Nature Foundation

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NatureFoundation

Impact Report

Acknowledgement of Country

Nature Foundation acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work on, and recognise their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual attachment and the relationship that Aboriginal people have to country.

Lands on which Nature Foundation works

- **Bullock Bridge** – Meintangk people
- **Geegeela** – Bindjali people
- **Gidgealpa** – Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka people
- **Hiltaba** – Gawler Ranges peoples – Barngarla, Kokatha, and Wirangu countries
- **Mongolurring** – Ngadjuri people
- **Murbpook** – First Nations people of the River Murray Mallee (FPRMM) and Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated (MACAI)
- **Para Woodlands** – Kaurna people
- **Payinthi** – Nature Foundation Office on Kaurna land
- **South Gap** – Kokatha people
- **Tiliqua** – Ngadjuri people
- **Watchalunga** – Ngarrindjeri people
- **Witchelina** – Adnyamathanha, Kuyani and Arabana peoples
- All the lands that field services work occurred on.

Our Goals

Increasing areas of habitat are conserved and enhanced for future generations.

Nature Science knowledge that leads to evidence-based decision-making.

Nature is better understood and valued.

Engaged communities that support resilient habitats.

An inspirational organisation that is financially secure and achieves operational excellence.

Our Values

We are agile and adaptable, connecting communities through nature.

We care about each other, what we do and why we do it; we believe in the power of nature to transform lives.

We are creative and resourceful in tackling major environmental issues.

We inspire and create enjoyment through nature.

We strive for excellence in everything we do, holding each other accountable, and working to the highest ethical standards.

We are bold and adventurous in our pursuit of conservation outcomes.

Front cover: Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies.
Credit: Stephen Mabbs / Unsplash

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As at September 2024

Our footprint

Nature Reserves:

Bullock Bridge – 202 hectares
Geegeela – 102 hectares
Hiltaba – 78,000 hectares
Mongolurring – 1,200 hectares
Murbpook – 360 hectares
Para Woodlands – 500 hectares
Tiliqua – 85 hectares
Watchalunga – 92 hectares
Witchelina – 421,000 hectares

Managed Offsets:

Gidgealpa – 20,172 hectares
South Gap – 3,250 hectares

Message from the Chair

Jan Ferguson OAM

As we prepare our annual Impact Report, we are reminded of the significant strides we've made in the past year. From the outputs, outcomes, and impacts achieved across the organisation, to the ongoing challenges our environment faces, we are deeply committed to effecting positive change. While there's still much to do, these opportunities to summarise our actions and celebrate the wins are a vital part of our journey.

As you will see throughout this year's report, we have made substantial progress across our five strategic goals. A critical aspect of these is expanding our footprint. Positive steps have been made towards the target of our Forever Nature Fund, to double our land capacity and impact by 2030, with the acquisition of two new high biodiversity value nature reserves: Bullock Bridge, or Bullocky Bridge as it is known locally, and Mongolurring.

Bullock Bridge was acquired in January 2024 thanks to support from our donors, including leading benefactors Professor Phill Cassey and Professor Hugh Possingham, who each donated $100,000 towards the acquisition. Mongolurring was donated to Nature Foundation in June 2024 by generous benefactor Rosemary Collins.

We are also immensely grateful for the overwhelming support we received for this year's Vital Work Appeal. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over $148,000 to support critical infrastructure projects across our nature reserve network. This is the highest amount we have ever raised through this annual appeal, a testament to the dedication of our donors and the importance of our cause.

These actions, combined with the financial results, contribute to the foundation's stability, allowing us to do even more important conservation work.

In addition to the past year's land acquisitions, you will also see the positive results we are having from our conservation actions across the reserves, including increasing populations of Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies at Hiltaba Nature Reserve and Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wrens at Watchalunga Nature Reserve, and interpreting the impacts on native bird diversity at Witchelina Nature Reserve through long-term bird monitoring. Our team are also exploring opportunities to leverage new technologies, including audio monitoring and AI.

These successes are all of ours to share. Nature Foundation would not exist without the incredibly supportive network of like-minded people and organisations who are passionate about making a difference for this and future generations. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our growing community of members, donors, volunteers and supporters. Your support has been instrumental in our growth over the past year. I would also like to thank my fellow Board Directors; it is an honour to serve Nature Foundation as Chair and work with a supportive Board in implementing our Strategic Plan: Towards 2030. My thanks also go to the staff team who are responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the actions that help achieve our goals and objectives. Let's all take a moment to pause and reflect, then onwards.

Message from the CEO

Alex Nankivell

Looking back on the year, we have experienced change and growth, including welcoming several new staff members who have brought with them new ideas and enthusiasm to make a difference and contribute to Nature Foundation's long history of working to conserve, restore and protect biodiversity across South Australia and beyond.

During this period, the staff team reaffirmed its commitment to delivering our strategic plan and be bold in the pursuit of the following key objectives:

1. Pursue opportunities to acquire new nature reserves with significant biodiversity values.
2. Deepen our engagement with the Aboriginal communities of the countries where we work.
3. Expand our volunteer program and provide more opportunities to contribute to our conservation work.
4. Expand our membership and supporter base.

It is extremely pleasing to see this effort bear fruit in all of these areas. Some highlights include acquiring two new nature reserves, welcoming Traditional Owners back to country for Family on Country camps at Hiltaba Nature Reserve and biological surveys at Watchalunga Nature Reserve, welcoming new volunteers and members, and significantly growing our overall supporter base. Meeting many of you at the recent Conservation Conversations evening was very inspiring.

Of course, the positive net financial result is also fantastic and allows the organisation to plan for the future. But most pleasing is seeing our on-ground management efforts deliver a positive impact on biodiversity.

These are the results of many years of committed effort by many people and show that biodiversity restoration work is often a slow process when rebuilding ecosystem function is required. Jan has outlined several salient examples of this that you will read about in later pages.

The first is the vegetation recovery at Hiltaba Nature Reserve, which has given rise to a sustained increase in Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies. The second is the improvement in the bird community at Witchelina Nature Reserve across two La Niña periods, which has benefited granivores and insectivores.

It is important to note that these results have taken many years of concerted effort to achieve, and they may have gone largely unnoticed if it weren't for the long-term monitoring that has provided such valuable data sets, and experienced analysis to unearth the insights.

Mark Lethbridge's commitment to rehabilitating Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies in the Gawler Ranges and demonstrating goats' negative impacts on biodiversity deserves special mention. So does the unwavering commitment of a special group of Birds SA volunteers who have, for the last 14 years, undertaken annual bird surveys at Witchelina without fail. These are just a couple of examples of significant contributions to biodiversity conservation in our local patch.

Finally, it has been a very rewarding year working with the staff team, volunteers, contractors and partners to achieve the results contained in this report. I equally look forward to the year ahead and beyond with optimism and hope that together, we can continue to bring a positive impact to biodiversity and our community through our work.

206
+17

The core colony of endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies on our Hiltaba Nature Reserve have recorded a population increase of 17 to 206 since we acquired the property ten years ago.

A 1111.76% increase.

501,541 ha

Nine nature reserves across South Australia comprising over 500,000 hectares protected, managed and conserved, contributing to resilient ecosystems.

22

22 events and activities were held over the past financial year engaging 588 supporters in nature conservation.

503

503 members actively support our organisation and conservation work.

3,714,916 T

of standing Carbon stock is estimated to be sequestered across all our reserves.

2,342 hrs
$112,439

90 volunteers have registered for our new volunteer program over the past year.

2,342 volunteer hours with a value of $112,439 have assisted us in advancing nature conservation in South Australia and beyond.

$1,965,786

Since 2000, Nature Foundation has awarded $1,965,786 in research grants to post-graduate students, academics, and the community to kickstart careers in research, supporting 459 students.

22

Habitat for 22 nationally threatened fauna species protected and actively managed.

96

Our Kids on Country™ program held 8 camps positively impacting 96 young Aboriginal high school students.

engaging

Traditional custodian families, including members of the Barngarla, Kokatha, and Wirungu groups came together on country at Hiltaba Nature Reserve to connect and share experiences and stories with young people, and learning from Elders, as part of a Family on Country camp.

2,300

2,300 seedlings planted by members, staff, supporters and volunteers at Watchalunga Nature Reserve, contributing to our annual replanting of critical habitat for endangered Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wrens.

Hiltaba Nature Reserve – Pretty Point. Credit: Bill Doyle

Goal 1: Increasing areas of habitat are conserved and enhanced for future generations

Forever Nature Fund

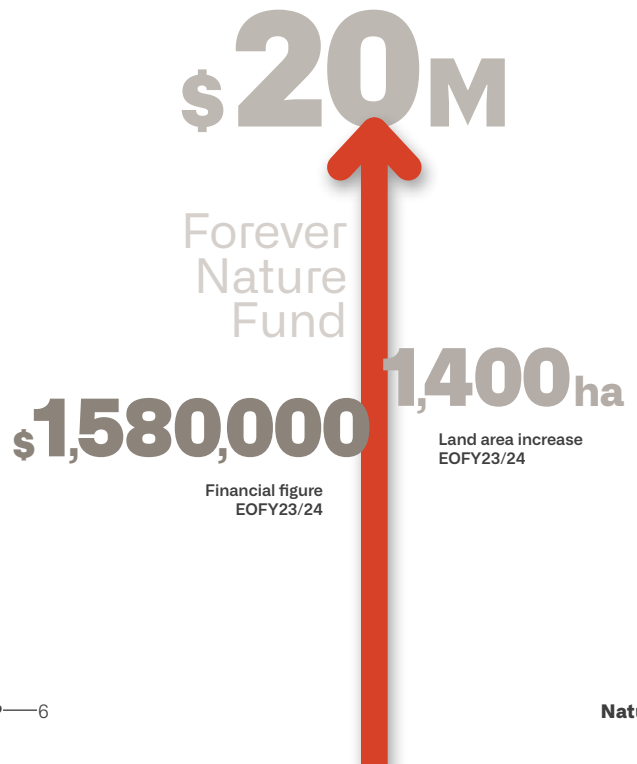
The Forever Nature Fund, established in December 2022, is a crucial tool to preserve Australia's biodiversity.

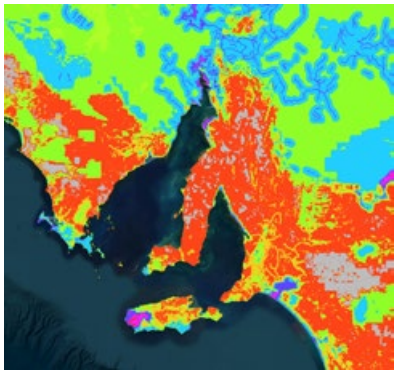
It raises capital to purchase and manage critical habitat areas that are prioritised using data-driven scientific and environmental assessment tools. Contributions towards this Fund are not just a donation, but a significant step towards protecting our natural heritage.

Habitat loss and land clearing have already caused the extinction of 62 Australian terrestrial species. Between 2000 and 2017, over 7.7 million hectares of land habitat was cleared in Australia (Source: DCCEEW 2021 Australia State of the Environment Report).

The compounding impacts of climate change are accelerating the decline of Australia's biodiversity, with increasing numbers of species and ecological communities listed as threatened. This makes our mission to protect and restore critical habitats more crucial.

This past year, we've made positive steps towards our target of raising $20 million to double our impact to 1 million hectares by 2030. Generous donations of funds and land have supported this goal and enabled the establishment of two new nature reserves: Bullock Bridge and Mongolurring.





Landscape prioritisation

The Forever Nature Fund's goal is to double our impact by 2030, protecting 1 million hectares of land across South Australia and beyond.

To achieve this, we must understand what biodiversity values need protecting in the landscape to ensure resources are directed toward projects and acquisitions that deliver the greatest possible benefit to biodiversity. This can be particularly difficult when there are often many competing priorities and opportunities.

To address this need, the Science and Knowledge team has developed a tool to assist with prioritising the landscape. The tool uses Geographical Information System (GIS) technology to create multi-criteria land suitability models, identifying areas of South Australia with high landscape and conservation significance.

The modelling process is comprehensive, using a variety of data sources and providing a structured approach to analysing environmental data. Data inputs include distance to significant wetlands and waterways, connectivity, fauna and flora diversity, threatened community distributions, and landscape fragmentation, ensuring a thorough understanding of the landscape.

With climate adaptation planning having a key impact on our goals to increase protected areas, bespoke tools such as this are essential for supporting improved decision-making regarding biodiversity management and protected area investment, leading to better outcomes for nature.

New nature reserve acquisitions

The past financial year has seen the acquisition of two new nature reserves:

Bullock Bridge Nature Reserve

In late 2023, internationally renowned scientist and birdwatcher Professor Hugh Possingham approached us about a block of land he had seen for sale in South Australia's southeast, Bullock Bridge, or Bullocky Bridge as it is known locally.

Located east of Kingston on the Limestone Coast, adjacent to the Mount Scott Conservation Park and on the traditional lands of the Meintangk people, the 202-hectare property is part of one of the largest inland blocks of native vegetation in this southern region and has very high biodiversity values.

Professor Hugh Possingham brought not only our attention to the land, but a proposition; that he and his colleague, Professor Phill Cassey, would each donate $100,000 towards its purchase by Nature Foundation to ensure its ongoing protection and suitable conservation land management.

We commenced an appeal to further support the acquisition, and settled on the block in January 2024, creating Bullock Bridge Nature Reserve. Following the property settlement, our conservation team has commenced a full reserve audit to inform monitoring programs, including baseline biodiversity surveys, allowing us to prepare a comprehensive reserve management plan. We are honoured to have the continued support of Professor Hugh Possingham on this project, assisting with bird surveys and his invaluable insights and recommendations. We also undertook initial essential works, including repairing and replacing damaged fencing to prevent unwanted grazing pressure and developing and implementing threat management strategies.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this important step towards providing increased land protection in South Australia's southeast.

Mongolurring Nature Reserve

In a true act of generosity and commitment to nature forever, we are humbled to receive a 1,200-hectare area of mallee woodland in northeast South Australia as a donation from a benefactor in June 2024.

Mongolurring Nature Reserve is on Ngadjuri Country near Mount Bryan and is a treasure trove of biodiversity. It is home to a rich variety of native flora and fauna, with almost 200 native plant species, 16 reptile species, 64 bird species, and six mammal species, including a lone wombat. This unique and diverse ecosystem is a valuable addition to our protected reserve network and conservation efforts.

The recorded bird species in the area include the EPBC-listed Southern Whiteface and Diamond Firetail and the State-listed White-winged Chough.

Upcoming activities, including baseline biological surveys, will soon be underway. The results of these surveys will not only provide initial conservation management recommendations but also inform a more detailed reserve management plan, keeping you updated on our progress.

> **"This heritage area is significant ... there is a lot of variety in the vegetation, going from Red Gums, Blue Gums and Manna Gums, typical of wetter areas, all the way up to Stringybarks and Mallee typical of drier areas. This gives a diversity of birds and flora and fauna that would not normally mingle together."**
>
> *Professor Hugh Possingham*

Conservation land management across the nature reserve network

Following a long period of consultation and planning, FY23/24 saw the transition to a new and consistent approach to conservation land management across the nature reserve network, with the establishment of permanent on-site Conservation Land Managers on our two larger and more remote reserves—Witchelina and Hiltaba.

This change was a key area identified by the Board to facilitate the implementation of integrated management, monitoring, and reporting frameworks that are appropriate for the organisation to continue to grow its biodiversity impact across our nature reserve network and prepare for the Nature Repair Market. In addition to the overarching objective, experienced and qualified conservation land management professionals provide the on-ground structure and support for volunteer engagement, the implementation of appropriate Work Health and Safety Management Systems and other critically related policies and procedures for all team members.

Our Conservation Land Managers are not alone in their efforts. Our dedicated volunteer program supports them, which plays a crucial role in delivering the organisation's management plans, conservation, and nature-based tourism activities. A system has been put in place to ensure the right combinations of staff and volunteers are scheduled in advance, providing the necessary support for reserve and conservation work programs. This system not only increases personnel presence on the nature reserves but also aligns volunteer skills and interests with scheduled work activities.

While all significant organisational changes take time to settle in, this first year has seen positive results. with several major activities successfully undertaken by the Conservation Land Managers and support volunteers and staff, including:

- Developing a coordinated management plan between Conservation Land Managers, the Science and Knowledge team, and the Volunteer Visitor and Engagement team, managing work programs, monitoring budget expenditure, and coordinating volunteer involvement for key activities across all nature reserves in 2024.
- Reviewing all reserve-based data collection and mapping capacity and implemented software to allow Conservation Land Managers to record real-time data whenever they are working on the reserve.
- Using the resulting data to develop an adaptive management system to monitor the impact of work programs, complete project reporting, and underpin program assurance and improvement processes.
- Weed surveys and audits of existing weed databases at Witchelina and Hiltaba, adding several new incursion sites and developing a control program based on distribution and potential for weed spray.
- Prioritising and upgrading critical reserve infrastructure.

South Gap:
Partnering for positive impact

In 2020, Nature Foundation partnered with South Gap Pastoral Co and OZ Minerals (now BHP Carrapateena) to deliver ecological offsets and conservation management at two paddocks totalling around 3,250 hectares within South Gap station in central South Australia.

South Gap Station is located north of Port Augusta. The 100,000-hectare station is a stunning mix of stony hills, sandy woodlands, and the occasional red gum-lined creek. South Gap Pastoral Co is run by Paul and Kate Greenfield, whose family has managed the station for many generations.

"We always had the ethos to leave the land better than you found it, and this partnership ties in with this aim for us. We knew if we could engage with the EPBC (Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) offset program, we could work with ecologists like (those employed) at Nature Foundation," says Kate Greenfield.

Our conservation work has focused on reducing grazing pressure and feral predation around core habitats. We have focused on cracking clay habitats, where soil expands when wet and then contracts, leaving deep cracks. The cracks then fill up with plant material, making them ideal habitats for the threatened Plains Mouse. The Plains Mouse was first detected on site in 2021 and has likely benefited significantly from the reduction in feral animals.

Surveying wildlife on South Gap has been very rewarding, with many interesting finds. The habitats exist in an ecotone between the more arid desert ecosystems and the semi-arid ecosystems like Flinders Ranges woodlands, which have provided a rich diversity of species. We often detect arid species like the saltbush-adapted Rufous Field-wren coexisting near woodland species like the Rufous Whistler.

So far, we have recorded 102 vertebrate species on site and expect to find many more.

This partnership has yielded multiple benefits for all parties, most importantly understanding and protecting a unique habitat that is home to a threatened species (Plains Mice). For Paul and Kate Greenfield, the project has been "everything we hoped for", helping them protect important native habitats and learn more about the property's ecosystems.

Conservation actions over the past financial year have included building a new stock-proof fence, which has made grazing management much more effective. We have also deployed 16 new remote cameras to survey local wildlife, and our bird survey efforts have been greatly expanded, with 23 new species recorded during FY23/24. These are in addition to the regular ongoing feral animal control and wildlife monitoring.

We are delighted with the progress and results of the project so far and the collaborative relationship we have with Paul and Kate Greenfield and the team at BHP. As we look to the future, we have many exciting plans for the coming years. We will continue to promote habitat for the Plains Mice and will expand research into their wider distribution across the region. We also aim to promote the recovery of other threatened species, like the Sandalwood shrub and the Southern Whiteface, striving toward making a positive impact on their populations.

Credit: geonadir / Unsplash

Buffel grass (patches of greyish green) takes over the native grasses

Mark Marathon, CC BY-SA 3.0

Mitigating the impacts of Buffel grass

Buffel grass was originally imported into Australia to control erosion and dust, and improve pastures thanks to its fast growing, drought resistant nature. But in the 50 years or more since introduction, it had spread outside pastoral land and now threatens biodiversity and native habitat across the entire landscape particularly our arid regions.

In addition to eliminating native vegetation by competing for much needed nutrients and sunlight, Buffel grass burns much hotter than our native grasses which makes fires harder to contain and means plants which are usually fire-resistant are burned. This aspect is increasingly relevant in a changing climate where fires are more frequent and intense.

Over the years, it has evolved into a range of varieties which can grow in trickier places like cracked clay soils in our arid regions, so natural fire breaks such as dry creek beds can no longer provide protection.

In 2015 Buffel grass was declared a weed in South Australia and in 2024 the Northern Territory followed suit, with both pledging to tackle this invasive species throughout the north and centre of Australia by endeavouring to keep it contained to pastoral land and remove it from conservation land.

Buffel grass is not currently recorded on Tiliqua, Bullock Bridge, Geegeela, Murbpook, Mongolurring, and Watchalunga Nature Reserves, and preventative weed management—including appropriate weed biosecurity and hygiene practices—remains the most effective and cost-efficient weed management method to continue protecting these areas.

While Buffel grass has not been detected at Hiltaba Nature Reserve, active management of infestations on neighbouring Kokatha and Lake Everard Pastoral properties—35km north of Hiltaba's northern boundary—have been ongoing since 2021. We are taking a collaborative approach to this management with contributions from Parks SA, including Gawler Rangers Aboriginal Corporation Park Rangers and Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation Rangers, along with increased measures on the reserve, including mapping and recording the infestation within our Reserve Information System and grant funding to purchase additional herbicide.

The current Buffel infestation at Witchelina Reserve has been actively managed since 2014 with significant management effort from our committed volunteers. Our Buffel grass management capacity at Witchelina has increased significantly following the establishment of the on-site Conservation Land Manager, recruitment of Adnyamathanha casual Conservation Officers, and additional mobile control equipment. Controlled fire has also been used to remove mature Buffel grass and allow better herbicide uptake to control emerging Buffel grass seedlings. These initiatives have complemented the continuing work of Nature Foundation's committed volunteers.

While we have confidence in our management actions at Witchelina, the increasing concern with Buffel grass surrounding the two northern reserves ensures we remain vigilant in both protecting our land and collaborating with our neighbours and partners to support the region. We will be undertaking a thorough operational review and holding a workshop with key stakeholders at Witchelina ahead of the summer growing period to assess past management strategies and on ground control techniques and define future control approaches.

Managing invasive species and threatening processes is an essential and ongoing task. It is crucial that we all continue to work together to ensure that increasing areas of habitat are conserved and enhanced for future generations.

Intergenerational wealth transfer and its impact on philanthropy

Over the next 20 years or so, it is expected that around AU$3.5 trillion[1] will transfer from the Baby Boomers and Gen X to Millenials and Gen Z.

Currently "Environmental charities continue to receive a tiny slice of the revenue received by the wider charitable sector, only 0.5 per cent in the 2019 reporting year."[2]

However, this intergenerational transfer of wealth represents a significant opportunity for charities like Nature Foundation to secure vital new lines of support in terms of both financial donations and in gifts of land.

The younger recipients of any wealth are more likely to look to charitable causes which support efforts to mitigate climate change, preserve biodiversity and promote sustainable practices[3].

The older generations (Baby Boomers are now in their 60s and 70s and Gen X who are in their 40s and 50s) may lack direct successors or have children or close friends and family who are already established, and so they can align their capital with causes which resonate with them, such as conservation.

This was the case for Dr Richard Glatz and Janine Mackintosh who own a 600-acre heritage bush property on Kangaroo Island which they have bequeathed to Nature Foundation. Richard explains "We wanted to be sure that the whole place was managed to allow all parts of the ecosystem to prosper, and Nature Foundation works to maintain the resilience of the entire environment, so we liked that approach. We can now build up our own knowledge of where the rare plants are, what insects we have here and where any possible weed incursions will be, knowing that we can hand all of that to Nature Foundation and they'll be able to hit the ground running when it comes time for them to take over management of the property. Knowing that gives us great peace of mind now."

1. corporate.amp.com.au/newsroom/2024/june/the-great-wealth-transfer
2. aegn.org.au/environmental-and-climate-change-giving-trends-2022
3. philanthropy.org.au/news-and-stories/australian-women-are-set-to-inherit-trillions-what-will-that-mean-for-giving

Goal 2: Nature science knowledge that leads to evidence-based decision making

Watchalunga Nature Reserve

Protecting endangered Emu-wrens

Protecting the endangered Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren (*Stipiturus malachurus intermedius*) remains a high priority at Watchalunga Nature Reserve.

Over the past year, a range of actions have been taken to continue revegetating its vital thick shrub habitat. Regular bird surveys are demonstrating the fruits of this labour, with record sightings of these tiny and elusive birds during recent surveys.

In early 2023, we commenced a biosphere project, progressing the wildlife corridors beyond Watchalunga Nature Reserve to the valuable landscapes beyond, inspiring and mobilising local communities to protect and restore further habitat within the lower Finniss and Tookayerta catchments.

In good-quality habitat, a breeding pair of Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wrens requires around one hectare to breed successfully, so increasing quality habitat is essential to growing this precious population.

Traditionally, we have undertaken both on-reserve and regional Emu-wren surveys in August and January, documenting peak pre-breeding and breeding periods, respectively. This year saw an investment in monthly Emu-wren surveys on reserve from August 2023 to January 2024, providing more consistent data.

The recent surveys show auspicious results of our revegetation and biosphere efforts, with more Emu-wrens sighted within Watchalunga Nature Reserve. The survey results also indicate that the connectivity between the reserve and neighbouring land strengthens breeding through varied genetics and enhances the population across the region.

Revegetation, weed control, and other conservation actions will continue at Watchalunga Nature Reserve, along with regular surveys on the reserve and in neighbouring properties, to monitor population growth.

This survey has been generously supported by funding from the Disney Conservation Fund.

Monitoring native fish

The wetlands at Watchalunga Nature Reserve are a sanctuary for native fish.

The late 2022 flooding of the River Murray significantly impacted connected wetlands through an influx of invasive fish. The past year has seen the use of electrofishing to assist with removing non-native fish species from Watchalunga, along with our annual native fish survey to monitor fish species and quantities.

The electrofishing exercise occurred in September 2023, and an extended harvest was required due to the recent floods, which delivered high numbers of Common Carp *(Cyprinus carpio)*. The annual native fish survey occurred in October 2023. This year, the survey was enriched by the participation of four Ngarrindjeri community members, who brought their unique knowledge and perspective to the project as part of the Building the Resilience of Ngarrindjeri Yarluwar-Ruwe Landscape Priority Fund project.

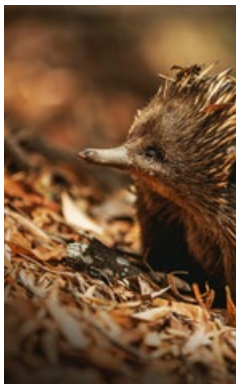
Common Carp pose a significant threat to native fish populations. Carp destroy wetland habitat by silting the water, reducing light and water quality, which then impacts native aquatic plants, fish, and the local food web. Common Carp are also suspected of predating on small juvenile native fish, while Redfin Perch are known to actively predate on native fish. These combined challenges lead to difficulty with breeding and survival, impacting native fish populations.

The significant presence of non-native fish species, as evidenced by the capture and removal of 448 individuals during the survey, underscores the critical need for regular electrofishing exercises and other conservation actions, such as the establishment of aquatic exclusion areas which would offer the native fish a haven from non-natives and assist with maintaining and increasing their numbers. These activities would greatly assist with restoring and preserving the delicate balance of these native wetlands, and we are seeking additional funding to implement this work in future years.

The electrofishing and native fish survey were conducted by Nature Glenelg Trust. The electrofishing was funded by Foundation SA.

“Emu-wrens were first spotted using the planted habitat in 2021 and have since then been regularly seen during surveys using the revegetated area. We have had a stable population for a few years; however, the growth following the 2022 floods is incredibly positive. We will monitor the birds on our reserve and in the wider region and how the revegetation supports the increased population and continue planting to create more habitat.”

Dr Lucy Clive, Science and Knowledge Program Officer at Nature Foundation



Murbpook Nature Reserve

Regent Parrot recovery

The Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*) is listed as Vulnerable in federal (EPBC Act 1999) and state (NP&W Act 1974) legislation. The species' ongoing survival relies on conservation action to better understand why it has been declining.

We are fortunate to have a population of Regent Parrots at Murbpook Nature Reserve, and their habitat and condition remain a high priority. The past year has seen several key actions and outcomes for the species, marking significant progress in our conservation efforts and in partnership with other parties passionate about this native parrot, such as the Regent Parrot Recovery Team.

Pivotal to science-based conservation is relevant data to help us plan appropriate actions. This past year has been an incredibly active one with a number of initiatives undertaken to better understand the resident Regent Parrots and manage their habitat, including nest census, and chick and tree hollow research by the Australian National University (ANU).

ANU's report to Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, 'Nesting resources for regent parrots in South Australia's river red gums', details several implications for management, including that only 11% of River Red Gum hollows are suitable for Regent Parrots. This means that the parrots are highly selective, choosing to nest in hollows within larger stems, with smaller entrances, wider floors, and deeper chambers. This insight could be critical for supportive actions such as nest box creation and placement.

We have also recently received confirmation of Grassroots Grant funding through a partnership with Mid Murray LandcareSA to undertake eDNA analysis on chick scat. The study will allow us to identify what the parent birds are foraging, which is crucial for understanding their diet and habitat preferences. This information will help determine key plant species for future revegetation work at Murbpook Nature Reserve and throughout the Riverland region.


Credit: Joshua Earle / Unsplash

It's been fantastic working with the Regent Parrot Recovery Team and the group is really gaining traction. There isn't a lot known about Regent Parrots, so it's exciting to be part of such a new research area where every new study we do is adding knowledge to support the conservation of the species."

Dr Lucy Clive, Science and Knowledge Program Officer at Nature Foundation

Developing a flora and fauna baseline

Murbpook Nature Reserve, on the western side of the River Murray, experienced extensive flooding in late 2022, with the whole floodplain underwater for a prolonged period.

The flooding has impacted the area's flora and fauna, and a baseline ecological assessment was conducted to quantify the reserve's current state and develop its conservation management plan.

While the overall fauna volume and richness were low—including no Dunnart observations, which we would typically expect to find—some exciting species were observed, including:

- Bolam's Mouse (*Pseudomys bolami*)
- Echidna (*Techyglossus aculeatus*)
- Tessellated Gecko (*Diplodactylus tessellatus*)

The low fauna diversity indicates the landscape's current biodiversity condition and implies that species' return to this area following the flooding will take time.

In contrast, the avian diversity at Murbpook Nature Reserve appears to be thriving, with a very high richness of 70 different bird species observed, including:

- Nationally-listed Southern Whiteface (Vulnerable) (*Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis*)
- State-listed Australasian Darter (Rare) (*Anhinga novaehollindiae novaehollindiae*)
- State-listed White-bellied Sea Eagle (Endangered) (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)
- State-listed Elegant Parrot (Rare) (*Neophema elegans elegans*)

The bird diversity suggests that good overall ecological health has been maintained in the region, particularly regarding avian populations.

The vegetation assessment included recording five state-listed plant species, two of which had not been sighted previously* and were likely emerging from the seed bank post-flood, pioneer species in a degraded environment.

- Purple Lovegrass (Rare) (*Eragrostis lacunaria*)
- *Five-spined Bindyi (Rare) (*Sclerolaena muricata* ssp. *Villosa*)
- *Creeping Boobialla (Rare) (*Myoporum parvifolium*)
- Prickly Bottlebrush (Rare) (*Callistemon brachyandrus*)
- Spiny Lignum (Rare) (*Duma horrida* ssp. *horrida*)

These results indicate that recolonisation after flooding is required. Implementing targeted feral animal control is crucial to support the improvement in fauna diversity and populations over time, along with ongoing monitoring allowing us to track changes and recovery of the floodplain and inform conservation strategies.

> **Being part of the Pygmy Bluetongue Recovery Team is incredibly rewarding. Nature Foundation is working collaboratively with key partners for the best outcome for the species."**
>
> *Dr Lucy Clive, Science and Knowledge Program Officer at Nature Foundation*

Tiliqua Nature Reserve

Monitoring Pygmy Bluetongue population and recovery

The Pygmy Bluetongue lizard *(Tiliqua adelaidensis)*, once thought to be extinct, sparked a wave of hope and inspiration with its rediscovery near Burra in 1992.

It remains listed as endangered under both national (EPBC Act 1999) and state (NP&W Act 1974) legislation. This diminutive and enigmatic species is a cornerstone of our conservation efforts, with a core population thriving on our Tiliqua Nature Reserve.

Our partnership with the Pygmy Bluetongue Recovery Team has been pivotal in establishing uniform survey methods for various populations. Science and Knowledge Program Officer, Dr Lucy Clive, was responsible for formulating a population monitoring protocol which has now been applied to conduct survey estimates on numerous sites and has been adopted by the Pygmy Bluetongue Recovery Team as best practice. Together with the Recovery Team we have compiled known Pygmy Bluetongue records and are now in the process of implementing the protocol across more sites to formulate a comprehensive population estimate.

The Recovery Team have also been assisting with the monitoring of a Pygmy Bluetongue population at a property owned by Burra School that was affected by bushfire in January 2024.

In addition to recording and monitoring the populations of Pygmy Bluetongues in known locations, we strive for their future survival in a changing climate. Through an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grant, we are supporting Professor Mike Gardner's work of translocating Pygmy Bluetongues and monitoring how they adapt to their new environment, including breeding and behavioural changes between the source and local populations.

This project is an example of climate adaptation planning, which is becoming an essential part of our conservation work and land acquisition and management plans.

Hiltaba Nature Reserve

Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby population increase

Prior to Nature Foundation beginning management of Hiltaba Nature Reserve in 2012, it was an operating pastoral business. The country was great for sheep production and more recently feral goats, but they competed for food and shelter with native animals like Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies *(Petrogale xanthopus)*.

Over time the habitat that the wallabies relied on became so degraded that wallabies began to decline. This was further exacerbated by red foxes that spread across the landscape predating juvenile wallabies that were left in rock crevices while their mothers forage for food. By the time Nature Foundation began work at Hiltaba there was only one small population of Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies left, with as few as 12-16 individuals living on a hill called Mount Friday.

Nature Foundation implemented feral goat and fox control programs that have transformed the landscape of Hiltaba, significantly reducing the threats previously affecting Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies. Goat scat on Mt Friday has been reduced from eight pellets per m^2 in 2011–12 to less than one. This reduction in goat browse impact equates to the removal of just over 20,000 goats from the reserve. This reduction in goat numbers has resulted in a significant improvement in vegetation condition with more than a 40% increase in indicator plant species showing no goat browse impact[1]. To compliment the grazing management there has also been an ongoing, large-scale, fox control program, to manage the main predator impacting rock-wallabies.

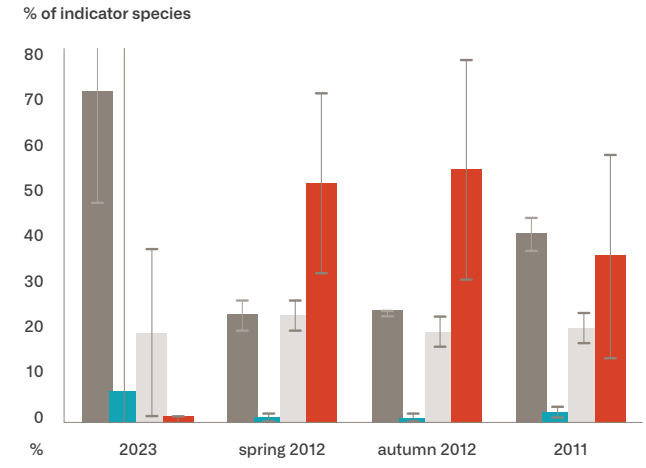
To help monitor Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies and their habitat on Hiltaba through time, Nature Foundation has worked with Dr Mark Lethbridge and the consultancy EcoKnowldege. A range of fascinating research has been conducted; with detailed vegetation surveys, trapping, and GPS tracking of individual animals. This has built up a detailed understanding of the response of the species to management, which has been nothing short of phenomenal.

The 2023 population survey recorded a massive boom in Rock-wallabies, with over 200 estimated to be present, compared to around 15 two decades ago in 2006. It also appears that Rock-wallabies are no longer restricted to Mount Friday.

There have been multiple confirmed sightings at other rocky outcrops around the reserve. It appears they have begun to disperse to return to many of the other outcrops that they used to inhabit. This is a good sign that subordinate males are roaming alternative habitats looking for new territories, strong signs of an increasing population.

However, work is not finished. Goat numbers are increasing in the region, partially due to a decline in market price and reduction harvesting for profit. Intensive muster operations have been required this year.

Meanwhile, fox control must be continued consistently as all foxes need is one good year with no control to return as a major threat. Nonetheless, with ongoing management we are hopeful that over the next decade Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies can continue to flourish and return to all their former habitats across the reserve.



Growth form of four herbivore browsing impact indicator species (Acacia iteaphylla, Eremophila alternifolia, and Prostanthera striatiflora) assessed at Mount Friday at all survey periods.

Uninteruppted: largely unbrowsed
Released: new shoots emerging from previous browse stock
Retrogressed: heavy browse impact, death of all stems
Arrested: hedging and topiarised form, new shoots browsed

1. Lethbridge, M.R., Kearney, T.K. and Shute E., 2024. A review of herbivore impacts on the condition of native vegetation on Mount Friday, Hiltaba. Report to The Nature Foundation.

Witchelina Nature Reserve

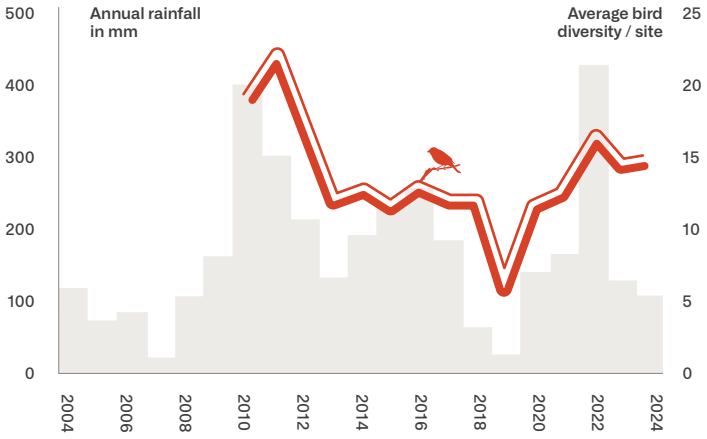
The impacts of longterm bird monitoring

Understanding the impacts of landscape management actions on large arid ecosystems can be challenging. With rain-driven boom-and-bust cycles, the response of any metric can fluctuate wildly even if everything else is held constant.

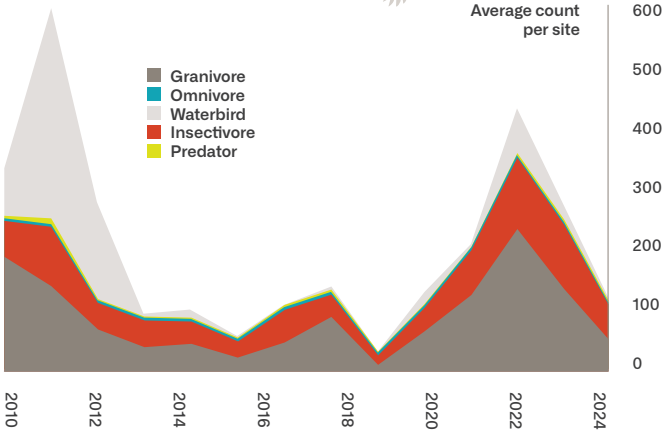
It can be difficult to differentiate between trends related to management actions and changes driven by natural factors, such as weather and climate, that are outside our control. Often, it takes many years of regular data collection before deeper patterns can emerge.

Witchelina Nature Reserve is situated in one of the lowest rainfall zones in Australia. Since its purchase by Nature Foundation in 2010, conservation management actions have focused on improving ecosystem health, especially by reducing grazing pressure. Repeat bird surveys, conducted twice per year by Birds SA at many sites on the reserve since its acquisition, provide information on species detections and abundance that can demonstrate the effectiveness of our management actions in improving ecosystem health.

As befitting of an arid ecosystem, the rainfall at Witchelina has been very erratic over the last 14 years. The bars on the graph below represent annual rainfall and show that 2010 and 2011 were boom years when over 300mm fell. The following nine years had average or below average annual rainfall, with another big boom of record high rainfall in 2022 (433mm). An overlay of bird diversity data (orange line) from the Birds SA survey sites, reveals complementary peaks in bird diversity during the boom rainfall years. From this data there does not, however, appear to be an overall increase in bird diversity over the years.



While bird diversity has not consistently increased over time, more detailed patterns emerge when we dig deeper into the data and consider the quantities and life-histories of specific species. The boom seasons of 2010 – 2012 had similar annual rainfall to the 2022 boom season, yet the makeup of the responses was quite different. The earlier boom occurred not long after Nature Foundation had commenced management of the reserve, and before we could properly reduce grazing pressures. It was mostly driven by increases in the abundance of waterbirds, such as ducks and cormorants. This was a very wet period for much of Australia, with national waterbird populations estimated to be two to four times higher than average over these years.



The more recent boom season in 2022—occurring after more than a decade of Nature Foundation management—was very different to 2010/2011. There was a 40% increase in numbers of seed-eating granivores, including such species as the Zebra Finch and Mulga Parrot—that were recorded in much greater numbers—but also rarer species, such as Painted Finch which were observed on Witchelina for the first time. The abundance of insectivores was also higher with a 40% increase, but waterbird numbers remained low, despite waterbodies such as Lake Weatherston filling up.

A primary focus of Nature Foundation's management at Witchelina has been on reducing grazing pressure, particularly by removing domestic stock and feral goats. Reduced grazing pressure helped promote increased grass cover in 2022, which likely resulted in an increase in the abundance of grass-seed eating birds. In contrast, waterbird numbers across Australia are typically driven by the preceding years' rainfall patterns.

Through strategic management of factors within our control (such as grazing pressure), we have been able to promote greater numbers of granivores than likely would have occurred in the absence of this management (as found in 2010). In contrast, factors driving waterbird abundance are climate-related, and so are more difficult to influence through management actions. Long-term datasets like the one collected by Birds SA are incredibly valuable for measuring biodiversity impact. They enable us to derive new insights into the drivers of ecosystem change and provide us with a greater understanding of our role in managing landscapes and habitats to maximise benefits for biodiversity.

Conservation research: Audio monitoring biodiversity across remote Australia

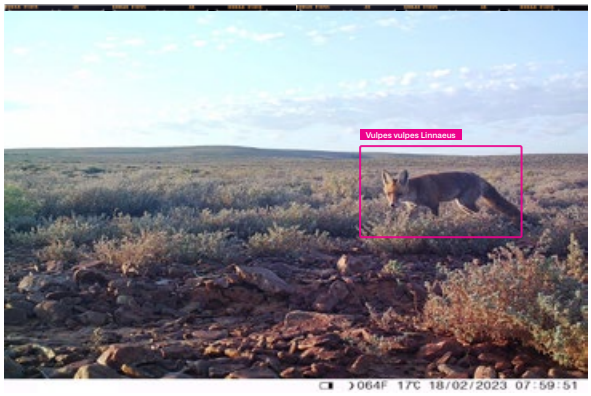
Nature Foundation has partnered with UNSW on a federally funded Innovative Biodiversity Monitoring project that will improve the usefulness of audio data in monitoring biodiversity.

Audio monitoring can gather data on a broader range of species (including birds, mammals, frogs and insects) than most non-traditional methods. This project will improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of processing and analysing audio biodiversity data by developing a streamlined dataflow process for large-scale monitoring programs in remote Australia. The outcome will be a fully operational audio data-processing workflow that will lead to demonstrable improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the processing and analysis of audio monitoring data.

Nature Foundation will contribute to the project by deploying acoustic data loggers at three nature reserves—Witchelina, Hiltaba and Bullock Bridge—at sites currently visited for bird surveys. The on-ground survey data collected during audio logger deployments will be instrumental in calibrating and validating audio monitoring data. Historical bird survey data from these sites will provide further valuable information on expected detections to help refine the development of audio data processing and analysis workflows.

We are excited about this project's potential and look forward to sharing further updates on its impacts and outcomes.

> **Advances in technology like AI and machine learning can transform conservation research by enabling the processing of vast amounts of ecological data with unprecedented speed and accuracy, thus fast-tracking the analysis of complex ecological data at scale. This empowers researchers to make informed decisions and implement more effective conservation strategies that maximise positive outcomes for biodiversity."**
>
> *Dr Paul van Ruth, Science and Knowledge Program Manager at Nature Foundation*



Technology: The impacts of AI on conservation

Motion-detected cameras play an essential role in our nature science research and conservation efforts, enabling image and data capture in remote and hard-to-access places throughout the day and night over longer periods.

However, for many organisations, especially non-profits, the challenge often lies in the resources and time required to review and interpret the image captures. This time-consuming work competes with other conservation activities or falls to a small group of trained professionals.

Advances in technology are not just revolutionising, but also significantly enhancing our conservation efforts, offering a myriad of benefits. From remote camera traps with longer lasting batteries and better-quality images to the use of machine-learning for species identification, these technological advancements are shaping the future of conservation.

Over the past year, we have been working with AI-based image processing software to assist with camera trap recognition. However, this software is not an instant solution. It still requires human input to train it to identify our wealth of native Australian species. Our volunteers are the backbone of this process, playing a crucial role in shaping the system. Their work is essential to improving the accuracy of the program, providing a valuable tool for research and knowledge across our reserve network.

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers for their ongoing support and efforts. We look forward to the positive impact of other technological advancements that enable us to be more efficient and effective with our conservation work and results.

Student research grants / Supporting the next generation of nature scientists

High quality nature science underpins all our efforts to manage our unique biodiversity for future generations sustainably, and an essential aspect of this is offering research grants for university students, funded by donations from our generous supporters.

Since 2000, Nature Foundation has awarded $1,965,786 in research grants to post-graduate students, academics, and the community to kickstart careers in research, supporting 459 students.

Our 2024 round saw three researchers awarded grants:

Grand Starts Grants / PhD

Jack Bilby

PhD, University of New South Wales, UNSW Sydney

Jack is a repeat recipient of our Grand Start Grants – PhD grant, having received it in 2023 as well. This year's grant will assist him with continuing his multi-year research project.

Australian arid zone mammals will be subjected to incredible pressures by climate change, and yet we know very little about how they respond to heat. Jack is investigating how native and invasive terrestrial mammals cope with extreme temperatures and how physiology, phylogeny, behaviour, and land management will impact their ability to survive.

Grant Start Grants / Honours

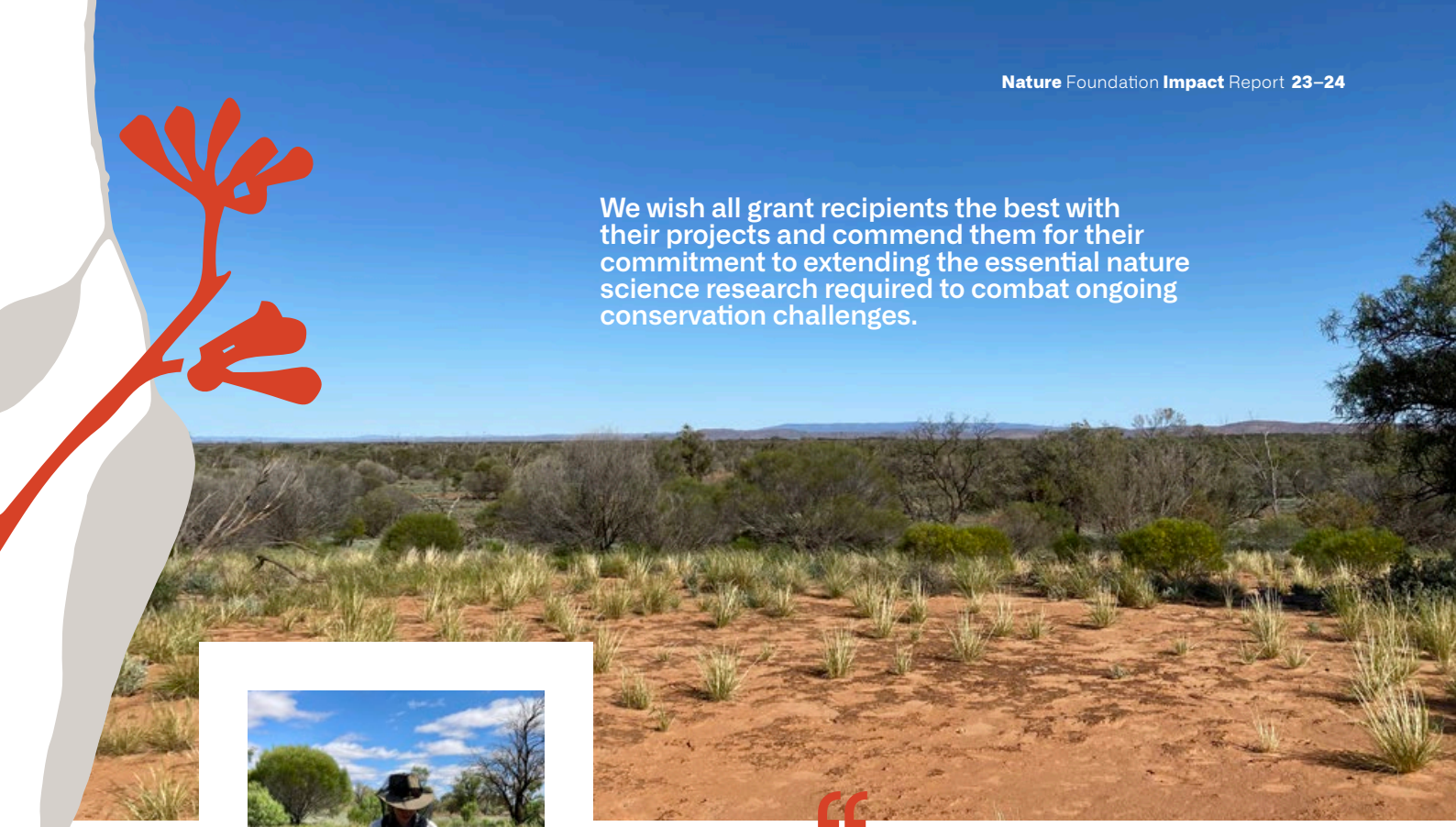
Ryan Sauermann

Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), University of Melbourne

Ryan's project aims to develop a comprehensive method for reliably and efficiently quantifying the genetic diversity within Fat-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*) populations across Australia. The lack of reliable genetic evidence is a significant barrier to assessing the status of the Fat-tailed Dunnart in states other than Victoria, including South Australia.

The resulting genetic tool strives to be cost-effective and accessible, enabling its use by conservation practitioners and researchers in South Australia and empowering them to make informed decisions regarding the genetic management and conservation status of Fat-tailed Dunnarts and their habitats, such as those at Witchelina Nature Reserve.

We wish all grant recipients the best with their projects and commend them for their commitment to extending the essential nature science research required to combat ongoing conservation challenges.



Roy and Marjory Edwards Scholarship

Rebecca Greening

PhD, The University of Adelaide

Rebecca is a repeat recipient, having received the Nature Foundation Scientific Expedition Foundation RL & GK Willing Grant in 2023, and is now undertaking her PhD which will build on her previous research, investigating livestock-associated soil microbial communities and native plant recruitment in arid rangelands.

Rebecca will use DNA sequencing to identify microbes and metabolomics to elucidate their function, uncover the microbial taxa influencing plant growth in both grazed and ungrazed areas, and discern their beneficial or inhibitory effects.

Nature Foundation's student research grant allowed me to conduct an additional field trip to collect a large volume of soil samples I otherwise wouldn't have had the funds to undertake. These extra samples elevated the findings of my project and revealed some very interesting temporal changes in soil microbial communities that, without the extra field trip, would have gone undetected."

Rebecca Greening, 2023 student research grant recipient

Goal 3: Nature is better understood and valued

Helping kids grow on country

Our Kids on Country™ Junior Ranger Program is not just growing, it's thriving. With repeat schools eagerly participating and booking requests for future years being received, the program's success is a demonstration of the collective vision, passion and efforts of our team and support staff.

Since 2016, Nature Foundation has conducted 40 Kids on Country programs, providing 466 Aboriginal young people with the invaluable experience of time on country to build connection to culture and country, and to foster pride and identity.

Over the 2023/24 financial year, we provided 8 Junior Ranger programs and camps, positively impacting 96 Aboriginal high school students. The program's growth, both in size and scope, saw several new activities added, including tracking flora and fauna, bush medicine, and a drone workshop.

Introducing these activities to the Kids on Country™ program enriches the students' educational experience with diverse and hands-on learning.

- Tracking flora and fauna encourages environmental awareness, offers practical experience in observing and understanding local ecosystems, and emphasises the importance of conservation and respect for nature.
- Bush Medicine enhances cultural education, providing insights into traditional practices and Indigenous knowledge, fostering a deeper understanding of cultural heritage and the connection between people and the land.
- The drone workshop promotes technological skills and introduces students to modern technology and its applications in various fields, blending traditional knowledge with contemporary skills.

Overall, these activities ensure the program evolves appropriately, remains dynamic and engaging, and helps students connect meaningfully with their environment, culture, and technology.

In addition, inviting Aboriginal people who are industry experts in their field to facilitate these workshops not only provides access to specialised knowledge and enhances their learning experiences, but it also allows them to build authentic connections, receive inspiration and motivation by witnessing real-world applications of their learning, and potentially spark interest in future career paths.

We are sincerely grateful to all who help the Kids on Country™ program grow and deliver its goal of improving well-being, teaching life skills, building confidence 'on country', and sparking interest in conservation and land management. Your support and participation have been instrumental in our success, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

The Kids on Country program is changing lives of young Aboriginal people through "lived experience". This means that the young people can actually "sit on the ground on country" instead of using internet and social media and classroom environments to learn about life, living skills, land and culture. The program gives awareness inside the world of living and breathing culture. It also provides inspiration for where they might like to go after school, or at least let them know what else is out there besides sitting in an office."

Warren Milera, Youth Programs and Conservation Officer at Nature Foundation

Family on Country

Native title holders had the opportunity to return to country through a Family on Country camp at Hiltaba Nature Reserve in April 2024, funded by a grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).

The Family on Country camp provided the opportunity for traditional custodian families to come together on country to connect and share experiences and stories with young people, learning from Elders. The involvement of Nature Foundation's Aboriginal Advisory Group and traditional custodians in the co-design process was instrumental. They identified the importance of sharing learnings with the next generation, on country.

The camp focused on mentorship and building leadership skills in the younger generation while reinvigorating their connection to country. Bringing families together allowed Elders and community leaders to impart their knowledge to the next generation in a culturally appropriate manner.

16 people attended the six-day camp, including members of the Barngarla, Kokatha, and Wirungu groups, Nature Foundation staff, and rangers from Gawler Ranges National Parks.

During the camp, the group visited places of interest across Hiltaba Nature Reserve, including culturally significant sites such as sacred landmarks, ancestral burial grounds, and abundant natural resources. These visits provided opportunities for cultural education and spiritual connection.

The opportunity also allowed Nature Foundation to discuss approaches on access to country and drought resilience, including cultural revitalisation, community empowerment, and capacity building.

The Family on Country camp facilitated a rich exchange of traditional ecological knowledge between the participants and Nature Foundation staff. This cultural exchange not only enriched the team's understanding but will also enable the integration of Aboriginal perspectives into conservation land management strategies.

"I enjoyed spending time together, everyone engaged, generations together. Timeless."

Zoe Saunders, Chair, Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation

I assist with camp preparation and delivery, conservation volunteering activities, surveys at the reserves, and various tasks to support the team in the office. When I'm out on-country, I help in any way I can so that the camp runs smoothly. I love being part of a life changing program for young Aboriginal kids."

Raijieli Bovoro, Conservation Trainee

Having a past participant with firsthand experience join the team is amazing. Chelli brings a different dynamic, skills and knowledge to the team, and as a key stakeholder for Witchelina, it's an exciting time with the growth of the Kids on Country program."

Katie Perry, Youth Programs Coordinator at Nature Foundation

Kids on Country™ traineeship

Due to the success of the Kids on Country™ program and recent support to build the program's capacity over the coming years, Nature Foundation had the opportunity to grow the team by including Aboriginal Trainees.

This enables Nature Foundation to meet one of our key objectives: offer past participants of the Kids on Country program a defined career pathway within Nature Foundation by providing tangible support for careers in Conservation and Ecosystems Management, Caring for Country and Ranger work.

This past year has seen the Nature Foundation team joined by trainee, Raijieli (Chelli) Bovoro from Adnyamathanha, Kuyani, Yawarawarka and Western Arrernte country, who has been supported to complete her training in Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystems Management with TAFE SA while learning and working across the organisation with Kids on Country, the Science and Knowledge team, the Volunteer and Visitor Engagement team and more.

> **I appreciated an opportunity to visit the woodland and learn about grassland revegetation techniques and challenges, as well as see a successful a revegetation project and the benefits it is already bringing."**
>
> *Para Woodlands Nature Reserve Open Day participant feedback*

Kids on Country™ Aboriginal Advisory Group

Ongoing growth of the Kids on Country™ program has included the establishment of a Kids on Country™ Aboriginal Advisory Group to advise on the program's delivery and future development.

Members of the Aboriginal Advisory Group represent various Aboriginal groups, offering diverse perspectives to ensure the Kids on Country program continues to support a range of stakeholders.

Meeting approximately three times a year, the group will provide strategic advice and guidance to Nature Foundation about the delivery and future growth of the Kids on Country™ Program, including:

- Assisting with developing strategies to enhance Aboriginal community participation in the program.
- Providing advice and helping facilitate the development of new strategic partnerships that grow the scope and impacts of the program.
- Providing feedback on new program delivery ideas aimed at increasing the program's impact.
- Assisting in developing new and innovative pathways for young people to explore and enter employment in conservation and land management industries.
- Providing advice on:
  – Evaluation frameworks to promote the success of the program.
  – Approaches to best manage issues and success barriers identified through the evaluation processes.
- Assisting with strategic promotion of the program through industry and educational stakeholder networks.

Open day at Para Woodlands Nature Reserve

In April 2024, a diverse group of members, donors, supporters, and partners gathered at our Para Woodlands Nature Reserve near Gawler to experience and learn about the conservation efforts occurring across the reserve.

The 500-hectare ex-farming property is co-owned and managed by Nature Foundation and the Department for Environment and Water. It contains several distinct habitats with unique challenges, opportunities, flora, and fauna.

The day trip enabled participants to visit and explore three distinct habitats—woodlands, grasslands, and river—and learn about their characteristics, challenges, and conservation actions and results.

We want to thank our colleagues from the Department for Environment and Water who supported the event: Dragos Moise, Para Woodlands Restoration Ecologist and Anthony Abley, Conservation Ecologist.

Participants greatly appreciated the opportunity to experience a nature reserve that is being actively conserved so close to Adelaide.

Goal 4: Engaged communities that support resilient habitats

Supporter survey highlights

In May 2024, Nature Foundation conducted its biannual Supporter Survey.

This process provides valuable feedback from our supporter base, with insights about the organisation, its communications, activities, and offerings that help us understand our position and perceptions and make improvements where possible.

We had a fantastic response, nearly 400 submissions, almost twice the number from the previous survey. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with some constructive feedback in some areas. This positive feedback reassures us that our activities are on track and gives us confidence in our direction.

Valuable insights from the survey include:

- Respondents believe **invasive species and threatening processes**, and **threatened flora and fauna** are the two most important aspects of protection and conservation.
- The key strengths of Nature Foundation are identified as: conservation efforts, engaging the community, scientific research and support, land management and restoration, and educational and community programs.

It is encouraging to see such positive feedback and support for Nature Foundation's key areas of activity. We are deeply grateful for the time and effort each of you took to provide us with your valuable feedback and will be implementing some updates and improvements based on this information.

Member matters

As a member-based organisation, Nature Foundation is grateful for the support of its members, who encourage our nature conservation work and efforts.

This past year, our annual membership changed, transitioning from a rolling expiry date for year-to-year members to a calendar year membership period from 1 January to 31 December. This approach makes it easier to manage expiries and renewals, particularly ahead of our Annual General Meeting. It also means that new members joining throughout the year can do so at a pro-rated rate.

Thank you to all members for your understanding during the transition process. We have seen strong membership growth over the past year and into the new financial year.

Our Supporter Survey also sought specific feedback from members, with 55% of respondents being current members. Motivation for supporting Nature Foundation through membership generally centred around five core areas:

1. Interest in conservation.
2. Desire to support the Foundation's work.
3. Ability for active involvement (e.g. through volunteering and participation events).
4. Alignment with personal values and beliefs.
5. Having a local impact / South Australian environmental focus.

The survey also indicated that our members are a generous bunch, with the majority indicating that the greatest membership benefit was simply 'supporting our work for nature conservation'. Thank you!

Our members play a vital role in supporting the actions and results of Nature Foundation. We greatly appreciate this support and welcome new members.

> **"Finding out about the Foundation's work and activities, connecting with people who are motivated to conserve native species and habitats and being able to see the results by visiting these locations."**
>
> *Survey response to the question "What is your main motivation for supporting Nature Foundation as a member?'*

Our valuable volunteers

Nature Foundation launched our new volunteer program in October 2024, and its growth and progress have been strong, attracting a variety of volunteers who have supported Nature Foundation with a range of tasks, including:

- Working bees at Murbpook and Watchalunga Nature Reserves; repairing fencing, weed control and other maintenance tasks.
- Working bees at Hiltaba and Witchelina Nature Reserves; precinct preparation for the tourism season.
- Supporting Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard crawls and surveys.
- Event support at the Murbpook Waterbug Bioblitz and Para Woodlands Open Day.
- Watering irongrass at Tiliqua Nature Reserve.
- Supporting tourists and Conservation Land Managers at Hiltaba and Witchelina Nature Reserves.
- Data collection, entry and other office-related tasks, such as preparing tourism resources.

Most of our volunteers' activities have been in the realm of conservation support. Their efforts, from assisting with surveys to participating in working bees and events, have made a significant impact across our reserve network. Their dedication has directly contributed to the preservation of our natural environment, a result we can all be proud of.

> **We are just back home from our stay at Hiltaba Nature Reserve and want to thank Nature Foundation for the organisation and effort that has gone in to making the reserve such a beautiful and comfortable place to visit. The country looks magnificent after winter rains and all the birds were singing and making plans for breeding. We saw at least two dozen bird species and loved the drives and notes that pointed out significant plants growing on the reserve."**
>
> *Meredith and Tony*

Nature-based tourism

Hiltaba and Witchelina Nature Reserves, with their unique and diverse ecosystems, once again welcomed public visitors to experience our nature-based tourism over the April-October seasons.

While visitation in regional areas is down on previous years due to post-COVID travel opportunities for overseas travel and cost of living pressures across Australia, we still saw a steady flow of travellers who delighted in visiting these remote natural habitats.

A new online booking system has progressed the administration of our tourism offering, while infrastructure improvements at Hiltaba, including the Governess's Cottage and a new shower and ablution block—funded through our Vital Work Appeal—will increase and improve the visitor experience.

We are grateful for the capacity of these remote reserves to accommodate a range of visitors, including contractors, researchers, staff, volunteers, artists in residence, students, teachers, and facilitators through the Kids on Country™ program, and tourists. We would also like to thank our Conservation Land Managers, staff, and volunteers who support these visitors.

Watchalunga Planting Day

Our annual Watchalunga planting days continue to grow, with over 30 eager participants joining us on National Tree Day in July 2023 to further the critical revegetation at Watchalunga Nature Reserve.

Our combined efforts resulted in planting an incredible 2,300 native plants, including lignum and sedge seedlings, increasing vital habitat for the Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren, a nationally and state-endangered species.

It's truly inspiring to see the growth and development of the plants from our previous plantings. Many of our regular participants, who have been involved in multiple plantings on this reserve, have expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to witness this progress. This ongoing commitment is essential to the success of our long-term conservation project.

Many thanks to Sarah and the team from Second Nature Conservancy (formerly Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association) for their invaluable preparation and support. Your expertise and dedication were instrumental in the success of our annual planting event. We are truly fortunate to have such passionate conservation partners assisting our efforts in this region.

Murbpook Waterbug Bioblitz

In September 2023, a small group of Nature Foundation members played a crucial role in our Waterbug BioBlitz at Murbpook Nature Reserve.

They became citizen scientists and assisted with vital water quality monitoring, enabling us to measure conservation impact and plan further land and water management activities.

Member, volunteer and supporter involvement in our events is not just appreciated, it's monumental. The assistance provided is not just an additional resource but also an encouraging asset to our conservation efforts and results. You should be proud of the impact you've made.

This project is supported by the Murraylands & Riverland Grassroots Grants program and is funded by the landscape levy.

Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Crawls

Following several cancelled attempts due to the COVID-19 pandemic and weather conditions, we were delighted to finally host our long-awaited Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Crawl at Tiliqua Nature Reserve in October 2023.

This community participation event harnessed the support of our members, who assisted with preparing survey plots across our 85-hectare Tiliqua Nature Reserve.

A second Lizard Crawl occurred at Main Site near Burra in April 2024. "Main Site" is the colloquial name for the area where the Pygmy Bluetongue was rediscovered in 1992. The crawl also provided the opportunity to test the new population monitoring protocol outside of Tiliqua Nature Reserve. Again, we welcomed the support of members and volunteers who eagerly scoured the site, marking spider burrows for the survey team to later search for Pygmy Bluetongues that had taken up residence.

In addition to the hands-on survey set-up tasks, participants relish learning from the team, including Dr Lucy Clive. Dr Lucy Clive is Nature Foundation's Science and Knowledge Program Officer and received her PhD for her studies into the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard. She is a wealth of information regarding this extraordinary species, and the groups loved hearing about the little skink's rediscovery, unique behaviours, and how we are helping to support it through habitat protection and development.

The project is funded by the Landscape Board Levy delivered on behalf of the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board.

Artist Residency Program

Founded in 2019, Nature Foundation's Artist Residency Program offers artists with a professional profile the opportunity to spend up to two weeks at either Witchelina or Hiltaba Nature Reserves.

The 2024 program saw a diverse group of artists selected, including mixed-media artist Mary Pulford from Adelaide, Adelaide-based couple Tim Thomson and Rosana Cohen (a bronze sculptor and ceramicist, respectively), and Georgina Sambell from Victoria who has produced a range of oil and watercolour paintings. Each artist brings a unique perspective and is deeply inspired by nature's various forms.

During their stay at the remote reserves, the artists delve into the heart of nature, drawing inspiration from its myriad forms. Their work is a vivid reflection of the environments they've observed, and the connections they draw between nature conservation and nature-based art are truly inspiring.

The diverse artwork created as part of the 2024 program's residencies will be showcased in the Nature's Foundations 3 exhibition at the Pepper Street Arts Centre. The exhibition will be on display from 4 October to 8 November 2024.

Nature Foundation gratefully acknowledges the Artist Residency Program sponsorship by the Helen James Endowment Fund.

I enjoyed two weeks at Witchelina, painting directly from nature, observing the changing landscape and absorbing the magnetic energy of the desert. Working in the desert is always interesting, as the light is so vast that it produces a flatness of space, distance becomes something of a dream."

Georgina Sambell

Supporting Nature Festival

Nature means the world to us. It's in our name. It's intrinsic to everything we do. So, we were incredibly proud to be involved with the 2023 Nature Festival as a Festival Partner and presenting two events.

Nature Festival is a two-week celebration of our love of nature in South Australia. It took place in October 2023 and offered over four hundred events for all ages, full of creative ways to connect with nature and each other.

Nature Foundation presented two events in the program: Art & Invertebrates on Kangaroo Island, generously hosted on the property of Dr Richard Glatz and Janine Mackintosh, which they have bequeathed to Nature Foundation, and Birds & Bingo at Bec Hardy Wines in McLaren Vale.

Nature Festival is in its fifth year in 2024 and has grown from a grassroots festival to an essential part of the South Australian nature calendar. The 2023 Partnership Report offered the following impactful insights:

"We are proud to report another year of growth, taking us to over 31k participants at 434 events with 231 partners. We were particularly pleased with the success of Nature Foundation's Birds & Bingo event, which was in our top 50 most viewed events in the festival and featured a sold-out crowd. We view the festival as a platform for experimentation and applaud creative events like this that aim to reach new audiences.

For indicators of impact, this year 85% of participants (1,089 responses) said the festival deepened their personal relationship with nature (up from 65% last year), 89% of them said it increased their sense of pride in South Australian nature (up from 82%), and 77% were inspired to take action for nature (up from 63%)."

Source: Nature Festival 2023 Partnership Report

Goal 5: An inspirational organisation that is financially secure and achieves operational excellence

Financial performance summary

Nature Foundation has shown a positive long-term trend in its financial performance, with growth in income, net assets, and financial assets.

Despite challenges such as irregular project-based income and fluctuations in the stock market, we have demonstrated strong overall growth.

Since 2018, Nature Foundation has achieved an average annual net result of $750,000 (Figure 1), increased our net assets by 39%, and grown our financial assets by 63% (Figure 2).

These results demonstrate a sustained improvement in the financial health of the organisation and allow us to plan for the future.

Figure 1. Income, Expenses and Net Result

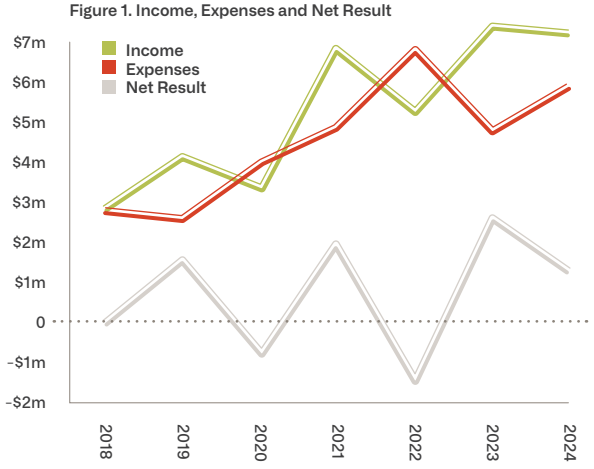
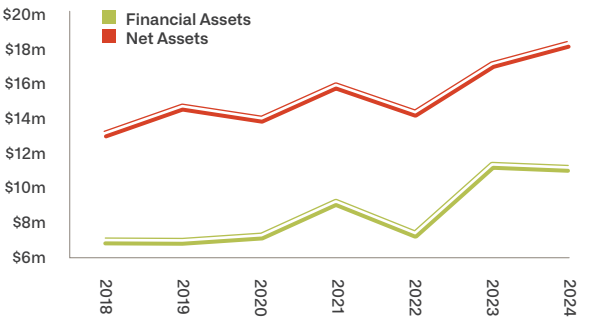


Figure 2. Financial Assets and Net Assets



A comprehensive approach to nature-based solutions

Australia's natural environment is interwoven with our survival, well-being and economic prosperity.

Nature is the source of our food, water, air, climate regulation, raw materials, cultural connection, and recreation. Yet, our natural habitats are facing a crisis of unprecedented urgency. With a rapidly changing climate and declining biodiversity, our environment is deteriorating at an alarming rate. The consequences of this crisis are far-reaching, affecting us all.

Leaders in business, government, and civil society ranked bio-diversity loss and ecosystem collapse as one of the top five threats humanity will face in the next 10 years[1]. Almost half Australia's GDP has a moderate to very high direct dependence on nature (49% of $896bn)[2].

Conserving nature is critical to the health and prosperity of human populations.

For over 40 years, Nature Foundation has successfully led community-led conservation efforts. These evidence-based actions address knowledge gaps, develop career pathways for First Nations Australians and postgraduate students, save native species, and protect natural habitats.

As an early adopter of innovative market-based solutions to deliver biodiversity conservation outcomes, we have always worked closely with industry and government to design solutions that go beyond legislative compliance. With a focus on high-integrity measurement and management frameworks, we will always seek to achieve a positive impact on nature today, tomorrow, and forever.

We take a comprehensive approach to our Nature-based Solutions, considering carbon, biodiversity, and First Nations outcomes and benefits.

Our land assessment process involves reviewing all aspects of a nature-based project, from carbon and biodiversity project opportunities to overall ecosystem connectedness and environmental outcomes.

This past year has seen significant progress in developing new relationships and exploring new opportunities that provide positive impacts for nature alongside co-benefits for business and industry. The state of nature in Australia and globally demands a united front, a whole-of-society approach, to meet the targets required for its restoration and repair. We take pride in being part of the solution and look forward to bringing you further updates in our Nature-based Solutions space.

1. World Economic Forum's 2020 Global Risks Report.
2. The nature-based economy – How Australia's prosperity depends on nature.

Annual **Board retreat**

The Nature Foundation Board is vital in setting direction and providing prudent management for the Foundation and its role in nature conservation in South Australia and beyond.

Some new directors were welcomed to the Board at the November 2023 Annual General Meeting, and the annual Board retreat (held in April 2024) is an important opportunity to prepare for the year ahead in line with our Strategic Plan: Towards 2030.

The Board received insightful presentations from the staff team and collectively discussed and focused on key objectives for the organisation, including:

- Continued focus on assessing key habitat areas where acquisition is financially viable.
- Protecting and restoring key habitats.
- An important focus on Aboriginal engagement and protecting cultural heritage.
- Our continued commitment to Nature-based Tourism.
- The launch and growth of our new Volunteer program and associated events to contribute to conservation.
- Delivering effective reserve management across all our nature reserves.

The Board also visited Watchalunga Nature Reserve to observe the revegetation that has occurred there over the past eight years and learn about the current weed management plan from Science and Knowledge Program Officer Dr Lucy Clive.

Annual **staff retreat**

In May 2024, the entire Nature Foundation staff team embarked on a three-day staff retreat in Quorn, South Australia.

With a remote and hybrid workforce complementing our permanent office-based team, this was an excellent opportunity to spend time together socially, share plans and updates from across the program areas, and participate in a professional development session.

The retreat was also an opportunity to connect with nature. The location offered us the chance to explore local sites and walking trails, and to marvel at the beauty of Devil's Peak, Dutchman's Stern and Mount Brown.

Our time in Quorn was not just a break from our routine, but a strategic move to collaborate and energise. These few days were a valuable investment, setting the stage for a successful new financial year.

Corporate partnership spotlight / Beach Energy

Corporate partnerships play an important role in supporting our mission and the work associated with it. We are grateful for our partners who bring a diverse set of values, priorities, resources and competencies to the table, all connected by a common vision and a desire to achieve genuine outcomes for nature conservation.

Through partnerships with businesses, we collaborate to make a bigger contribution to the prosperity of our natural environment—more projects in more places with more people across South Australia and beyond.

We appreciate the long-term relationships we have developed with key partners, including multi-year support from organisations such as LK Law, Macquarie Group Foundation and Beach Energy.

Beach Energy is an ASX-listed oil and gas exploration, and production company headquartered in Adelaide, South Australia. It supports charitable organisations and initiatives that support sustainable and resilient communities.

Beach Energy has committed to a multi-year partnership with Nature Foundation, supporting a range of activities encompassing our Kids on Country™ Junior Ranger Program, Aboriginal Engagement Strategy development, and conservation actions at Witchelina Nature Reserve.

In FY23/24, Beach Energy's co-contribution to the Kids on Country™ Program enabled 11 Aboriginal high school students to attend a five-day camp at Witchelina Nature Reserve. This transformative experience not only immersed them in culture, caring for country, and conservation but also fostered personal growth and strengthened their cultural identity.

Nature Foundation is currently developing an Aboriginal Engagement Strategy that will better define how the Foundation will engage and work with Native Title Owners across the breadth of its organisational activities. The funding support from Beach Energy assisted in the initial steps of developing relationships with Native Title Owners, including:

- Hosting Senior Adnyamathanha men and visiting important cultural sites across Witchelina.
- Undertaking cultural clearance activities associated with implementing new ecological research infrastructure.
- Engaging Adnyamathanha men to deliver various land management and conservation programs on Witchelina.

The Beach Energy partnership funding also supported Witchelina Nature Reserve's Threat Abatement Program, which aims to improve outcomes for nationally and state-listed threatened species through the restoration and rehabilitation of landscapes and habitats, achieved via the control of total grazing pressure, predation pressure, and incursions of invasive Buffel grass.

The complexity of our environmental situation and challenges necessitates a whole-of-society approach. We extend our gratitude to Beach Energy and all our corporate partners for joining us on this journey.

Beach First Nations Engagement Manager Candice Nadya said the company has been fortunate to work alongside Nature Foundation since 2012, supporting programs like Kids on Country, which strengthen cultural identity.

"This program not only fosters a deep respect for nature and conservation but also encourages students to engage in their education with renewed purpose," Ms Nadya said.

"We are proud of our partnership with Nature Foundation, as together we aim to promote sustainable land management and conservation through meaningful environmental education and community engagement."


Credit: David Clode / Unsplash

Fundraising appeals and donations

Nature Foundation has experienced another successful year, thanks to the generous support of our donors.

Our two major appeals—Forever Nature Fund and Vital Work Appeal—along with general donations, have made a significant impact on our nature reserves and programs.

At this critical time for nature, support from our donors is invaluable. As a non-government-funded charity, we deeply appreciate your care and contributions, which are crucial in our mission to protect our environment for the future.

Our annual Vital Work Appeal is critical to helping us achieve the required property maintenance and infrastructure improvements across our nature reserves, allowing us to conduct and improve our conservation efforts. This year, we were overwhelmed with the appeal's greatest response, raising over **$148,000** towards essential works.

We are keenly aware of the impact cost-of-living increases have on Australians, and we sincerely thank you for all donations to Nature Foundation. Every donation of any size truly makes a difference to nature.

Recognising our Major Donors through **Nature Circle**

Our major donors significantly contribute to Nature Foundation's ability to run our conservation programs and achieve the positive results for nature that we do.

Many of these major donors are happy to do so quietly, simply enjoying their generosity's tremendous impact.

We wanted a way to appropriately recognise and show our appreciation for this select group of major donors, so over the past year, we have developed Nature Circle, an exclusive community for our most dedicated supporters.

Nature Circle is our dedicated network of major donors making an impact on nature with an annual commitment of $10,000 or more, pledged for five years. These donors make a valuable contribution to Nature Foundation's land management, science, research, engagement, and education work and are acknowledged for their enduring support. Nature Circle members are invited to actively learn about Nature Foundation's planned approach to land management they are helping to deliver.

While still in its early days, we have welcomed several inaugural members to Nature Circle. We are excited about the potential of this community and look forward to welcoming more dedicated members in the coming years.

Supporting feral cat eradication on Kangaroo Island

A 2023 UN report stated that invasive species such as feral cats are Australia's number one driver of biodiversity loss[1].

The initial goal of the Kangaroo Island Feral Cat Eradication Program is to eliminate feral cats from Dudley Peninsula on Kangaroo Island, and Nature Foundation is proud to have supported the funding of this program, which is managed by the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board, since 2020.

Our relationship with The Ian Potter Foundation—one of Australia's major philanthropic foundations—facilitated a significant multi-year funding boost for the program, $1.25 million over four years, from 2022 to 2026.

The Kangaroo Island Feral Cat Eradication Program is one of Australia's ambitious programs to remove an invasive, introduced, predatory species that devastates our native animals. Some of the most threatened native species in Australia live on Kangaroo Island, many of which are at extreme risk from feral cats. The Kangaroo Island Feral Cat Eradication Program is a practical example of how good governance, strategic planning, community commitment and appropriate resourcing can effectively remove threats from the landscape, creating safe havens for our native species and reversing the decline of critically endangered species.

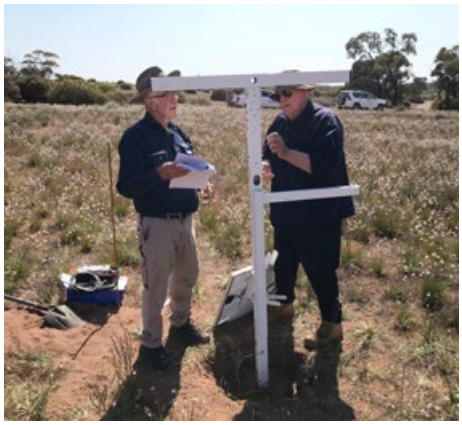
The grant funding has enabled the employment of a range of control tools and techniques, along with technological advancements to assist monitoring and progress, including real-time remote camera monitoring and AI-based image recognition software assisting with data processing.

Following the eradication of feral cats from Dudley Peninsula, the program will then attempt eradication across the remainder of Kangaroo Island. We are grateful for the shared vision and support of The Ian Potter Foundation and other donors in achieving this critical work.

"This successful pilot project has brought together conservation science experts, powerful technologies for real-time monitoring and outstanding stakeholder engagement from the broad Kangaroo Island community, including farmers and landholders, businesses, the local Council and community groups.

"Eradicating cats from the Dudley Peninsula and then extending the work over the rest of the island is an excellent strategy for achieving the ultimate objective of making the whole of Kangaroo Island free from feral cats. This would be a world first in an inhabited and mixed-use (national parks, tourism and agricultural production) island" said Louise Arkles, Senior Program Manager – Environment, The Ian Potter Foundation.

1. abc.net.au/news/2023-09-05/un-invasive-species-report-biodiversity-loss-australia/102815414



Monitoring the weather at Murbpook

In September 2023, a new weather station was installed at Murbpook Nature Reserve. Terracotta Foundation generously donated its funding, and Nature Foundation volunteers installed the station.

The state-of-the-art weather station records local environmental conditions such as temperature, wind speed and direction, providing vital information we can use to adapt conservation management plans and activities on the reserve and contribute to valuable data collection in the region.

Since its installation, the Murbpook weather station has been actively collecting data at 10-minute intervals on parameters such as temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, and wind speed and direction. This information will eventually provide a time series that will support assessments of long-term trends in weather and climate. These new insights will help explain variations in ecosystem structure and function and promote the rehabilitation and restoration of landscapes and habitats across the reserve, thereby maximising positive outcomes for threatened and endangered species.

Thank you, Terracotta Foundation, for supporting this incredibly useful item, which will have a profound impact on our remote reserve monitoring and management.

Giving for the future

The work of Nature Foundation is becoming increasingly urgent as protected areas become the final refuge for more threatened species and ecosystems. But, like many things, conservation comes at a cost.

We are honoured to have a long history of generous supporters with vision beyond their lifetimes who leave a gift in will to Nature Foundation. Leaving a gift in will is a simple process that involves including a clause in your will that designates a portion of your estate to the Nature Foundation. It is a powerful way to support a cause that has deep significance for you. It is part of the legacy that you choose to leave that tells future generations that this is something you care about—something worth fighting for, something worth protecting and preserving. That is a strong message of support and provides leadership and guidance to future generations.

A gift in will helps us invest in conserving, restoring, and protecting Australian landscapes, flora, and fauna to ensure their survival for future generations.

This past year has seen more Nature Foundation supporters make a lifelong commitment to nature with a gift in their will. We are fortunate to have received five confirmed bequests in FY23/24, with an estimated value of $435,000, and three confirmed gifts of land, with a combined area of almost 1,000 hectares. One of these has been received as a living bequest. These generous contributions are a testament to the enduring spirit of conservation and inspire hope for the future of our planet.

We offer our deepest thanks to these bequestors and their families. Your generosity and commitment to the future of nature in South Australia and beyond are deeply appreciated. You are not just supporters but integral members of our Nature Foundation family.

A magnificent Vision for Nature

Nature Foundation is most grateful for the growing commitment of our supporters by leaving a Gift in Will. Those who confirm a gift to Nature Foundation in their will are invited to join our exclusive Vision for Nature group.

Vision for Nature brings together a select group of people with a deep concern for and commitment to our natural environment thriving beyond our lifetimes.

In October 2023, our Vision for Nature society enjoyed a delightful day at Mount Magnificent and McLaren Vale. Jane and Jocelyn hosted the group at their (partial) heritage agreement property at Mt Magnificent. The visit was a unique opportunity to learn more about private land conservation and enjoy stunning walks and views. Jane and Jocelyn have lived at Pink Gums, a 100-acre property located immediately southeast of Finnis Conservation Park and northwest of Cox Scrub Conservation Park, since 1990. They will be leaving the property as a bequest to Nature Foundation.

Jane and Jocelyn provided an insightful presentation and guided walk, followed by morning tea before the group travelled to Bec Hardy Wines at Pertaringa for a lunch and tasting session hosted by Bec Hardy.

> **“We chose Nature Foundation because of their long track record in conservation in this state. We talked with staff about our concern to protect our land in the longer term and were reassured this organisation could ensure care and protection into the future. It feels good to know that in bequesting our beloved property to Nature Foundation we can make this happen.”**
>
> *Jane and Jocelyn, Gift in Will bequestors*

Our Partners

First Nations Partners

Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association

Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation

Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation

Corporate Partners

beach

Bec Hardy Wines

BHP

CMV Group Foundation

Employee Foundation

greencollar

LK

Macquarie

Santos – We have the energy.

SA Water

Terracotta Foundation

The Ian Potter Foundation

//thefactory

Wyatt

Government Partners

Australian Government

Government of South Australia – Department for Environment and Water

Native Vegetation Council

Landscape South Australia Kangaroo Island

Landscape South Australia Limestone Coast

Landscape South Australia Murraylands and Riverland

Landscape South Australia Northern and Yorke

Landscape South Australia SA Arid Lands

NGO Partners

BirdsSA

Nature Glenelg Trust

Second Nature Conservancy – Formerly GWLAP

Conservation Research Partners

Flinders University

The University of Adelaide

University of South Australia

UNSW Sydney

Industry Partners

alca – Australian Land Conservation Alliance

Centre for Invasive Species Solutions

South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy

South Australian Nature Alliance

Be part of the change you would like to see

If you would like to help make a real difference for nature across SA and beyond, there are many ways to get involved.

naturefoundation.org.au/change

Credit: David Clode / Unsplash

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We invite you to support us

Conserve, restore and protect our unique natural landscapes, flora and fauna to ensure their survival for future generations.

Become a volunteer

Whether it's meeting like-minded people, gaining new skills, or offering your specialist skills for a great cause, volunteering for nature can be a fantastic experience. There are many ways to help and make a difference for nature.

Make a donation or bequest

The generosity of donors enables us to achieve so much for nature conservation in Australia. Donations can be large or small, individual or corporate, regular or occasional. They can be financial or in the form of land, water or goods. Every donation counts.

Become a member

Join a passionate group of people dedicated to conserving, restoring and protecting our precious natural landscapes, floodplains and wetlands, and make a real difference for nature conservation.

Corporate partnerships

We love developing enduring partnerships with our corporate supporters. If you would like to explore how your organisation can support our cause, do get in touch.

We'd love to hear from you

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