Annual report

2025-2026



AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Nature needs us, now

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.

Cover. Caper White Butterfly *Credit:* Brendan Sydes / ACF
Scott Reef *Credit:* Nush Freedman

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Message from the **President and CEO**



It has been a challenging year for nature, climate and people, but thanks to our dedicated community, it has also been a year of hope, gritty wins, bold action and finding joy. We challenged the Environment Minister's disastrous decision to approve the North-West Shelf extension to 2070. A decades-long fight for new nature laws came to a head and Adam started his tenure as CEO by meeting ACF supporters from all around Australia.

These are just the highlights. Behind the scenes, our dedicated staff and supporters fought to protect our forests, reefs, and wildlife every single day.

As we watch climate disasters unfold around us, it is difficult to believe governments are still approving new coal and gas projects. When a newly re-elected Labor government approved Woodside's massive North West Shelf extension gas project, ACF wasted no time taking the Minister to court.

We live in a world where big corporations have too much power and decisions get made for vested interests rather than the public interest. But we have the power of the people behind us. Passionate, smart, and dedicated, they see a future where people and nature thrive.

When Adam officially took up the role of CEO, his priority was to get to know the people at the heart of ACF. So, together we kicked off the national tour, travelling around Australia, meeting and hearing from members, supporters and donors.

We both heard from ACF members about what should be in our strategic plan for the next four years, and behind every conversation there was the same resonant chord. Fury. Fury over a system broken, hunger for radical change and love for people, nature and climate. And so, the goals of our four year plan were clear.

To win, we need to be more powerful than the bulldozers and the coal and gas corporations. ACF's new strategic plan makes this the priority: we will stop the harm and change the system by building a people-powered movement for nature and climate that governments and corporations can't ignore.

The movement we're building won't just be powerful, it will be joyful and inclusive. We've already had fun along the way, donning some glitter and stepping into the festival space, partnering with indie rockers Lime Cordiale for the country's first-ever battery powered festival, Lime Green in SA. We loved it so much that we then headed up to Larrakia Country for Gaslit festival in June. Fighting for change can often be dark and challenging, but having fun and finding joy is key to success.

This year we also held corporate interests to account. Together with SIX, an ethical share trading platform, we facilitated Australia's first ever nature-related shareholder resolutions for banks, resulting in huge votes in favour of our deforestation resolution.

New nature laws were also passed last year. They fall short of what's needed to guarantee nature is protected, but ACF and its supporters did secure some important changes, ensuring greater protection against bulldozing in the Great Barrier Reef catchment areas and an end to the carve out for native forest logging. However, it will require sustained pressure and effort to turn these laws into real protections for nature, and we'll be keeping the pressure up.

The Board didn't just approve an exciting new Strategic Plan, it also refreshed its membership. This year we were excited to appoint Co-opted Board Members Hayley Conway, Susanne Legena and Gautam Raju, and Councillor Board Members Sally Fisher and Alice Hardinge. We were also very pleased to appoint Board Member Terence Jeyaretnam as ACF's new Treasurer, taking over from Joshua Gilbert. The Council welcomed new members Lucy Graham (QLD), Alice Hardinge (TAS) and Kirsty Howey (NT). Sadly, we farewelled Melanie Birtchnell and Joshua Gilbert from the Board, Mililma May from the Board and Council, and Councillors Joachim Ribbe (QLD), Erica Maginnis (TAS) and Kelly Tanner (ACT). We sincerely thank the departed Board and Council members for their support and valued contributions to ACF.

We have a lot of work to do. The bulldozers are still rolling, and our *Extinction Wrapped* report revealed that 2025 was the worst year in more than a decade for federally-approved bulldozing of the bush. We're stepping back into the fight to stop native forest logging. The fight to stop Woodside from drilling Scott Reef is ramping up and the toxic gas industry continues to spin their dangerous narratives.

We are ready to take on this work. Our 2030 strategy is our boldest strategy yet. We are entering a decade of profound change. We are faced with countless crises and challenges and Australians want something better. We have ambitious goals to end coal and gas expansion, stop forest destruction and transform our broken food system. We will work for a future that is safer, fairer and more hopeful, one where people and nature can thrive together.

With more than a million supporters behind us, our movement is already strong. And we're going to get even stronger.

We will stop the harm, build a movement and change the system.

President, Ros Harvey
CEO, Adam Bandt

Above. President Ros Harvey *Credit:* Tessa Stevens / ACF
Top right. CEO Adam Bandt *Credit:* Tom Kinsman / ACF

Our **impact**

Outcomes for **climate**

- Thanks to campaign pressure from ACF and the broader movement, the Federal government announced a **62%-70% reductions target by 2035** – one of the strongest in the world.
- Australia signed the **Belem Declaration to Transition from Fossil Fuels** thanks to critical ACF advocacy.
- **More than 40,000 people signed our petition** for no new coal and gas.
- Our campaign to tax big gas greed in WA reached 1.52 million people and we had a **300% increase in media mentions** during the campaign period.
- **More than 6,500 people sent an email** to the PM and Energy Minister demanding an end to the approval of new coal and gas.

Outcomes for **nature**

- After years of campaigning and pressure, **the Albanese government introduced new nature laws in late 2025.**
- Our investigations team **uncovered 32,000 hectares of bushland** that was bulldozed across 150 properties. We've reported **52 cases** to State of Federal government so far, and more reports will be made over the coming months.
- Together with SIX, ACF co-filed Australia's **first-ever nature-related shareholder resolutions for banks.**
- In the final weeks of our fight for new nature laws, community members had over **27 meetings with MPs, and 137 people dropped our open letter off to their MPs.**

Other big **wins**

- In the past year, **272,244** donations were made to ACF through our fundraising initiatives
- We're grateful to welcome **2,302 new EarthVoice regular donors,** bringing our EarthVoice community to 21,112 passionate nature protectors.
- ACF was all over the news with **13,161 media mentions,** that's about 36 per day.
- Our digital ads reached a staggering **11.8 million people,** that's about 44% of the total Australian population.
- We welcomed **77,574** new supporters to ACF community.
- **686,870** people visited our website.
- Our incredible community took **205,693 advocacy actions,** from petition signatures to open letters, calls to local MP offices and more.
- Our total social media following ticked over **416,463.**
- Our ACF community ran 4**05 public events** during the year.

Thank **you**

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

Wildflowers blossoming in Western Australia
Credit: Rafael Ben-Ar / GettyImages





Katydid nymph on a rice flower *Credit:* Brendan Sydes / ACF

ACF strategic plan on a page: 2026-2030

We turn love for nature and fury about the climate crisis into pressure decision-makers cannot ignore, to create a fairer, safer and more hopeful world and a good life for all.

We believe:

People power can overcome big corporate greed and lead to an Australia where people and nature thrive. An Australia where:

- nature thrives, our water and air is clean and trees grow and flourish.
- people from all walks of life are deeply connected to nature and each other.
- our economy works with nature, our homes are powered with abundant clean energy from the sun and wind, and we all have everything we need to live a good life.

By 2030, we will:

Grow a powerful, diverse and hopeful movement, and unstoppable momentum to achieve our vision:

- Defining the stories that build power.
- Investing in leadership and infrastructure.
- Creating visible mass mobilisation moments, with pathways for new supporters.

Stop new coal and gas mines and be phasing out coal and gas exports, so people and nature can have a good life:

- Focussing on Browse, Beetaloo and Winchester.
- Showing that coal and gas harm people and nature – they are the next tobacco and asbestos.
- Pressuring the Federal government to deliver a fossil fuel phase out.
- Supporting renewables that are good for nature and pushing back on nuclear – a dangerous distraction.

End native forest logging and degradation.

Details coming soon.

End deforestation so the way we grow our food restores nature:

- Pressuring food companies and supermarkets to implement deforestation-free policies and incentivise nature-positive farming.
- Pressuring banks to commit to deforestation free beef, and incentivise nature and climate friendly farming.
- Pressuring Federal government to adopt a whole of government approach, to stop deforestation and support nature positive farming.
- Creating public demand to fix the food system.

We will do this by:

Taking on vested interests - exposing, disrupting and stopping governments and corporations that harm nature and our way of life.

Creating solutions - bringing to life those solutions that make people's lives better and help build a good life for all.

Changing the story - sharing our vision to inspire and connect people, and to make hope and joy a springboard for action and a path to a better future.

Growing the movement - bringing together Australians from all backgrounds and cultures to build a movement too powerful for governments and corporations to ignore.

We are:

Bold | Fair | Evidence based | Stronger together | Fun | Diverse



Nature

The fight for new nature laws comes to a head

As campaigners, the tangible outcomes are often hard-fought and years in the making. This year, we saw the result of one of those long, gritty campaigns when the Albanese government finally introduced their new nature laws in late 2025.

This fight was movement-wide and the result of the hard work of countless individuals and organisations. From policy experts poring over dry legislation to campaigners meeting with decision-makers, and people signing petitions and taking action from their homes, every action made a difference.

Our ACF community was the force that pushed nature laws over the line. When the countdown to the new laws was on, our community mobilised for a two-month long sprint. Community members almost 30 meetings with MPs, and 137 people dropped our open letter off to their MPs. Our ALP target MPs had people at their office **every day of the week** and sometimes multiple times on the same day. The community was so persistent that office staff complained and asked volunteers to target someone else. We also had MPs express gratitude to our groups for their information and support.

> "... ACF Geelong represents the best of community advocacy. The letters your members provided to my office regarding the reforms of Australia's environment laws played an important role in shaping my conversations with the Minister's Office."

- An email from MP Libby Coker to ACF Geelong.

This win is the result of lots of people taking small and big actions over many years.

While we are proud of this win, there is a lot of work to **turn these changes on paper into real protections for nature.**

Our community has already been putting the pressure on. They made submissions advocating for new Environmental Standards to set clear, strong rules for nature protection, and shared evidence of ongoing deforestation with MPs to push for the laws to be enforced and wildlife protected from the bulldozers.

We aren't taking our foot off the pedal until we see these laws in action, protecting our precious threatened animals and places.





Left. Nature laws protest at the press club. *Credit:* Tessa Stevens / ACF
Top. Dropping the open letter to MP Josh Wilson in Fremantle. *Credit:* ACF
Above. Dropping open letter to MP Peter Khalil. *Credit:* ACF



Holding big banks, supermarkets and fast-food giants to account

In December 2025, we published our *Financed emissions from deforestation* report, exposing how the big four banks are failing to track, manage, and disclose the significant emissions from deforestation carried out by their customers.

The findings from this report led to ACF and our campaign partner SIX facilitating Australia's **first-ever nature-related shareholder resolutions** for banks. Together with a group of small and big shareholders from NAB and ANZ, we called on both banks to disclose their exposure to deforestation and to adopt no-deforestation policies.

ANZ shareholders delivered a massive vote in favour of the deforestation resolutions at the bank's AGM in Sydney. The resolution calling on the bank to disclose deforestation linked to its lending was supported by 22.7% of shares voted at ANZ's AGM, a very significant outcome. Support at the NAB AGM came in at 13.98% of shares, meaning both of these banks received a clear message that shareholders expect more transparency as a starting point for further action.

In May we released our *Corporate Engagement Guide* to show large shareholders why and how they can engage with supermarkets and banks on deforestation. The guide laid out the steps these companies must take on the pathway to implement a deforestation-free commitment. We highlighted the leaders and the laggards along this pathway, with an aim to build awareness and support for future shareholder resolutions.

Our team directly engaged with 20 of the banks' and supermarkets' largest investors and distributed the guide to dozens more.

This coming year, we'll be filing shareholder resolutions with Commonwealth Bank and ANZ, continuing our work to push the laggard banks to do better.

In the world of supermarkets, Coles finally announced a deforestation-free target for its own brand and directly sourced beef, meaning that both Coles and Woolworths were committed to stocking deforestation-free beef on supermarket shelves by the end of 2025. When Woolworths appeared to deprioritise deforestation-free beef, we pressured them to reverse this decision which resulted in their clarification that deforestation-free beef would remain a priority. Both supermarkets have missed their implementation date but our engagement with them indicates that they remain committed. We won't be taking the pressure off until we see real progress.

We also escalated our campaign on one of Australia's biggest beef buyers – Hungry Jacks. We splashed our *The koala's are deader at Hungry Jacks* campaign across street posters, chalk stencils, digital advertising, bike billboards and more. Our digital ads reached more than 4.5 million people and 4,400 people sent our open letter to Hungry Jacks about their lack of a deforestation-free commitment. We took banners into two AFL games, where the teams were sponsored by Hungry Jacks, and handed out flyers outside Hungry Jacks headquarters in Sydney.

The pressure was so noticeable that Hungry Jacks asked us what it would take to 'make the koala burgers go away'.

The result? A meeting with key Hungry Jacks staff to push them to make their burgers deforestation-free, which is a huge step forward for this campaign.

Investigations

Our small, yet mighty investigations team had another huge year, uncovering 32,000 hectares of bushland – equivalent to ten Sydney Harbours – that was bulldozed across 150 properties.

ACF investigator Mandeep Singh was on the ground at one of the sites in Tasmania and shared insight into seeing this destruction firsthand.



"When we'd learnt that this native forest was likely home to endangered species like the Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle, and that the clearing was currently active, we knew we had to act fast. When we got to the site, we saw 70 hectares of bare, orange ground where a forest once stood just days ago and even caught footage of a bulldozer in the act of carrying broken trees away."

Most of these cases were identified as part of ACF investigates, our crowd-sourced investigations project. Together, 1,625 investigators from 39 countries scanned more than 10 million hectares of land. That's an area almost twice the size of Tasmania!

ACF Investigates is an incredible way to engage our community and empower individual action. It also helps us engage with people who might not land in our usual audience.

This year we engaged with Geoguessrs, gamers who specialise in guessing different geographic locations based on scenery and surroundings. This was a great new avenue to explore, enabling us to connect with audiences we haven't been able to reach before.

"Lots of our participants live remotely and can't show up for something like a tree-planting day, but they certainly showed up for this. Our gamers make up some of our most dedicated and effective investigators – especially when there's a little healthy competition involved," said Kim Garratt, head of investigations.

Unfortunately, it's not only illegal bulldozing we need to be concerned about.

This year, we published our annual Extinction wrapped report, uncovering a harrowing reality: 2025 was the worst year in more than a decade for federally-approved bulldozing of the bush. This is bulldozing that has been **approved** under our national nature laws, underscoring just how important it is for us to keep pushing for the new nature laws to be implemented effectively.



Top left. Our bike billboards in action. *Credit:* ACF
Above and right. Seeing deforestation firsthand in Tasmania. *Credit:* ACF

Wild At Art

ACF's cutest and most colourful campaign, Wild At Art had another successful year, with almost 5000 children aged 5-12 across Australia entering the threatened species art competition.



At a glance, Wild At Art may look like a holiday activity, but it serves as a powerful learning tool for our youngest nature lovers. The competition is curriculum-aligned, and children in classrooms around the country get to learn about threatened animals and plants while creating their artworks. We see artworks featuring bushfires, plastic pollution, floods and more, showing that children are thinking critically about the threats their chosen species are facing.

It's heartwarming to read the written entries from the entrants, sharing the different ways they hope to protect their chosen animal or plant.



In a world that often feels heavy and dark, these artworks give us a spark of hope. Children are switched on, creative and passionate. From beautiful artworks of quolls to red handfish to orange-bellied parrots and sea lions; our youngest nature lovers showed once again that our future is in good hands.

Wild At Art is also beautifully supported by our ACF community groups. Groups held events, competitions, and exhibitions attended by local federal politicians. ACF Eastern Sydney ran its annual Wild At Art show at the Bondi Pavillion with more than 300 community members attending the event. Local and federal politicians also joined in on the fun, including MP Kellie Sloane, MP Allegra Spender and MP Matt Thistlethwaite.



Left page. The byod forest dragon by Tsz Wai, age 11
Top Left. Match stick banksia by Chloe, age 11
Left. Purple Crowned Fairy Wrens want their trees back by Elyse, age 7
Above. The Last Song of the Golden Bell by Olivia, age 11

Climate

The fight for a safe climate continues as we move into the second half of a critical decade for action.

In 2025, the federal government announced a 62%-70% reductions target by 2035. Emissions are within reach to achieve the Albanese government's 43% reduction by 2030 on 2005 level, a far cry from the 74% experts describe as Australia's necessary contribution to staying within 1.5 degrees of warming. Worryingly, emissions are not declining fast enough for a safe climate, however this 2035 target is currently one of the strongest in the world.

At COP30 in Brazil, we welcomed the Climate and Energy Minister Chris Bowen's decision to sign the *Belem Declaration to Transition from Fossil Fuels*. However, when it came to standing with Brazil to deliver strong language for a fossil fuel phase out as part of the formal COP30 decision, Australia sat on its hands. As COP31 Head of Negotiations, we need to see Australia take more decisive action and lead when it matters.



Above. COP30 opening. *Credit:* Rafa Neddermeyer
Right. Press conference for the North West shelf approval challenge. *Credit:* ACF

Taking the Environment Minister to court

Thanks to the strong, unwavering support of our community, ACF has the resources to stand up to decision-makers and hold them to account.

In September 2025, Environment Minister Murray Watt approved an extension for the North West Shelf gas project to run until 2070. The project is a climate bomb that would spew out a staggering 4 billion tonnes of climate pollution, equal to almost ten times Australia's total annual emissions.

We are already living in the era of climate consequences, and our window to avoid the worst to come is rapidly closing.

We could not stand by and let the Minister continue to ignore the destruction new fossil fuel projects like this one will cause. In October, ACF, represented by Environmental Justice Australia (EJA), lodged two challenges against Environment Minister Murray Watt in relation to his assessment and approval of the North West Shelf gas extension.

While we don't yet have the results of this case, court challenges are a powerful tool regardless of the outcome. We're forcing decision-makers like the Environment Minister to answer difficult questions openly and in view of the public.

Our community has been working tirelessly to keep this case front and centre, with our ACF Eastern Rosellas group holding weekly vigils in front of their local MP offices.

This case isn't just about one project. It could set a protective legal precedent: that climate harm must be considered under Australia's national environmental law.





Challenging the Winchester South coal mine

Back in court, but this time in Queensland, ACF and the Mackay Conservation Group challenged the approval of Whitehaven Coal's Winchester South coal mine.

If approved, the mine would generate at least 583 million tonnes of climate pollution, release huge volumes of methane into the air and destroy at least 2,000 hectares of habitat that is home to threatened species including koalas, greater gliders, the Australian painted snipe, the ornamental snake and squatter pigeon.

The coal from this mine is destined for export, but it doesn't matter where in the world Australian coal is burned — it comes back in the form of bushfires, floods and extreme heat.

On the opening day, the ACF Brisbane community rallied in front of the court with members of the public turning out to support the case.

We are still waiting on an outcome, however as with all legal cases ACF takes on, win or lose, the case is an important step toward stopping new coal and gas.



Above. Whitehaven Vs Climate rally outside Land Court in QLD. *Credit:* Malcolm Paterson
Right. ACF's Gavan McFadzean at Whitehaven Vs Climate rally. *Credit:* Malcolm Paterson

Tackling toxic disinformation

Perhaps as toxic as the gas industry itself, is the disinformation surrounding it. This year, we rolled out a campaign to tax big gas greed, kicking off with a public awareness campaign in Western Australia.

Big Gas knows how to spread their false narratives far and wide. Woodside is even using Western Australian children as billboards, paying to put their logo on little kids' Nippers uniforms in an attempt to make them seem family-friendly, when nothing could be further from the truth.

Our campaign reached 1.52 million people with a 300% increase in media mentions during the campaign period. We know the gas industry and the government were both paying attention because big gas increased their Meta advertising spend by $200K while our ads were running and the Albanese government reached out to us during the first few days of the campaign. We also had more than 6,500 people email the Prime Minister and the Climate and Energy Minister demanding an end to the approval of new coal and gas. ACF CEO Adam Bandt joined Konrad from Punters Politics, Roxy Moore and Lucy Peach for a Hot Takes, High Stakes panel event, aimed at cutting through the noise. The event was a huge success with plenty of new faces, sharp conversations and passion.

We know we can't destroy mis and disinformation with just one campaign, but we are cutting through the spin.

More than 40,000 people have already signed our petition for no new coal and gas and in March ACF joined the chorus of voices calling for a 25% war profits tax on all Australian gas exports. Our community members hit the phones and called on Labor MPs and Senators around the country, asking them to commit to a gas tax. Members of our new youth-led People Power Network took part in a rally to introduce the gas tax and we joined allies in pubs and on the streets to demand that gas companies pay their share.

There's plenty of work to be done but we know that the truth will win out, and Australians want a clean, safe future.



Strengthening First Nations leadership across climate

First Nations knowledge, experience and leadership are a critical part of our work. This year we engaged in a series of national and international conferences and panels to strengthen First Nations leadership, visibility, collaboration and influence in the climate space.

For Sydney Climate Week, proud Kuruma Marthudunera woman and ACF's First Nations Lead, Josie Alec joined a First Nationals panel for discussions on climate action and the opportunities for First Nations peoples to shape Australia's future in protecting Country. Josie also attended the Common Threads conference in Adelaide, contributing to cross-sector conversations and relationship-building around shared priorities, including cultural knowledge, community benefit, sustainability and First Nations-led solutions.

In May, Josie also attended the International Impact Assessment Conference in Québec, Canada. The conference presented the opportunity to share and explore leading approaches to impact assessment, including the importance of Indigenous rights, participation, cultural knowledge and benefit-sharing in major projects and policy development.

"Through these engagements, we have gained a better understanding of First Nations positions on environmental issues surrounding our climate and nature campaigns,"

Josie Alec.

In June, ACF CEO Adam Bandt, ACF Ambassador Clancy Lester and members from our media team headed up to Gaslit festival on Larrakia Country in the Northern Territory. Gaslit festival is a multi-day festival advocating against Big Gas. It featured panels, tours to see the Middle Arm Gas Precinct in Darwin Harbour, and a musical evening that Adam supported as DJ.



The team drove four hours south to Mataranka on Mangarrayi and Yangman Country and spoke with local First Nations communities about the impact fracking the Beetaloo will have on Country.



Above. Aunty Miliwanga Wurrben and ACF CEO Adam Bandt at Gaslit on the Harbour. *Credit:* Tessa Stevens / ACF
Top right. ACF Ambassador Clancy Lester. *Credit:* Tessa Stevens / ACF
Right. ACF CEO Adam Bandt at Gaslit festival. *Credit:* Tessa Stevens / ACF

Pushing fossil fuel giants to pay their fair share

In April, conservationists and Traditional Owners rallied outside both Annual General Meetings for fossil fuel giants Woodside and Santos.

Outside the Woodside AGM in Perth, the community highlighted the cost of Woodside's destructive projects – higher bills, worse bushfires, heatwaves, floods, reef bleaching, and damage to culturally significant places. Costs and damage the public must bear while Woodside makes massive profits exporting 80% of Australia's gas.



Kaylene Daniel, Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Murujuga Traditional Custodian, said: "We will be attending the AGM today because it is important to speak up about what Woodside are doing to Murujuga. If no one says anything, it won't be protected."

Outside the Santos AGM in Adelaide, ACF CEO Adam Bandt joined Indigenous leaders and conservationists to highlight the push for big companies like Santos to pay for the environmental damage they cause.

Showing up and speaking out at these events is a key tactic to hold these big coal and gas corporations to account. With the power of the people behind us, we will continue to show up and speak out.

Aussie households at the forefront of climate action

In August 2025, ACF and The Smart Energy Council commissioned a report by Green Energy Markets on the Cheaper Home Batteries program. The report showed that Australian households are demonstrating the power of electrification, with a rapid uptake in the addition of home batteries to rooftop solar systems, slashing emissions and driving us towards renewable energy targets.

ACF helped shape the policy that has now seen more than 500,000 home batteries installed. These batteries will keep Australia within reach of 82% renewables and 43% pollution reduction by 2030, reduce our dependence on coal and gas and drive down household electricity bills. The policy has been so successful it's being expanded to include commercial users.

With one in three Australian households having already made the switch to rooftop solar, hardworking Aussies are doing the heavy lifting when it comes to moving toward a clean, renewable future.

After a huge 25/26 financial year, our primary focus for the next year is on saving Scott Reef from Woodside's Browse gas drilling project and North West shelf expansion, and stopping Santos and other gas corporates opening up the Northen Territory's huge Beetaloo basin to gas fracking for the first time. These projects would spell disaster for our climate, threatened species and precious places.

Our fight to protect Scott Reef and the Beetaloo is bigger than two projects. It's a test of whether our government will keep giving the green light to fossil fuel giants, or finally stand up for our reefs, our climate and our future.

Left. Speakers at the Santos AGM rally. *Credit:* ACF
Top right. Lime Green Festival. *Credit:* Ari Balle-Bowness
Right. The ACF crew at Lime Green. *Credit:* Ari Balle-Bowness



Sponsoring Australia's first climate action music festival

Engaging in climate action can sometimes feel like a blur. Fires, floods, and nature destruction are a deluge on the screens of young people. In April, the ACF team did something entirely new: sponsored and attended Australia's first climate action music festival, Lime Green, run by the band Lime Cordiale.

Australia's pop-rock sweethearts — fronted by brothers Ollie and Louis Leimbach — built something that ran on joy, music and ease, with the climate work humming quietly backstage rather than making itself the headline act. But that was the point: prove a festival could put climate first without ever feeling like it was pushing you to think about it.

Our team had a brilliant time creating a colourful climate hub, engaging with passionate young people and dancing to some great tunes; proving that climate action can be joyful.



Thank you
for powering ACF

The Australian Conservation Foundation is proudly funded by our community – it's only thanks to everyday Australians that we can remain fearless, independent and bold when we hold decision-makers to account. We don't receive funding from governments, fossil fuel companies or other businesses that pollute for profit. We are beholden only to nature.

Nature lovers like you inspire and empower us every day with your passion and commitment. Last year, your kind donations, gifts in Wills and memberships grew by 8% to a total of $18.7 million, making up 98% of ACF's total revenue.

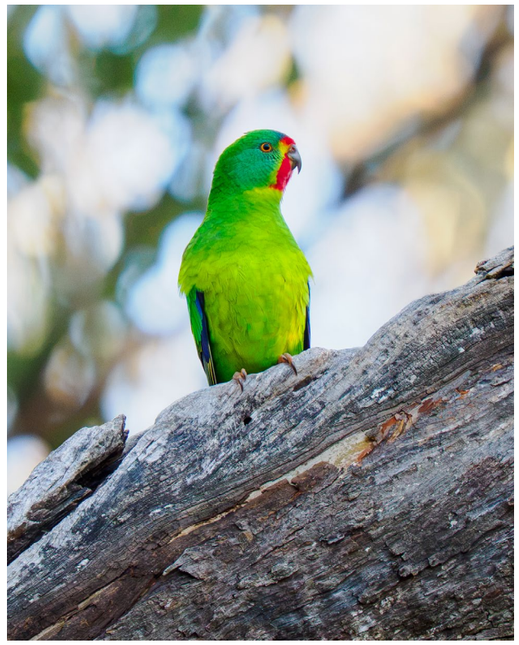
We can't thank you enough. You give us the resources we need to turn Australians' love for nature and fury about the climate crisis into pressure decision-makers cannot ignore, to create a fairer, safer and more hopeful world and a good life for all.

We're especially grateful for the thoughtful gifts in Wills we received last year from 46 donors, totalling more than $3.6 million. We honour your extraordinary commitment to creating a better future for generations to come. Last year, 251 new members joined our Living Legacy community – a community of thousands of supporters who have left a gift in their Will to ACF so we can remain an independent force for nature in the years ahead.

In the past year, 272,244 generous donations were made to ACF through our fundraising initiatives including Giving Day, Australia's Biggest Bushwalk, Nature's Champions, appeals, community and workplace fundraisers and regular gifts. We're thankful to welcome 2,302 new EarthVoice regular donors, bringing our EarthVoice community to 21,223 strong.

More than ever, ACF remains committed to ethical and responsible fundraising practices, in line with the Fundraising Institute Australia (FIA) Code. We're dedicated to transparency and honesty and promise to manage every donation entrusted to us with the utmost integrity. For every dollar invested in growing ACF's fundraising last year, we generated $3.24 in donations, a testament to the efficient and impactful use of your donations.

Thank you for standing alongside us and standing up for nature! It's only because of you – our caring community – that ACF can protect nature and advocate for all living things to live in harmony on the planet that sustains us.



Above. Swift Parrot *Credit:* Brendan Sydes/ACF
Right. Yellow footed antechinus *Credit:* Brendan Sydes/ACF

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.

Honorary Life Members	Date of award
Dr Geoff Mosley AM	1987
Dr Aila Keto AO	1990
Mr Geoffrey Goode OAM	1990
Ms Annelie Holden	1992
Mr Trevor Blake	1999
Mrs Beryl Blake	1999
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 Prof Ian Lowe AO	2014
Mr Geoffrey Cousins AM	2018
Ms Kelly O'Shanassy	2025



Leaders for nature

Leaders for Nature are generous donors who have given $500 or more to our matched giving fund. Their generosity has inspired others donate and helped to amplify funding for vital projects like our Investigations Unit and 2025 Election Strategy.

Robyn Aldick
Dr Harry Asche
Barrie Baker
Lyn Baker
Jenny Barnett
Rodger Bartlett
Scott Bartley
Liz Bassett
Anne Best
Andrew Betheras
Margaret Blair & Andrew Blair
Elizabeth Bluff
Dr Barbara Briggs AM
Chris Brosch
Geoff Brown
Henry Burmester AO KC
Lucia Bylhouwer
Jane Cajdler
Diana Carmody
Carrington Plastics Pty Ltd
Lisa Carter
Dr Bill Castleden
Ian Chenoweth
Jan Clydesdale
Margaret Cole
Jan Cooke
Dennis Cooper
Jim Copland
Dr Eric Cother & Norma Cother
Tim Craker
Hilary Day
Jane Edwards
Dr Anne Eggins
Mary Ellis
Jeffrey Erlich & Liliane Mauer
Herbert Fenn
Margie Figtree
Greg Ford
Carey Francis
Jo Fraser
Warren Fraser
Jill Friebel
Dr Gareth Furber
Sonja Gaulke
Ellen Gibson
David Gobbett
John Godfrey & Miranda Beale
Katrina Gosschalk
Bernard Griffin
Julia Hall
Kym Hancock
Keith Hancock
Bruce Harris
Alice Harris
Ros Harvey
Rhonda Haydon
Tom Healey
Gillian Hewitt
Sally Hodson
Dr William Howard
Adrienne Johnson
Jane Keir
David Kermond
Dr Jerry Koliha & Marlene Krelle
Margaretha Korn
Dr Simon Lai
Heather Latz
Ross & Jean Le Quesne
Caroline Lee
Rhonda Lewis
Dr Stephen Lightfoot
Virginia Lloyd-Tait
Phillip Looby
Dr Daniele Lugli
Dr MaryEllen Macdonald
John Mack & Vanessa Mack
Martin Mansfield
Alex Mateer
Ailsa Maybury & Peter Maybury
Marianne McAlary
Caroline McKenzie-McHarg
Denis Minehan
Rosario Montalti
Vincent Morand
Prudence Neal
Peter Newman
Katy Nicholls
Graham Ogilvy
Melinda Olver
Grant Orchard
John Panteladis
Ann Parris
Trevor Parsons
Fran Peaston
Alexandra Phelan
Lance Pilgrim
William Pitt
Kathy Porecki
Trudi & John Prideaux
Roo Rawlins
Liz Reen
Caroline Rehorek
Ian Ridgwell
June Robertson
Lee Rodger
Teresa & Michael Ruane
Audrey Severino
Caroline Sheehan
Peter Skellon
Catherine Smith
Miss Janet Souter
Mary Swayne
Marisa Taylor
Bill Thomas
Kerry Thompson
Dr Josephine Topp
Dr Robin Torrence
Vicki Trevor-Jones
Marian Turner
Graham Ward & Marion Gaemers
James Watson
Julia Wells
Dr John White
Pamela Williams
Kim Williams
Colin Wilson & Beverley Maxwell
Max Wright
Vera Yee
Katie Zhang
Force for nature
Jane Desilets
John Godfrey & Miranda Beale
Professor Anthony & Dr Conny Harris
Professor John Langford AM
Dr Greg Miller
Kay Vernon



Blue Mountains, New South Wales, Australia *Credit:* acques Bopp / Unsplash

Nature's **champions**

We would like to recognise and thank our committed supporters whose annual donations were $5,000 or more in the 2025-2026 financial year.

Leader

Australian Climate and Biodiversity Foundation
Boundless Earth
Dr Matthias Krups and Mrs Marlies Krups
Jaramas Foundation
Oranges and Sardines Foundation

Guardian

Dr Heather Johnston
Gum Tree Foundation
Marco Fabbro
Margaret Dawbarn Foundation
Peter and Joan Selby Smith
Skellern Family Foundation

Steward

Annelie Holden
Bluesand Foundation Pty Ltd
Brian Hodges
Caroline Le Couteur
Cynthia Burnett
Marich Foundation
Mark Hardy
Michael and Margaret Williams
Professor Ian Gust and Dr Dianne Gust
Professor Michael
Ramses Foundation
Rellim Foundation
Sage Foundation
The Knights Family Jabula Foundation
The Rothwell Wildlife Preservation Trust
Woodland Nelson Trust

Protector

Ann Crawford
Award Force Pty Ltd
Cathy Fowler
Declan King and Anne Latham
Dr Andrew Danks
Dr Angela Rutherford
Dr Robert and Mrs Pamela Knight
Emeritus Prof Andrew Hopkins and Ms Heather McGregor
Greg Rowe
H and J Farrow
Hill Family Conservation Foundation
Holmes Family Foundation
Judith Allen
Kamener Family
Karl Williams
Margaret Chambers and the late Professor Carrick Chambers
Meg Marsh
Ms Pam Petschack
Norman Family Foundation
Prof Chilla Bulbeck
Renee Ferster Levy and Michael Levy
Richard De Nys
Rosie King and Peter Jensen
Scobie Charitable Trust
Simon Buckingham and Annie Crawford AM
Susan Adams and Andrew Kirk



Sustainer

Brett and Maree Slater
Diversicon Environmental Foundation
Dr Ann
Dr Eldon Ball and Professor Marilyn Ball
Dr Stephen Lightfoot and Dr Isabel Hess
Missionary Franciscan Sisters Trust
Murray Haseler
Nan Brown
Natalie Mamone and Laurence Stonard
Ruth and Evan Griffiths
Sam Castleden and Tash Bussell
The Skrzynski Foundation

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

Eucalyptus Tree Seed Pods *Photo*. lynnebeclu / iStock

Force for nature

Force for Nature is a community of dedicated supporters who have made a multi-year commitment to fund ACF's independent Investigations Unit through to 2030. Their sustained support helps uncover hidden environmental harm, expose wrongdoing, hold powerful interests to account and drive lasting change for nature and climate.

Jane Desilets
John Godfrey & Miranda Beale
Professor Anthony & Dr Conny Harris
Professor John Langford AM
Dr Greg Miller
Kay Vernon



Gavin Wigginton on protecting the nature that raised him

Gavin Wigginton's lifelong bond with the natural world began in the rolling fields and quiet paddocks of a small English village.

"That sort of connection starts very early," he reflects, "I lived in a village with a 13th-century church, a cricket oval, and paddocks at the end of the garden. You walked everywhere. As a kid, I had access to nature every day of my life."

That early immersion instilled a deep-seated respect for the environment – one that travelled with him when he migrated to Australia. After a distinguished career helping establish the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (now called Lifeblood), Australia's national blood service, Gavin found himself drawn back to his environmentalist roots. In the late 1990s he joined ACF as a member and in 2001, he was commissioned by then-ACF President Peter Garrett to review the organisation's governance arrangements. He and his son also acquired a Trust for Nature covenanted nature reserve.

Of his time at the ACF, Gavin laughs "I was supposed to help out for a few hours and ended up coming in most days of the week with a desk and computer!" The staff were fantastic and ACF became a second home for about thirteen years."

During this time, and working with Councillor Ross Tzannes who was chair of the Governance Committee, he was instrumental in transforming the organisation's governance structure and systems. He also served on the Executive Committee and Board for three terms. This contribution enabled the ACF to evolve into a modern, effective force for nature. Today, his commitment to ACF continues as an honorary life member and donor.

Gavin's continued generosity and support for ACF is driven by a philosophy of connectedness. Influenced by Buddhist thought, he explains doesn't view the environment as a resource separate from himself, but as an essential part of his own existence.

"I think of myself as being part of nature. In a way, it's self-interest, because we won't survive if we destroy the very thing we are a part of."

When Gavin looks at the Australian landscape, he sees a level of biodiversity that is as precious as it is fragile. He elected to support the ACF because he believes it is the 'best organisation in Australia for advocating for the environment', and ensures that there is always a 'voice in the right places' speaking up for the fragile ecosystems on the brink of extinction.

Gavin's story is a powerful reminder that, while we are all temporary guests on this planet, our impact can endure. By becoming a member of ACF (since 1999) he has joined a community of people who refuse to let the beauty of our world be destroyed by corporate greed.

"I hope people remember that I cared," Gavin says. "And that I did what I could to make a difference."

You can read more about Gavin's days at ACF and his incredible contribution to the organisation which are covered in two chapters of his book 'Don't Look Back – An Immigrant's Tale', available through Amazon.



Left. Gavin Wigginton. *Photo supplied.*
Above. Gavin Wigginton property. *Photo supplied.*

Community fundraising
and Workplace giving

We are very lucky to have a passionate, creative community who consistently show up and fundraise in their own time to protect our precious animals, plants and places.

Australia's Biggest Bushwalk

Every year we have the pleasure of inviting people around Australia to join a very special kind of walk; Australia's Biggest Bushwalk. Everyone can get involved, from hiking enthusiasts to beach wanderers, parents with prams, dog walkers and more. This year, our incredible bushwalkers clocked up a staggering 66,000km and raised $364,000 for nature and counting!

Our top fundraiser Deborah walked 155km and raised more than $9,000!

"I love hiking, and I love our wildlife, so it was a no brainer to join so that I could help raise some funds for their conservation," Deborah said.

We were also very lucky to have Paddy Pallin and Vamos bikes join us as official partners this year, generously donating prizes and financial support. One lucky bushwalker won a Vamos e-bike worth $5000! We are very excited that they will be returning as partners in 2027.

Moffitt.Moffitt fundraiser

For the past two years, the team at Moffit.Moffit have taken their exercise to the next level. For every kilometre the team walks, runs, swims or cycles, they donate one dollar to ACF.

Since the creative organisation first started their fundraising, they have raised an incredible $20,277 for ACF.

We absolutely love this initiative and we're so grateful for their ongoing support!

Fauna band

We are so lucky to have such a cool, creative community behind us. One example of that is Naarm-based band Fauna who dedicated one of their gigs to ACF, raising an incredible $2258!

"Fauna is a Naarm-based indie rock band that has always themed ourselves and been inspired by the flora and fauna of our beautiful natural environment. So now we've decided we want to give back to the gorgeous and unique Australian wildlife that has been so important and emotionally ubiquitous to our musical journey," the band shared.

Together for nature: the power of workplace giving

Workplace giving is a simple and effective way for people to turn their everyday actions into lasting change for nature. By making regular pre-tax donations directly from their pay to ACF, employees become part of a collective effort to protect Australia's wildlife, forests, rivers and wild places.

Thank you to the 65 organisations and their nature-loving staff members who generously contributed $1,137 or more through workplace giving this year, raising a total of $71,689 to help power ACF's work in protecting nature across Australia.

Thanks for standing by our side for nature and climate!

Far left. Australia's Biggest Bushwalk's top fundraiser Deborah. *Credit:* Deborah Hewton
Left. Nysha Turner was the lucky winner of a Vamos e-bike. *Credit:* Nysha Turner
Below. Fauna band. *Credit:* Danielle Cassarino







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

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.

Dr Barbara Briggs AM

Professor Byron Lamont

Neil and Pam McDonald

Ms Rhonda Boyle

Ms Laurel Tsang

Mr Frank Pierce and Ms Janet Mattiske

Ms Merilyn Whimpey

Mr James Richardson

Mr David Fisher

Dr Jennifer Herrick

Ms Margaret and Dr Grahame Hardy

Mr Kym Hancock

Ms Jan and Mr Stephen Blakeney

Mr Karl and Mrs Andrea Williams

Mr Peter Timms and Mr Robert Dessaix

Ms Natalie Mamone & Laurence Stonard

Mr Gavin Wigginton

Ms Annelie Holden

Mr A Marshall and Ms M Durham

Mr Harold Levien

Mr Philip Geschke

Ms Jane Crouch

Mr Geoffrey Shores

Mr Kahn Franke and Mrs Julie Franke

Mr Philip Morris

Mr Brian Snape AM

Ms Helen Gillam

Dr Judy Williams

Ms Sandy Jennings

Mr Andrew and Mrs Clare Kavunenko

Mr Andrew Griffiths

Ms Patricia Williamsz

Ms Catherine Bloomfield

Mr Roger Chao

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.

In Memory of Sarah Kinder

In Memory of Rima Muir

In Memory of Nola Buck

In Memory of Neil Willetts

In Memory of Mr George 'Dennis' Dobson and Mrs Joan Dobson

In Memory of Monika Jarosz

In Memory of John Piercey

In Memory of John Blyth

In Memory of Janette Griffin

In Memory of Carolyn Watt

In Memory of Allan Miller

In Memory of Aunty Carole Webb

In Memory of Janet Field

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 Alan and Dorothy Shell

Estate Of Beverley Lorraine Weynton

Estate Of Brian Roderick Raud O'Brien

Estate Of Christine Fensham

Estate Of Colin Trevor Horwood

Estate Of Denis Klein

Estate Of Edith Jane Pitman

Estate Of Elizabeth Anne Sarrailhe

Estate Of Graham Wills-Johnson

Estate Of Jack Trezise

Estate Of James Kenneth Roberts

Estate Of Jeffery Colin Walker

Estate of Jennifer Jane and John Ernest Bragg

Estate Of Linda Anne Calwell

Estate Of Louise McDade

Estate Of Marian Bear

Estate Of Marian Rosalind Letcher

Estate Of Mark William Mussared

Estate Of Mary Anne Highfield

Estate Of Mary Dooley

Estate Of Rita Horwitz

Estate Of Rita Marion Andre

Robert George and Stein Lawrie Charitable Trust, managed by Equity Trustees.

Estate of Ronald Patrick Carey

Estate Of The Late Graham Norman Harrington

Estate Of The Late Harry James Pemble

Estate Of The Late Paddy Beatrix Carter

Philippa Carter & Peter Currie Foundation Trust

Estate Of John Peter Black

A radical **act of hope**

By Melissa Spurgin

Art and activism have always been central tenets in Sue Ferris and Jeremy Barrett's lives, both guided by their strong love of nature.

Jeremy's bond with the earth began in Swan Hill, Victoria, where he spent his childhood "scrubbing around in the dirt". These early impressions never left him; in fact, they went on to inform his creative work.

Jeremy has long been influenced by nature in his art, which has been featured in galleries across Australia, including the National Gallery of Victoria. For him, nature remains an innate mystery and a source of constant wonder that continues to inspire him. Jeremy's work will feature at ANCA Gallery this year.

Even today, at the age of 89, I see birds flying and think, 'How do they do that?'" he says. "I've still got a child in me that's capable of being amazed at the way nature works."

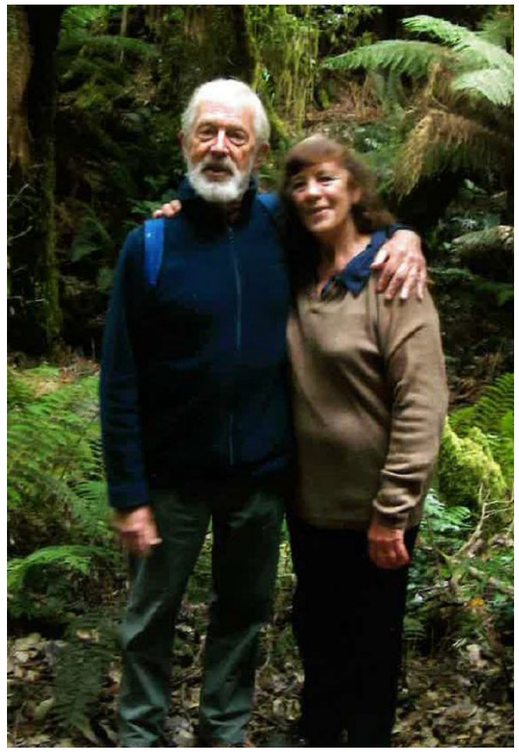
For Sue, nature was a safe haven during an often-difficult childhood in Tasmania.

"I loved being out in the garden and found solace in the bush. I'd sit out on my own for hours."

As a writer, she has translated these feelings into pieces like Safe Haven, reflecting on a connection that has remained her constant anchor.

Today, that shared connection has evolved into a powerful commitment to climate activism. Living in a retirement village, Sue (85 and not quite blind) and Jeremy haven't slowed down; instead, they've formed 'The Circle,' a democratic discussion group where residents meet every Wednesday to tackle big issues like climate change and philosophy. They believe in the power of conversation to overcome the greatest challenge of our time: apathy.

"People understand logically that trees absorb carbon and release oxygen, and that's how we get the air we breathe … but the distractions of day-to-day life consume most of their attention," Jeremy explains. "It's a big step for people to ask, 'Can I make a contribution to what needs to be done?'"





Sue views their activism as a necessary rebellion against a profit-driven system that discourages curiosity.

I've always been secretly a radical," she laughs.

"If I feel a sense of injustice, I'll always speak out."

This shared sense of urgency led them to the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF). For Sue and Jeremy, grassroots movements are the "only hope" left to bypass political funding and drive real, systemic change.

Their support for ACF is rooted in a trust built over years of observing the organisation's integrity and commitment. They have supported the cause in many ways – donating proceeds from book sales and making regular contributions – but they have also taken a more permanent step by leaving a gift to ACF in their Wills.

For Sue, the decision was a matter of legacy and logic.

"Rather than donating to kids who are on their own feet and managing very well, I'd like to think that what I leave behind can be of more use. Nature, above all, seems to be the most important issue."

Jeremy agrees, seeing the protection of the natural world as a fundamental responsibility. "Nature is our home. It supplies the air we breathe and the water we drink. It should be regarded as an integral part of the wholeness of our existence."

By leaving a gift in their Wills, Sue and Jeremy are ensuring that the wonder Jeremy feels watching birds and the solace Sue finds in the bush are preserved for the next generation.

Left and above. Sue and Jeremy. *Credit:* Sue Ferris and Jeremy Barrett



Brown booby *Credit:* Brendan Sydes / ACF

Pro bono
and partner support

ACF is fortunate to receive all kinds of support from many businesses, individuals and partner organisations.

Investigations unit volunteers

Max Barwick
Oli Russell
Eve Qiu

Fundraising and operations volunteers

Martin Mansfield
Mandy Gyles
Erin Kim
Ethan Georgeou
Antonia Kerrison
Maria Miranda
Cooper Zerafa

Pro bono legal services

Maddocks
Baker McKenzie
Environmental Justice Australia
Environmental Defenders Office
Marcus Fleming

Legal services provided to ACF on a reduced fee or conditional fee basis

Angus Scott KC
Hannah Douglas
Josh Underwood
Peter Hanks KC

ACF community volunteers

Rosalie Gebert
Don Vogt
Nikhil Sobti
Catherine Ryan
Sally Faraday
Lynn Gunning
Mauricio Pontalti
Kate Arnold
Janet Dimelow
Douglas Stewart
Liz Reen
Mitzi Tuke
Helen Thompson
John Nihill
David Hudspeth
Sue Miles
Luke McCartney
Hanne Falkiner
Maria Remova
Jodi Vermaas
Suzy Allain
Tony Fisk
Greg Hardisty
Lisa Williams

Xavier Thornton
Julia Croatto
Colette Marshall
Helen Lester
Ken Rookes
Marie Philippe Bonne
Ian McCaw
Malcolm Robins
Chris and Peter Cook
Tom Knowles
Nina Killham
Graeme Lechte
Francis Harvey
Alan Farrar
Petrina Adams
Jeanne Leung
Alice Privitera
Jo and Warren Fraser
Dave and Di Tucker
Matt Vaughan
Emma Prior
Tania Kromoloff
Una Sandeman
Vicki Salisbury
Kerry Levingston
Christine McIvor
Richard Bentley
Rose Dow
Andrea Rankin
Mark Rohde
Gill and Peter Caunce
Robyn Wood
Tara Visser
Sandy Pulsford

Maureen Phillips
Julie Fraser
Pippin Margaria
Jennifer Paterson
Rob Rothwell
Phil Jenkins
Kimberly Kus
Wendy Ward
Christopher Ward
Sally Fisher
Lauren Dillon
Sarah Brown
Mitch Robinson
Sanja van Huet
Wayne Jury
Bart Citroen
Alison Mitchell
Phil Day
John Peel
Andrea Findlay
Sandra Englart
Marilyn Wright
Kimberly Lewis
Brendon Donohue
Mary Swayne
Carolyn Beresovsky
Roberta Kehren
Viola Temple-Watts
Will Booth
Darren Kessner
Emma Smith
Jaclyn McCosker
Joe Earl
Chris Yates

Mark Ellis
Bev Lloyd
Rosalind Vaughan
Stephen Lightfoot
Ruth Hughes
Jenna Hammerslag
Marilyn Valli
Martin Mansfield
Diana Combe
Ben Stuart
Ian Corless
Michael Chanell
Iain Fyfe
Sarah Reid
Amy Jowers-Blain
Pamela Roberts
Meg Holesgrove
Max Schepisi
Kylie Munro
Intan Lentari
Sally Fisher
Lauren Dillon
Alex Sullivan
Harshita Kasliwal
Afric Aiken
Alex Sullivan
Mitch Robinson
Peter Chomley
Wayne Jury
Sanja van Huet
Mary Budd
Ian Sheppard



Numbat *Credit:* Martin Pelanek / Shutterstock

Our **organisation**

There's no such thing as a quiet year at ACF! Fresh from a Federal election campaign, the ACF community backed it up with a major push for stronger nature laws. From the halls of Parliament to communities all over the country it was a mammoth effort from all involved.

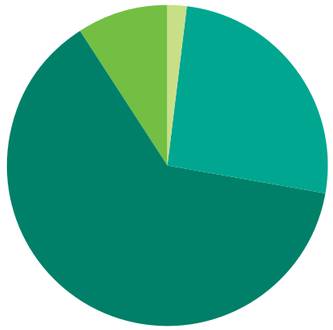
This was also a year of leadership transition. We farewelled a giant, saying thank you and goodbye to our CEO of more than a decade, Kelly O'Shanassy. Kelly leaves behind a stronger, more ambitious organisation and a remarkable legacy of impact. We were equally excited to welcome Adam Bandt as ACF's new CEO and begin the next chapter in ACF's history.

A highlight of the year was our staff Reviver, which brought colleagues together from across Australia to reflect, plan and reconnect. The gathering provided an opportunity to farewell Kelly, welcome Adam, strengthen relationships and look ahead to the future, with an ACF staff band providing the soundtrack to the celebrations!

This year we undertook a new Organisational Culture Inventory. The results confirmed ACF remains a highly constructive organisation, with strong values alignment, collaboration and commitment to our mission. We proudly received a Cultural Sustainability Award recognising our continued investment in workplace culture. The results also highlighted opportunities to strengthen recognition and feedback, build confidence in decision-making, deepen collaboration across teams and continue investing in people-centred leadership.

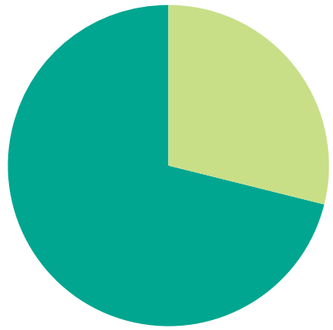
This year we embarked on one of the most extensive engagement processes in ACF's history to help shape our next Strategic Plan. Thousands of supporters, volunteers, Community ACF groups, partners, funders, Board and Council members, and staff contributed through workshops, surveys, events and conversations held around the country. The result is an ambitious vision for how we create the change that nature and climate urgently need over the coming decade. At its heart is a simple insight: lasting change requires a larger, more connected and more powerful movement of people working together for nature, climate and Country.

Generation



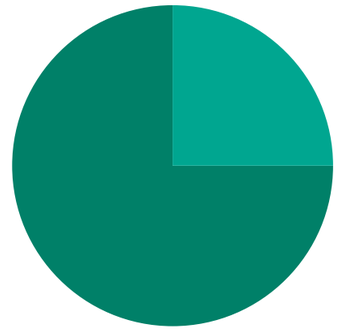
- Baby boomers 2%
- Gen X 26%
- Gen Y 63%
- Gen Z 9%

Gender in management



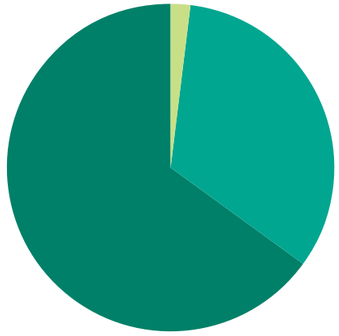
- Men 29%
- Women 71%

Staff composition



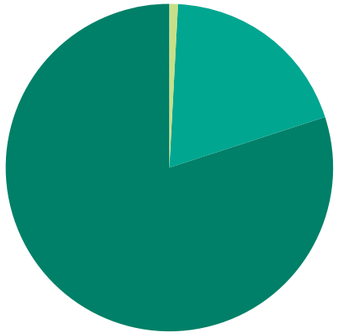
- Part time 29%
- Full time 71%

Gender



- Non-binary people 2%
- Men 33%
- Women 65%

Cultural diversity of staff



- 1% of staff are Indigenous Australians
- 19% of staff identify as from a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- 80% of staff are not First Nations people and are not from a culturally and linguistically diverse background

Staff turnover



16.66%

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.



Koalas sitting on a branch *Credit:* slowmotiongli / iStock

Our Board

Ros Harvey – President

Shar Molloy – Vice President

Stephen Lightfoot – Vice President

Leon Cermak - Secretary

Terence Jeyaretnam - Treasurer
(Appointed as Treasurer Feb 2026)

Sarah English

Sally Fisher *(Appointed Dec 2025)*

Alice Hardinge *(Appointed Apr 2026)*

Hayley Conway *(Appointed Jun 2026)*

Gautam Raju *(Appointed Jun 2026)*

Susanne Legena *(Appointed Jun 2026)*

We thank outgoing Board members Mililma May (resigned Oct 2025) Joshua Gilbert (resigned Feb 2026) and Melanie Birtchnell (resigned Feb 2026) for their service to ACF, with additional thanks to Joshua for his time as Treasurer.

We acknowledge the significant, voluntary contributions of the following external members of the Board's Finance Audit and Risk Committee: Jonathan Andrews, Beenish Durrani, Damien Manuel and Katie Morris.

Our Council

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

Shar Molloy *Vice President, TAS*

Stephen Lightfoot *Vice President, NSW*

Jonathan King, NSW

Annie Lane, NSW

Jonathan Pilbrow, NT

Kirsty Howey, NT *(appointed Jan 2026)*

Narelle McCarthy, QLD

Jo Fraser, QLD

Lucy Graham, QLD *(appointed Oct 2025)*

Leon Cermak, SA

Kirsty Bevan, SA

Leon Lack, SA

Joana Cubillos, TAS

Alice Hardinge, TAS *(appointed Jan 2026)*

Melanie Birtchnell, VIC

Liz Reen, VIC

Sally Fisher, VIC

Sarah English, WA

Alex Hillman, WA

Liam Lilly, WA

ACF gratefully acknowledges the following Council Members, who retired during the year:

Joachim Ribbe, QLD

Mililma May, NT

Erica Maginnis, TAS

Kelly Tanner, ACT

Financial **summary**

Despite ongoing financial pressures on charities and donors, through careful financial management, ACF finished the year with a modest surplus of $0.18 million. This result keeps us in surplus for a second year, although the smaller margin reinforces the importance of balancing the work we undertake with the income available to fund it.

Our total revenue grew by 7.1% to $19.96 million, which is an excellent result given the economic conditions and a testament to the calibre of our award-winning, fundraising team. ACF does not receive funding from government - we are reliant on the generosity of over 40,000 supporters like you, to fund our work. ACF's core donation revenue increased by 2.8% to $13.10 million. We supplemented donation revenue with grants from values-aligned, philanthropic foundations, growing by 18.7% to $1.97 million. Gifts-in-wills made a particularly significant contribution, increasing by 24.1% to $3.61 million. These extraordinary legacies demonstrate the care our supporters have for the natural world, helping future generations enjoy the places and wildlife we love today. We honour those who remembered ACF in their wills and thank their families for the trust placed in us.

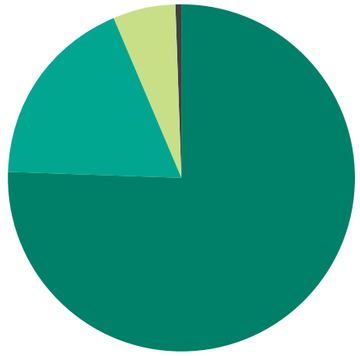
Fundraising expenditure increased to $5.79 million from $4.84 million in the prior year. Sustaining our supporter community requires resources, and the higher spending was a result of resuming our donor acquisition program, following the temporary pause described in last year's report. The fundraising team is very much focussed on return on investment, ensuring that every dollar spent generates value. In 2025-26, for every $1 we spent on fundraising, we raised $3.24.

Our total expenditure reached $19.78 million, an increase of 8.2%, largely because of the resumption of our donor acquisition program, described above. Expenditure on environmental initiatives increased by 1.5% to $11.62 million, representing 58.7% of total expenditure. This supported our work on new nature laws, exposing the harms caused by fossil fuel companies, revealing the connection between the food industry and habitat clearing, and building a powerful movement of people speaking up for the places we love.

At year end, ACF held cash and investments of $11.35 million. These reserves help us manage fluctuations in income, maintain continuity in our work and quickly respond to those who seek to damage our environment. During this protracted cost of living crisis, our reserves have been a lifeline – ensuring ACF can maintain its impact and lead the charge against those who seek to backtrack against commitments to protect the natural world.

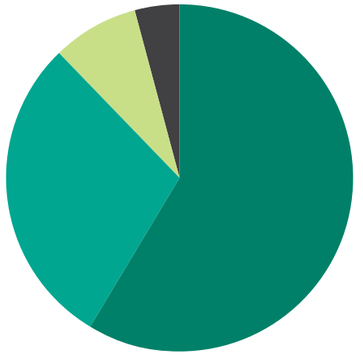
Whilst total revenue grew by 7.1%, expenditure increased by 8.2%. Maintaining financial discipline remains essential as we balance immediate environmental needs with the capacity to keep working over the longer term. Your continued support makes that work possible. Thank you for standing with ACF and for the trust you place in us.

Revenue $19.96m



- Donations & Grants $15.08m
- Bequests $3.61m
- Rent & Investment Income $1.21m
- Other Fundraising $0.06m

Expenditure $19.78m



- Environmental Initiatives $11.62m
- Fundraising $5.79m
- Management & Operations $1.58m
- Non-operating Activities $0.79m



Fuscous Honeyeater *Credit:* Brendan Sydes/ACF

Nature needs us, now

Australian Conservation Foundation

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