22 years looking after the KIMBERLEY

Annual Report 2018

Bedford Islands, Buccaneer Archipelago
The professionalism and commitment of the staff is evident in the report by Kimberley Nature Project (KNP) coordinators, Malcolm Lindsay and Lu Beames. While federal government support for conservation activities is at an all-time low, KNP has kept long-term projects going, including regional leadership on weed management, and maintained relations with its partner organisations. The team has even expanded into new areas like wetlands protection — all at significant achievements. Thesuccess of the staff in securing grants underpins this important work.

On the advocacy and campaign fronts, Director Martin Pritchard has led our work on the Fitzroy River system. Here, KNP is collaborating with traditional owner groups and the Martuwarra Council, the WA Government and wider community to ensure that this very special area is protected from encroaching large-scale irrigation and fracking. Financially, KNP is in good stead despite the vagaries of funding, under the watchful eye of our Finance Officer Christine Elsasser.

Making our own money has always been an integral part of KNP's sustainability. Events and Fundraising Coordinator, Tess Mossop, outlines the year's successes with our Annual Art Auction, the second of KNP’s Concerts for the Kimberley, and, scheduled for the last part of the year, the second Perth art auction, and KNP’s Xmas raffle. Over the year we have experienced continued growth in member numbers, and we are now using online tools to review and build on these.

Also on the fundraising front, Martin made a second year of visits to meet with major donors on the east coast, with fruitful results, and we will be developing a fundraising strategy for the New Year. At the 2017 AGM, we welcomed new members Nik Wexers and Sean Salmond onto the Board, who between them bring a wealth of experience and skills in financial management and community engagement — and we farewellled Ben Casuoto, who returned to Victoria. This year, we farewellled Jan Lewis and Alex Mountford, who leaves us with a big gap to fill. We have yet to find out who will step into their big shoes (nothing personal).

Among the main Board priority tasks we completed in 2018 were the strategic and operational plans, and Policy and Procedures Manual, and we continue to attend to improving Board governance, in areas such as the recruitment of new members and the evaluation of our roles and responsibilities.

Here's to the next year of saving the nature of the Kimberley.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Martin Pritchard, Director

As the Kimberley gains more attention through Instagram, Facebook and the tourism industry you would expect that the extraordinary landscapes and cultural experiences that capture the imagination of global citizens would be inspiration enough to ensure protection for this remarkable region.

Unfortunately, this is not the case. Despite the region holding a special place in Australia’s psyche, barely 7% of the land mass is protected in conservation reserves. The 39% of the Kimberley without statutory protection is still as fair game by the mining, fossil fuel and industrial agriculture industries. That is why KNP’s efforts and the work of groups like us are so important, and without us there is no doubt the gates would open to this bulldozer, drill rigs and bulldozers that have destroyed much of the Pilbara and the great woodlands that once occupied what is now the West Australian wheatbelt. Despite the increasing evidence showing that the old, trickle-down economy does not work to lift people out of poverty and bring genuine prosperity, but causes so much damage to our wildlife and landscapes, the push is still on.

Sources of funding for our work are becoming fewer and, in order to thrive and ensure that much of the Kimberley remains protected, we have to go further afield, build on our consultancy services and continue to develop the partnerships we have with many groups and organisations. The Kimberley Nature Project team, under Malcolm and Lu’s leadership, has been delivering this and has managed to keep important conservation work going, as well as ensure staff numbers are stable, as can be seen in the KNP report. The work that our Office Manager, Christie, and Community Projects and Events Officer, Tessa, do has never been more important.

Momentum is building for the protection of the Fitzroy River and ‘The Kimberley — Like Nowhere Else Alliance’ is now operating strongly. What we campaigned for all year, no dams on the Fitzroy and Margaret Rivers and we’ve finally got a government that has adopted our policy. We commend the McGowan Government for this. While we have achieved a lot — see, Jason’s report — there is still much work to be done to protect the Fitzroy in perpetuity. We are fortunate to have a strong partnership with PwC, Charitable Trusts. This work and in our efforts to protect the Buccaneer Archipelago.

The EK Board has done exceptional work this year, as mentioned in the Chair’s report, and Kate Golson and the rest of the Board have continued to take a strongly proactive approach to governance. Kate has again provided invaluable high level support and advice to me and I thank her for that.

With a Federal election due next year, we look forward to policy commitments that will ensure the protection of the Kimberley, such as increased funding for Aboriginal Rangers and Cultural and Natural Resource Management, core funding support for conservation groups and stronger national environment laws. We also seek commitments for World Heritage Listing, no new fossil fuel projects but support for renewable energy instead, increased protection for marine life and support for the new economy through a redirection of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF).

This last year has been a great challenge to EK, and we deeply appreciate the continued support of volunteers, members, donors and partner organisations, which is essential to achieving successful outcomes for the environment. We look forward to continuing our work with to protect the Kimberley in the next year.

CAMPAIGNS REPORT

Martin Pritchard, Director

The Northern Australia development agenda based on the old economics of mining, fossil fuels and industrial agriculture has been revived and is a major focus of our advocacy work. As a result, the National Heritage-listed Fitzroy River has been at the centre of the land-use debate in the Kimberley over the past year.

We have been gathering evidence on the failures of this agenda, which does not lead to meaningful, family-friendly jobs. On the contrary, it has led to spectacular failures of public policy, as shown in the report we commissioned on the Ctyd by The Australia Institute. As well as the destruction of Kimberley ecologies, taxpayers forked out $6 million for every job created, as the Barnett-Grylls Government poured hundreds of millions of West Australian taxes into the project. Despite such investment, the socio-economic situation in Kununurra is not improving. Another report we commissioned on irrigation in the Kimberley by The Australia Institute showed that ‘despite decades of government subsidies to irrigation in the East Kimberley, agriculture employs 6% of workers there, compared to 6% in the West Kimberley’. Investing billions in irrigation is not the way to improve job prospects and economic development here, particularly when it’s so damaging to the environment. We’re making sure that the lessons of Camballin are not forgotten.

There are many challenges ahead in our work to protect the Fitzroy River and Catchment from a Murray-Darling type disaster, but our engagement with the McGowan Government has been positive to date and Traditional Owners’ resolve to protect the future health of the River is inspiring.

Plans for a pipeline to transport fracked gas from a Mitsubishi well near Noonkanbah to Derby and Broome were provided to us during the year. The plans highlighted the fact that, despite the McGowan Government’s moratorium on and inquiry into this polluting business, industry was busy planning behind the scenes to green light to frack the Kimberley. We wrote a comprehensive submission to the fracking inquiry detailing the appalling mismanagement and industry failures surrounding the well-test wells that have been fracked in the Kimberley. The revelation that Buna Energy pumped radioactive water out of a well near Noonkanbah was a shock to many, but when you’re drilling deep into the earth where ancient radioactive rocks lie, it should not be a surprise. We helped make sure that the story was well publicised. Imagine what would happen with more than 40,000 gas-fracking wells, as has been estimated for the Kimberley.

The McGowan Government has vowed to ban fracking in the South West and Perth, but has yet to explain why, if it’s too risky there, it’s too risky in the Kimberley. We are sending a message to Premier Mark McGowan and his government that the Kimberley cannot be sacrificed to fracking just to appease any concerns industry might have about its development agenda. Particularly, at Parliament for the Kimberley, Josie Farrer MLA, has called for a ban on fracking and by doing so has broken ranks with the government. She has called for support to make this happen and we have already begun activating the community.

Despite the push by people like Gina Rinehart for industrial development of the North, there is an emerging excitement of new economic opportunities. Cultural tourism, Bush Products, Renewable Energy and Carbon Management are industries that can not only enhance the environment but provide durable, family-friendly jobs that people like to work in. They are the Kimberley ‘start-ups’, and we have been advocating and supporting the community to ensure government supports them rather than research into cotton and beef production. The latter is already heavily backed by corporate interests, and government funding becomes a subsidy for the very wealthy.

This next year will define the McGowan Government’s commitment to the environment in the Kimberley. It can choose to industrialise through fracking and irrigated agriculture, or it can follow a path to a deeper, lasting prosperity for our region. As a community, we need to make sure the government knows how much we care about this place and the lengths we’ll go to protect it.

I urge all my Kimberley mob and the people of Western Australia to join me in keeping the pressure on the State Government until we see a full ban on fracking in the Kimberley and all of Western Australia.”

Josie Farrer, Member for the Kimberley, June 25 2018
Another cycle of the six local seasons has occurred, and what a Man-gala (wet) season we had!
The Kimberley Nature Project has had another successful year, working with our Aboriginal and conservation partners to help conserve and protect the ecologically and culturally important species and habitats of the Kimberley.

We continue to work on our long-term projects (i.e. Dampier Peninsula’s Endangered Monsoon Vine Thickets, regional leadership in weed management, bilby conservation, supporting Aboriginal rangers) and with our long-term partners (e.g. Karajari, Nyul Nyul, Bardi Jawi, Yawuru and Burubba Rangers; Kimberley Land Council, Bush Heritage and SkNRAP). At the same time, we are developing and expanding newer projects (i.e. large-scale revegetation, night parrot conservation, Kimberley wetlands) and partnerships (e.g. Nyikina-Mangala, Pan Pac, Ngurrura and Wunggurr Rangers, and the University of Western Australia).

Our fantastic KNP team continue to be enthusiastic, competent, effective, full of good humour and a joy to work with. Despite some changes to the team last year, we still have one of the most consistent and long-term conservation teams in the region, which is critical to maintaining relationships and retaining competence. This year we welcomed a new ecologist, Jessica Miller, to the team who is a perfect fit, with strong and broad experience in field ecology, environmental management, policy and campaigning, and most importantly, a willingness to bake cakes.

Over the past few years each KNP team member has transitioned into managing all facets of their projects, from grant writing, execution, management, reporting and acquisition, with only occasional help from us coordinators. This not only eases our management responsibility, but also provides independence, ownership and experience for the staff.

All staff members led one or multiple funding applications this year, which for some grants allowed us to submit multiple applications written by different staff members. Unlike other organisations working in conservation in the Kimberley, we have to raise 100% of our wages every year. Although this is an unfortunate reality, it does mean that we highly value our team outcomes and value for money. Despite this, and the very difficult environmental funding situation of late (2% reduction in the Federal environment budget between 2013 and 2014, and according to forward estimates 2021-22 (Australian Conservation Foundation)) we have built and then maintained our income, projects and team size over the same period. Recently we have diversified our income sources, conducting more consultancy work, accessing wider philanthropic funding and partnering more with university researchers.

Here is a brief snapshot of what our Kimberley Nature Project Team members have been up to over the last year:

**Ayesha Moss, Main Projects:**

- **The Kimberley Community Seedbank, Dampier Peninsula Monsoon Vine Thickets:** Ayesha has kept the seedbank growing, helped train and build capability with women rangers in seed collection, storage and propagation. Along with supporting Karajari Rangers, she has developed a sustainable plant product for sale (seed packets). She helped establish the Kimberley Aboriginal Bush Plant Resources Alliance (KABPRA) with Aboriginal plant-product producers wanting recognition and support in accessing marketing opportunities and an income stream. Lastly, Ayesha has provided important support to the Monsoon Vine Thicket project and organised a Nyul Nyul language workshop to clarify plant names.

**Fiona West, Main Projects:**

- **The Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project:** After coming back to the position last year, Fiona has brought her unmatched energy and enthusiasm for all things seagrass. She successfully obtained more secure funding for the project from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, established a new site at Black Ledge inside the Roebuck Bay Marine Park and ran a highly successful series of seagrass monitoring training events. Lastly, Fiona has been invaluable to the organisation in giving training and support on all matters social media and promotions.

**Jessica Miller, Main Projects:**

- **Nyikina-Mangala wetland, Burubba plants and animals book, Neem management methodology trial:** Jess quickly fell into the role and took control of a range of projects, extending a project on Neem management into an experimental trial of new herbicide treatments, which she recently presented at the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference. She has also initiated our relationship with the Nyikina-Mangala Rangers through a project on biodiversity and weed management around key wetlands. Lastly, she is helping the Burubba Rangers produce an Animals and Plants Book with cultural information and language names.

**Kylie Weatherall, Main Projects:**

- **Monsoon Vine Thicket Revegetation, Kimberley Community Seedbank:** Kylie has worked the hardest in the field this year, on a number of revegetation sites near Monsoon Vine Thicket patches on the Dampier Peninsula with the Yawuru Country Managers and Nyul Nyul and Bardi Jawi Oorany Women’s Ranger coordinator. She kept her infectious cheer and good humour up despite one patch being totally flooded during the large wet season, leaving few surviving plants. In contrast, her other sites were very successful, as was her ability to bring in a wide range of supportive project partners. Lastly, Kylie has played an important role with women rangers, working closely with the new Yawuru Women Country Managers and even briefly acting as the Bardi Jawi Oorany Women’s Ranger coordinator.
Kimberley marine conservation has taken another leap forward in 2017–18. Planning for the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park has begun. We have been busy collecting footage and gathering information on the recreational and commercial use of the area and giving advice to Parks and Wildlife planners.

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Gogo station has proposed an irrigation project of 8,359ha, requiring 50 billion litres of water per year — and this is just stage 1. This project area lies adjacent to the abandoned Pillara Lead and Zinc mine. Our research revealed that the Pillara mine is a classified contaminated site; it has been pouring out groundwater through a vent shaft onto the surface, which is contaminated with Copper, Lead, Zinc, Arsenic and Thallium. For years this water has flowed towards what is now a proposed irrigation area.

Downstream at Liveringa Station lies a particularly abundant tributary known as Snake Creek. The station has a water allocation of six billion litres per year for growing cattle fodder. This water allocation is much smaller than Gogo’s would be, yet in 2016 local cattle contacted us to say the creek was dry, with dead fish, crocs, cherrabin and mussels. To better understand what impacts industrial irrigation would have on the river, we meet with dozens of Australia’s leading river scientists. The concern from the scientific community was overwhelming, so we facilitated the Fitzroy River Science Statement, which was co-authored by nine leading experts and signed by a further 100 river scientists. With this knowledge went on to meet with many of the traditional owners, pastoralists and fishers who live, work and play on the river. Momentum is building to rein in the extreme ambitions of corporate owners, pastoralists and fishers who live, work and play on the river.

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Momentum is building to rein in the extreme ambitions of corporate owners, pastoralists and fishers who live, work and play on the river. We are pushing the State Government to include the Adele Island group in the Buccaneer Marine Park. For the past six years we have spent countless hours researching and filming Snubfin Dolphins and trying to convince government staff and politicians of the importance of this localised group of weird-looking dolphins. Recently Parks and Wildlife Service published a Roebook “Fin Book”, which documents the bay’s 130 resident Snubfin adults. We did much of the writing in the book, with help from Dr Deb Thiele. The book is accompanied by a new Snubfin app, which is used to record sightings.

These two new tools will go a long way to conserving Roebook Bay’s Snubfin and greatly improve scientific knowledge over time — a vastly different situation from what we faced six years ago when we began working on Snubfins and commercial gillnetters were ripping them to bits and catching their food, gas developments loomed and the population was in deep trouble.

Today the wounds have healed, newtons are popping up everywhere, and there are no nets and no gas. The future looks great for Roebook’s Snubfin, something EK can be very proud of; however, for a completely secure future there is a need for a sanctuary zone in the marine park — something the WA Government has vowed to investigate.

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Environs Kimberley's drive to waterwhite deficit due to reduced government grants and a tightening economic outlook in the reporting year ended 30 June 2016. Despite this, total income fell by only 5.9%.

Total income was $916,048 (2017: $931,920). Grant income was down 13.6% to $367,795, as Governments continued to reduce funding available to NGOs.

Income from Donations, Fundraising and Memberships was up 20.4% to $297,501, principally in Donations and Fundraising events. We continued to work on attracting non-grant related project work with income from other sources, but income was down to $198,686.

Total Expenditure was $919,300 (2017: $938,027), with decreases in employment and operating costs but an increase in project costs.

Expending Costs continue to be Environ's Kimberley's biggest expense, although the current year has seen a 4.7% decrease to $737,654. Operating costs increased by 15.5% to $211,550, reflecting additional employment and operating costs but an increase in project costs.

Other sources, but income was lower by 20% to $198,806.

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Statement of Financial Position

As at 30th June 2018

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<th>ASSETS</th>
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<th>2017</th>
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Statement of Change in Equity

For the year ended 30th June 2018

Retained Earnings | $191,454 | $130,268 |
| Assets Gained | $101,916 | $103,078 |
| Total members Funds | $221,638 | $233,348 |

Balance as at 1st July 2016 | $445,018 | $464,458 |
| Net income | 5% | 5% |
| Balance at 30th June 2017 | $439,092 | $445,408 |
| Net income to members | $2,615 | $2,615 |
| Balance at 30th June 2018 | $395,441 | $398,456 |

Environ's Kimberley's net income to members for the year ended 30 June 2018 was $2,615 (2017: $2,615). This is the same as last year and is the result of the board's commitment to maintaining membership fees at a level that ensures the financial health of the organisation, while also affordable for members.

Income Statement

For the year ended 30th June 2018

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<th>INCOME</th>
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Martin Pritchard, Director
From a rural Welsh background, Martin has extensive agricultural experience gained in England, Wales, New Zealand and Australia. He holds a Higher National Diploma and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Policy Studies, specialising in Ecologically Sustainable Development, from Murdoch University. Martin has worked in catchment management in the South-west of Western Australia, chaired a number of environmental non-government organisations and has been a member of ministerial-appointed boards. Martin has been the Director of EK since 2008.

Dr. Malcolm Lindsay
Coordinator, Kimberley Nature Project
Malcolm hails from Melbourne and holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) and a PhD in marine ecology from the University of Western Australia. His professional marine and terrestrial ecology experience includes working for community groups, environmental consultancies, university research and government departments. He has also held international internships, including at the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands. Malcolm joined EK in 2012 and coordinates the Kimberley Nature Project jointly with Louise Beames.

Louise Beames
Coordinator, Kimberley Nature Project
Louise grew up on the family farm in Victoria, collecting and propagating native seeds to restore intensively degraded areas. She has a Bachelor of Science from Murdoch University and a first-class honours degree in Applied Biology from Victoria University. Before arriving in the Kimberley in 2007, Louise worked as an applied ecologist and operations manager for a Victorian environmental management consultancy. In her 10 years with EK, Louise has led the expansion of our environmental management activities from a 12 month grid for the Community Weed Project, which transformed into the West Kimberley Nature Project, now the Kimberley Nature Project.

Christine Elsasser
Administration and Finance Officer
Christine hails from Germany, where she gained a Master of Arts in German Mediaeval Literature and worked in the production department of a publishing house, calculating costs and organizing the printing and binding of books. In 1998, after moving to Australia, she has worked in various offices for a number of organisations, including Magabala Books, Broome’s Aboriginal publishing house. Christine joined EK in 2007.

Tessa Mossop
Coordinator, Community Projects and Events
Originally from a small coastal town on the mid-north coast of NSW, Tessa completed a combined Law and Commerce degree at the University of Newcastle and worked for various environmental and community-based organisations during this time. After graduating Tessa worked in North-east Arnhem Land as soleholder with the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency before moving to Broome in 2011. Tessa joined EK in 2014.

Jason Fowler, Marine Projects Officer
Jason grew up in Carnarvon and spent his youth diving, fishing and surfing all over WA, and in particular Ningaloo. He has worked on Pearson fraseri from Hermit Island to Cape York and spent several years pearlings for Paspaley and Mawina Pearls based in the Kimberley. In 2010, Jason compiled a BSc from James Cook University, majoring in Marine Biology and Aquaculture. After returning to live in Broome, he went into business, starting Fusion H-Tees and later the 1.2 Mile Café. Jason joined EK in 2013.

Fiona West
Seagrass Project Coordinator
Starting life in Kalumburu, where her parents were teachers, Fiona has always loved the Kimberley. She worked as a journalist for newspapers in WA and the NT and completed studies in anthropology, sustainability and social research. Fiona worked as an anthropologist, historian and heritage consultant before joining EK in 2008 as the Broome Community Seagrass Monitoring Project Coordinator. She is passionate about seagrasses and educating the community about its importance.

Jessica Miller
Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project
Jess hails from the east-coast Hunter region. She has a diverse work background, including environmental and heritage management in the Australian and ACT Governments. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Natural History Illustration, a Master of Natural Resource Management and a soon-to-be-completed research Masters in Environmental Impact Assessment and Ecology. Jess volunteers in environmental education, conservation and community advocacy and she enjoys learning about sustainability leadership, adventuring with friends and making art.

Kylie Weatherall
Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project
Kylie was born in Northam in Western Australia and has had a lifelong love of the state’s wide-open landscapes and natural environment. She studied biological sciences at Murdoch University and has a Postgraduate Certificate in Indigenous Management Studies from Edith Cowan University. Kylie also holds qualifications in the wet, and conservation and land management. She has worked in human services, community development, tourism and art and science. Kylie joined our organisation in 2011. She is also the contact person for Broome-based sustainable group the Society of Kimberley Indigenous Plants and Animals.

Ayesha Moss
Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project
Ayesha coordinates the Kimberley Community Seabank project and works with the KNP team to support the Kimberley Community Seabank project. It does in partnership with traditional owners across the Kimberley. Originally from Melbourne, Ayesha has a BSc (Honours), a Diploma of Information Systems and a Diploma of Project Management. She has worked in geographical information systems (GIS) mapping, waterway management and community development. In 2010, she moved to the Kimberley and in 2014, joined EK and hasn’t looked back.

Thank you

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Funding Support

Partners and collaborators

Acknowledgement of photographers

Front cover: Bedford Islands, Buccaneer Archipelago — Matt Moreton-Deakin
Page 3: Broome community, Josie Farmer’s office, show of support for her call to ban fracking — Damian Kelly
Page 4: The flood, Buckley’s Plain, 2018 — Damian Kelly
Page 5: Jess Miller and Nyikina Mangala Head Ranger Nathan Green checking traps — Kylie Weatherall, Ayesha Moss, Kylie Weatherall and Karajarri Women Rangers and Traditional Owners seed collecting; Volunteers monitoring seagrass — Ayesha Moss, Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project
Page 6: Ayesha Moss, Project Officer, Kimberley Nature Project
Page 7: EK’s inaugural Aboriginal Art Auction, Flamantia 2017 — Jamma Scott; Missy-Higgs; Concert for the Kimberley 2018 — Damian Kelly, Paul Bunton, Will Thomas, Tanya Ransom, Dave Mann, Bic Runga and Tilly — Damian Kelly
Black Cover: Pitjarrt River — Damian Kelly
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Environ Kimberley / Annual Report 2018

10
11
EK has been dedicated to protecting the Kimberley’s land and waters for twenty–two years.

This magnificent country faces many and increasing threats; too frequent fires, feral animals, weeds, broadscale land-clearing, dams, mining and encroaching industrial development are all putting our precious Kimberley environment at risk. Our overriding objective is that the lands and waters of this special part of the world be protected and sustainably managed. We continue to work closely with Aboriginal ranger groups and local communities, and collaborate with a broad range of organisations and agencies, to achieve this end.