phone 02 4326 5333 or email [admin@aussieark.org.au](mailto:admin@aussieark.org.au) for more information.**



# SUPPORT AUSSIE ARK TODAY!



# HELP FROM OUR PARTNERS

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## **Coles Australia**

We have the ambition to become Australia's most sustainable supermarket. As one of Australia's leading companies we need to show the way forward. By acting together now, we can create a better Australia for future generations. As part of this ambition, we launched our Sustainability Strategy under two pillars 'Together to Zero' and 'Better Together'.



**Volkswagen**

## **Volkswagen Australia**

Volkswagen Group Australia (VGA) is the nation's biggest and most successful importer of European cars, SUVs and commercial vehicles. Headquartered in Sydney with a major new facility in Melbourne, this national sales company consists of Volkswagen passenger vehicles, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles and SKODA. This year VGA welcomes the prestige brand Audi to the company. Next year VGA will introduce the CUPRA range to Australia. VGA has been led by managing director Michael Bartsch since 2015. It employs some 300 people directly. Thousands more are employed by more than 180 Volkswagen, Audi and SKODA dealers nationwide.



**AUSSIEARK.ORG.AU**



PHOTO BY LACHLAN GILDING

## 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





# AUSTRALIA'S EXTINCTION CRISIS IN NUMBERS

IT'S A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW, BUT AUSTRALIA HAS THE **WORST MAMMAL EXTINCTION RATE IN THE WORLD** WITH A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THE SURVIVING ANIMALS AND PLANTS LISTED AS THREATENED.

- 100 Australian species are listed as extinct since European colonisation
- Further extinctions are predicted in the coming decades
- More than 1800 species are listed as threatened with extinction
- Australia needs to increase investment in species conservation and reduce the prevalence and impacts of threats to avoid deepening Australia's extinction crisis.

Australia has one of the most diverse collections of plants and animals in the world and yet we are watching as it disappears. Introduced feral predators are wreaking havoc on our native wildlife, hunting them to extinction. Noxious weeds are choking our ecosystems, impacting food, water, and shelter. Fire, habitat degradation, land clearing, and urban sprawl... it's all too much for our native Australian wildlife.

**"AUSTRALIA'S WILDLIFE IS IN CRISIS. THEY  
NEED A SAFE HAVEN, A LIFE BOAT...AN ARK"**

**- TIM FAULKNER**



**WWW.AUSSIEARK.ORG.AU**

**AussieArk**

# BECOME A CONSERVATION CRUSADER TODAY

Aussie Ark is committed to making a difference, to providing safe spaces for our native wildlife and their ecosystems to survive and thrive!  
**But we need YOUR help!**

Become a conservation crusader by donating today and you'll become a part of the solution and help save Australia's wildlife.

Every person who signs up to become a monthly donor of \$30 or more will receive an A4 limited edition fine art print drawing by Warren Fox. All monthly donors of \$50 or more will receive an A3 limited edition fine art drawing by Warren Fox.

The incredible artwork features a young Tasmanian devil joey, nestled in the hands of Aussie Ark president Tim Faulkner.

Become a monthly donor today to receive yours!

**\$30 monthly donor - A4 Fine Art Print**

**\$50 monthly donor - A3 Fine Art Print**



**A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY** Donate today for their tomorrow:  
• Visit our website at [aussieark.org.au](http://aussieark.org.au) • Or send a cheque to PO Box 192, Gosford NSW 2250