

# THE ARK



EDITION #17

## **MEET PICKLES AND CHEESE!**

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Page 4

## **23 TINY ENDANGERED EASTERN QUOLL JOEYS BORN IN BARRINGTON TOPS!**

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# MANAGING DIRECTORS REPORT

I am really grateful to have been able to spend some time recently with my beautiful wife and two young boys exploring our great country. I am never surprised by the feeling of complete awe I get when I get to experience the vastness, ruggedness and isolation that is Australia. Although as I get older, I struggle not to let the sadness overwhelm me, of all that our great country has lost. 100 incredible species gone, with more likely to have disappeared before we even knew of their existence. Of course, we all know the tale of the last Thylacine, but what of the birds, the bettongs, the potoroos and the reptiles that many would not be able to name.

It is this that keeps me motivated to do what I can for Australia's wildlife. It is this that makes me ever proud of the work Aussie Ark is privileged to do each and every day. Wildlife in Australia has been battered, more so in the last 4 years, than ever before. Aussie Ark has remained steadfast in its mission and purpose through it all, and our outcomes can speak for themselves.

Spring has sprung, and we have been busily rewilding our Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary with a plethora of missing keystone species. So far this season, we have seen the return of Potoroos and Bettongs, with Parma wallabies, Eastern quolls, and Tasmanian devils to follow! The wildlife now teeming in this slice of paradise makes me beam.

Our team is working so hard to release our first clutch of Manning River turtles back to the wild! This one is going to be epic. Following the worst bushfire and drought in history, which was then succeeded by too many "once in a thousand year" flood events, we are eager to see the first 10 turtles swim back into the river!

We cannot stop here though. Our rewilding efforts need to be upscaled, we need to return hundreds more species over the coming years to enact real change. For this we need your help. Conservation in Australia is radically expensive, and we need your support to see our wildlife return home.

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, Sydney Helicopters, Coles and Symbio Wildlife Park.**

It's a busy end of year ahead, but we are excited and ready to tackle it head on. 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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Youtube  
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@aussie\_ark

TikTok  
@aussieark



# ENDANGERED WALLABY “PAUSES” PREGNANCY

Aussie Ark has been shocked at the arrival of a new miracle Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby. The joey was conceived in October 2021, however in a process called Embryonic Diapause, the mother wallaby ‘paused’ her pregnancy for some months before resuming development.

Embryonic diapause, a condition of temporary suspension of development of the mammalian embryo, occurs due to suppression of cell proliferation at the blastocyst stage. It is an evolutionary strategy to ensure the survival of neonates. The tiny wallaby is thought to be at the development stage of 4 months. Rangers at Aussie Ark believe that the mother underwent the unique process, in order to finish rearing a joey she already had in pouch.

***“It was quite a shock noticing the distinguishable bulge of a joey on this particular female. We knew that the only time she had for breeding was back in 2021”***

– Kelly Davis, Aussie Ark Curator

“It is the first time I have witnessed first-hand this incredible process; I had only ever previously read about it. It really shows the incredible tenacity and survival instincts of wild animals”

Aussie Ark has worked with the endangered Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby since 2018, when they established the first breeding program for the species. Following the devastating impacts of the 2019/2020 bushfire season, which annihilated much of the wallaby’s habitat, the organisation doubled its holding capacity for the species, with the help of the Australian Governments bushfire recovery program and FAME (Foundation for Australia’s Most

Endangered). Now the organisation boasts 12 state of the art breeding yards, which all incorporate incredible rock mounds to make the wallabies feel right at home.

The team at Aussie Ark will continue to monitor the mother wallaby on her new journey, through camera traps, but will remain largely out of the way during the process. Once the joey is out on foot, a health check will be given. The joey will remain with mum until it is old enough to be placed into a new breeding yard to continue the vital conservation work being undertaken onsite.

The Brush-tailed rock-wallaby is found from South-Eastern Queensland to Western Victoria, roughly following the line of the Great Dividing Range. Their range has significantly declined, leaving remaining populations fragmented and vulnerable to further catastrophe. They inhabit rocky escarpments, outcrops and cliffs with a preference for complex structures with fissures, caves and ledges, often facing north.

Threats to the Brush-tailed rock-wallaby are varied but include predation by foxes, cats and wild dogs, competition with feral goats as well as pigs, degradation and fragmentation of habitat, fire regimes that reduce the abundance and diversity of ground forage and infestation by invasive weeds causing loss.

The population of wild Brush-tailed rock-wallabies is in decline – with less than 20,000 expected to be left in the wild and as little as under 10 in some fragmented populations.

You can support Aussie Ark’s work with the endangered species by donating today at: <https://www.aussieark.org.au/donate/>



# MEET PICKLES AND CHEESE!

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Aussie Ark, alongside the **Australian Reptile Park** have been very busy with our newest bundles of joy - twin brother Tasmanian devils. The tiny devils are already showing cheeky personalities, and love keeping surrogate dad Billy on his toes.

Pickles and Cheese are 6 months old now and have stolen the hearts of all the staff at Aussie Ark and the Australian Reptile Park!

These young joeys were born at Aussie Ark as part of our insurance population for the endangered Tasmanian devil. The joeys are calling the Australian Reptile Park home for now and are being hand raised by Billy Collett.

***“I’m lacking a little sleep at the moment, feeding these guys every few hours is hard work, but I wouldn’t change a thing!”***

- Billy Collett.

Over 90% of Tasmanian devils have been lost in the wild and they’re facing a bleak future, but through

the Aussie Ark breeding program we’re working towards creating a long-term future for this species, and Pickles and Cheese are a big part of that. The devils at Aussie Ark are protected from the threat of the deadly facial tumour disease, which has nearly wiped out the wild population.

Aussie Ark celebrated a successful breeding season this year, with 53 Tasmanian devil joeys confirmed. 9 of which were born in the wilds of their protected Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary.

In eight months time, Pickles and Cheese will make their return to Aussie Ark and be released into a wild protected sanctuary - the largest of its kind for Tasmanian devils. Aussie Ark’s population of Tasmanian devils are free from the devastating devil facial tumour disease (DFTD) that plagues wild populations.

Aussie Ark relies solely on the community to continue its work and ensure a future for threatened native species. Symbolic Tasmanian devil adoptions are available from Aussie Ark’s website. Every adoption helps secure a future for this iconic Aussie species!





“PICKLES AND CHEESE ARE 6 MONTHS OLD  
NOW AND HAVE STOLEN THE HEARTS OF  
ALL THE STAFF AT AUSSIE ARK AND THE  
AUSTRALIAN REPTILE PARK!”





# AUSTRALIA'S MOST ANCIENT KANGAROOS RETURN TO WILDLIFE PARADISE IN BARRINGTON TOPS!

Aussie Ark alongside our partners **WIRES, Glencore** and **Volkswagen**, are celebrating the release of 30 Long-nosed Potoroos into our 400Ha sanctuary – the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary.

The release is the largest we have undertaken for this particular species and is of significance due to the critical role these small, but mighty creatures play within the landscape.

We are beyond excited to release 30 Long-nosed potoroos into our slice of paradise, the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary. We have been working with this species since 2017 and to see years of hard work culminate in this milestone is pretty epic.

***“Potoroos are critical to their environment. As ecosystem engineers, their slow disappearance from our landscapes is having huge flow on effects for wildlife and their habitats”***

– Hayley Shute, Conservation Manager.

Ecosystem engineers are small mammals that create a huge difference to the environment. Ecosystem engineers are species that create,

modify, or maintain habitats in significant ways. These uniquely productive animals create conditions for other species to benefit from, such as adequate shelter or food sources. They punch above their small weight and create real outcomes for our biodiversity.

The Long-nosed potoroo is one of the smallest and most ancient members of the kangaroo family and is a living fossil, having remained relatively unchanged for around 10 million years. Once widespread along the East Coast of Australia, and like many other smaller native mammals, its population has declined and fragmented since the introduction of foxes and cats, making it difficult for breeding and resulting in local extinctions.

The released Potoroos will now call the 400-hectare wildlife sanctuary home and never fear the threat of introduced feral cats and foxes. The team at Aussie Ark will continue to monitor the species through fauna surveys and motion triggered cameras.

You can Donate today at [aussieark.org.au](https://aussieark.org.au) to support Aussie Ark in its mission to save Australia's threatened and endangered wildlife.







"THE LONG-NOSED POTOROO IS ONE OF THE  
SMALLEST AND MOST ANCIENT MEMBERS OF  
THE KANGAROO FAMILY..."



# ONCE LOST WALLABY SPECIES, RECEIVED ALL CLEAR TO JOURNEY TO PROTECTED SANCTUARY

30 Parma Wallabies have just received the all clear to make their journey to the protected wilds of the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary at Aussie Ark. The wallabies, who are part of our breeding program, established in 2017, will be returned to the wildlife safe haven developed by Aussie Ark.

The Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary, which was officially opened in 2020, encloses 400 hectares of native habitat void of feral predators and rehabilitated to provide a safe island refuge for missing native species.

***“We have been working towards a release of this size for Parma Wallabies since 2017 when our first wallabies arrived! Watching them hop away into a wilderness free of introduced threats is one I can’t wait to see!”***

- Tyler Gralton, Aussie Ark Supervisor.

Parma Wallabies form part of a group of small mammals called ecosystem engineers. Despite their

small stature they play a critical role in maintaining environments. Through their activities ecosystem engineers significantly affect other species by providing and maintaining microhabitats that would not otherwise exist.

In preparation for the release to the wild, the Aussie Ark team have performed health checks on each individual set to make the journey to the sanctuary. This includes catching each animal to weigh them, confirm their microchip number and take some body score measurements.

We are happy to report that each of the wallabies we have health checked have been in perfect health and are all ready to make their journey to the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary.

From now the wallabies will be transferred to ‘soft release’ enclosures. Simply put, these are tiny sanctuaries within the larger sanctuary. Doing this two phased process, allows the wallabies the opportunity to adapt and familiarise themselves with the larger surroundings before their official release date arrives!

Parma Wallabies were believed to have become extinct in the early part of last century. They were then discovered to be thriving on an island in New Zealand, where they had been introduced. Great efforts were then made to transport some of these animals back to Australia for a captive breeding and reintroduction program. However, a wild population was rediscovered near Gosford, New South Wales by the Australian Reptile Park’s founder Eric Worrell in the 1970’s.

Following a tough 3 years for Australian wildlife, the task of protecting our species into the future is one that Aussie Ark takes seriously, but it is the responsibility of us all. You can support Aussie Ark and our rewilding crusade by donating today.





# MEET STANLEY!

Early morning rounds for Rangers at Aussie Ark, came with a very tiny surprise not long ago, when they stumbled upon a young Rufous bettong joey who had been separated from mum. The young joey was found in freezing cold temperatures, curled up on the ground, and is thought to have been thrown from mums' pouch in the early hours of the morning. Thankfully, Aussie Ark Rangers were quick to act!

Following the discovery, Ranger Kelly transported the young joey up to Aussie Ark Headquarters to warm him up, perform a health check to determine any injuries, give him a bottle and of course provide a little bit of TLC. Thankfully, the joey, who is thought to be about 3 months old, appeared to be in good health and after being warmed up and given a bottle, he was affectionately named Stanley.

***“Stumbling upon this little guy, was quite the surprise. Given the freezing conditions we’ve had overnight, I was so relieved to find him alive”***

- Kelly Davis, Aussie Ark Curator.

The tiny orphan will now require around the clock care from Kelly for the next 6 - 8 months while he continues to grow! This will include a bottle every 3 hours (even during the night!), regular health checks to weigh him and measure his growth and providing lots of cuddles. Once Stanley has reached maturity, he will re-join other Rufous bettongs in our breeding program to ensure he retains natural wild behaviours.

The Rufous rat-kangaroo (*Aepyprymnus rufescens*), more commonly known as the Rufous bettong, is a small marsupial species of the family Potoroidae found in Australia. It is found in coastal and sub coastal regions from Newcastle in New South Wales to Cooktown in Queensland and was formerly found in the Murray River Valley of New South Wales and Victoria.

Tiny Stanley is flourishing under the watchful eye of Aussie Ark, and his personality is as big as his feet! In just a few months he'll be ready to join the rest of the bettongs that call Aussie Ark home, and what a milestone it will be!





# 23 TINY ENDANGERED EASTERN QUOLL JOEYS BORN IN BARRINGTON TOPS!

Aussie Ark is celebrating the birth of 23 new Eastern quoll joeys at our breeding facility located in the Barrington Tops region of New South Wales. The endangered species has called Aussie Ark home since 2017, when we stepped in to bring the species back to mainland Australia for the first time in over 60 years.

The Quolls were born as part of our breeding program for the endangered species, as a part of the larger Tasmanian Quoll Conservation Program, which aims to return the species back to mainland Australia in protected spaces.

***“Every year that we do these pouch checks, I am reminded of the importance of the work we are doing up here at Aussie Ark. Each one of those tiny pink joeys serves as a beacon of hope for endangered species across Australia”***

- Hayley Shute, Manager of Conservation

The last few years in Australia have been devastating, and the recently released State of the Environment report, only highlights the dire straits of wildlife in our country. It serves as a reminder for what we should be doing, and that is supporting organisations like Aussie Ark to make real, tangible differences to these species.

The 23 new arrivals are only the start. As this year's breeding season continues, we expect to see this

number rise. Additionally, we are looking forward to confirming further joeys born in the wilds of the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary, following a release of 50 additional quolls earlier in the year!

Eastern quolls were once common throughout Australia, but sadly became extinct some 60 years ago. The cause of their mainland extinction is due to introduced feral pests such as cats and foxes, as well as poisoning and trapping. Across Tasmania, quoll numbers have declined by more than 50% in the 10 years to 2009 and are showing no sign of recovery. It's estimated approximately 10,000 are left in Tasmania, but numbers have fallen rapidly with Eastern quolls edging closer to extinction.

In 2020, Aussie Ark returned the first Eastern Quolls back to the wilds of the Barrington Tops inside their Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary which has been managed to reflect that of a pre-European era is a wild idea to rewild Eastern quolls and protect their species from extinction.

The success of the Eastern quoll program at Aussie Ark is only possible thanks to the ongoing support of Aussie Ark partners including Re:wild, Australian Reptile Park, Australian Geographic, WIRES, Glencore, and the Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species.

You can help Aussie Ark's mission of saving endangered native wildlife from extinction by 'adopting' an Eastern quoll for as little as \$25 a month. Head to [Aussieark.org.au/adopt](https://aussieark.org.au/adopt) to find out more.









# 22 BUSINESS IN 2022 NEED TO HELP MAKE CHANGE!

Bushfire infernos, intense drought, global health pandemics, and flash flooding have all served blow after blow to Australian wildlife. Billions of animals have been lost in the last few years alone, more will continue to be lost as introduced feral predators plague Australian wildlife. The hits keep coming with urban sprawl, deforestation, disease, car strike and climate change just to name a few. Wildlife that are already on the brink are facing a grim reality.

Following the immense challenges of the last 4 years, the 2021 State of the Environment report, only highlighted across 2,000 pages the devastation Australia's biodiversity is facing. The state of wildlife in Australia is a nation emergency, and we must act swiftly and collaboratively to make real change .... Before it's too late.

Aussie Ark has never shied away from a challenge and over a wildlife filled 10-year history have acted swiftly to protect and halt the disappearance of many Australian species. Now we're calling on the help local businesses to pledge their support of \$2,022 for the long-term survival of wildlife and their ecosystems.

***"The whole of Australia has watched on in horror over the last few years as our wildlife have been decimated time and time again. Aussie Ark has always been and remains committed to creating change, but we need help"***

- Liz Gabriel, Deputy Managing Director.

Now is the time for our community to join us in fighting for the voiceless. We are looking for 22 businesses in 2022 to pledge \$2,022 for the protection of our unique wildlife.

We are hoping to raise \$44,484 to go towards the continuation of critical insurance populations, protecting and restoring habitat and rewilding lost species.

Pledges will help protect wild spaces, monitor and feed endangered and threatened wildlife, reforest logged landscapes, and build habitats as well as to manage threats including noxious weeds, fire, and feral predators.

Businesses who answer the call and take stand for wildlife in Australia, will receive recognition from Aussie Ark on our website, newsletter and social media, as well as the opportunity to get onsite and see the difference their contribution is making.

To get involved and join Aussie Ark's conservation crusade, head to [aussieark.org.au](http://aussieark.org.au) today or call us on 02 4326 5333!

A huge shoutout to **Carol Elaine Art, Rikis Tour Japan, SixPivot Pty Ltd** and **AGL** who have already answered the call and pledged their support!







"WE ARE HOPING TO RAISE \$44,484 TO GO  
TOWARDS... REWILDING LOST SPECIES. "



# 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 that encourages 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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Aussie Ark has never shied away from a challenge and over a wildlife filled 10-year history, we have acted swiftly to protect and halt the disappearance of many Australian species. We are now calling on the help of 22 local businesses in 2022 to pledge their support of \$2,022 for the long-term survival of wildlife and their ecosystems! To get involved and join Aussie Ark's conservation crusade, donate today!



**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- 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

