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## A MAJOR MILESTONE FOR AUSSIE ARK!

Aussie Ark has achieved our greatest milestone yet, and we couldn't have done it without your unwavering support!

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## STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES OPENED FOR OUR BRUSH-TAILED ROCK-WALLABIES!

Officially opening our state-of-the-art Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby enclosures at Aussie Ark's Barrington Tops facility.

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# MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I'm thrilled to bring you the latest updates from the heart of our conservation efforts. The past few months have been a whirlwind of progress and achievements, all thanks to your unwavering support. Each step forward reinforces our commitment to safeguarding Australia's unique and endangered species.

First and foremost, I'm thrilled to announce that Aussie Ark has been selected to receive a regional grant from Qantas. This invaluable support will significantly enhance our eco-tourism program, a cornerstone of our conservation funding. With Qantas by our side, we're better equipped than ever to raise awareness and drive resources towards our vital conservation initiatives.

A major milestone has graced us, one that fills our hearts with pride. Our dedication to the Tasmanian devil's survival has led to a truly remarkable feat - we've celebrated the birth and upbringing of 500 devils within the safe haven of the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary. Among these, the presence of wild-born devils stands as a testament to our success in nurturing a sustainable population. Aussie Ark now stands as the global custodian of the largest insurance population of Tasmanian devils.

Our commitment to breeding and protecting other threatened species is equally strong. The inauguration of our state-of-the-art Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby enclosures marks a leap forward in our breeding program. One particular star, Rocket, our ambassador Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, embodies our mission. With every heartbeat, he symbolises the hope we hold for a brighter future. He grows stronger every day under the love and care of Operations Manager, Dean Reid.

In the realm of the small and mighty, we've celebrated the heart-warming pairing of two Long-nosed Potoroos Dandarah and Frederick, a match that has sparked breeding success for our Potoroo breeding program. This achievement underscores the effectiveness of our efforts and strengthens our resolve to protect every precious species under our care.

Our Conservation Ark has become a haven of triumphs. The endangered Manning River turtle has thrived under our care, with successful breeding ringing in a brighter era for this remarkable species. In addition, our efforts to combat the chytrid fungus disease have paid off, as our Giant Barred Frogs and Stuttering Frogs emerge victorious and fungus-free from our tests.

A special moment that touches the core of our mission occurred when the next generation of Aussie Ark conservationists encountered the future – 35 new little Eastern quoll joeys. This fantastic outcome cements our legacy, ensuring that the passion for safeguarding Australia's wildlife continues to flourish.

As I reflect on these remarkable achievements, I'm reminded that every success story is a result of collective dedication. The Aussie Ark family, including our partners, donors, and supporters, has made all of this possible. Your belief in our vision, alongside the support of Australian Reptile Park, Re:wild, WildArk, Glencore, FAME, Australian Geographic, WIRES, Volkswagen, Ellerston, Sydney Helicopters, Coles, Symbio Wildlife Park, Aurizon, NSW and Federal government. has propelled us to where we stand today. Our gratitude knows no bounds.

Our journey continues, and together, we'll forge a future where Australia's endangered species not only survive but thrive. With unyielding determination, we'll leave a legacy that generations to come will celebrate.

Thank you,

Tim Faulkner - Managing Director, 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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#### **SOCIAL HANDLES**

Facebook @AussieArk

Instagram @aussieark

YouTube Aussie Ark

Twitter @aussie\_ark

TikTok @aussieark

## AUSSIE ARK'S ECO-TOURISM TAKES OFF THANKS TO QANTAS REGIONAL GRANT!

We are thrilled to share some incredible news with you! Aussie Ark has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious Qantas Regional Grants program, marking an unprecedented win for conservation and eco-tourism. This monumental grant will revolutionise our mission to protect Australia's endangered wildlife and open up an exciting new chapter in sustainable tourism.

At the heart of Aussie Ark's eco-tourism initiatives lies the vital goal of generating funding for our crucial conservation efforts. With the generous support of the Qantas Regional Grant, we will be able to expand and enhance our existing eco-tourism offerings. These funds will be dedicated to further developing the accommodations at Quoll Cottage and Devils Retreat, while simultaneously introducing new and immersive tour packages for our supporters and visitors.

By participating in Aussie Ark's eco-tourism ventures, every guest plays a pivotal role in safeguarding Australia's unique biodiversity. Not only will our tour packages and accommodations immerse you in the breathtaking beauty of the Barrington Tops region in NSW, but they will also serve as a beacon of hope for endangered species. Each dollar spent on these unforgettable experiences directly contributes to the conservation of some of Australia's most endangered animals.

Aussie Ark has earned global acclaim as experts in breeding and rewilding Australia's endangered wildlife, with special recognition for our efforts in safeguarding the iconic Tasmanian devils. As the proud custodians of the world's largest insurance population of this endangered species, our dedication to conservation is unparalleled.

Tim Faulkner, our Managing Director, expressed his gratitude and enthusiasm for the Qantas Regional Grant, stating.

"These funds will help Aussie Ark build a sustainable future, and we are so proud to have been awarded the grant from Qantas. The grant's recognition of our vital work will undoubtedly propel us further towards our vision of a thriving and ecologically balanced future."

We invite you to join us on this remarkable journey towards conservation and eco-tourism by exploring the incredible tours and accommodations we offer at Devils Retreat and Quoll Cottage by visiting our website aussieark.org.au. Your visit will not only be an unforgettable experience but also a meaningful contribution to the preservation of Australia's precious wildlife.

Together, Aussie Ark and Qantas are forging a path towards a brighter future, where wildlife thrives, communities flourish, and the spirit of conservation soars to new heights.







### A MAJOR MILESTONE FOR AUSSIE ARK!

Aussie Ark has achieved our greatest milestone yet, and we couldn't have done it without your unwavering support!

This month we announced an incredible milestone; our 500th Tasmanian devil joey has been born at Aussie Ark! Meet Milo, the milestone devil, a wild-born male joey who made his grand entrance into the world in the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary. This is a moment of immense significance not only for Aussie Ark as an organisation but for the entire species, which is still facing extinction in the wild.

The Tasmanian devil has always been the symbolic and signature species of Aussie Ark. Our organisation was founded with the primary mission of saving this iconic species from the brink of extinction when the devastating Devil Facial Tumour Disease threatened their survival in the mid-1990s.

This incredible journey started in 2011 when our Barrington Tops facility welcomed its first cohort of 44 disease-free Devils from Tasmania, marking the beginning of our ambitious breeding and rewilding program. A pivotal moment arrived when 11 Devils were released into the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary in 2020, the first time these majestic creatures set foot on mainland Australia in over 3000 years. Since then, these amazing animals have thrived, and today, we proudly care for the largest insurance population of Tasmanian Devils in the world.

Each and every Tasmanian Devil joey born is a testament to the success of our program and the hope it brings for the future of Australia's ecology. These apex predators play a crucial role in maintaining

balance and harmony within their ecosystem, benefiting the entire environment. Milo, our 500th joey, symbolises this hope for a brighter future for our unique biodiversity.

"Each individual baby is so precious, and Milo, and what he represents, is so special for all of us who have been dedicated to saving the species for so many years."

- said Liz Gabriel Managing Director

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our major partners, donors, and supporters who have stood by us in this remarkable journey. Your generosity and dedication have made it possible for us to reach this historic moment. We extend our deepest thanks to the

Australian Reptile Park, Re:wild, WildArk, FAME, Australian Geographic, WIRES, Symbio Wildlife Park, and Glencore for their invaluable contributions.

But our mission is not complete yet, and we need your continued support more than ever. To safeguard the Tasmanian Devil and contribute to the preservation of Australia's unique biodiversity, we humbly ask for your assistance. Please consider donating today at aussieark.org.au and together, we can give a home to this iconic species and protect their future for generations to come.

Once again, thank you for being an essential part of our conservation efforts. We couldn't have achieved this milestone without you. Let's continue to work together to create a brighter future for Australia's precious wildlife.





# STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES OPENED FOR OUR BRUSH-TAILED ROCK-WALLABIES!

We are excited to share with you that in late May, we officially opened our state-of-the-art Brushtailed Rock-wallaby enclosures at Aussie Ark's Barrington Tops facility. We welcomed sponsors, partners, media representatives, and dignitaries to the heart of Aussie Ark. Our vision, which you have helped shape, came to life as six meticulously crafted enclosures were unveiled, marking a pivotal moment in our ongoing journey.

For over four years, our breeding program has been a beacon of hope, a labour of love, and a commitment to preserving the fragile balance of our ecosystem. These six new enclosures are a testament to our dedication and passion that drives us forward.

Each enclosure has been thoughtfully designed to accommodate a breeding pair of the endangered Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies. The birth of each joey within these enclosures becomes a cherished addition to our 'insurance population,' safeguarding this remarkable species for generations to come.

We were honoured by the presence of esteemed individuals, including Dr. Kerry Cameron from the federal government's Office of Threatened Species Commissioner, who beautifully articulated the urgency of our mission. "Aussie Ark's work is critically important," she affirmed.

"We just can't afford to lose this natural, cultural heritage from Australia."

The ceremony was adorned with heart-warming

moments, as a Director on Aussie Ark's Board, Brad Walker, stood before us, sharing his deep connection with our cause. His words echoed with passion: "How could you not love this facility? How could you not love the meaning and the importance of such a facility for the conservation of animals?" Brad's sentiment resonated deeply, reminding us that champions for animals are the cornerstone of our success.

A highlight of the day was the introduction of a Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby male from Featherdale Wildlife Park – a symbol of rejuvenation and diversity within our breeding program. This male carries the legacy of prime breeding age, infusing our genetic pool. Alongside him, two females, nurtured and born within our embrace, embarked on a new chapter within the enclosures, ready to continue the circle of life.

Managing Director, Tim Faulkner, says "Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies are one of Aussie Ark's signature species, and the enclosures being opened today are best considered a 'halfway house'. This is where wallabies live and breed, so that we have extra wallabies to return to our sanctuaries and the wild."

Your support fuels our journey, and together, we are the champions for these magnificent creatures and the ecosystems they call home. Head to aussieark.org.au to continue being a driving force in the conservation efforts for the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby. With your help, the future holds boundless promise.



# HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE!

We have an incredibly heartwarming story to share with you, and one that highlights the critical role you play in our conservation efforts. Dandarah, Aussie Ark's ambassador Long-nosed potoroo, is starting her journey into motherhood! For three years, she has captured the hearts of our staff and visitors alike with her interactive and endearing nature.

Now, we are thrilled to announce that Dandarah has found love in the arms of Fredrick, a handsome male potoroo born and bred right here at Aussie Ark. This is a momentous occasion as it marks Dandarah's first opportunity to contribute to the survival of her species.

Aussie Ark Wildlife Ranger, Matt Helm, orchestrated the delicate introduction. With utmost care, he conducted health checks for both potoroos. Then, he placed Fredrick's pet-pack inside Dandarah's enclosure and opened the door, allowing Dandarah to venture towards her potential mate. At first, it wasn't quite love at first sight as she found a piece of banana that she much preferred. However, true love couldn't be denied for long. Soon enough, Fredrick emerged from his hiding place, and the pair found themselves needing a bit of privacy.

"We're giving them a few days to get acquainted with each other, while discreetly monitoring their secret lovelife through camera traps," These camera traps have captured some exquisite moments between Dandarah and Fredrick, including mating behaviours that fill our hearts with hope for the future. As marsupials, Long-nosed potoroos have a remarkably short gestation period of just 40 days. In a couple of months, we will conduct a pouch check, eagerly anticipating the discovery of Dandarah's first joey, a moment that will mark a significant milestone in the preservation of her species.

Long-nosed potoroos are nocturnal creatures, often unknown to many Australians. Yet, they play a vital role as "ecosystem engineers" in Australian ecology. Sadly, they face significant threats from feral predation and habitat loss, pushing them towards extinction. That's why Aussie Ark's breeding program holds tremendous importance for their long-term survival. We are thrilled that Dandarah now has the chance to contribute to the conservation of her species.

Follow Dandarah's incredible journey into motherhood by signing up to our e-newsletter at aussieark.org.au and support our Long-nosed potoroo breeding program. Your contribution will directly impact the survival and well-being of this special species, securing a brighter future for generations to come.



## ROCKET BECOMES STRONGER BY THE DAY!







Rocket, Aussie Arks Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby joey, has Continues to thrive under the care of our head of operations Dean Reid.. Now a robust nine and a half months old, Rocket has more than tripled his weight from 600 grams to 2 kilograms, a testament to the nurturing care he's received since his rescue. In nature, this stage marks the transition from pouch-bound life to a world of exploration, a transition mirrored by Aussie Ark's Operations Manager, Dean Reid, who has become Rocket's surrogate 'Dad'.

Dean's commitment to Rocket's growth is unwavering, mirroring the natural weaning process. Within the walls of Dean's home, Rocket hones his jumping skills, preparing for the rocky landscapes that define his species' natural habitat. Being a nocturnal species, Rocket really comes alive at night!

Rocket turned Dean's home into his own rocky landscape using Dean's furniture as launching pads, with Dean even finding him on top of his washing machine and testing his legs zooming around the house. Rocket looked ready for his next step!

Rocket is now ready to be transitioned to one of Aussie Arks 12 purpose built Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby enclosures - complete with 5m high giant boulder mounds, heated tunnels and predator proof fencing. His natural instincts and agility will continue to develop as we monitor his progress and expose him to the other Brush Tailed Rock Wallabies in our breeding program. We will continue to keep you updated on his story.

Not only does Rocket stand as an emblem of hope but as a testament to our collective commitment to Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby conservation. Dean passionately shares,

"Rocket's species is endangered... So, saving little Rocket, to go back into our breeding program, has been a highlight of my life."

Rocket's journey continues, as he grows to become a beacon of hope for his species, one destined to father future generations of Brush-tailed Rock wallabies.

If you would like to meet little Rocket and continue following his journey, come visit us up in the Barrington Tops by booking a tour at aussieark.org.au

THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE YOUTUBE VIDEO





## MANNING RIVER TURTLES FIND ROMANCE!

On World Turtle Day, Aussie Ark alongside our sister organisation the Australian Reptile Park, announced the first ever mating within our population of critically endangered Manning River turtles!

Ten sexually mature adult turtles are housed at our 'Conservation Ark' facility located at the Australian Reptile Park. This cohort is nationally significant, as a precious insurance population safeguarding the species from extinction. We first started the program five years ago, after conducting triage operations to collect wild eggs and turtles to save them from drought and fire, mostly notably during the Black Summer fires of 2019.

As its name suggests, the species is only found in the Manning River and its tributaries. The species has suffered steep decline and faces extinction without intervention, mostly due to fox predation and the damage of their shoreline nests by cattle.

Australian Reptile Park Operations Manager Billy Collett managed the breeding program, pairing

genetically suited females with males in large tanks. Over the course of a month he was thrilled to witness, and document, the courtship and breeding of multiple pairs.

## "This is a massive historical moment for Aussie Ark!" - Mr Collett said.

"This is the first time we've seen breeding behaviour with our Manning River turtles. It is SO exciting! And I just can't wait to see those eggs!" Mr Collett said.

Last October - in a world first - Aussie Ark released 10 captive bred turtles back into the Manning River. Mr Collett said this year's successful breeding is another huge step for the program; it's hoped even more turtles can one day be returned to their homeland.

You can come and visit these loved-up reptiles at Conservation Ark in the Australian Reptile Park and support Aussie Ark's breeding program by donating today at aussieark.org.au



## FUNGUS-FREE FROGS!

The Aussie Ark team, in partnership with the Australian Reptile Park have conducted routine swabbing of Conservation Ark's frog population and are delighted to confirm the deadly Chytrid Fungus is not present.

Conservation Ark, located at the Australian Reptile Park specialises in the breeding and rewilding of Aussie Ark's amphibian and reptile species, which includes critically important 'insurance populations' of the endangered Giant Barred frog and Stuttering frog. Our unwavering commitment to conservation is a beacon of hope for the endangered species.

Every six months these precious animals are swabbed for Chytrid Fungus. This highly contagious and deadly fungus affects the keratin in the skin - which impacts the way frogs breathe - and also disables the frogs' nervous system and normal movements. If untreated, it is fatal. The fungus has had a disastrous effect worldwide, wiping out one third of amphibian species globally and causing seven extinctions in Australia alone including the iconic Gastric Brooding frog.

So the stakes couldn't be higher for the frogs at Conservation Ark. Reptile Keeper Sam Herrmann conducted the swabbing efforts, which included every juvenile and adult frog in the facility.

"The reason why we test for Chytrid Fungus all the time is because our adult frogs – our established population – were wild-caught frogs," Mr Herrmann explained. "When they came in they did have Chytrid, which was treated, and now they're all Chytrid-free. So all we do is swab them so we know no Chytrid has entered our facility once again." Mr Herrmann said.

The swab is done on the frog's underside, from knees to armpits, on hands and feet. Each sample is placed in a labelled vile and sent to a university in Sydney for testing.

Aussie Ark and the Australian Reptile Park are delighted to confirm all frogs in the Conservation Ark facility tested negative for the fungus.

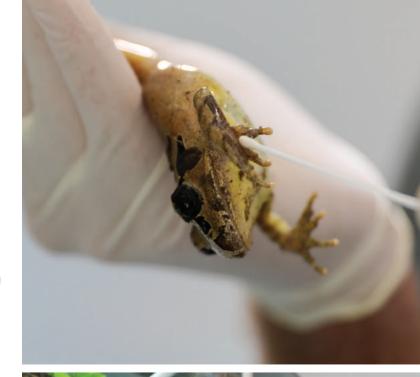
"Our frogs testing negative again affirms how critically important they are as insurance populations for Giant Barred and Stuttering frog species here at Conservation Ark - and for frogs in the wild - into the future,"

- Mr Herrmann concluded.

To help Aussie Ark continue their vital conservation work with endangered amphibians at Conservation Ark, please donate now at aussieark.org.au.











## THE FUTURE GENERATION OF CONSERVATION UNFOLDS!

The future of conservation is alive and thriving as we uncover the discovery of 35 new Eastern quoll joeys nestled safely in their mothers' pouches. But that's not all – the next generation of young Aussie conservationists have jumped right into action alongside us!

Aussie Ark Managers, Liz Gabriel and Hayley Shute, recently embarked on the annual pouch checks, and this year, they were joined by their own kids - the true heartbeat of Aussie Ark's future. Young nature enthusiasts Jackson and Lily Gabriel, along with Beau, Isla, and Indy Shute, fearlessly embraced the challenge with passion and enthusiasm.

The kids aged 8 to 14, rolled up their sleeves, slipped on medical gloves, and were wide-eyed with wonder as pouch after pouch unveiled precious Eastern quoll joeys ranging from the size of tic-tacs to plump grapes. This unique experience unfolded within the walls of our Species Recovery Unit, where pairs of Eastern quolls are cared for in purpose built breeding enclosures.

Liz Gabriel, our Managing Director, highlights how being there with the kids added a touch of magic. "It's a reminder of the significance of keeping our kids connected to the wonders of nature," said Ms. Gabriel.

A sentiment echoed by 12-year-old Isla Shute, who couldn't contain her excitement. "It's absolutely inspiring! More kids should have the chance to witness

moments like these because they make life so much brighter," she said.

14-year-old Jackson Gabriel was equally captivated. "Being up close with an animal that's teetering on the edge of extinction is simply incredible. It's a unique experience that not every Aussie kid gets to have."

Extinct on the mainland since the 1960s due to feral predation, this resilient species clings to existence only in Tasmania. Yet, their numbers continue to dwindle. Aussie Ark is the proud home to the world's largest 'insurance population' of Eastern quolls, ensuring their survival for generations to come.

Hayley Shute, our Conservation Manager, couldn't be happier with the outcome. "We're sowing the seeds for the next generation to rise up, make a difference, and safeguard Australia's precious wildlife." Ms Shute said.

We invite you to join Aussie Ark in this crucial journey of breeding, rewilding, and inspiring young conservationists through our Eastern quoll program. Your support paves the way for a brighter, wilder Australia. Together, let's make a lasting impact. Donate now at aussieark.org.au and be part of our shared legacy!

Cheers to a future where wildlife and our future generations thrive together!





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

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



#### **DEVILS 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 that encourages wild behaviour.

To book visit 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 or contact us via phone 02 4326 5333 or email admin@aussieark.org.au for more information.





**SUPPORT AUSSIE ARK TODAY!** 

## HELP FROM OUR PARTNERS



#### **OUT OF THE SQUARE:**

At OOTS, we love the thrill of birthing ideas and sending them out into the world. We genuinely believe that the best ideas and the most compelling creative comes from pushing boundaries, challenging conventions and thinking out of the square. As creatives, content creators and storytellers, we have the power to make a difference. We want to lead by example and turn the ordinary into extraordinary. We're not scared of challenges or change. Since 1997 we've been adapting and evolving to continually defy expectations. We're an ideas agency creating content by working together and following whatever creative impulse is right to solve the problem at hand. We always do our research, but we trust our instincts and experience. We understand the power of emotion and our work strives to inform, engage and entertain. We're passionate about our region and proudly ambitious. Our vision is to be a significant force in Newcastle becoming a global success story. Find out more at outofthesquare.com.



#### **ROMA ORCHARD:**

Ideally located just 3.5 hours from Sydney or 45 minutes from Scone, Roma Orchard has been run by the Tilse family for 6 generations and now welcomes guests from far and wide to stop, relax and enjoy. The Orchard Lodge was officially opened on the 20th September 1992, Over time, accommodation on Roma Orchard has expanded to now include the recently renovated Roma Cottage and campground. Whether you're looking for an event venue, holiday retreat, family getaway, or wedding destination, we welcome you to find your space on Roma Orchard.

## **LEAVE A LEGACY:**

Leave a Legacy for future generations by including a gift to Aussie Ark in your Will. By leaving a bequest you are providing a future for our endangered wildlife.

Leaving a legacy is a way to ensure that your support of our Australian wildlife can carry on. Aussie Ark is committed to work to prevent extinctions and provide viable futures for our most endangered animals but we rely almost entirely on the generosity of people like you.

To find out more please call Jo Runciman on 0403 091 433 or head to our bequest page at:

https://www.aussieark.org.au/bequests/





## **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- every donation over \$2 tax deductable.



#### 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



























