

# Energy for change



Annual report  
2017–2018



AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION



Imagine a world where forests, rivers, people, oceans and wildlife thrive. This is the world we can see. **This is the world we are creating.**

## Who are we?

We are Australia's national environment organisation. We are more than half a million people who speak out, show up and act for a world where all life thrives. We are proudly independent, non-partisan and funded by donations from Australians.

## Our strategy

### Change the **story**

Stories matter. They shape what people see as possible. That's why we're disrupting the old story that destruction is inevitable. We are seeding new stories of hope, courage and connection to inspire people to act.

### Build **people power**

We are building a wave of people who care and act into powerful, organised communities. Together, we're holding decision makers to account, pushing for real change and creating a better world.

### Fix the **system**

We can't fix the pollution and extinction crisis one spot fire at a time. That's why we're taking on the big structural challenges – laws, institutions and decisions – so we can keep enjoying life in this beautiful country.

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this country and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to their Elders past and present and to the pivotal role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play in caring for country across Australia.



*Below. Mara Bún (President) and Kelly O'Shanassy (CEO). Photo. James Thomas*

Today, the ACF   
community is  
over **550,000**  
**people strong**



# Message from the President and CEO

**Australia's future may seem uncertain, but that uncertainty is our opportunity. The future is not set, it is shaped by those that take action today. And we're taking action like never before.**

Energy and climate policy has once again disrupted federal politics. Despite calls from farmers, bankers, energy companies, environmental groups, state and territory governments and many Australians, our national government is failing to end climate damage. And the stakes are high as the drought wreaks havoc and an angry summer approaches.

While a national energy policy seems a dim light on the horizon, your energy is lighting up our lives. You are calling your MPs and holding them to account. You are part of a million conversations to make the next federal election the climate election. You are signing petitions, writing letters, rallying, donating and speaking out. We think you are pretty amazing.

Today, the ACF community is over 550,000 people strong, blowing our goal of 400,000 people out of the water. And we now have 22 ACF Community Groups working across 21 electorates to build people power and it's working.

After months of advocacy, the Queensland government finally vetoed public funding for the Adani coal mine. After a lightning fast door-knocking campaign in the Batman by-election the ALP began to shift its position on Adani. After a community referendum the South Australian government dropped its nuclear waste plans.

We've disrupted stories that are taking us in the wrong direction. We beat back scare tactics to smear clean energy. We made national and international headlines when we exposed

Australia's failure to list any critical habitat since environmental laws were enacted. And we helped instigate a Senate inquiry into the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, which received half a billion dollars for reef protection despite it not addressing the reef's biggest threat; climate change.

None of this is possible without our incredible people – from our volunteers and supporters, to ACF staff, Board and Council. Our people are our greatest advantage and this year we were honoured to receive a global award for transforming ACF's culture. We were equally thrilled that the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. Our very own Dave Sweeney founded ICAN with a few others in a Carlton lounge room in 2007.

Speaking of incredible people, in November we bid farewell to Geoff Cousins who has been a powerful force for nature as ACF's President. And in late 2018, we will farewell our two Vice Presidents Nadia McLaren and Piers Verstegen, and long-time Councillors Jonathan King and Christian Bell. We thank them for their incredible contributions.

Change is renewal and we look forward to welcoming new Board members and Councillors in November. And, personally, we are thrilled that your new President joins with your CEO to form an all-female leadership team, which is rare in our movement.

Everything we do here at ACF is because of you. You give your time, your money, your voice, your passion, and with us share your hopes and your dreams. Thank you. It is you who inspire us. Our achievements are your achievements. Own them, be proud of them.

Mara Bún, *President*

Kelly O'Shanassy, *CEO*



## Our Board

### ACF Board - taken at 29 June Board meeting

Front row, L to R: Piers Verstegen *Vice President*; Mara Bún *President*; Nadia McLaren *Vice President*; Jimmy Cocking. Back row, L to R: Jon Anstey *Hon. Secretary*; Mary Latham *Treasurer*; Anne Poelina; David Morris; Tim Chapman. Not present: Erika Avellaneda Celis.

We are pleased to acknowledge the significant, voluntary contributions of the following external members of the Board's committees: *Finance Audit and Risk Committee*: Amanda McIntyre, Jane Smithers, Jonathan Andrews. *60L Management Committee*: Jodi Bastion, Alan Pears, Jason Rollheiser.

### Geoffrey Cousins AM, ACF President 2014–2017

The Board, Council and staff of ACF thank past-President, Geoffrey Cousins, for his leadership and outstanding contribution to the organisation.

Let's create a  
**tomorrow that is  
brighter** than today





## Our Council

### ACF Council - taken at 30 June Council meeting

**Front row, L to R:** Daisy Barham, NSW; Margaret Steadman, TAS; Tim Chapman, NSW; Cameron Power, WA; David Hood, QLD; Philippa Rowland, SA; Erika Avellaneda Celis, TAS.

**Middle row, L to R:** Anne Poelina, WA; Susan Richardson, SA; Jimmy Cocking, NT; Nadia McLaren *Vice President*, SA; Christian Bell, TAS; David Morris, NT; Jim Le Cornu, VIC; Nicola Rivers, VIC;

Mara Bún *President*. **Back row, L to R:** Piers Verstegen *Vice President*, WA; Jonathan Miller, ACT; Ian Penrose, VIC. *Not present:* Samara Cassar, QLD; Gemma Plesman, QLD; Jonathan King, NSW.



## Our **impact**

We advocate for change and change takes time. The way forward is a challenging path. But together we've achieved great outcomes.

### OUTCOMES FOR CLIMATE

# Clean energy

commitments from the  
Queensland, South Australian  
and Victorian Governments

Adani's Carmichael coal

# still in the ground



#### More outcomes include:

- Coal plants, like Hazelwood and Liddell, are closing
- Climate pollution from electricity cut by 4.3% in Australia
- The Ranger uranium mine in Kakadu is closing
- South Australia remains nuclear waste free.

### PEOPLE POWER

# 557,678

ACF supporters taking action for our beautiful country

# 900+

incredible volunteers

# \$12.58 million

revenue raised for nature and climate from people like you in the last year

# 22

ACF community groups meeting their MPs and convincing neighbours and friends to care for nature and our climate



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## OUTCOMES FOR NATURE

# 315,862 hectares

in Cape York returned to Traditional Owners since 2015

# \$250 million

from the federal government for  
Indigenous Protected Areas and  
Indigenous Rangers

### **Together we've also achieved:**

- Over 2,000 billion litres of water recovered and returned to the Murray-Darling rivers, wetlands and wildlife since the Murray Darling Basin Plan began
- National nature protection laws still stand and we have a blueprint for new, stronger laws to protect our air, water and wildlife
- Ancient forests named in the Tasmanian Forest Agreement stand strong.

*Below.* Hands Off Our Charities Alliance event in Canberra with MPs.

# Speaking up for what's **right** is a vital part of the work of charities





## In focus: **Hands off our charities**

### **This year, our right to speak out for people and our planet was under threat like never before.**

Egged on by the Big Coal lobby, the federal government has been trying to pass a draconian package of laws that directly attack the heart of democracy in Australia. These laws would silence criticism and severely restrict charities like ACF from speaking out for what really matters – like the air we breathe, the water we drink and the people, places and wildlife we love.

So, rather than accept these draconian laws, we are united to speak out for our *right* to speak out.

### **What we did**

- We co-led (and continue to co-lead) the work of the 'Hands Off Our Charities' alliance – a powerful national campaign to champion advocacy and defend against anti-democratic attacks designed to silence us all. ACF hosts the alliance and we've contributed legal expertise, political strategy advice and political connections, as well as many hours organising actions like joint letters, parliamentary briefings, press conferences and other events at Parliament House.
- We worked with our community to keep the pressure on our decision makers not to pass the anti-democratic laws.
- We liaised with mainstream media to keep this important issue in the public eye and developed social media content to tell our story.
- In the background, we kicked off a critical piece of foundational work – our democracy research project. When government isn't working properly, it can't deliver the solutions we need, no matter how hard we campaign. So we're

researching what the key obstacles are to a healthy democracy, and how we might address some of them, making it more possible for our government to deliver real action on climate and nature.

### **Our impact**

- The Turnbull Government backed down and exempted charities from the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill, which was a threat to the work of many charities.
- The Espionage & Foreign Interference Bill unfortunately was passed with the support of both Labor and Coalition MPs. However, in response to the Hands Off Our Charities campaign, the Bill was significantly improved through the parliamentary committee review process.
- The Greens, Labor and some Senate crossbenchers agreed to our list of guiding principles for fairer laws. This means it will be difficult for the federal government to pass more of its over-reaching laws.
- With these principles in play, the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill was amended to minimise impacts on charities and tighten electoral funding and disclosure. At the time of writing, the Bill is being debated in Canberra and we are hopeful that our campaign will achieve its third success!

Speaking up for what's right is a vital part of the work of charities. We speak up for the vulnerable, for human rights, and to hold the powerful accountable. We speak for the trees.

With you, we will continue to stand together with other organisations in the charity sector to say **hands off our democracy.**

## Fixing the **system**

### Clean energy, not pollution

Cutting pollution and powering Australia with clean energy from the sun and wind

**We all want to keep enjoying life on our beautiful planet - with abundant coral reefs, clean air and thriving communities.**

Once again, our work to stop climate damage, reject the nuclear fuel cycle (a dangerous alternative to fossil fuels) and shift Australia to 100% clean energy was a key priority for the ACF community in 2017–18.

#### What we did

- We co-wrote and launched the *Repower Australia Plan*, outlining a roadmap for how Australia can get to 100% clean energy by 2030.
- We held the federal government to account for its lack of climate policy, exposed Australia's low ranking on the global Climate Change Performance Index, shone a light on Australia's rising pollution, and busted the myth that coal can be clean.
- We exposed how the federal government's irresponsibly low 26% emissions reduction target for the electricity sector – applied under the proposed National Energy Guarantee or

Clean Energy Target – wouldn't get polluting fuels out of Australia's electricity until as late as 2101. And we showed politicians how disastrous this level of ambition is for people and the planet.

- In the absence of federal action on climate change, we pushed state governments to adopt policies and make investments that get more clean energy into our electricity system faster.
- We mobilised our community via online actions, resulting in 1082 phone calls and 13,604 unique, individual emails to politicians urging them to take stronger climate action.
- We spoke out against plans to build new uranium mines in Western Australia and a nuclear waste dump industry in South Australia.

**2017-18 Nobel Peace Prize:** ACF was active in the International Campaign to **Abolish Nuclear Weapons**

*Right.* ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (Australia)) receive the Nobel Peace Prize at the ceremony in Oslo, Norway in November 2017. ACF's Dave Sweeney and co-chair of the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance Sue Coleman-Haseldine, a Kokatha-Mula elder and Maralinga test survivor from Ceduna (SA), and Daisy Gardener, an ICAN Australia Board member. *Photo.* Kristian Laemmle-Ruff



## Our impact

- As part of the Climate Action Network Australia's (CANA) Repower Australia campaign, the ACF community:
  - successfully pushed the Queensland government to lift its ambition on climate action, with the adoption of a 50% Renewable Energy Target (RET), a 30% pollution reduction target, and policies encouraging rooftop solar, construction of large-scale clean energy projects, adoption of electric vehicles, and a just transition for the electricity sector from coal to clean energy
  - ensured that the South Australian election did not result in the state abandoning its world leading roadmap towards a clean energy future
  - helped ensure the federal government did not adopt policies that support keeping coal in our electricity system for longer and stall the rapid growth of clean energy
  - successfully ensured the Liddell coal fired power station did not have its 2022 closure date extended.
- In our work to change the story, we successfully held off a campaign – spearheaded by big polluters and amplified by a handful of politicians and media outlets – to smear clean energy and promote coal. Public polling continues to support the transition from dirty coal to clean energy and action to address climate damage. Despite well-funded efforts to convince us otherwise, people think clean energy, not coal, is the future.
- There was positive progress to deliver ACF's nuclear free campaign:
  - no new uranium mines were built in Australia
  - planned expansions of existing operations, including Energy Resources of Australia's (ERA) Ranger 3 Deeps project in Kakadu, were abandoned
  - Rio Tinto committed to the closure, clean up and rehabilitation of the Ranger mine and ACF is working with Mirarr Traditional Owners on closure and transition planning
  - the federal government has not been able to finalise a planned national waste facility and ACF continues to advocate for responsible radioactive waste management
  - ACF was active in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which was awarded the 2017–18 Nobel Peace Prize for advancing a global prohibition treaty on nuclear weapons.



## Laws to protect life

Creating strong laws to protect nature and sustain us all

**We want a world where all life – koalas, people, coral reefs, cockatoos, turtles and big old trees – exists in harmony and remains healthy.**

This year, we kept up the pressure on our elected representatives to stop destructive practices, like land clearing and mining. To restore and reconnect habitats. And, importantly, to create laws that protect life, not allow it to be destroyed.

### What we did

- We continued to play a lead role in the Places You Love alliance – the biggest alliance of environmental NGOs in Australia's history – growing the call for stronger national environment laws to stop extinction and protect life in Australia.
- We mobilised the ACF community to send over 5,000 personalised missing creature reports to Members of Parliament – calling for stronger action to protect threatened species.
- We played a lead role in organising the Better Laws Better Planet Symposium, which brought together researchers, legal experts, NGOs and decision makers to outline the law reforms needed to protect the places we love.
- We worked with the Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law to launch its landmark publication, *A blueprint for a new generation of national environmental laws*, which has been looked at globally as a watermark for environmental law reform. We are now working to get political parties to adopt these laws as part of their policy platform in the lead up to the next election.
- ACF's team worked closely with journalists from The Guardian to expose failures in Australia's environmental laws, as part of the news outlet's Wide Brown Land series.
- We planned a new, long-term campaign to re-connect people with nature and protect the habitats of our vanishing wildlife.

### Our impact

- In March, we made national and international headlines when we launched *Australia's extinction crisis: protecting critical habitat*. The report exposed Australia's failure to list any critical habitat since environmental laws were enacted, despite leading the world on extinction rates and having over 1,800 listed threatened species.
- We put nature on the front page of major newspapers, highlighting the weaknesses in the federal government's draft nature strategy and exposing massive land clearing in Cape York.
- Because so many people in our community spoke out, in June the Australian Senate launched an inquiry into Australia's unfolding extinction crisis. The report is due for release on December 4.

We mobilised the ACF community to send over **5,000 personalised missing creature reports** to Members of Parliament



## Economy for life

Making economic decisions that support life, not damage it

**Right now, our economic system is focused on short-term gain and limitless economic growth - treating our living world as capital to be traded, extracted and exploited.**

But this system is human-made and together we can fix it.

Across all our campaigns in 2017-18, we continued to advocate for longer-term economic thinking and investment that delivers benefits for people as well as our reefs, rivers, forests and wildlife.

### What we did

- We continued to expose how much government money is (or isn't) being spent on the environment. For example, we revealed how the government has chosen to slash environmental spending by 37% since 2013-14 – even though the overall federal budget has actually increased by 18%.
- We also worked with allies such as the Community and Public Sector Union to highlight the implications budget cuts have had for both the environment and the people that work on protecting it.
- We planned a new, innovative economics campaign to ensure our work helps people meet their needs and achieve their goals in harmony with nature.

### Our impact

- Our economics team helped instigate a Senate inquiry into how and why a small charity, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, received half a billion dollars for reef protection from the federal government, despite having no plans to address the reef's biggest threat: climate damage.
- After years of campaigning by ACF and other community groups, the Council of Australian Governments agreed to progress work on a National Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounting, paving the way for greater transparency and understanding around the connection between our environment and the economy.



## Our beautiful places

### **Australians love this ancient island continent - its seas and forests, its unique critters and country.**

We want to live in a country where our plants and wildlife thrive. Where natural and cultural heritage thrives and the rights of Traditional Owners are respected.

This year, we continued to play a key role in protecting the places we love – from the tall trees of Victoria's forests, to the incredible country and culture of Cape York Peninsula.

### **Our much-loved reef**

#### **The Great Barrier Reef is one of the most incredible places on Earth. But right now, it is in grave danger.**

To protect the reef we must shift away from polluting coal, oil and gas. These dangerous fossil fuels are accelerating climate damage and causing more frequent coral bleaching. And we must stop opening up new thermal coal basins, such as Queensland's Galilee Basin.

This means putting a stop to Adani's Carmichael coal mine. That's why this year, with our allies, we continued to grow one of the biggest environment movements Australia has ever seen – the campaign to #StopAdani.

### **What we did**

- ACF was a core driver of community action for #StopAdani, playing a lead role in mobilising people power across Australia to stop Adani's polluting mine.
- We played a lead role stopping public money for Adani in the form of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) loan.
- In September, four community delegates delivered ACF's biggest petition ever to MPs on behalf of 164,835 people who said no to a \$1 billion loan to Adani's polluting coal mine.
- ACF appeared at the Senate Inquiry into the operation and governance of NAIF.
- The ACF community melted down the Prime Minister's phone lines with a six-week campaign of constant phone calls urging him to stop the handout.
- During the Queensland election, ACF Community groups held over 50 local campaign actions in critical electorates. Volunteers handed out our independent scorecard at polling booths throughout the state. Millions of Queenslanders heard the call to vote for our reef, not coal.
- We worked with our allies to make sure that the big four Australian banks (Commonwealth, Westpac, NAB and ANZ) joined 29 other international financiers and insurers in ruling out backing Adani's mine.
- We took Opposition Leader Bill Shorten to the Great Barrier Reef to see the damage from climate change firsthand and hear from tourism operators and a world-renowned coral scientist. We offered to take the Prime Minister, but he declined.
- We put the #StopAdani campaign front and centre of the Batman by-election in Victoria. ACF volunteers handed out more than 10,000 scorecards and knocked on almost 4,000 doors.
- We released legal advice, showing how the federal government could stop Adani's coal mine using existing provisions in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. This was featured extensively in the national media.
- We coordinated inside-track lobbying of key federal politicians, demanding that they publicly oppose Adani's coal mine.



## Our impact

- Our #StopAdani human signs made headlines as far away as the New York Times and BBC.
- The Queensland government vetoed the \$1 billion publicly-funded loan.
- Major Chinese banks ruled out financing Adani's mine, after lobbying efforts by former foreign minister Bob Carr and others on behalf of ACF.
- During the Batman by-election Labor Party leader Bill Shorten said he did not support Adani's coal mine.
- Media coverage of the Sovereign Risk Report we commissioned from Saul Eslake, former chief economist of ANZ, ran throughout May. The report dispelled the myth that stopping the Adani mine project would damage Australia's credit rating.
- Our Adani mine groundwater analysis was broken in the media by the ABC, exposing the complete failure of Adani's plans to protect groundwater dependent ecosystems like the Doongmabulla Springs.
- Most importantly, the Adani mine has not been built and the coal remains safely in the ground.





## The Great Dividing Range

### What we did

- We backed up our inside track advocacy with powerful demonstrations of public support. In February, thousands of caring people from our community emailed the Victorian government demanding they protect the state's big old trees and create a new national park in Victoria's central highlands – the Great Forest National Park.

### Our impact

- Because we spoke out, the Victorian government announced in March that they will stop companies logging a small but spectacular area of precious old-growth forest in Kuark, East Gippsland.
- The Victorian government also resisted federal pressure to extend Victoria's Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) for another 20 years. These dodgy logging loopholes let companies destroy our forests with little federal oversight. Instead of rolling them over for another two decades, the government has extended the RFAs for two more years while they comprehensively assess the health of Victoria's forests.
- The Victorian environment minister's office particularly noted the influence of ACF's advocacy in securing these outcomes – through our work in the Forest Industry Taskforce, our lobbying in the halls of parliament and our online campaign actions. These tactics played an important role alongside the efforts of other organisations we worked in close partnership with on this campaign.

## The mighty Murray

### What we did

- 19 River Fellows graduated from our nine-month program of citizen advocacy, campaigning and community engagement. They're growing a groundswell of community support to make sure everyone who calls the Murray-Darling Basin home – the people, wildlife, farms and cities – can thrive for generations to come.
- Together they collected and delivered 24,177 signatures to Federal Parliament, calling for a better deal for the Murray-Darling Basin.
- With the Fellows, we helped expose the corrupt underbelly of river-water theft, building on ABC Four Corners' Pumped program. Many Fellows were interviewed on radio and shared their stories in print media and on TV.
- We ran intensive change the story retreats with the Fellows. Together, these volunteers from all corners of the Murray-Darling Basin are telling different chapters of the same story about rogue irrigators stealing river water and corporate mega-farms bleeding rivers dry.

### Our impact

- Our community pressure following the Four Corners program resulted in a South Australian Royal Commission into the Murray-Darling Basin, and forced a number of other ongoing investigations by anti-corruption and other agencies.
- While the Fellows and others were initially successful in convincing the Australian Senate to block the Northern Basin Amendments, sadly, the Turnbull Government was successful in cutting the amount of water that was to be recovered for the Murray and Darling Rivers by almost 700 billion litres. Despite our disappointment at the management of the MDB and the implementation of the Basin Plan, we continue to see the life-giving benefits of over 2,000 billion litres of water that has been returned to the Murray and Darling Rivers over the last decade as a result of ACF's campaigns.

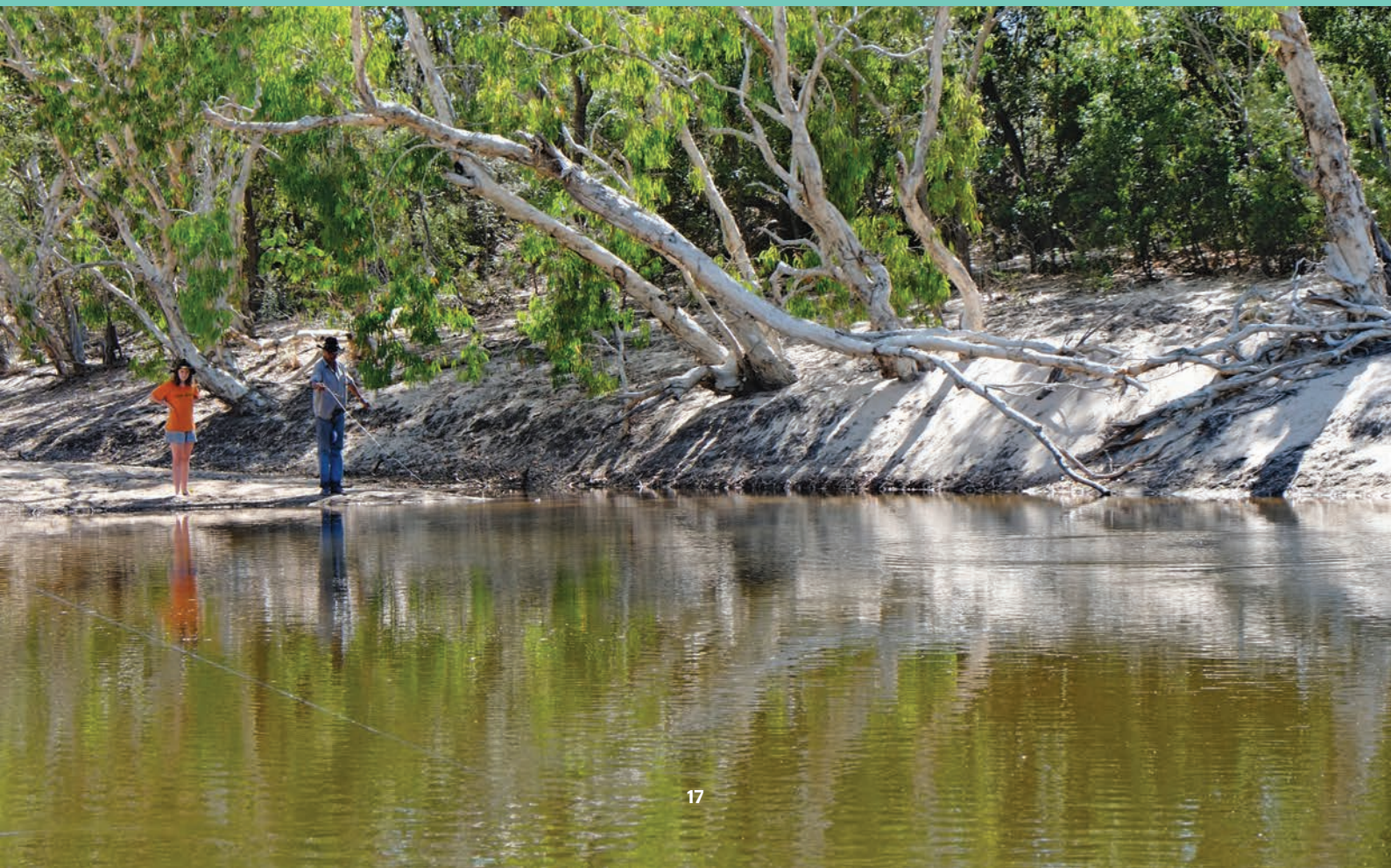
## The beautiful north

### What we did

- In August 2017, we once again supported the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation in their eco-tourism initiative, *A journey into Olkola Country*. ACF community members joined us on two booked-out tours, walking the land with Traditional Owners and supporting the Olkola People to care for country and culture. Over the past three years, 45 ACF supporters have participated in the Olkola experience. And an additional 250 have people expressed interest in participating.
- Our nature campaigners continued to work on supporting a World Heritage Nomination for parts of Cape York Peninsula, working closely with the Queensland government and Traditional Owners.
- ACF worked behind the scenes with allies to push for legal reforms that will protect important conservation areas, outside of national parks, from mining and other threats. We are now waiting for the changes to be made in Queensland's parliament.

### Our impact

- In May 2018 the federal government committed to supporting the establishment of five new Indigenous Protected Areas that will protect nearly 14 million hectares. An additional \$250 million in funding will also support Indigenous Ranger groups until June 2021.
- Amendments to the *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007*, if passed, will prohibit all forms of mining and exploration on all Aboriginal freehold land in the Shelburne and Temple Bay areas, complementing the Aboriginal owned national parks.
- Changes to Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1998* will afford a new level of protection for private land, equivalent to a national park.
- 15 years ago ACF established the Northern Australian Program to work with Traditional Owners to protect land for conservation and cultural values. With a focus on Cape York, over 3.6 million hectares has been returned to Traditional Owners; 315,862 hectares since 2015 including Shelburne Bay and the Bromley and Sandstone West properties. Much of this land are parks and reserves jointly managed for natural and cultural values by the Traditional Owners and the Queensland Government.





# Changing the story

## **Stories matter. They shape our values and behaviour, and what we see as possible.**

That's why, as a core part of our strategy, we're working to 'change the story'. We shift deeply held myths and worldviews – like consumption will make us happy; protecting our climate harms the economy; nature is merely human property. These myths are like glue – they hold the status quo and limit the appetite for change.

In place of the old story that 'destruction is inevitable', we are seeding new stories of hope, courage, creativity and connection to inspire people to act.

### **What we did**

- We launched our one million conversations campaign, encouraging people to have meaningful conversations about climate change and to encourage others to get involved in advocacy. We developed a whole range of shareable, scalable material – such as scripts and training videos – to help people create a widespread demand for action.
- We ran change the story workshops around the country. We gave people and communities at the frontline of campaigns like #StopAdani media training. We developed and distributed toolkits with tips on how to write letters to local newspapers, call talkback radio, write media releases and more.
- We conducted social research – on the streets, via social media, online and in focus groups – to learn more about how we can elevate the climate and extinction crises in people's minds.
- We worked with the Centre for Australian Progress and allies from across civil society to research how best to talk about the economy and how we can change the story as part of our new economy campaign.

**In place of the old story** that 'destruction is inevitable', we are **seeding new stories of hope**



## Our impact: **shifting the story on Adani**

**For more than two years, our community has spoken out against Adani's polluting mega mine. We've made human signs, painted banners, hosted film screenings, had conversations with friends and strangers, petitioned our MPs, and shown up week after week.**

We exposed Adani's coal spill in the Caley Valley Wetlands. We revealed the shady web of ties between the fossil fuel industry, the government, and public funding bodies. We've drawn national media attention to the fact that the federal and Queensland governments have failed to consider the impact of the Adani coal mine on valuable groundwater ecosystems in country that's already in the grip of drought.

While the coal lobby push scare campaigns on power prices and energy security, we're reframing the national conversation to be about what matters most – stopping damage to our climate and protecting our living world.

Our stories have reached millions online, in newspapers and on air – recruiting tens of thousands of new people to the movement.

And now there is research to show that our words, and the way we tell stories, have real power.

Public polling conducted by ACF and our allies shows that public opinion has clearly shifted against Adani's mine and public subsidies for the project. And we know that an increasing number of Australians think we should phase out coal.

This is a huge win for our work to change the story on Adani.

Together, we've raised the issue to a new prominence nationwide. We're growing the movement for clean energy and momentum for the shift away from dirty coal. And we won't stop speaking out against this mine until we've stopped it, once and for all.





Below. ACF staff and 2018 ACF Fellows with Cecilia from Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater in Victoria. Photo. Annette Ruzicka / MAPgroup

## Building **people power**

People made this crisis. Together we can solve it.

### **Today, the ACF community is over 550,000 people strong.**

That's more than half a million people speaking out for our living world – signing petitions, talking to MPs, attending events, donating, participating in local groups, leaving bequests, contributing as members and much more.

Together, we are a powerful force for nature.

### **What we did**

- To scale up our impact, we invested in innovative technology to empower our community to reach new, wider audiences.
  - We launched Action Centre – an online tool enabling groups to independently build, organise and communicate with their own growing networks under the larger ACF Community umbrella.
- We developed a dialler tool to increase the number of phone calls volunteer teams can make to targeted areas at key moments, and a door-knocking tool to help volunteers speak to more people on the streets and record data effectively.
- At *Count Me In* events across the country, we launched our one million conversations campaign – inspiring people to hit the streets and have conversations that elevate climate damage in people's minds well before the next election.
- At Convergence Melbourne in September, we skilled up 160 passionate citizens on advocacy and activism, story-telling, people power and fixing the system; all with a focus on Stopping Adani and Repowering Australia with clean energy.



## Our impact

- Hundreds of thousands of people signed petitions, many of them joining our movement for the first time. And the ACF community made an incredible 66,546 personal contacts with decision makers, including personal letters to MPs, submissions on important issues, and one to one conversations with elected representatives.
- More than 100 people pledged to host a community climate survey following *Count Me In* events. Together, they brought hundreds

of people together to have thousands of meaningful conversations about climate damage and what really matters in the lead up to the next election.

- We expanded our community power locally, growing from four to 22 ACF Community Groups – all working to build people power, change the story and drive local campaign efforts aimed at fixing the systems locking us into environmental destruction.

### ACF Community Groups by numbers

**22**

groups working across 21 electorates

**162**

highly committed group members

**1,490**

people now connected to groups

### In only six months the groups generated

**187**

vibrant volunteer-run events

**7,700**

people engaged with the groups at local groups and meetings

**19**

impactful media stories

**21**

productive meetings with MPs



*Below.* Liz Reen doorknocking in Melbourne's Chisholm electorate. *Photo.* Annette Ruzicka/MAPgroup  
*Right.* The Rainforest Gallery near Mt Donna Buang, Central Highlands, VIC. *Photo.* Annette Ruzicka/MAPgroup

## Meet Liz

Volunteer, ACF Chisholm Community Group member

**“Since 1985 I’ve lived in a house with lots of trees within the Chisholm electorate. The area has good access to both local creeks and reserves like the Blackburn Lake, and to the Central Highlands of Victoria. I have always loved the mountain ash forests, especially around Marysville. I find taking photographs in our Australian bush to be a wonderful way to relax and recharge my energy.**

“Over the years I have watched with alarm how hard it has been to get action on climate change agreed. When ACF started a community group in the Chisholm electorate last December, I was retiring and ready to commit more time.

“In May ACF launched its election campaign, with the ambitious goal of having one million conversations about climate damage. I must admit I was worried about doing that. I’m not an extrovert so going out and talking to complete strangers was a confronting idea.

“However I was surprised to find that most people are happy to talk and rate climate change an extremely important issue for their voting intentions. The mainstream media often suggests that it’s a marginal concern that can be deferred. But on my first survey, everyone I spoke to rated it nine or ten out of ten in importance when voting.

“I remember an 83-year-old man earnestly telling me “if a politician will do something about climate change, then I would vote for them”. I had another memorable conversation with a lady born in China who told me about the loss of nature she had seen in her home village. She is very worried about the damage being done to the environment. So much so that she volunteered to join us at ACF!

“I am active now because humans do not have the right to catastrophically change the climate. We in Australia have to get serious about limiting the damage. The stakes are just too high. It’s time for Australia to act on climate damage with urgency.”









# Looking **forward**

## ACF's next three-year plan

**Throughout our 53-year history, ACF has protected many of the places Australians love. Because of our work – and the work of our allies – the Franklin River is still flowing, Antarctica is not mined, we have Kakadu as a protected national park and the Great Barrier Reef is a World Heritage area.**

But today the stakes are higher. The impact that humanity is having on the world and nature has grown, so we must take a more systemic approach to protecting nature. Because it's the big systems that are destroying our rivers, forests, reefs and wildlife.

Recognising this, in 2016 we worked in partnership with Monash University to diagnose the underlying causes – the systems and values – that drive environmental destruction. Now, we're using this research to drive big changes in the way we work to protect nature and our climate.

Like our living world, the problems we face today are all interconnected – and we see these four big goals as being interlinked.

We need a powerful democracy to be able to change our economy, protect nature, and stop climate damage. Meanwhile, the people who are the most powerful in the economic system – the wealthiest Australians and the business leaders – are also the people that are having undue influence on our democracy, giving rise to governments that serve big polluters, not the people. Our economic work and our democracy work comes back to our environmental work. That's our reason for being.

**We look forward to working with you over the years ahead on powerful campaigns that make a real difference – campaigns that get to the heart of the systems that are fuelling destruction in Australia.**

### Going forward, we have **four new big goals:**

#### **Care for nature**

From extinction and destruction to thriving habitat

#### **Stop climate damage**

From polluting fuels to clean energy

#### **Fix our democracy**

From vested interests to people-powered democracy

#### **Transform our economy**

From short-term greed to an economy that's good for life



## Thank you

Your commitment and generosity drives everything we do. To each of our more than 550,000 supporters, we would like to say an enormous thank you. You keep ACF strong.

On the following pages we list some of the groups, organisations and people whose valued support has powered our work this year.



*Right.* ACF Director of Campaigns, Dr Paul Sinclair, and 2018 ACF Fellowship recipient Isabel Kimpton in Yellingbo Nature Reserve, Victoria. *Photo.* Annette Ruzicka/MAPgroup

## Patron

The Hon Peter Garrett AM

## Honorary Life Members

From time to time, ACF awards Honorary Life Membership to a member in recognition of outstanding contribution to our work. Our current Honorary Life Members, and their dates of award, are:

Dr Moss Cass, 1982

Dr Bob Brown, 1983

Dr Geoff Mosley, 1987

Emeritus Professor Hal Wootton AC QC, 1989

Mr Murray Wilcox AC QC, 1989

Mr John Sinclair AO, 1990

Dr Aila Keto AO, 1990

Mr Geoffrey Goode, 1990

Ms Annelie Holden, 1992

Mr Jack Munday AO, 1993

Mr Trevor Blake, 1999

Mrs Beryl Blake, 1999

Mr Mark Wootton, 2001

Ms Eve Kantor, 2001

Professor David Yencken AO, 2003

Dr bro Sheffield-Brotherton, 2005

Ms Penelope Figgis AM AO, 2005

The Hon Peter Garrett AM, 2005

Mr Bill Paine, 2006

Ms Cate Blanchett AC, 2011

Mr Gavin Wigginton, 2013

Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe AO, 2014







## Nature's champions

We would like to recognise and thank our committed supporters whose annual donations were \$5,000 or greater in the 2017-18 financial year.

### Leader

Jaramas Foundation  
Ms Vicki Olsson  
Oranges and Sardines Foundation

### Guardian

Minax Uriel Pty Ltd  
Mr Conrad Oppen and Mrs Alice Oppen OAM  
Tertini Charitable Foundation

### Steward

Mr Bill Bush and Mrs Mary Bush  
Ms Annelie Holden  
Dr Bill N Holsworth  
Prof Michael Leigh  
Dr Keith Lethlean  
Mr Ross Mallam and Mrs Julie Mallam  
Marich Foundation  
Skellern Family Foundation

### Protector

Dr Susan Adams  
Australian Ethical Investments  
Dr Barbara Baird  
Mrs Cherryl Barassi  
John Bennetts and Ann Ryan  
Mr Clive Blazey and Mrs Penny Blazey  
Mervyn and Janet Brumley  
Prof Carrick Chambers and Mrs Margaret Chambers  
Mrs Ann Crawford  
Ferris Family Foundation  
The Garry White Foundation  
Prof Gernot Heiser  
Hill Family Conservation Foundation  
Emeritus Prof Andrew Hopkins and Ms Heather McGregor  
Mrs Tim Jackson and Mr Doug Jackson  
Dr Heather Johnston  
Macquarie Group Foundation  
Ms Victoria Parsons  
Platinum Cables  
Ms Pam Petschack  
Mrs Anne Reeves  
Dr Angela Rutherford  
The Scovell Gardner Family  
Mr Brian Snape AM and Mrs Diana Snape  
Mrs Patricia Weston  
Dr Michael Williams and Mrs Margaret Williams

## Sustainer

6A Foundation  
Ms Nan Brown  
S and J Cook Family  
H and J Farrow  
Mr Sid French  
Mr Allan Johnson  
Koreen Conservation  
Prof John Langford AM  
The George Lewin Foundation  
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation – Youth in  
Philanthropy  
Melliodora Fund, a sub-fund of the Australian  
Communities Foundation  
Dr Ros Madden and Prof Richard Madden  
Ms Natalie Mamone and Mr Laurence Stonard  
Mr Dennis Nassau and Mrs Fairlie Nassau  
Nordia Foundation  
Fr Barry Ryan  
Mr Brett Slater and Mrs Maree Slater  
The Honorable Thomas Waddell  
Mrs Marjorie White

We would like to thank all of our donors,  
including those who made their donation  
anonymously, for their ongoing commitment.

For more information on ACF's Nature's  
Champions program please visit  
[acf.org.au/natures\\_champions](http://acf.org.au/natures_champions)  
or contact us on 1800 332 510.





## ACF's living legacy community

ACF's Living Legacy community recognises all those supporters who have decided to extend their giving after their lifetime.

### Legacy leaders (bequest value \$100,000+)

We thank everyone who has arranged to give a gift to ACF in their will to create a living legacy of our beautiful natural world. Our Legacy Leaders have advised they are leaving a significant gift and we gratefully recognise them here.

Miss Marian Bear  
Ms Alice Beauchamp  
Mr Stephen and Ms Janice Blakeney  
Miss Margaret Bowman  
Ms Rhonda Boyle  
Dr Barbara Briggs AM  
Ms Bronwyn Brown  
Ms Jane Crouch  
Mr David Fisher  
Mr Kahn and Mrs Julie Franke  
Mr Phillip Geschke  
Ms Helen Gillam  
Mr Andrew Griffiths  
Mr Kym Hancock  
Ms Margaret and Dr Grahame Hardy  
Dr Jennifer Herrick  
Ms Annelie Holden  
Ms Sandy Jennings  
Ms Valerie Johnstone  
Mr Andrew and Mrs Clare Kavunenko  
Professor Byron Lamont

Mr Harold Levien  
Mr Bruce Lindenmayer OAM  
Mr Anthony and Ms Marsha Durham  
Mr Neil and Mrs Pam McDonald  
Mr Eric Miller  
Mr Philip Morris  
Ms Bronwyn Morris  
Mrs Ruth Pfanner  
Mr Frank Pierce  
Mr James Richardson  
Ms Morag Ryder  
Mr Geoffrey Shores  
Mr Gilvray Smith  
Mr Brian Snape AM  
Mrs Diana Snape  
Mr Peter Timms  
Mr Jack Trezise  
Ms Laurel Tsang  
Ms Beverley Weynton  
Ms Merilyn Whimpey  
Dr Judy Williams  
Ms Patricia Williamsz

*And thank you to all our legacy leaders who wish to remain anonymous.*

## Legacies living on

We acknowledge the supporters from whom we have received a gift through their will this year, and express our appreciation to their family and friends for their thoughtful generosity. These gifts are truly an expression of how important the natural world has been in their lives.

Mr Denis Ashton  
 Mr Simon Bromley  
 Ms Jeanette Campbell  
 Mrs Judith M Clarke  
 Mrs Joan Clay  
 Mrs Shirley Clissold  
 Mrs Berres Colville  
 Mr Dennis L Craney  
 Mrs Jessamine Elliott  
 Ms Maria L Foguet-Busom  
 Ms Nicola Franklin  
 Mr Joseph Garvin  
 Mr Neville D Gunn  
 Ms Jennifer L Hunt  
 Mr Colin Hutchinson  
 Miss Susan Hutchinson  
 Mr Peter Krafel  
 Dr Lee Kwok Poh  
 Miss Patricia Lindsey  
 Ms Isabel E MacCallum  
 Mr Murdoch McPherson  
 Ms Christina Stead  
 Mr John D Whittell

## Gifts in memory

Thank you to the people who made in-memory gifts to ACF. Your kind tribute is inspirational and acknowledges the importance placed by loved ones, friends and colleagues on caring for nature and looking after the places we all love. The following people have been honoured with gifts in their memory:

Mr Lindsay Crawford  
 Mr Justin Dunbar  
 Dr William Elford  
 Mr John Hollingshead  
 Ms Elizabeth Kourtis  
 Mr Shea McNeece-Doley  
 Ms Barbara Murphy  
 Mr John O'Reilly  
 Prof William Rawlinson  
 Mr Denis Sikiotis  
 Mr Rafe Slaney  
 Ms Heidi Watson



*Below. Dr Lee Kwok Poh and sister, 1993.*

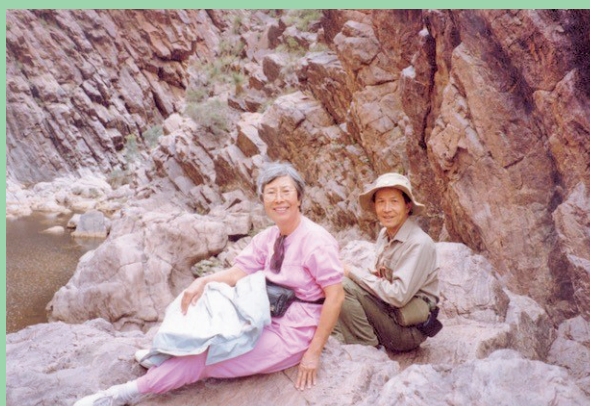
## Legacies living on

### Dr Lee Kwok Poh

**ACF is grateful for the generosity of our many bequest donors. Their gifts help us continue our work and their passion inspires what we do. One of these generous individuals was Dr Lee Kwok Poh (Paul), who passed away in 2016.**

Dr Lee was born in Malaysia in 1933, one of five children. His family faced difficulty and survived the Japanese occupation. He came to Adelaide in 1950 under the Colombo Plan to complete his education. Dr Lee studied dentistry and orthodontics at The University of Adelaide and practiced as an orthodontist in South Perth until the last year of his life. Described by his dental colleagues as being always proud of his Malaysian/Chinese background and having a great sense of humor, he'd often refer to himself as a 'Yellow Greenie'!

His love for bushwalking and native Australian flora and fauna began in Tasmania in 1958, where he worked with the Tasmanian Dental Service. He enjoyed several bush walks over the years through Karijini National Park and the Flinders Ranges. Dr Lee was deeply committed environmentally and had told ACF he was concerned about climate change and its detrimental effect on nature. His generous bequest will assist ACF's work to move Australia from polluting fossil fuels to clean energy and protection of our natural world.



Together, small gestures can add up and significantly increase ACF's ability to create a living legacy for future generations.

If you would like to consider a gift to ACF in your will, contact Upeka or Nola to discuss or ask for a copy of ACF's bequest brochure, Your Living Legacy.

If you have already included ACF in your will, we would welcome hearing from you so we can thank you and include you in our special occasions.

Email [bequests@acf.org.au](mailto:bequests@acf.org.au)  
Phone 1800 223 669 free-call or visit  
[www.acf.org.au/leave\\_a\\_legacy](http://www.acf.org.au/leave_a_legacy)

## Pro bono and partner support

ACF is fortunate to receive in-kind and financial support from many businesses, individuals and partner organisations. Thank you to the following people and organisations who helped power our campaigns in 2017-18:

Aaron Stevenson, *photography*

Arnold Bloch Leibler, *legal services*

Cliniko, *support of ACF campaigns*

Doug Gimesy, *photography*

Environmental Defenders Office NSW, *legal services*

Environmental Defenders Office QLD, *legal services*

Environmental Justice Australia, *legal services*

Erika Degoute, *photography*

Erwin Jackson, *photography*

Intrepid Travel and Intrepid Foundation,  
*support of ACF campaigns*

Julian Meehan, *photography*

Kerry Trapnell, *photography*

Kevin Murphy Business Services Pty Ltd,  
*support of ACF campaigns*

King & Wood Mallesons, *legal services*

MAPgroup, *photography*

Matt Murfitt, Goji, *digital marketing consulting and services*

Neil Stevenson – Stevenson Hallifax,  
*workplace culture consulting*

Philip Bell, *photography*

Reichstein Foundation, *support for Hands off our Charities Alliance*

Rob Gordon, *photography*

Toot Sweet Consulting, *support of ACF campaigns*

## Workplace giving

We thank the staff at the following organisations who have kindly contributed \$500 or more through workplace giving:

A & L Windows

Amcor Australasia

AMP Services Ltd

Attorney-General's Department – Central Office

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

Australian Super

Australian Taxation Office

CAF Australia Good2Give

Catholic Education Office

Charities Aid Foundation

Charles Sturt University

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Corrs Chambers Workplace Giving

Department Of Defence

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Department of Health and Ageing

Department Of Human Services

Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet

GMO Australia Limited

King & Wood Mallesons

Lion Nathan

Macquarie Group Foundation

Marsh P/L

Melbourne Water – Payroll & HR Info

Mercer

Mr D Read

Northern Territory Government WPG

Populous

University of Wollongong



## Volunteers, fellows and interns

People power our campaigns and always have. For more than 50 years, ACF volunteers have made banners, written letters, run events, done research, organised mail outs, and had conversation after conversation with people to engage them and spark action. We'd like to thank our amazing volunteers and interns who help the organisation in so many ways.

*Allysha Agostinello, Monash University Masters of Environment and Sustainability Industry Project*

*Jodi Bastian, 60L Management Committee*

*Beryl Blake, supporter services assistance*

*April Broadbent, Community Organising Fellow*

*Lachlan Butson, Monash University Masters of Environment and Sustainability Industry Project*

*Brendan Cooper, Murray-Darling Field Organising Fellow*

*Liz Foley, Community Organising Fellow*

*Mary French, data assistance*

*Bruno Friedel, Nature Campaign Fellow*

*Ben Fulton-Gillon, Video Production Fellow*

*James Haigh, Community Organising Fellow*

*Ellie Hansford, Stop Adani campaign volunteer*

*Maelor Himbury, library volunteer, fundraising assistance*

*Tara Jones, Brisbane organising team support*

*Isabel Kimpton, Social Media Fellow*

*Vivek Kotak, Stop Adani campaign volunteer*

*Yolanda Krockenberger, fundraising assistance*

*Ella Krockenberger, fundraising assistance*

*David Lansley, economics program volunteer*

*Madison McSweeney, Stop Adani campaign volunteer*

*Neridah Murray-Douglass, Brisbane office and team support*

*Bruce Naylor, Brand and Engagement Fellow*

*Nick Pastalatzis, fundraising assistance*

*Alan Pears, 60L Management Committee*

*Lin Rong Lee, economics program volunteer*

*Harriet Scandol, ANU Internships Program*

*Eva Sinclair, fundraising and campaigns assistance*

*Amy Smith, supporter services assistance*

*Neil Sutton, Murray-Darling campaign volunteer*

*Joanna Thorne, Stop Adani campaign volunteer*

*Mary Trudzik, library volunteer*

*Amie Turner-Brown, Monash University Masters of Environment and Sustainability Industry Project*

*Karen Uy, Communications and Mobilisation Fellow*

*Loretta White, events support*

*Lisa Williams, supporter services assistance*

*Kate Wood, supporter services assistance*

*Marta Zajac, Queensland climate and coal campaign research*

*These are just some of the hundreds of people who give their time and expertise to assist ACF.*







# ACF sustainability report

## The 60L Green Building story

**Often, people speak of buildings that will ‘keep the elements out’. But the 60L Green Building (60L) is a different type of building – one that works with the elements, using them as positive forces that contribute to our lives and work, rather than interfere with them.**

The building opened to tenants in 2002 thanks to the dedicated and visionary work of Kate Kantor, Eve Kantor, Mark Wootton, and the team they established known as “The Green Building Partnership”. Seven years later, in a remarkable act of generosity, the owners gifted 60L to ACF.

From the outset, 60L has been powered by a combination of rooftop solar panels and GreenPower. The electricity performance of 60L has been exceptional, on average achieving an annual consumption level of less than 80kWh per square metre of lettable area – just half that of a typical office building.

Rainwater is harvested from the roof, stored in two 10,000-litre tanks on the ground floor, and treated to provide safe water for tenants. This reduces our reliance on mains water to less than 10 litres per person per day. Meanwhile, ACF and 60L are continuing to explore innovative water technologies and are taking part in a trial to extract water from the atmosphere in collaboration with Zero Mass Water and ARENA.

**How we rate on environmental impact according to the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS)\***

**Electricity: 5/6**

**Water: 5.5/6**

**Waste: 4.5/5**

**Indoor Environment Quality: 4/6**

*\*This was a self-assessment.*

Sixteen years after the 60L Green Building opened – prior to the creation of Green Star ratings bodies – there are now more than 1,900 Green Star rated commercial buildings in Australia. The great, pioneering efforts of those that created 60L have borne much fruit and ACF is proud to call 60L home.



97% of employees **walk, cycle or catch public transport** to work

## Environmental performance

Environmental performance	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total water consumption (kL) <sup>1</sup>	276.3	284	261
Total electricity consumption (kWh) <sup>2</sup>	104,558	94,050	87,391
Total distance flown by staff and Council and Board members (km)	783,260	766,166	739,639
Employees who commute without a car (%)	93	95	97
Total emissions offset (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equiv) <sup>3</sup>	320	251	159

<sup>1</sup> Data only available for Melbourne office.

<sup>2</sup> Data is for Melbourne, Brisbane and Canberra office.

<sup>3</sup> Includes offsets for air travel, staff car reimbursement, car rental, taxis, paper consumption, waste and freight.



## Social performance and organisational culture

**In 2017, ACF undertook its third iteration of the Organisational Cultural Inventory (OCI), which found that we have now achieved 'cultural transformation'.**

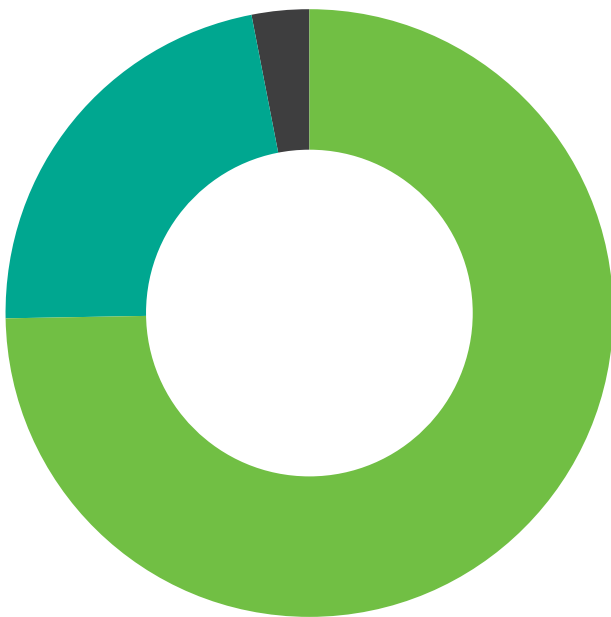
This feat was globally recognised in 2018 when ACF was awarded the Human Synergistics Culture Transformation Award. This shows that ACF has a highly engaged, motivated and satisfied workforce, displaying the constructive behaviours consistent with a strong workplace culture. This is also evidenced in ACF's low staff turnover rate.

The ACF Fellowship is a six-month volunteer program for emerging social change professionals to get hands-on experience working with our staff. The Fellowship helps to build capacity not only in the environmental sector, but also in the broader social and civil society movements. In 2017-18, ACF hosted nine Fellows.

Staff Statistics	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Total Staff Full Time Equivalent (includes permanent and temporary)	60.8	59.79	65.39
Turnover Rate (%)	17.6	13.9	13.5
Average Annual Training per employee (hours)	16	16	18.5

Members and Supporters	2015-16	2016/17	2017-18
Total ACF Supporters - connected through following our work, membership, donating or taking action	335,340	456,309	547,291
Members and Donors	47,550	56,421	59,289

**STAFF COMPOSITION**



Full Time 56  
Part Time 14  
Casual 1

**STAFF GENDER**



Female 60%  
Male 40%

**GENERATION - ALL STAFF**



Baby Boomers 15%  
Gen X 37%  
Gen Y 48%

**MANAGEMENT GENDER**



Female 58%  
Male 42%



# ACF financial position summary

**We continue to be amazed by the generosity of our community. Our operating revenues from donations, bequests and memberships has grown to \$12.58 million this financial year, up 5% on the prior year.**

We have held our fundraising expenditure steady at \$4.61 million this year, which means our return on donor investment has also improved by 12% – for every \$1 we spend on fundraising, we raised \$2.73.

Social media is becoming an increasingly important and cost-effective way of connecting with our rapidly growing supporter base. We are heartened to be communicating with a new generation of Australians concerned about environmental damage and eager to donate to our advocacy work. We will continue to invest in this digital revolution. It's not only a less expensive way of fundraising, it allows us to inform and engage our community as soon as issues arise and demonstrate our huge reach on issues that matter – a powerful tool for campaigning. You can sign up for digital updates on our website or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

You may recall that in FY 2016-17, through careful management of our costs, we delivered a surplus of over \$1 million. At that time, your Board made the decision to use the surplus to establish an Environmental Impact Fund to support urgent environmental work that is above and beyond our annual budget.

We are delighted to announce another surplus in FY 2017-18 of \$0.89 million. After careful assessment of our financial position, your Board has decided to allocate a further \$0.75 million

to the Environmental Impact Fund. The risks to our planet from Adani's mega mine and political inaction on climate and energy, mean this is the time to act.

So far, the Environmental Impact Fund has allowed us to kickstart funding for three projects:

- The rapid upscaling of our existing campaign to ensure the upcoming federal election is the climate election, holding politicians to account for their climate policies.
- A strategic investigation project into individuals and corporations who abuse their power to damage or show disregard for nature.
- A campaign to strengthen Australia's democratic system so we can achieve outcomes for climate and nature.

The growth in funding received during the year allowed us to increase our expenditure on environmental initiatives by nearly 12% from \$5.97 million to \$6.67 million.

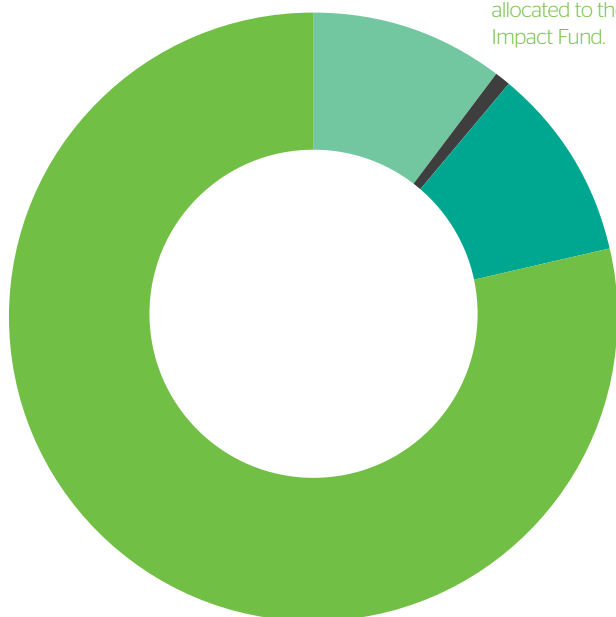
ACF continues to maintain a strong financial base with net assets of \$19 million, comprising the 60L Green Building in Melbourne plus a portfolio of ethical investments. This provides us with financial resilience to ensure that our environmental activities can continue uninterrupted.

Together, we've achieved so much over the last year. With your ongoing support, this year we'll be able to continue our independently funded advocacy work to ensure our rivers, reefs and wildlife are protected for future generations.

**The 2017-18 independent financial audit was conducted by Grant Thornton. The full financial report can be found at [www.acf.org.au/annual\\_reports](http://www.acf.org.au/annual_reports)**

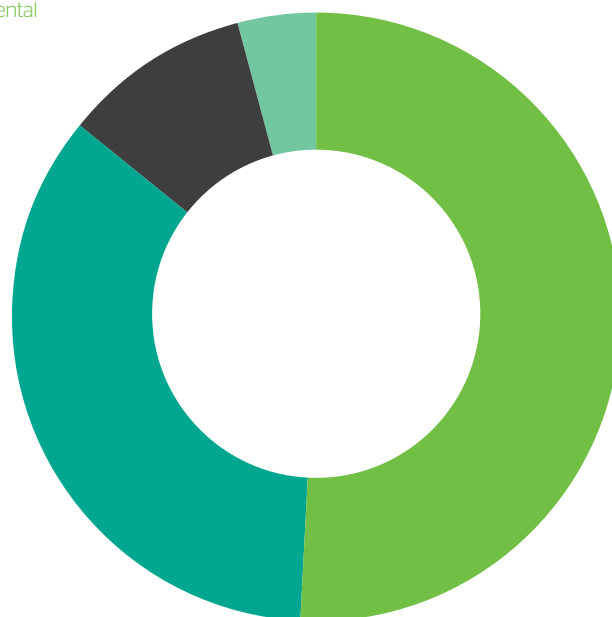
## REVENUE \$14.04 M

\$0.75 million of the \$0.89m surplus in 2017-18 has been allocated to the Environmental Impact Fund.



- Individual Donations \$10.96m
- Bequests \$1.45m
- Other Fundraising \$0.17m
- Rent and Investment Income \$1.46m

## EXPENDITURE \$13.14 M



- Environmental initiatives \$6.67m
- Donor Care and Acquisition \$4.61m
- Management and Operations \$1.36m
- Non-operating Activities \$0.50m

For **every \$1** spent on fundraising we **raised \$2.73**





# We love **our beautiful planet**

**Australian Conservation Foundation**

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Carlton VIC 3053  
ABN 22 007 498 482

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**Email** [acf@acf.org.au](mailto:acf@acf.org.au)

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