



Imagine an Australia where our forests, rivers, people and wildlife don't just survive, but thrive. **This is our vision.**

Who are we?

The Australian Conservation Foundation is Australia's national environment organisation. We are more than 700,000 people speaking out for the air we breathe, the water we drink and the places and wildlife we love. **Because nature is at the heart of everything.**

Our strategy

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 and speaking up for solutions to keep nature healthy for generations to come.

Change the story

We can't be what we can't see — yet the dominant story in politics and media is destructive, short-sighted and divisive. We are shifting the public conversation and inspiring people to work together to create a better future for all of us.

Fix the system

We're taking on the big structural challenges that are driving the climate and extinction crisis in Australia. Only by transforming our economy, standing up for our democracy, protecting nature and ramping up climate solutions can we keep enjoying life in this beautiful country.



Contents

Message from the President and CEO	3
Our impact	4
Our plan to Renew Australia	6
Build people power	8
Change the story	10
Fix the systems	12
Solve the climate crisis	12
Stand up for nature	16
Strengthen our democracy	19
Transform our economy	20
Thank you	22
ACF environmental performance	38
Organisational culture and social performance	40
Board and Council	41
ACF financial position summary	42

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.



Message from the **President and CEO**

2021 didn't quite turn out to be the year that we hoped for as the pandemic continued to disrupt our lives. Despite this, and with your incredible tenacity and support, ACF grew our positive impact for Australia and the places and people we love.

When the stakes are as high as they are for the climate and extinction crisis, impact can be hard to see. But it's there.

Take the business community. In the past, business and industry peak bodies argued to dismantle national environmental laws. Today, they argue alongside us to strengthen them. When they once argued to dismantle climate policy, they now argue for its creation.

Banks and investors once funded coal and gas without a thought for our climate. Now they've set exit dates for thermal coal lending — and gas is next.

Shifting federal government policy is harder. Yet state and territory governments of all political persuasions are committing to climate action and support strong nature laws.

The current federal government lags irresponsibly behind and our impact in the past year was necessarily directed towards stopping bad policy. Together we stopped the federal government from directing Australia's renewable energy agencies to fund the government's 'gas-led recovery'.

To us, it's important that all major political parties and movements support action. We've worked quietly but diligently with federal MPs who support greater ambition on climate change and nature protection. We acknowledge their willingness to speak up, as we acknowledge positive actions from many major parties.

Climate wars have plagued federal politics for two decades, but cracks are starting to appear. The tide is turning, slowly, too slowly, but turning all the same.

At ACF, we have big goals and are smart and tenacious in achieving them. It may take time but when we achieve them, we change our country for the better.

We don't achieve them alone. We value and collaborate with other environment groups, grassroots communities, business, governments, unions, farmers and civil society that want to create a better future.

We are, after all, the foundation of the Australian environment movement — a leader, a connector, a collaborator.

When someone needs to step up to defend advocacy in Australia, ACF is there leading the charge. When solutions are required, we do the hard yards to develop them with the people that will deploy them. When the national story needs to change, we find out what will work and share that widely across the movement. When people power is needed, we build it. Where collaborations are needed, we fund it.

We are all part of this foundation. Our members, the 700,000 supporters who advocate for a better world. The 43 ACF Community Groups driving grassroots action from Gladstone to Western Sydney and Perth. The 48,237 generous Aussies who gave to ACF in unprecedented levels. Our Board, Council, staff and volunteers.

Together we remain determined to create a better future. And we thank you.

At times it might seem like the better world we seek lingers just beyond our reach. It's not always easy to see progress. Just remember it takes time to do the seemingly impossible, until it's done.

Mara Bún, President Kelly O'Shanassy, CEO

Our impact

Outcomes for **climate**



- We saved ARENA and the CEFC! They continue to fund clean energy, not coal and gas.
- Queensland unleashed \$2 billion for renewables.
- The four big banks have all set exit dates for coal lending.
- We won our Federal Court case! Adam has to start again to access water for its polluting coal mine.
- Australians support renewables and oppose government plans for a gas-led economic recovery.
- Gladstone is becoming a future domestic and export-oriented renewables superpower.

Outcomes for **nature**



- Professor Graeme Samuel's EPBC review backs ACF's calls for strong laws to protect nature and lists 38 recommendations to improve them.
- We blocked federal government moves to weaken our national environmental protection laws.
- Environment Minister Sussan Ley rejected an application to clear 2,000 hectares at Kingvale Station, Cape York — home to rare and threatened parrots, quolls, birds of prey and bats.
- More Australians are concerned about the growing extinction crisis.

Thanks to your support and action, **together we've** achieved great things this year.

Other big wins

- Australia's longest running uranium mine, the Ranger mine in Kakadu, ceased commercial operations in January 2021.
- The rights of charities to advocate on issues remains protected.
- Australian businesses and industry sectors are calling for more ambitious climate action and stronger national environment laws

ACF is scaling our impact impact impact 703,347 supporters

- 14 new ACF Community groups, making a total of 43 across Australia.
- ACF in the news is an average of 18 news stories a day.

Our plan to **Renew Australia**

Australia is a special place, blessed with great people and incredible nature. Today we are living through difficult times, but our future can be so much better.



With the right choices, Australia can lead the world in clean energy, pollution-free travel and secure jobs. We can pass on a healthy economy, climate and natural world to our children and grandchildren.

To create this future, we need a plan to Renew Australia — one that puts people, nature and our climate at the centre.

The biggest and most in-depth survey ever conducted of Australians' opinions on climate change, commissioned by ACF this year, shows Australians want this future. The survey found a majority of voters in every one of the nation's 151 federal electorates believes the Morrison Government should be doing more to tackle climate change. Not one electorate had majority support for the government's plans for new gas and coal-fired power.

Across Australia, most voters want more renewable energy. Everyday Australians are already doing their part. Now, we need our elected representatives and business leaders to step up.

ACF is calling on our elected representatives and business leaders to Renew Australia by committing to slashing climate pollution over the next decade.

There are five key actions Australian governments, business and communities can take to **Renew Australia**.

- 1. Send our sunshine around the world. Australia can become a global clean energy superpower in the next decade by replacing coal, gas and uranium exports and use with renewable energy. We have plentiful sun and wind. A valuable export industry that secures and creates great jobs through manufactured products like green hydrogen, steel and aluminium, is within our reach.
- 2. Create energy independent communities. Power schools, hospitals, government offices, public and social housing, remote Indigenous communities, sporting clubs, halls and libraries with affordable, clean energy by 2025, and replace coal and gas-burning power stations with renewable energy and storage by 2030.
- **4. Travel clean.** Take pollution out of transport. Save our health and climate with more accessible buses and trains running on clean energy; make electric vehicles cheaper; and install electric vehicle charging stations across the country.

- **4. Move the money.** Banks and super funds must move our money from funding polluting coal, gas and nuclear projects to clean renewable powered industries and jobs. Political parties must stop accepting dirty donations and giving public funding to coal and gas companies and ban big political donations to reduce their influence on decision making.
- 5. Save our big backyard. Create strong national nature protection laws that stop Australia's worsening extinction crisis, and support nature as a climate solution. New laws must be enforced by an independent regulator. Our forests, wetlands and bushlands store greenhouse gases, provide homes for our unique animals and birds, and are places where people restore and revive.

Build people power

We grew our powerful community of advocates for nature protection and climate action.

Our work in action

Thanks to your support, our vibrant, diverse community continued to grow in strength and numbers.

In response to the once-in-a-decade review of our national environment laws, thousands of people stepped up to write submissions, email decision makers and raise awareness of strong nature laws as the solution to the extinction crisis. The ACF Community participated in digital town halls with MPs and made the #PlushieProtest trend nationally on Twitter. We also delivered the biggest petition in ACF's history, with 409,908 signatures calling for stronger laws to protect nature.

Together, we continued to resist the Morrison Government's agenda to fund gas projects with public money, speaking out en masse via email, phone, at rallies (when restrictions allowed) and in meetings with decision makers. People in Tasmania and South Australia played a key role, urging the Crossbench Senators to stand up for climate solutions like clean energy over fossil fuels.

Our community elevated a positive vision for a sun-powered Queensland in the lead up to the state election, joining with the Queensland Community Alliance (QCA) — 37 union, faith and community organisations representing 1.7 million Queenslanders — to win strong commitments from politicians on climate action, renewable energy and other big issues.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, ACF Community groups continued to grow, with 14 new groups forming since June 2020. There are more than 1,000 active group members and an average of 115 new supporters are recruited each month.

One of those new ACF Community groups is in Gladstone, Queensland, in the heart of 'coal country'. ACF believes it is important to support the Gladstone and broader central Queensland community as they transition away from coal and gas.

To deepen local leadership, your support enabled us to run 37 training workshops between June 2020 and May 2021. These included our first ever *Advanced Community Organising and Campaigning Training* course in April. A *Train the Trainer* program is underway for ACF Fellows and the advanced course participants to escalate peer-to-peer training and support.

Our impact

We continued building a vibrant and skilled-up community of people advocating for nature protection and climate action.

- 703,347 supporters
- 14 new ACF Community groups, making a total of 43 across Australia
- 66 Community group meetings with federal and state MPs a record number.
- 259 Community group events
- 40 ACF Fellows trained as campaigners for our movement.
- Alliances across the environmental movement and with union, community and faith organisations.

This year, the power of the ACF Community:

- 1. Prevented the federal government's attempts to weaken nature laws.
- 2. Called for stronger laws to protect nature in Australia which were adopted through the once-every-decade independent review of the laws.
- 3. Stopped the federal government's efforts to divert public money for renewables to gas.

Building a vibrant and skilled-up community of people &



Change the story

We made the most of these disruptive times to **elevate a solutions-focused story.**



Media snapshot

- 6,924 media mentions
- 4,369 in print and online news
- 2,334 on radio
- 221 on TV

- 634 Facebook ad campaigns, leading to:
 - 120,606 new community members
 - 1,828,667 new website visitors



Our work in action

Despite the ongoing disruption to our lives, 2021 was also a time for us to reimagine the kind of world we want and all need. In response to the pandemic, ACF's goal has been to change the story about how communities and governments can build an economy that's good for people and nature.

Through media, investigations and marketing, we showed how we can put restoring nature and creating a safe climate at the heart of the country's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

We elevated the voices of trusted messengers to engage new audiences across Australia, with a big focus on sports. We showed how climate change is affecting sports through a series of reports and raised the call for climate action from our sporting heroes all the way to grassroots cricket, footy and netball clubs.

In south-east Queensland, we activated local messengers through an ad campaign to promote rebuilding Australia with climate and nature solutions. Our ads reached 3 million people in the lead up to the state election.

In response to Professor Graeme Samuel's review of our national environment laws, we kept the narrative alive on the need for new nature laws as well as the extinction crisis we face as a nation.

Rarely a day goes by where ACF is not shaping the national story through the media. Our 6,924 mentions of ACF in the news is an average of 18 news stories a day.

Our investigations work made big splashes in the media when we exposed the flawed approval of the Yeelirrie uranium mine the day before the 2019 election, and the clearing of bilby habitat by political donors in WA. We also exposed emissions blowouts by big companies and the Victorian government's failure to protect critically-endangered grassland in Melbourne.

To grow our community and deepen our impact, we undertook research to get a greater understanding of our key audiences. We're using the latest research on how to inspire people to take action for our climate and nature to reach a broader section of the population.

Our impact

- 25 ACF Community groups are deploying 'Change the Story' tactics alongside trusted messengers, media and open letters.
- Concern about the extinction crisis is growing following the bushfires, threatened species (koala, platypus, bilby) investigations, reports, ads and ACF Community groups engaging non-traditional allies (unions, local businesses, sporting groups) to build support for strong nature laws.
- A report by the Economist Intelligence Unit, citing ACF's nature laws petition, shows media coverage of biodiversity in Australia is increasing (by 407% since 2016) and that Australia exceeds global averages relating to public concern for nature.
- Argyle Cattle Company (ACC) changing its mind about being a 'small business' eligible for cost-exempt status for its EPBC approval. ACC paid for its environmental bills instead of the taxpayer.
- Delta Electricity pulling out of plans to use public money for the refurbishment of Vales Point coal-fired power station.
- The Clean Energy Regular making some of Incitec Pivot's emissions data public after sitting on the decision for years.
- Senator Hanson-Young calling on the Australian National Audit Office to audit the decision to approve the Yeelirrie uranium mine.

Fix the systems

Solve the **climate crisis**

We brought Australians from all walks of life together to demand a **fast and fair transition** from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy.



With the Glasgow COP in November and a federal election imminent, 2021-22 will be the most important year ever when it comes to achieving real action on climate change.

That's why this year, thanks to your support, we worked tirelessly with members of the federal government and the business community to lay the foundations for stronger climate policy announcements in the lead up to both events.

ACF focuses primarily on creating good climate policy but sometimes we have to stop bad climate policy.

ACF successfully led the movement-wide campaign to ensure our Federal Parliament protected the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA).

We worked with The Australia Institute to release a series of reports on the dangers of gas for our climate, our economy, our jobs and our wellbeing. After activating thousands of Australians to speak out, the post-COVID economic recovery investments in gas were largely blocked.

Shifting the politics of climate and coal in Queensland will have a major impact on our ability to lift federal climate change ambition. That's why we made sure whoever won the Queensland state election announced a much-improved climate policy and played a lead role in the re-elected Queensland government announcing strong commitments for pumped hydro and renewables.

In Gladstone, your support enabled us to continue our work with the local community, supporting people and businesses to take a lead role in determining their future. With partners including Central Queensland University and energy providers Stanwell and CleanCo, ACF co-hosted a groundbreaking two-day summit

Climate action is supported across business, unions and the community **②**

in Gladstone to help map out the opportunities associated with the shift to a low carbon economy.

Nationally, we worked with allies to realise a vision for Australia to become a renewable energy superpower. We launched a campaign on energy exports and joined with the Business Council of Australia (BCA), the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and WWF to produce a series of seminal reports on Australia's clean exports opportunities, and the policy and investment levers federal and state governments need to pull to make these a reality.

The Australian Climate Roundtable continued to show that climate action is supported across business, unions and the community. This year we showcased the cost of not acting on climate change and the economic benefits of acting.

Finally, in June we had a major breakthrough in our Adani campaign when we won our legal challenge. The Federal Court agreed with ACF that the Morrison Government unlawfully assessed Adani's North Galilee Water Scheme when they failed to apply the 'water trigger'. The court decision raises more doubts about the viability of Adani's mine and sets a new precedent that essential infrastructure for coal seam gas and large coal mining projects must be assessed under our national environment law.

Our impact

- Attempts to use CEFC and ARENA to subsidise gas and coal were blocked, allowing them to continue to drive our economy towards a clean energy future.
- The Queensland government unleashed \$2 billion for renewables.
- The 'gas-led' recovery was opposed with recent polling data showing only 29% of Australians support coal and gas as part of our energy future.
- The Queensland government, federal government and federal opposition all made substantial commitments to Gladstone becoming a future domestic and exportoriented renewables superpower.
- ACF's legal challenge, funded by our supporters, saw the Federal Court reaffirm the legitimacy of the 'water trigger' in Australia's environment law. This means Adani now has no long-term water source and raises doubts about the viability of Adani's mine.



Nuclear free

Our work in action

Our long running nuclear free campaign had some major achievements this year, despite the constraints posed by COVID-19.

In January 2021, Australia's oldest uranium mine — the Ranger mine in Kakadu, operated by Energy Resources Australia (ERA) — ceased operation. This ended uranium mining in Kakadu four decades ahead of expectations and is a massive tribute to the tenacity of our campaign partners including the Mirarr community, the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation and the thousands of people who took action on this issue.

The focus now is to ensure that ERA (a subsidiary of Rio Tinto) does the best possible rehabilitation work and supports the Mirarr people in building a vibrant Aboriginal-led post-mining regional economy.

Nationally, we continue to lead the public discourse on responsible and transparent radioactive waste management. Our focus this year was on highlighting irresponsible approaches to this issue and challenging the federal government's plan to open a radioactive waste facility near Kimba in regional South Australia.

Through public advocacy, media commentary and input to inquiries, we highlighted government attempts to remove the right to contest the Kimba site decision in court. After being stalled for a year in the Senate, the federal government was forced to reinstate the long-held right of access to legal review.

We also defended Australia's long-standing prohibition on the domestic use of nuclear power. ACF engaged in federal and state nuclear review processes, briefed the media and provided public commentary around nuclear promotion being a dangerous distraction to real and meaningful climate action.

Working with allies is a cornerstone of our campaign and we remain active in many civil society forums, including the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance and the national nuclear-free strategy framework. Our efforts with partners ensured uranium proposals were contested and stalled in West Australia, that no new Australian uranium projects advanced to commercial operation, and that the Queensland Labor Party reaffirmed a state ban on uranium mining.

At a broader scale, we continued to watchdog the uranium sector locally and overseas. We worked with colleagues in the NT to secure federal funding for a renewed clean-up of the heavily impacted former uranium mine site at Rum Jungle, south of Darwin. Internationally, we collaborated in global networks including the No Nukes Asia forum and tracked Australian operations from the Namibian desert to the glaciers of Greenland.

Lastly, ACF is continuing to urge Australia to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which formally entered into international humanitarian law in January 2021. The treaty means that nuclear weapons are now illegal under international law.

Our impact

- Australia's longest running uranium mine, the Ranger mine in Kakadu, ceased commercial operations in January 2021.
- The federal government's flawed plan for a national radioactive waste facility in regional South Australia remains stalled and actively contested.
- Long-standing federal prohibitions on domestic nuclear power have been retained in the face of a concerted pro-nuclear industry push.
- No new uranium projects advanced to commercial operation, and we maintained scrutiny on the impacts of uranium mining here and abroad.

Stand up for nature

We exposed Australia's extinction crisis and **built momentum for strong nature laws**



Our work in action

Thanks to your support, we've forged new alliances, led bold community actions and made significant progress in building the political will for national environmental reform.

One of our key aims for the year was securing a strong final report from Professor Graeme Samuel, following his once-in-a-decade review of Australia's national environment laws.

Published in January, his report said the laws were "outdated", "ineffective" and "not fit to address current or future environmental challenges" — and he made 38 recommendations to fix them. Many were recommendations from ACF.

The strong findings and recommendations were testament to the 30,000 individuals and organisations, including hundreds of ACF supporters, who engaged in the review.

ACF was one of three conservation groups invited to participate in an expert consultative group on the establishment of national environmental standards — one of the key recommendations in Professor Samuel's report.

To build momentum for reform, we launched our national #beforeitsgone advertising campaign and staged Australia's cutest protest on social media. The #plushieprotest, featuring toy Australian animals, engaged thousands of people across Australia and got our campaign for new nature laws trending on Twitter. The toys were then gifted to children's charities.

Across the country, ACF Community groups engaged businesses and groups in their electorates, amplifying the call for local leaders to support strong environment laws.

Meanwhile, working with allies from the Places You Love Alliance, we started a dialogue with peak business and industry groups, and reached consensus on the critical steps necessary for the reforms our natural environment, communities and businesses need. Once advocates for removing national oversight, the business community now supports stronger laws, environmental standards and regulation.

In the media, ACF continued to play a major role in exposing Australia's extinction crisis. In August we released a report revealing around 25% of Australia's threatened plants and 46% of threatened animals can be found in cities and towns. The report led to extensive media coverage highlighting the species at risk.

The platypus is one of Australia's strangest and most iconic animals. Unfortunately in 2020 it was listed as vulnerable in Victoria. We joined with researchers at UNSW, WWF-Australia and Humane Society International Australia to get national protection for the platypus, nominating it to be listed as a threatened species under Commonwealth law.

After years of campaigning with allies, we saved a huge area of native forest and critical threatened-species habitat at Kingvale Station on the Cape York Peninsula. We also continued our campaign to protect the internationally significant wetlands at Toondah Harbour in Queensland from development.

Our impact

- The independent review of national environmental law recommended solutions supported by ACF and the business community, including national environmental standards and a regulator to enforce them.
- So far we've blocked the Morrison
 Government's moves to weaken our national
 environmental protection laws, thanks to the
 efforts of senate crossbenchers Rex Patrick,
 Jacqui Lambie and Stirling Griff, Labor,
 the Greens and some strong leadership
 from state and federal Liberal MPs.
- After years of campaigning with our allies, the federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley rejected an application to clear 2,000 hectares at Kingvale Station on Cape York Peninsula — home to rare and threatened parrots, quolls, birds of prey and bats.



Strengthen our **democracy**

Our work in action

This year ACF played a critical role in launching the #OurDemocracy campaign, which is gaining momentum across the country. This involved bringing together civil society allies and Australia's leading experts to develop a detailed policy framework, outlining how we can reduce the power of vested interest in our political system and restore balance in our politics.

We also took a leadership role in the Hands off Our Charities Alliance (HOOC), contributing staff time and resources to ensure charities can speak up on issues of national importance. The alliance protects the ability of everyday Australians to speak out on issues such as social welfare, human rights, health and climate change.

Our inside track work continued with an emphasis on building strong relationships with federal MPs who are prioritising integrity in politics, particularly the crossbench MPs in the House of Representatives and the Senate. A welcome byproduct of our work is we have become known as a trusted and 'go to' organisation for crossbench MPs in relation to democracy reform issues.

During the pandemic, we challenged diminishing government transparency by commissioning legal advice on the newly-formed National Cabinet. We found that National Cabinet isn't exempt from freedom of information requirements, therefore documents referring to changes to environmental law at National Cabinet should be released. We have begun testing this legal advice in the administrative appeals tribunal.

While the big picture campaigns were taking place, our media and investigations work continued to highlight the relationship between government decision makers and the fossil fuel industry.

In February 2021, we analysed donation data showing the political donations given by the fossil fuel industry and the fact that the gas industry gave almost \$700,000 to political parties in 2019-20, the year of 'gas fired recovery.'

Our impact

- #OurDemocracy campaign is growing momentum with 30 groups now endorsing the policy framework.
- Six cross bench MPs are now champions for democratic integrity issues.
- The rights of charities to advocate on issues remains protected.

The rights of charities to advocate on issues remains protected **②**

Transform our **economy**

Our work in action

The greatest achievement in the economy program for 2020-21 was the ongoing pressure we applied on the financial sector to lift its ambition on climate action.

We mobilised customers and shareholders of the big four banks — ANZ, Westpac, NAB and Commonwealth Bank — to call on the companies to cut ties with the fossil fuel industry. Thousands of people inundated the banks with emails, comments on social media and phone calls. This pressure helped convince ANZ to end its funding of thermal coal by 2030, while all the big four banks have now set a thermal coal exit date.

In early 2021 we worked with allies to build pressure on NAB, which is reviewing its oil and gas lending policy. Through supporter actions, media work and inside track lobbying, we pushed NAB hard. Pressure from ACF and our allies forced NAB to delay the release of their policy until later in the year, following further consultation.

ACF also campaigned for major superannuation funds QSuper and Sunsuper to improve their climate policy in the lead up to their merger, due to happen later in 2021. ACF held meetings with senior leaders from QSuper and SunSuper and organised, trained and equipped their members to take action, including in the media, to



pressure them to improve their climate policy. We are hoping to see some climate positive action towards the end of 2021.

And through our federal budget analysis work, we continued to highlight the lack of spending by the federal government on environmental initiatives.

We continue to work proactively with the business community through our climate and nature campaigns, to call for strong national environmental laws and climate policy that is good for people and nature.

Our impact

- ANZ, Westpac, NAB and Commonwealth Bank have now all set a thermal coal exit date.
- NAB is under pressure to produce a gas and oil investment policy that is in line with climate science.
- QSuper and SunSuper are under pressure to dramatically improve their climate policy in the lead up to their merger.
- Australian businesses and industry sectors are calling for more ambitious climate action and stronger national environment laws.



Thank you

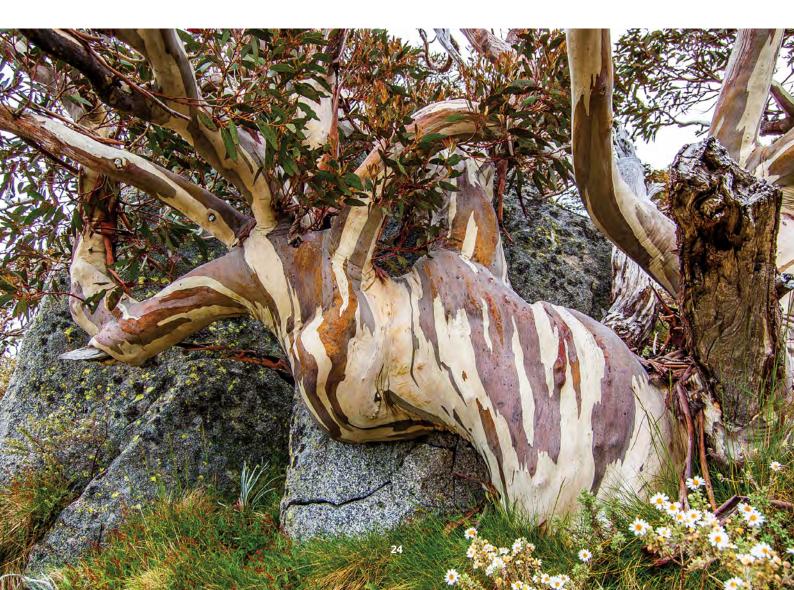
Together, we are more than **700,000 people speaking out for nature**. Whether you volunteer your time, give donations, speak out, plant seedlings, sign petitions, rally or tweet, we thank you for being part of the vibrant ACF community. You are the driving force behind our work.

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





You are the driving force behind our work.



Patron

The Hon Peter Garrett AM

Honorary Life Members

From time to time, ACF awards Honorary Life Membership to a member in recognition of their **outstanding contribution** to our work.

Dr Moss Cass	1982
Dr Bob Brown	1983
Dr Geoff Mosley AM	1987
Dr Aila Keto AO	1990
Mr Geoffrey Goode	1990
Ms Annelie Holden	1992
Mr Trevor Blake	1999
Mrs Beryl Blake	1999
Mr Mark Wootton	2001
Ms Eve Kantor	2001
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
E. Prof Ian Lowe AO	2014
Mr Geoffrey Cousins AM	2018

Nature's champions

We would like to recognise and thank **our committed supporters** whose annual donations were \$5,000 or more in the 2020-2021 financial year.

Leader

Gum Tree Foundation Felicia Huppert Jaramas Foundation Alice Arnott Oppen OAM

Oranges and Sardines Foundation

Guardian

Kevin Murphy Business Services Pty Ltd Dr Keith Lethlean and Dr Heather Johnston Ms Vicki Olsson

Skellern Family Foundation

Steward

Mr Bill Bush and Mrs Mary Bush

David and Jennie Sutherland Foundation

Dr Andrew Danks

Dowling Family Foundation

Dr Bill N Holsworth

Dr Jonathan Kalman and Mrs Anna Kalman

Mr Ross Mallam and Mrs Julie Mallam

Marich Foundation Mr Brian Snape AM Rob and Karina Taggart Michael & Margaret Williams

Protector

Dr Susan Adams and Mr Andrew Kirk

Ms Joanna Baevski Dr Barbara Baird Eldon and Marilyn Ball

The Bluesand Foundation Carroll-Marsh Unit Trust

Prof Carrick Chambers and Mrs Margaret Chambers

Michelle Coillet
Mrs Ann Crawford

The David Norman Family Trust
Diversicon Environmental Foundation

Mr Bill Ferris AC
The Forbes Family

Prof Gernot Heiser and Mrs Trudy Weibel

Mrs Helen Henry Brian Hodges Ms Annelie Holden

Emeritus Prof Andrew Hopkins and Ms Heather McGregor Will and Jennie Irving The Kamener Family

Mrs Pamela Knight

Dr Matthias Krups and Mrs Marlies Krups

Ms Caroline Le Couteur Professor Michael Leigh Colin & Joan Lonergan

Dr Ros Madden and Prof Richard Madden

Neurospace

Ms Victoria Parsons Ms Pam Petschack Rellim Foundation

Ms Marietta Resek

Greg Rowe

Penelope Russell

Dr Angela Rutherford Scovell Gardner Family Toot Sweet Consulting

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Sustainer

Mr Lindsay Adams

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Mr Andrew Hall

Holmes Family Foundation

Will and Sue Howard

Mrs Tim Jackson and Mr Doug Jackson

Mr Carl Johnston

Declan King and Anne Latham

Mr Ross and Mrs Jean Le Quesne

Letcombe Foundation

Renee Ferster Levy and Michael Levy

Ms Natalie Mamone and Mr Laurence Stonard

Dean Mason

Mr Dennis Nassau and Mrs Fairlie Nassau

Presentation Sisters Wagga Wagga

Mrs Anne Reeves

Fr Barry Ryan

S & J Cook Family Foundation

Mr Brett Slater and Mrs Maree Slater

Eliza Strauss and Andrew Stobart

Turner Family Foundation

Ms Nikki Watson

Elisabeth and Oliver White

Mrs Marjorie White

Stephen Withall

We thank all our donors, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous, for your dedication to protecting nature and our climate. Learn more about being a Nature's Champion:

www.acf.org.au/natures_champions 1800 332 510

"Part of what drew me to ACF is feeling that they are making a real difference."

- Felicia Huppert



Why I give

Felicia Huppert is an Honorary Professor at the University of Sydney, an Emeritus Professor of Psychology from the University of Cambridge, and one of ACF's generous donors.

I woke up on Valentine's Day two years ago and wondered, 'What's the most loving thing I can do today'? It immediately popped into my mind that the most loving thing I could do is to give a generous donation to ACF.

I thought about my children and grandchildren and felt this would be a loving gift for them, so they and all future generations can get the same joy from nature that I can.

As a child, being in nature was one of my greatest delights. I grew up in Sydney with an absolute passion for the beach as a place of extraordinary beauty and wonder. And every opportunity my family had, we would go into the countryside, to the Blue Mountains or drive to Queensland or Tasmania, where I marvelled at the variety of eucalypts and other trees.

Most of my adult life was spent working as an academic, initially in the US and then in the UK. I was away from Australia for nearly 50 years and it's heartbreaking what's happened during that time. For instance, parts of the Hunter Valley have become a moonscape for the sake of coal mining. So much habitat has been lost and I spiral into depression when I drive through areas that have recently been affected by bushfires.

My awareness of global warming and its devastating impacts is something I've been worrying about a great deal lately and wondering how as an individual I can make a difference.

Part of what drew me to ACF is feeling that they are making a real difference.

What impresses me about ACF is the way in which they are working on systemic change. They are working directly with politicians, policymakers and major organisations to ensure our laws are as protective of the environment as they can be. And working with key individuals to make sure those who have the most influence are on board as well.



The short answer to why I donated to ACF is love.

- Felicia Huppert



The way ACF works at a high level to prevent serious damage happening in the future relates to my own work in mental health. The number of people with mental health problems will never be reduced if all we do is focus on existing problems. We've got to work at a higher level, creating a society where there are fewer mental health problems in the first place. By working on changing systems, ACF is not just reacting to the current situation, they are being proactive in a really impressive way.

I really fear for the future of my children and grandchildren. So anything that we can do to preserve and nurture the planet for future generations, we must urgently do it.

Felicia latest book, *Creating the World We Want to Live In* examines how we can create the conditions for humans and ecosystems to flourish.



ACF's living legacy community

ACF's Living Legacy community recognises supporters who have decided to leave a gift in their will as a way of **taking action for future generations**.

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

We thank our supporters who have arranged to leave a gift in their will to ACF. This will form a living legacy for nature and our planet. Our Legacy Leaders have advised us they are leaving a significant gift and we gratefully recognise them here. We also thank all our Legacy Leaders who wish to remain anonymous.

Mr Stephen and Ms Janice Blakeney

Ms Rhonda B. Boyle Dr Barbara Briggs 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 Mrs Nina Hardie

Ms Margaret and Dr Grahame Hardy

Dr Jennifer Herrick Ms Annelie Holden Ms Sandy Jennings Ms Valerie Johnstone

Mr Andrew and Mrs Clare Kavunenko

Ms Victoria King and Mr Paul Hudson Ms Gail Kingsford and Mr James Newton

Professor Byron Lamont

Mr Harold Levien

Mr Bruce Lindenmayer OAM Mr Neil and Mrs Pam McDonald

Mr Philip Morris Mrs Ruth Pfanner Mr Frank Pierce Mr James Richardson Mr Geoffrey Shores Mr Brian Snape

Mr Peter Timms and Mr Robert Dessaix

Mr Jack Trezise Ms Laurel Tsang Ms Merilyn Whimpey Dr Judy Williams Ms Patricia Williamsz

Gifts in memory

Thank you to those who made in-memory gifts to ACF. Your kind tribute is inspirational and acknowledges the importance placed by your loved ones, friends and colleagues in caring for nature. The following people have been honoured with gifts in memory.

Ms Margaret Andresen

Miss Helen Aston

Ms Annie Boxall

Ms Holly de Castella

Ms Julie Anne (JAC) Clegg

HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Dr Beryl Evans

Ms Jenny De Garis

Dr David Harrison

Mr Ulrich Kehren

Mr Doug MacLennan

Mr Peter Nadolny

Dr Martin Neudert

Ms Diane Nicholas

Mr Conrad Oppen

Ms Val Pither

Dr. William Rex Riedel

Ms Florence Rigby

Mr Rudi Stryk

Ms Amber Thiel

Dr Norman Thompson

Dr Nikki Watson

Mr John David Worland

Legacies living on

We acknowledge the supporters from whom we received a gift in their will this year, and we express our appreciation to their family and friends. These gifts are a testament of how important nature is to them and their legacy beyond their lifetime to support conservation.

Estate of Marian Jacqueline Bear

Estate of Margaret Bowman

Estate of Christine Mary Bridgart

Estate of Brigid Hilda Bruer

Estate of Michael Clarence Burke

Estate of Ruth Crosson

Estate of Kenneth Temple Crouch

Estate of Philippa Helen Currie

Estate of Roland Good

Estate of Neville Hatten

Estate of Mary Anne Highfield

Estate of Lynne Dorothy Hudson

Estate of Susan Elizabeth Hutchinson

Estate of Ewa Maria Inglis

Estate of Stanley George Johanson

Estate of Paul Lee Kwok

Estate of Christobel Rosemary Mattingley

Estate of Douglass McDonough

Estate of Bruce Miller

Estate of Janet Rover

Estate of Morag Yvonne Ryder

Estate of Robin Marshall Simms

Estate of William Sperber

Estate of Doreen Margaret Turner

Estate of John Walker

Estate of Russell Walton

Estate of Adrian Warner

My legacy

Frank Chai has always had a love for the natural world. He and his wife Bee have left a bequest to ACF to help protect it for future generations.

I am happiest when I am camped out under the stars, scrambling over an escarpment to see pristine and glorious views, or awed by the flights of flocks of budgerigars on a bush track in Central Australia.

Over the years, we have travelled to many lands and around Australia and have seen the changes wrought by a changing climate, unimpeded development and the exploitation of limited resources.

We have seen glaciers recede and disappear resulting in reduced Spring melt for agriculture, and Antarctic ice recede further and earlier than it has ever done, risking the survival of penguin colonies. We have seen vast tracts of forests burnt due to extreme temperatures and cities in China in a perpetual haze, where children grow up without seeing the sun, moon or stars.

The pandemic is another red flag warning us about our dangerous over-exploitation of resources and the degradation of our natural world.

And now we face a pressing existential threat in climate change. If we do not take urgent action to address this, then all other actions on the environment become moot. We can try to save the koalas or the Great Barrier Reef, but if we don't reverse climate change, the threat to the planet and of extinction remains.

We need to stop destroying or degrading this world in the pursuit of short-term political, economic and financial advantage and learn to co-exist with our natural environment. I want science, not politics to guide us in the actions we need to take.

I see ACF as an organisation that is a strong advocate for nature who believes progress can only be made through engagement rather than confrontation. Through the years, ACF has proven itself effective by having this approach.



I hope, in future, we care more for the creatures and the world that we are custodians of so the next generation can have as good a future as we have had.

- Frank Chai



We have left a bequest to ACF in our wills because the natural world needs champions to fight for it and there will be many battles ahead. We hope our bequest will help in a little way in securing a future for our natural world and Mother Earth.

I hope, in future, we care more for the creatures and the world that we are custodians of so the next generation can have as good a future as we have had.



Pro bono and partner support

ACF is fortunate to receive in-kind and financial support from many businesses, individuals and partner organisations.

Consultants

Phil Craven

Grata Fund

Legal services

Angus Scott

Arnold Bloch Liebler

Chris McGrath

Christopher McDermott

Diana Tang

Environmental Defenders Office

Environmental Justice Australia

Geoffrey Watson SC

King & Wood Mallesons

Monash University Climate Justice Clinic

Neil Williams SC

Perry Herzfeld SC

Sarah Porritt

Thomas Wood

Nuclear free campaign assistance

Australian Nuclear Free Alliance

Dimity Hawkins

Dr Jim Green

Electrical Trades Union

Eve Kantor and Mark Wooton

Kirsten Blair and Gundjeihmi

Aboriginal Corporation

Maritime Union of Australia

Martine Middendorp

Mia Pepper

Workplace giving

We thank staff from 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 Government Solicitor

Australian Online Giving Foundation

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

Australian Taxation Office

Benevity

Bioceuticals

CAF Australia Good2Give

Catholic Education Office

Charles Sturt University

City of Joondalup

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Corrs Chambers Workplace Giving

Department Jobs and Small Business

Department Of Defence

Department Of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Department of Health and Ageing

Department of Treasury & Finance

Dept of Social Services

Epoch Systems Development

Felicity Hartigan

GMO Australia Limited

Karma Currency

Kimberley Wenya Pty Ltd

King & Wood Mallesons

LFG Services Pty Ltd

Melbourne Water - Payroll & HR Info

Mercer

My Cause

National Indigenous Australians Agency

Northern Territory Government WPG

Opal Packaging

Populous

Stock Family Endowment

University of Wollongong

Volunteers and fellows

Our community created ACF and our community powers us today. **Thank you to our amazing volunteers** who show up, speak out and act.

Fundraising and operations volunteers

Beryl Blake Prue Jackson Eliza Kelly Ondine Martin Mahalia McDaniel Nick Pastalatzis Kate Wood



Volunteers and fellows

Investigations Unit Volunteers

Jackson Balme Adam Gottschalk Freia Johnston

Vishal Karnamadakala Peter Kongmalavong

Meghan Malone **Richard Matthews** Hamish McOuade

Adam Muller Kate Noble Pam Roberts Erin Ronge Mark Spong Charlotte Stump Jacqui Turner Matt Whitting

Conor Woulfe

Judith Zhu

Engagement and campaigns volunteers

Mona Aden Matilda Bowra Lauren Castle Zuleka Chan **Emily Gregg** Fia Hamid-Walker Sheryl He

Maelor Himbury

Sarah Reid Isabella Stacey Hayley Vella

Jo Wainer Pam White

Fellows

Mia Allen Priyanka Arora **Julian Atchison** Hannah Bellamy Kerry Boys Elise Chidiac Ophelia Davenport Bridget Gibbs Kelly Griffin Linda Harper Jyoti Kala Manjot Kaur Emily Keane Kirsten MacLeod Madeline Price Patrick Shaw Samantha Sweeney

Jing Yang Stephanie Zalakos

Britta Wigginton

Emily Williams

Rachael Szumski

Beatrice Valek Jake Watson

Why I volunteer

Daniella Conser found volunteering involved difficult conversations but brought many unexpected benefits.

When I was eight, I was given an amethyst for my birthday. I was fascinated by the ability of the earth to form this incredible thing, I thought it was amazing. I was given a geology book and started collecting crystals and rocks and digging for dinosaur bones in my backyard.

Something that always blows my mind is that everything you use in your everyday life, from your phone and your furniture to a house and a car has come from the earth.

My fascination with the earth and all the amazing things the earth's processes create inspires me to dedicate my energy, knowledge and time to help mitigate climate change and protect our earth, the animals and our lives on it.

I love volunteering. It gives me a lot of energy, makes me feel purposeful and gives me so much happiness and hope in a space where the climate is degrading, and the government doesn't back the things I would really love to see.

You get so many diverse opportunities to develop skills you wouldn't be able to do in your everyday job or at university and you get to meet so many different people.

It's so important to enrich yourself with different cultures, people and perspectives. I've lived in the same city my whole life. If you interact just with your own circle, you don't get to meet people from different walks of life. Volunteering helps you do that.



Within ACF, you meet people who have the same goals and care about the environment. You have a shared passion.

- Daniella Conser



Within ACF, you meet people who have the same goals and care about the environment. You have a shared passion. You also get to talk to people who strongly disagree with you, and you're able to see the other side.

As much as those conversations are difficult, it's important to have them because it helps you understand where these people are coming from.

I hope for a future where we have a society that cares a lot about climate change and nature issues, and policy makers that listen and are scientifically literate. That would be awesome.





ACF more than offsets the CO₂ emissions from all of its activities &

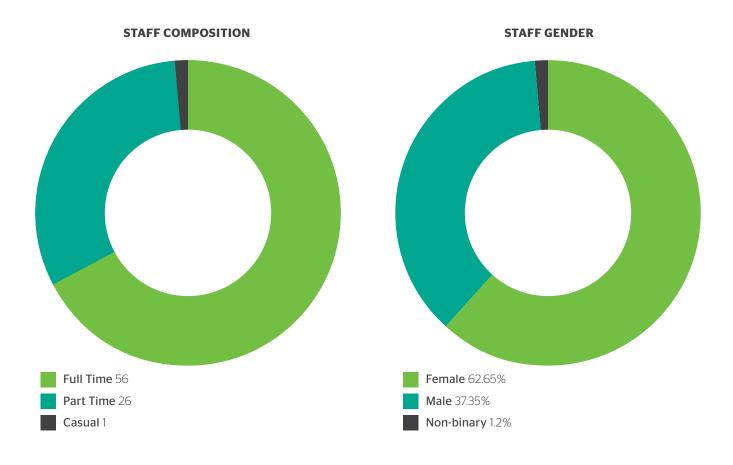
ACF environmental performance

With ongoing coronavirus restrictions over the past year, our offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra have been unoccupied for significant periods.

Coupled with reduced staff travel, this has meant ACF's CO₂ emissions and use of energy and water has again been lower than normal.

ACF more than offsets the CO₂ emissions associated with all of its activities, by purchasing Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) from the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation. As well as having a positive impact on climate, these ACCUs provide the added benefit of supporting employment and the everyday lives of people in Aboriginal communities.

Staff statistics	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021
Total Staff Full Time Equivalent	65.39	67.15	67	74.74
Avoidable Turnover Rate (%)	13.5	10.3	14.6	11





Organisational culture and **social performance**

Response to COVID-19

With another year spent in and out of lockdowns, ACF's People and Culture team has maintained a strong focus on looking after staff wellbeing.

This has meant increasing the mental health support available to staff, embedding flexibility for everyone — but particularly people with caring and parenting responsibilities — and creating some screen-free time. There has never been a more important time to advocate for the people and wildlife we love, and staff members have done an incredible job creating impact in the midst of the evolving pandemic.

COVID-19 has made working-from-home commonplace and had a major impact on our expectations of an office as the workplace. We are supporting our staff with flexible working. However we also believe that our offices will continue to be important focal points for collaboration, team building and culture. We are so fortunate to have been gifted our head office at 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, just over a decade ago. The visionary Green Building Partnership created a workplace that is sustainable, lightfilled and full of fresh air. With COVIDSafe operations in mind, we have implemented further measures to enhance air quality and hygiene for the benefit of our staff and tenants, ensuring 60L remains an enviable place to work.

While COVID has brought many challenges, there have also been opportunities to learn from the experience. Our ability to work from home and increase digital cooperation has enabled us to become a more geographically dispersed team, extending our recruitment potential. We have found new and more inclusive ways to build our culture. We've tested new models of collaboration and expanded the structures in place to support our people managers.

Organisation culture

We're sustainable, not extractive. We know that supported, confident and empowered staff is key to us achieving our mission of a world where people and wildlife thrive.

As we co-create ACF's culture, we've been inspired by the ecosystems we want to protect. We've taken a strengths-based approach, knowing that diversity makes us stronger as we evolve with the world around us.

To be a truly people-powered organisation, we know ACF should reflect Australia's cultural diversity, in our supporters, volunteers and staff. We're proud that in the past year we have increased the cultural diversity of our organisation, meeting our target to have a team that reflects the broader population. We look forward to continuing this focus in 2021-2022.

This year we also developed our First Nations Engagement strategy, to ensure that our campaigns, communications, decisions, strategies and governance are respectful of and beneficial to First Nations Peoples and rights.

We're proud to have developed a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA). The EBA enshrines flexibility as a core part of our employment offering and includes a range of conditions that are aligned with our values, like 18 weeks' parental leave regardless of who is the birth parent. This EBA was developed through strong collaboration between ACF, the Australian Services Union and staff representatives, and a shared passion for creating a sector-leading working environment.

Board and Council

Our **Board**

30 June 2021

ACF is governed by a volunteer Board which contributes a broad range of expertise to the organisation. Our Board members are dedicated to ACF's purpose, values and strategy for change.

The Board comprises six ACF Councillors — ACF's Vice Presidents and four Councillors elected to the Board — and up to five further members appointed (co-opted) by Council.

Mara Bún, President

Tim Chapman, Vice President

Shar Molloy, Vice President

Miles George, Treasurer

Jon Anstey, Secretary

Erika Avellaneda Celis

Donna Bagnall

Garry Gale

Ros Harvey

Ash Peplow Ball

Sarah Reid

ACF acknowledges the Board members who retired during the year: Jimmy Cocking, David Hood.

We acknowledge the significant, voluntary contributions of the following external members of the Board's Finance Audit and Risk Committee:

Jonathan Andrews, Jane Smithers, Alex Woerndle.

Our Council

30 June 2021

The Council is ACF's core representative body. ACF Members elect their state and territory Councillors to a three year term.

Tim Chapman, Vice President NSW

Shar Molloy, Vice President NT

Sarah Reid, ACT

Daisy Barham, NSW

Donna Bagnall, NSW

David Hood, QLD

Jimmy Cocking, NT

Anita Cosgrove, QLD

Revel Pointon, QLD

Leon Cermak, SA

Philippa Rowland, SA

Sue Richardson, SA

Erika Avellaneda Celis, TAS

Margaret Steadman, TAS

Anne Martinelli, VIC

Ash Peplow Ball, VIC

Melanie Poole, VIC

James Eggleston, WA

Mia Pepper, WA

Sarah English, WA

ACF financial position **summary**

At the beginning of 2020 when the pandemic emerged, we were extremely concerned about the impact on our organisation — our staff, our supporters and our finances.

Years of careful financial management had allowed us to build solid financial reserves, to provide resilience through tough times, but uncertainty reigned.

We applied for government support through the JobKeeper scheme, expecting donation revenue to suffer, however, our supporters stood by us and revenue did not fall as much as expected. We were one of the first organisations to voluntarily repay JobKeeper to the government. Whilst elements of corporate Australia are currently being shamed into following our lead, we can be proud that we are practising a new kind of economy where organisations do the right thing by people and planet.

The 2020-21 financial year has continued to surprise with ACF delivering record revenues of \$18.39 million up 22.1% on the prior year. This is quite extraordinary given the turmoil in the economy and pressures faced by many Australians. As a consequence, ACF has delivered a financial surplus of \$3.26 million — the seventh surplus in a row.

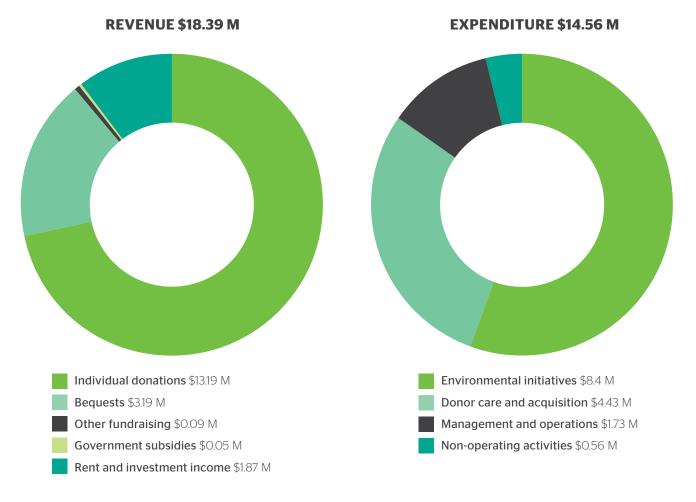
Operating revenues from donations, bequests and memberships increased from \$13.52 million to \$16.52 million, an increase of 22.2%. Our bequest program generated a record \$3.19 million for the year and is a testament to many years of building relationships with long-time supporters.

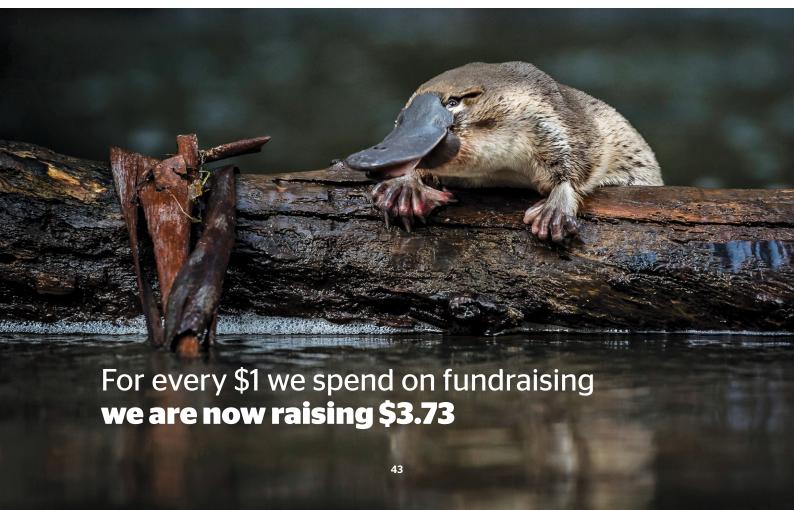
Over the past year we expanded the reach of the program to new audiences, including people who grew up enjoying Australia's unique environment and deeply care about their grandchildren being able to do the same. We never cease to be amazed by the generosity of our more-than 40,000 donors who continue to give, even as they face their own pandemic-related challenges.

Fundraising expenditure increased by 8.5% to \$4.43 million as the cost of online fundraising grew in an increasingly competitive landscape. ACF was an early adopter when it came to building a digital fundraising capacity and that has served us very well in the face of the pandemic. This year we expanded our digital team to develop improved ways of growing revenues in a cost-effective manner. In fact, our return on donor investment has improved by an amazing 13% over this year — for every \$1 we spend on fundraising we are now raising \$3.73.

Despite being constrained by lockdowns we increased our total expenditure on environmental activities by 11.2% to \$8.40 million. This represents about 56% of our total expenses - an increased proportion when compared with the prior year. Even before the pandemic our teams were accustomed to creating impactful work online, and so we have been able to pursue our objectives with minimal interruption. Nevertheless, our face-to-face engagement with the ACF community is an important part of our work and we look forward to growing those activities in 2022.

The year ahead will be pivotal for climate and nature. We are using our financial reserves to hire many more staff and we are embarking on activities at a scale ACF has not seen before. We expect our impact to be equally great by delivering lasting benefits for nature and repay your generosity and support. Thank you.





Together we are a powerful force for mature **(*)**

Australian Conservation Foundation

Wurundjeri Country Level 1, 60 Leicester Street Carlton VIC 3053

ACF publications can be found at: www.acf.org.au/reports

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