# **DEVIL JETSETTERS!** Three male Tasmanian Devils have joined the famous Devil breeding program! Page 3

### AUSTRALIA'S 'LITTLE FIREFIGHTERS' RELEASED MID SUMMER!

20 Long-nosed Potoroos released into the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary as part of our mission to protect threatened and endangered species.

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# MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As always, it has been a really busy time up at the Ark and I am excited to share with you the great progress we've made towards our mission of rewilding Australia. The team has been working tirelessly to ensure that our efforts remain steadfast in the face of challenges and uncertainties for our wildlife. Aussie Ark will never give up our mission to protect and give hope to our Australian endangered species and strive to create a long-term future for them.

In January we welcomed three new Tasmanian Devils to Aussie Ark from breeding programs in Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria. These three males are being introduced to improve the genetic diversity of our breeding program. This National collaboration will continue to ensure that our breeding program remains strong and that the Tasmanian devil species is protected for future generations.

In February we had a fantastic day with support from our partners, donors, and community, successfully releasing 20 of our Long-nosed Potoroos into the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary. It was wonderful to see our supporters getting involved and to see the look on the faces of kids and adults alike as they sent our Potoroos off into their new wild lives. This marked our first release of 2023, and we're looking forward to continuing our rewilding efforts later in the year with your support.

Perhaps the most adorable addition to the Aussie Ark family is Rocket, a Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby joey. He is proving to be very popular, with everyone falling in love with him. Rocket is being hand raised by Dean our Operations Manager which is a serious job with 4 hourly feeds and lots of care. Rocket is not only a great ambassador for his species but also a symbol of hope for the future of Australia's wildlife and will be an important addition to our already very successful breeding program for this highly endangered species.

At our Conservation Ark facilities our amphibian keepers have had great success breeding the endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog, a species that has been in decline due to habitat loss and disease. We are proud to be part of their recovery and hope to see more of them thriving in the wild.

The team recently had a night out spotlighting in our Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary for a visual survey with spectacular results. The survey highlighted the abundance of wildlife now thriving within the protection of our predator-proof fencing. Not only did we see the species we have rewilded to the sanctuary but also other beneficiary species such as the endangered and beautiful Greater Glider. This is a testament to the success of our rewilding efforts and the impact it has on preserving Australia's biodiversity.

As our breeding programs continue and we move into rewilding we have been privileged to see all of the species released into the sanctuary successfully breeding and carrying out their natural behaviours. Species, such as Tasmanian devils, Rufous Bettongs, Longnosed Potoroos, and Eastern Quolls are all breeding well with record numbers this year. These wild-born offspring will be an important foundation for future re-wilding efforts.

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, FAME, Australian Geographic, WIRES,

Australian Reptile Park, Glencore, FAME, Australian Geographic, WIRES, Volkswagen, Ellerston, Sydney Helicopters, Coles, Symbio Wildlife Park, Aurizon, NSW and Federal government.

Yours sincerely,

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 @AussieArl

Instagram

YouTube Aussie Ark

Twitter
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TikTok @aussiearl

### **DEVIL JETSETTERS!**

Three male Tasmanian Devils have joined the famous Devil breeding program, and they have flown in from different parts of Australia to bring fresh blood to our Barrington Tops' facility.

One of the males, Winston, hails from Tasmania, the birthplace and stronghold of this iconic species. His journey to Aussie Ark was made possible thanks to a unique collaboration with the Tasmanian Government. He was joined by Cria from Monarto Safari Park in South Australia, and Lucas from Healesville Sanctuary in Victoria.

After traveling for hours, the three males were given rigorous health checks upon arrival to ensure they were in good condition. Aussie Ark's Curator, Kelly Davis, described Winston as "our Tasmanian Super Star" after his health check.

The males were then housed in separate intensive enclosures for a two-week quarantine period. During this time, Aussie Ark staff monitored them closely for any signs of ill health or disease.

After their quarantine period, Winston, Cria, and Lucas were released into large environmental enclosures. Each enclosure contains four males and four females, all genetically suitable to breed with the new males and provide future Devil joeys. This is a very significant development for Aussie Ark and the conservation of the species, as it brings new genetics and bloodlines into their population.

"The receipt of these three Devils is important for

Aussie Ark and also the conservation of this species," said Kelly. "It brings new genetics, new bloodlines, into our program so we can create a really robust insurance population."

Aussie Ark supports the largest population of Tasmanian Devils on mainland Australia, and the introduction of these three new males is strategically timed to bolster the species' 2023 breeding season, which begins in early autumn.

"It's really exciting to know that some of the Tasmanian Devil joeys born in this year's breeding season will come from these three males; especially the ones that call Winston Dad, who will have fresh Tasmanian blood in their yeins."

- Ms Davis.

Aussie Ark would like to thank their partners Glencore, FAME, WIRES, Re:wild, WildArk, and the Australian Reptile Park for supporting their Tasmanian Devil program, as well as their community of donors and supporters.

To support this globally significant work ensuring the survival of the Tasmanian Devil, donate now at aussieark.org.au. Let's make sure these Devil Jetsetters have a bright future!



### **MEET ROCKET!**

Get ready to embark on an extraordinary journey with Aussie Ark as we introduce you to Rocket, our adorable, orphaned Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby. Our Operations Manager Dean Reid has taken on the role of 'Dad' after he made the discovery of Rocket, at only 5 months old and he is the first of his kind to be handraised by our team.

Rocket is a member of a species that depends on living in rocky escarpments, making his name all the more fitting. The Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby is an endangered species heading towards extinction, Rocket is a critical ambassador for the survival and hope of his species.

Mr Reid has hand-raised many species, including Koalas and Devils, but this is the first time he has been 'Dad' to a Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby.

"It's a very rare opportunity and a career highlight. Every individual counts, and because Rocket's species faces extinction, it's important work."

Mr Reid said.

Normally, at this age, a Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby would be starting its transition from being in the pouch to on foot, relying on its mother's milk and protection. So Dean has taken on round-the-clock care of the little one, including feeding him six times a day, monitoring his weight and hygiene, and eventually setting up a playpen where he can grow bigger and stronger.

The Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies are shy and elusive animals, and we rarely see the adults at our facility. But because Rocket is hand-raised, we will be able to observe him more, and the public can as well. We hope this heightens awareness of the endangered species.

Fast forward a month, and Rocket has launched himself into his new adventure and is celebrating six months of age. Growing in 'leaps and bounds,' he is now venturing out of his pouch, nibbling grass, and even bouncing on the furniture! "After his last feed at 10 pm, I let him jump around the couch!" Dean said. "It's a great way for him to strengthen his legs and work on his balance and is essential training for his natural environment in the high rocky escarpments."

Rocket is a precious addition to the Aussie Ark family. He is genetically important for our breeding program and is helping save his kind from extinction. "Rocket is a real symbol of hope," Mr Reid said. "And so cute!"

Like all hand-raised animals at Aussie Ark, Rocket will be transitioned step by step into a wild existence at the Ark. For Rocket, this means future release, a girlfriend one day, and a chance to make his own little joeys. Aussie Ark will share this extraordinary journey over the next six months... one leap at a time!

We call on the public to engage in Rocket's journey and help raise him. The best way to do this is to donate at aussieark.org.au and join us on this promising adventure!







"IT'S A VERY RARE OPPORTUNITY AND A CAREER HIGHLIGHT. EVERY INDIVIDUAL COUNTS, AND BECAUSE ROCKET'S SPECIES FACES EXTINCTION, IT'S IMPORTANT WORK" DEAN REID

# **GREEN AND GOLDEN BELL FROG SUCCESS!**

We did it! With your help, the Green and Golden Bell frog thrive once again! Thanks to your donations and Aussie Ark's hard work, hundreds of tadpoles have hatched at the Conservation Ark facility based at the Australian Reptile Park on the Central Coast, and the species is on the road to recovery.

Green and Golden Bell frogs were once common throughout NSW and Victoria, but they have been heavily impacted by coastal urbanisation. Now, only 40 locations exist where the frog continues to live in the wild, but these sites are under constant threat of land clearing and development.

That's why Aussie Ark stepped in to help. Three years ago, we received nine 'founding animals' to begin our breeding program. Since then, Aussie Ark has been working tirelessly to ensure the survival of this stunning species.

Aussie Ark reptile keeper Sam Herrmann said, "We are thrilled with the success of the program, reporting hundreds of tadpoles this year." The current tropical-like summer, with its combination of high heat and intermittent rainfall, has certainly helped. "The frogs normally breed in the warmer months, like summer, and especially after heavy downpours.

Our frogs – like frogs in the wild – are extremely in tune with the weather. They are housed in comfortable humidified tanks that replicate the rain and temperatures they love, but even from inside their tanks, they pick up on the weather outside the facility and are triggered to breed."

Mr. Herrmann said that the female frogs lay hundreds

of eggs in one go, in waxy sacs. After a week, the tadpoles emerge. They stay in tadpole form for approximately four months on average. Then the magical metamorphosis into frogs begins, firstly with the back legs sprouting, then the front legs, then the shrinking and disappearance of the tail, and finally the emergence of a fully-fledged Green and Golden Bell frog.

This species is strikingly beautiful. As their name suggests, they're predominantly green and gold, with touches of black and areas of darker copper colour. They can have some very beautiful aqua-blue striping on the inside of their legs.

### "Incredibly, each individual frog has a slightly different pattern of colours. No two frogs look alike!"

-Mr. Herrmann said.

Aussie Ark breeds the Green and Golden Bell frog as an "insurance population" to help save the species from extinction. The organization hopes to release animals back into the wild once release sites are confirmed and protected.

Thanks again for your support. If you'd like to help Aussie Ark continue its work protecting endangered and vulnerable reptile and amphibian species, please head to aussieark.org.au and make a donation today or see the frog facilities at the Australian Reptile Park. As Sam Herrmann said, "It's only with the help of our donors and supporters that we can make a difference and help protect these beautiful species for future generations."



# BARRINGTON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY COMES TO LIFE AT NIGHT!

Step into the wild and experience the magic of the night as our Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary comes to life!

We recently conducted a night-time survey of the sanctuary, and the results were nothing short of spectacular. Our staff used spotlighting surveys to observe and record the behaviour of our nocturnal and crepuscular animals, including the Rufous bettong, Tasmanian devil, and Eastern quoll.

The night-time is the animals' 'daytime', making it the most active time for feeding, interaction, and breeding. "So spotlighting is a keyway to observe and record this behaviour...It's like being an undercover detective!" said Curator Kelly Davis.

During this survey, we captured some amazing moments, including the first-ever footage of an adult Rufous bettong clutching nesting material in its semi-prehensile tail. Ms Davis was thrilled with this discovery, as it's a rare behaviour to observe, particularly because these animals are nocturnal. "This is the first time we've managed to capture it on film!" she exclaimed.

In just one night of spotlighting, we recorded a huge variety of animals, including a recently released Longnosed potoroo, naturally occurring Greater Gliders, ringtail possums, Eastern Grey kangaroos, and Red-Necked wallabies. It's incredible to see the abundance of life thriving in our sanctuary, and we're thrilled with the success of our conservation efforts.

"Spotlighting really shines a light on how successful our work is here, and how well our animals are doing, which is a great demonstration of the importance of fencing."

- Ms Davis said.

We're incredibly grateful to our donors who support us in our mission to protect and conserve Australia's unique wildlife. To continue supporting our conservation surveys in the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary you can donate to Aussie Ark today at aussieark.org.au. Let's continue shining a light on the incredible wildlife that calls this sanctuary home!







## THE PROOF IS IN THE BREEDING!

We have recently conducted two trapping sessions within our Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary, one focused on Tasmanian Devil and Eastern Quoll joeys to provide them with their first ever health check following a record-breaking wild breeding season. The second session was targeting our most recently released macropod species of 2022 such as our Rufous bettongs, Long-nosed potoroos, and Parma wallabies. What we discovered was truly magical!

In the first trapping session, we were thrilled to capture and record Tasmanian devil and Eastern quoll joeys born in the sanctuary last season, estimated to be 13 new devils and 73 new quolls. Our staff conducted health checks, microchipped them for tracking purposes, and even gave them names. We decided to honour our donors and supporters by naming the joeys after them, which resulted in adorable names like Bev, Mary, Lola, Colin, and Phoenix to name a few.

Our operations manager, Dean Reid, known affectionately as the 'Devil whisperer,' led the ambitious trapping process. He was excited to meet the joeys born in the wild environment of the sanctuary and see how healthy they were. To successfully process all the new joeys born last season, we will continue intermittent trapping for up to a year. We couldn't have done it without the support of our partners, including WIRES, Re:wild,

WildArk, Australian Reptile Park, FAME and Glencore, as well as our community donors and supporters.

In the second trapping session, we targeted our most recently released macropod species of 2022. Over five nights, we deployed 60 traps throughout the 400-hectare sanctuary, baited with carrots, sweet potato, and peanut butter. We captured a record-breaking 72 individuals, and what we discovered was world-news: the first-ever confirmed bettong and potoroo joeys born 'wild and free' in the feral-proof sanctuary!

These two macropod species are endangered and face extinction, so their success in our breeding and rewilding program is a big deal. It's proof that our animals are successfully adapting to their 'wild life' and finding food, shelter, and even pairing up to breed. We are thrilled to see that they are thriving in our feral-proof 400-hectare oasis.

### "It's the kind of measurable conservation work this planet needs,"

- Dean Reid.

We are incredibly proud of the work we're doing for our threatened and endangered species and you can help too by heading to aussieark.org.au to support our continued successful breeding and rewilding program in the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary.





### ELFIE JOINS HIS OWN KIND!

Elfie our little Long-nosed potoroo joey, has joined his own kind in the wild after he was abandoned by his mother last Christmas and hand-raised by Aussie Ark Manager of Conservation Hayley and her family, before being transferred back up to the Barrington Tops.

Here at the Ark, he was adopted by Curator Kelly, who has been working hard over the past two months to increase Elfie's weight and prepare him for reunion with his species. He was sleeping over at staff accommodation, where Kelly bottle fed him before slowly weaning him to solid foods.

"When he reached his target weight, the first step to his transition was leaving his play-pen in one of our Potoroo enclosures in our Species Recovery Unit," Kelly said. "At first we left him there just during the day - when Potoroos are normally asleep - so he could familiarise himself with the sights and smells of his new environment."

Next step was leaving Elfie in his closed play-pen, in the enclosure overnight. This was a big step for Elfie as Potoroos are nocturnal, it meant 'wild' potoroos in the enclosure were active and curious to meet him. which he loved and embraced as he came face to face with a few.

Kelly Davis has since opened the door of his playpen enabling Elfie to freely join other Potoroos!

"After so many months of care by the Aussie Ark team, Elfie has been reunited with his own kind,"

- Ms Davis said.

"It's a bittersweet moment. We put so much time, effort and love into his care. But this is what it's all about; have him live as he would in the wild."

Most Australians don't actually know what a Long-nosed potoroo is! So having Elfie act as an ambassador for his endangered species is critical to raise awareness about their importance for our ecosystem.

You can help us continue to give hope to these ecological engineers by donating to Aussie Ark and our Long-nosed potoroo breeding and rewilding programs at aussieark.org.au.







### BRUSH-TAILED ROCK-WALLABIES THRIVING AT AUSSIE ARK!

Over the course of three days, our team captured 19 individual Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies for their annual check-up. The endangered Brush-tailed Rock wallabies are a species that inhabits the Great Dividing Range from Victoria to Queensland, living in rocky outcrops for shelter. Unfortunately, these outcrops are often fragmented and isolated, making the species very vulnerable to feral predation, land-clearing and fire.

That's why we are here to help. Aussie Ark has been breeding and rewilding the species for four years, and we are proud to report that we are one of the world's leading organisations helping to save this endangered species from extinction.

The annual health check is a rigorous process that includes weighing each animal, checking microchips, applying preventative medicine and doing a 'body condition score'. Wildlife Ranger Matt Helm said, the most exciting part is conducting pouch checks of the females.

"We were thrilled to discover two new little joeys," - Mr Helm said. "One was only the size of a grape; so cute! But it was the second, larger joey that excited us the most. Namely, its mother has been in an enclosure for quite a while without a male. So this joey is the result of embryonic diapause. It's the ability for macropods to keep young in a sort of suspended animation until conditions are optimum. The mother then triggers the joey to grow. It's pretty miraculous!"

This news is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team at Aussie Ark. We are committed to ensuring that the Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies not only survive but thrive. The species is a focus of our "1597 Threatened Species" campaign, calling for the community and businesses to donate \$1597, one dollar for each species listed on the IUCN Threatened Species list.

We believe that every dollar counts towards helping these beautiful creatures. By donating to Aussie Ark, you can be part of our mission to preserve the Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies for future generations.



### AUSTRALIA'S 'LITTLE FIREFIGHTERS' RELEASED MID SUMMER!







We released 20 Long-nosed Potoroos into the Barrington Wildlife Sanctuary as part of our mission to protect threatened and endangered species. This release marks the beginning of our efforts for 2023, and what better way to start than by giving these little heroes a fighting chance!

The Long-nosed Potoroo is an incredible species that has been around for over 10 million years. Unfortunately, most Australians have never heard of them. Even worse, these little animals play a crucial role in Australia's ecology, which ultimately helps keep us safe from the devastating wildfires that we've seen in recent years.

"Potoroos link with fire is one of the most compelling ecological stories, and after the horror of Australia's 2019 Black Summer fires it's a story that needs more attention than ever."

- Managing Director Tim Faulkner.

As you may know, the 2019 Black Summer fires were a tragedy that affected us all. But did you know that Potoroos can help reduce the threat of wildfires? These little animals are ecosystem engineers. They eat mushrooms, truffles, and fungi, which requires them to turn over copious amounts of leaf-litter on the forest floor. In fact, they turn over about an elephant's worth of debris annually! This helps with decomposition, keeps the ground moist, and reduces fuel load. The sun can penetrate, new plants germinate, and the ferocity of fire is lessened. In other words, the Potoroo is Australia's "little firefighter"!

We are proud of the success of our Potoroo breeding program and the impact it has on securing an "insurance population" for the future survival of the species. It was an incredible experience to have dozens of partners, community members, sponsors, and donors present at the release, including members of the local Rural Fire Service. They arrived in their fire truck, dressed in full firefighting gear, and acknowledged the role of the Potoroo in reducing the threat of wildfires.

You can help Aussie Ark and our vision to rewild these little Potoroos and reduce Australia's fire hazard by donating today at aussieark.org.au.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we can make a difference in protecting Australia's unique wildlife and preserving our beautiful natural environment.



## 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

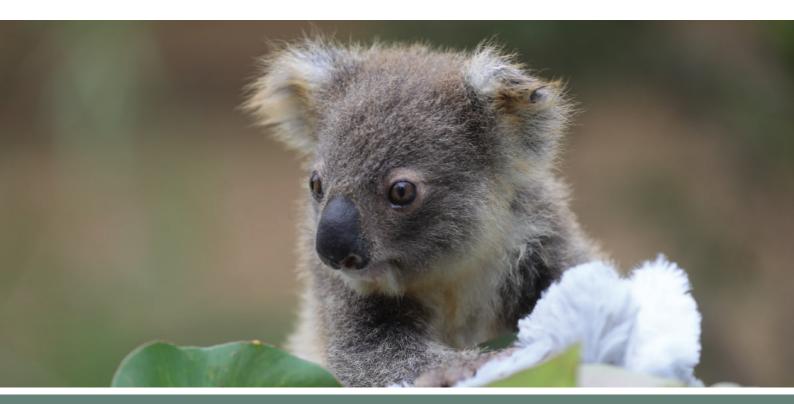
### **STAY WITH US!**

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



#### **AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC:**

Australian Geographic magazine, originally titled Dick Smith's Australian Geographic was created by Dick Smith in 1986. Australian Geographic is a media business that produces the Australian Geographic magazine, DMag magazine, specialist book titles, travel guides, diaries and calendars and online media. The magazine focuses mainly on stories about Australia, or about Australian people in other countries. Australian Geographic have been a supporter of the Ark for many years and will continue to work closely with Aussie Ark in the coming years of the project.



#### **AURIZON COMMUNITY:**

Aurizon (ASX: AZJ) is Australia's largest rail freight operator and an ASX-listed company. Each year, the Company transports more than 250 million tonnes of Australian commodities, connecting miners, primary producers and industry with international and domestic markets. It provides customers with integrated freight and logistics solutions across an extensive national rail and road network, traversing Australia. Aurizon has a proud track record of supporting the communities in which we work and live, in many different ways. We look to create mutually beneficial relationships with key organisations or community groups, where our involvement can help these groups achieve their goals. Aurizon is proudly supporting Aussie Ark's Potoroo rewilding project.



### **DIGITAL HUNTER:**

Gabrielle Witter is the independent Google Ads specialist behind Digital Hunter, a digital marketing consultancy based in Newcastle, NSW. We're thrilled to have her onboard with her expertise in Google Ad Grant management for nonprofits. When it comes to online, she knows her stuff having spent over 20 years in digital marketing and 10 years specifically with Google Ads. Her knowledge of the digital world and passion for the natural world blend perfectly to make her a much-valued member of the Aussie Ark team.

#### **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



























