



# SUPPORTERS' REPORT 2014-15

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST 50 YEARS



**AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**



**AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**



BEE  
PHOTO: DOUG GIMESY

COVER IMAGE: THE KEYHOLE, CUDMORE NATIONAL PARK, GALILEE BASIN QLD  
PHOTO: DALE COCHRANE

## Acknowledgement

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.

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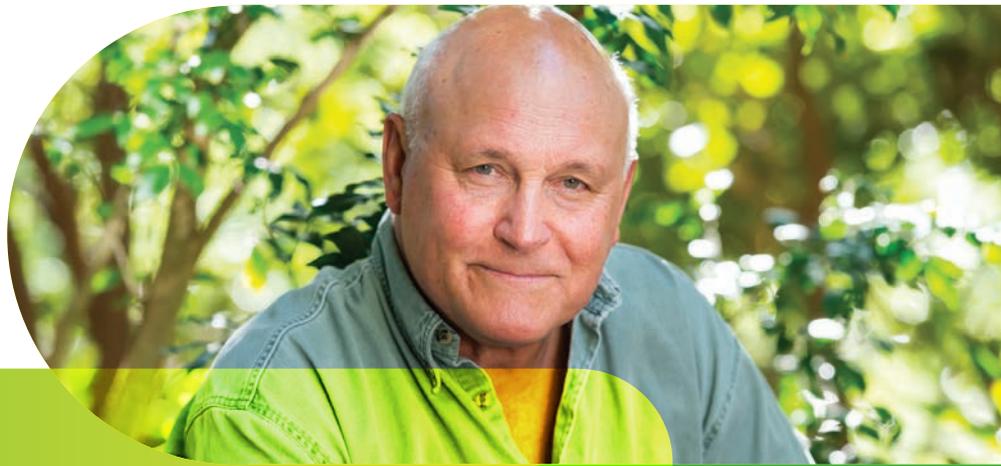
### Production note:

The Supporters' Report is a condensed version of the Australian Conservation Foundation's Annual and Sustainability Report 2014-15.

To view the full Annual and Sustainability Report go to:

[www.acfonline.org.au/about-us/governance/annual-reports](http://www.acfonline.org.au/about-us/governance/annual-reports)

or ring **1800 223 669** to request a copy.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014-15

Geoff Cousins  
ACF PRESIDENT

This year ACF celebrates 50 years of caring for and protecting our unique environment. Together we have achieved amazing things for Australia; including stronger protection for some of our most cherished places, like the Great Barrier Reef, Antarctica, Kakadu, the Kimberley, Cape York and Tasmania's forests.

Last year I started as President at a time when the environmental challenges facing Australia were bigger than ever. Sadly our governments are taking Australia in the wrong direction, damaging nature and our fragile climate. We are lagging behind the majority of the developed world on transitioning our economy to a cleaner and more sustainable future. In recent months, the federal government has gone even further, and is now attacking our basic right to speak out for the environment. There has never been a more crucial time for ACF.

Over the last twelve months, ACF's CEO Kelly O'Shanassy and our wonderful staff, together with the Board and Council, have been working on implementing our new strategic plan – working towards our vision of a healthy and thriving future Australia.

“There has never been a more crucial time for ACF.”

“We are starting to take these debates to the people of Australia because the politicians won't. This is our opportunity – and our challenge.”

If we need to individually name the politicians who are failing and point out why they are failing; we are doing it. If we need to go into the boardrooms of the major corporations in this country and tell them they are failing in their duties; if we need to go to their shareholders; if we need to go to their customers: so be it, we are doing it. If we need to name and shame the biggest polluters in the country and their directors, and point out where their pollution comes from and how they could stop it: so be it, we are doing that too. We will not allow our leaders to fail us again and if we have to call them to account, so be it. What we are talking about here is no more and no less than about making the world safe.

Come with us and bring your families and friends, your colleagues and neighbours, and anyone else who cares about our future. Our momentum is building, and it has been exciting to see the way Kelly and her team have begun implementing our 11 initiatives, and to assist where I can as well – speaking in boardrooms,

on TV or radio, in Canberra or to our amazing supporters.

I want to thank the outgoing Council for their work over the last three years, especially the last 12 months, during a period of exciting transformation for the organisation. You've created a strategic plan which is already making a difference for this country. I look forward to starting work with the new Council after the AGM in November.

This year is particularly momentous as ACF celebrates its 50th anniversary. Our achievements are your achievements. Happy 50th birthday everybody. Here's to the next 50 years.

Geoff Cousins  
ACF PRESIDENT





KELLY O'SHANASSY AT LAUNCH OF HEARTLAND  
PHOTO: TONY EVANS

# CEO REPORT 2014-15

Kelly O'Shanassy  
ACF CEO

## This Year

We, the people, are powerful. And now with 281,000 (and counting) powerful people like you on ACF's team, we're shaping a better world.

In the past year, ACF's supporter base has swelled - parents and grandparents, farmers and city dwellers, teachers and students, dreamers and doers - all concerned about taking action to protect nature and ensure a safe climate.

Our community organisers are now training volunteers in ten strategically important areas. By informing and organising people in these locations, we're creating a race to the top for environmental action, and ultimately multipartisanship on protecting nature and action on climate change.

And we're also working with some surprising allies. Through the Australian Climate Roundtable we've looked past our differences to work together with business and civil society on goals and policy principles for a safe climate.

In the past year, with other environment groups, we've prevented the federal government from weakening national nature protection laws and applied these very laws to halt clearing of native vegetation on Cape York and stop the highly polluting Carmichael Mine in the Galilee Basin from being built (for now).

We've also seen the first glimpses of a thriving Murray River as waters are returned to its channels.

Our terrific new President Geoff Cousins is asking bankers not to invest in new polluting coal mines and he exposed Australia's Big Polluters on ABC's Lateline.

The (now former) Prime Minister was forced to put climate on the G20 agenda. Despite many attempts to dismantle the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the Climate Change Authority, they are still there. The Renewable Energy Target is weaker but not lost. Frustratingly, emissions are back on the rise now that pollution is free again in Australia.

In Australia's beautiful north, with Traditional Owners we stopped a radioactive waste dump at Muckaty, put an end date on uranium mining in Kakadu and assisted in the return of vast tracts of land in Cape York to the Olkola people.

We broke our media record this year with over 4700 articles or 13 stories a day shaping public opinion. And we toured the country to talk to our community about ACF's priorities for the next three years. With your help, we've achieved these outcomes in 2014-15 at the same time as we've undergone great change within the organisation.

"Together, as we keep building people power, the people in power will be forced to listen."



ACF POLICY COORDINATOR JAMES TREZISE AND CEO KELLY O'SHANASSY AT THREATENED SPECIES SUMMIT  
PHOTO: TONY EVANS

## FORWARD PLANNING ACF's 11 Initiatives

ACF has a bold strategy to transform Australia. We always have and always will protect places of national importance. But we're expanding our focus to the systems that threaten nature and people, focussing on solving the underlying drivers of unsustainable practices rather than responding to the symptoms.

We'll continue to advocate to political and business leaders as we have always done but we're expanding our work with the community, partnering with sectors that can make a real difference and engaging strongly on creating a healthy future for Australia.

And of course, together we're building the people power to win (and keep) good outcomes for a healthy environment. The next three years will be action-packed.

We will continue to work with Indigenous communities to protect the natural and cultural values of the beautiful north – the Kimberley, Kakadu and Cape York.

We're making sure your hard work on the Murray-Darling actually results in gains for the environment. Plants are flowering, birds are returning and other benefits are emerging, but the job is not complete. And we will continue, as always, to keep Tasmania's ancient forests left standing.

We're working on the Great Barrier Reef

to stop some of the biggest coal mines in the world being gouged into the Galilee Basin. If these mines go ahead, homes for endangered wildlife will be wrecked, coal will be shipped out across the fragile reef and burnt in other countries, escalating the world's climate problem.

We're campaigning on the Great Dividing Range and its importance to sustaining life in eastern Australia. This vast mountain range is home to most of Australia's native birds and animals including many of the country's endangered species. It is the source of water for about 11 million people living on the eastern seaboard. It's also home to dozens of coal seam gas and coal mining proposals. These are the places where we will work but we know the underlying systems that threaten these places must transform.

Energy is one of those systems. Energy generation is responsible for about 65 per cent of the climate pollution in this country. We require an energy revolution to get Australia onto the energy of the sun, wind and waves.

People have also become disconnected from the ecosystems of which we are a part. We're localising global warming by helping communities understand the local impacts of climate change – be they heatwaves, fires or other extreme weather – and empowering them with local solutions, like solar panels on the

roof, buying clean energy and investing in sustainable companies.

With Places You Love, an alliance of 42 environmental groups, we are working to ensure Australia has environment laws that actually protect the environment. Australia's current laws are not up to the job – so we're drafting options for next-generation environment laws to protect the land, forests, air and water we all depend on and the species and places that make Australia unique.

We need to change even bigger systems if we are to truly drive sustainability. We don't have all the answers to these underlying, difficult issues so we'll work with experts, civil society and our supporters over the next 12 months to address them. However we know none of this will be achieved without people power. We are raising the voices of people in this country who love nature – who cherish the smell of rain on thirsty earth, who know the feeling of sand between their toes, who love Australia's unique places and wildlife – and who want to keep these things safe and healthy for the future. We aim to make it so that our political and business leaders will find it impossible to ignore these concerns.

We look forward to sharing more of our work on these initiatives over the next year.

Kelly O'Shanassy ACF CEO



**AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**

**THE ENERGY  
REVOLUTION**

**THE BEAUTIFUL  
NORTH**

**LOCALISE GLOBAL  
WARMING**

**THE MUCH  
LOVED REEF**

**PROTECTING THE  
PLACES YOU LOVE**

**THE RANGE**

**TRANSITIONING  
THE ECONOMY**

**THE MIGHTY  
MURRAY**

**DRIVING  
SUSTAINABILITY**

**TASSIE'S  
ANCIENT FORESTS**

**POWER TO WIN**



**OUR 11 IMPACT INITIATIVES**



Victoria McKenzie-McHarg  
ACF CLIMATE CAMPAIGN  
MANAGER

## ACF CAMPAIGN REPORT A Safe Climate

Including work on our initiatives to Localise Global Warming, The Energy Revolution, Transitioning the Economy and across our place-based initiatives.

The 2014-15 financial year started poorly for our climate campaign with the Federal government voting to scrap Australia's carbon price in July 2014. And in the face of diminished political leadership on the issue, public support for action was waning.

"But when you hit rock bottom the only way to go is up. And throughout the last 12 months, we have."

As the Federal Government played host to the G20 in November and insisted on barring climate change from the agenda, thousands of ACF supporters were determined to show other world leaders and our own community that action on climate change is on our agenda. Our creative launch video was viewed 27,000 times. Together we hosted over 120 events across the country, screening hopeful stories of change from around the world. We joined with WWF and One Million Women, with our campaign hashtag #onmyagenda appearing on Twitter and Facebook over 40,000 times.

Bolstered by statements from world leaders including the US and Chinese Presidents, our government's refusal to act on climate change became one of the dominant stories of the conference.

In May we coordinated Local Advocacy Days in five target areas, supporting ACF members and Climate Leaders to take messages for strong action directly to their MPs. In addition, our targeted advocacy helped build momentum for the ALP to adopt a welcome commitment to 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

We prioritised building engagement and strong voices for action from across a range of influential sectors. In June, ACF was one of ten organisations including business, unions and the social sector that joined forces as the Australian Climate Roundtable to call for bipartisan commitment to strong action on climate change.

"We showed that the challenges that unite us are bigger than the issues that divide us – and that leaders must work together to develop shared solutions for the long term."

Earlier this year we launched a report highlighting Australia's biggest polluting companies, garnering national headlines and beaming our President Geoff Cousins into lounge rooms and boardrooms across the country via Lateline. The report was clear – a handful of big polluting energy companies are responsible for a third of Australia's carbon pollution.

We took this story of big polluters, environmental destruction and the need for an energy transformation directly to potential investors in proposed new mega coal mines in Queensland's Galilee Basin. And we'll continue to make sure investors are briefed on the serious consequences for our environment and their reputation if they were to invest in such destructive projects.

Now, we are looking forward to the opportunity presented by the international Climate Negotiations in Paris in December and mobilising an unprecedented number of Australians who want a clean energy future for us all.



Jonathan La Nauze

ACF HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS  
CAMPAIGN MANAGER



JACK RITCHIE AT MADDEN FALLS NSW  
PHOTO: ALI SANDERSON

## ACF CAMPAIGN REPORT

# Connecting People to Nature

Including work on our initiatives [Protecting the Places You Love](#), [The Range](#), [The Mighty Murray](#), [Tassie's Ancient Forests](#) and the [Much Loved Reef](#).

Australia's national environment law currently lists 1,839 species and ecological communities on the pathway to extinction due to historic clearing, polluting and degrading of the Australian environment. One primary purpose of that law is to reverse this extinction trajectory, ensuring that our threatened plants and animals recover to a healthy state. In most cases, with judicious decision-making and a modest investment in conservation management, this is entirely possible. And yet this is not occurring, because both sides of politics have failed to prioritise funding the protection of nature, and have been prepared to let big polluters exploit loopholes in the law so they can continue clearing and degrading the habitat of our unique plants and animals. In the 16 years since it was created by the Howard government, our national environment law has failed to make a meaningful dent in Australia's record as the world leader in mammal extinction. So it is extraordinary that since assuming power in 2013, the federal government has made a point of trying to weaken these laws even further.

This year, nature lovers around the

country successfully challenged this agenda, stopping the government's 'One Stop Shop' legislation for now through effective advocacy in the Senate, and launching a visionary call for reform. Bringing together the best environmental legal minds in the country, the Australian Panel of Experts in Environmental Law was tasked with developing recommendations for a new generation of federal environmental law that would truly protect nature. And the community leaders behind this strategy began to build the national conversation in order to achieve the change. Starting around the kitchen table of neighbours and friends, over the coming year this conversation will ripple out until both sides of politics embrace it. Behind all of this effort has been the innovative Places You Love Alliance of which ACF is a proud and leading member. It is through this alliance that our Healthy Ecosystems program makes one of its biggest contributions to the protection of life in Australia.

This year we grew a bold new campaign to protect the Great Dividing Range. The Range supports the lives of almost three quarters of Australia's human population. We joined powerful community alliances working to establish the Great Forest National Park outside of Melbourne, to protect Sydney's water catchments from coal

and gas mining, and to stop the Galilee basin being turned into the largest new coal pit. And we worked with leading Australian ecologists to identify the key values, threats and human dependencies on the Range. This foundational work will be rolled out in the new year through a series of local and national campaigns and persuasive reports.

Finally, our longstanding campaigns to restore the health of the mighty Murray River and secure the future of Tasmania's ancient forests continued this year. On the second anniversary of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan becoming law, we published a major review of the plan's implementation, *Restoring Our Lifeblood*. The review identified the successes of the Plan as well as providing a clear roadmap for improvements in areas where Basin governments are lagging. Despite our best efforts, the Tasmanian Forest Agreement cannot be implemented so long as the current State government maintain their policy of turning 400,000 hectares of promised national parks into logging coupes. Still, these forests remain safe from clear fell logging for at least the next five years, although selective rainforest logging could occur earlier. ACF will be working with our conservation colleagues to make this protection permanent and comprehensive.



SOUTHERN BLACK-THROATED FINCHES  
PHOTO: ALI SANDERSON



Matt Rose  
ACF ECONOMIST

## ACF CAMPAIGN REPORT Transitioning the Economy

Including work on our initiatives Driving Sustainability, Transitioning the Economy and across our place-based work.

ACF continues to work for the natural systems that support life - as well as our economy.

“Australia’s natural ecosystems provide many positive economic opportunities, but this means there are incentives to exploit it in pursuit of short term profits.”

This is both poor environmental and economic planning. It is clear that the way we organise our economy needs to change to prioritise healthy and thriving communities and thereby create good long-term jobs for all Australians.

Momentum in business and in our communities is changing. During 2014-15 we continued to put pressure on the federal government to appropriately fund the environment through its budget. Unfortunately this government revealed through its

funding priorities and its actions that the environment is low down on its priority list.

“Throughout the year ACF laid out the ways the Federal Budget could be changed to both save the government money and ensure a better environmental outcome.”

Two reports that were released over the year ‘Giving with both hands: Adding up the federal handouts that encourage pollution’ and ‘Subsidising Big Coal: Handouts to Australia’s biggest coal mining companies through the Fuel Tax Credits Scheme’ clearly articulated the environmental and economic problems with elements of Australia’s taxation system.

We will continue to put pressure on the government to ensure their budget settings are changed to protect and restore life in Australia. This includes appropriate consideration of nature in government planning processes around cost benefit analysis of policies and infrastructure planning. Embedding ecological sustainability in government decision-making is

critical for the environmental and economic health of Australia.

ACF has also continued to engage with business and investors across the year in discussion about how to best create an economy that continues to create jobs and investments while protecting and restoring Australia’s thriving natural ecosystems. This is an important part of our ongoing work in transforming Australia’s economy.



Asren Pugh

ACF COMMUNITY ORGANISING  
PROGRAM MANAGER



THE KNITTING NANAS OF TOOLANGI VIC  
PHOTO: ALI SANDERSON

## ACF CAMPAIGN REPORT Community Organising and Partnerships

Includes work on our Power to Win initiative, Protecting the Places You Love and across our place-based work.

ACF has a long history of running inspiring and successful campaigns to protect the places that we love, keeping the pressure on decision makers and big polluters to cut Australia's carbon emissions and create a safer climate.

This year, ACF embarked on an ambitious project to build the people power to change the debate in Australia.

"This is a long-term project that will harness the energy, skills and leadership capacity of our supporters in key strategic areas."

This year we successfully started that program by recruiting a team of skilled community organisers to work with ACF supporters in target areas. We have successfully rolled out our Community Conversations program where supporters meet with their friends, community networks or other supporters to talk about what values we all share, what kind of Australia

we want to live in and how we are going to achieve that together.

"In May and June we also trained over 50 new community leaders in how to hold a Community Conversation themselves."

We have connected with other like-minded, local community organisations including churches, Bushcare groups and local climate action groups to help build a cohesive and enduring movement.

Our organisers span many different issues and it's been exciting to see the different campaign aims coming together in this area.

"The Power to Win initiative is only just getting started, but it is already showing results."



Graham Tupper  
ACF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA  
PROGRAM MANAGER

## ACF CAMPAIGN REPORT Our Beautiful North

Includes work on our initiatives The Beautiful North as well as Transitioning the Economy and Protecting the Places You Love.

ACF continues to work in cooperation with Indigenous people to protect the outstanding natural and cultural heritage values of our beautiful north, and to support Indigenous people to achieve their plans to sustainably manage the land and its resources.

After a 30 year campaign the Olkola people on Cape York Peninsula succeeded in having over 633,000 hectares of their country returned to them in December 2014. This included, with their consent, the creation of the new 270,000 hectare Olkola National Park as well as a number of smaller Nature Reserves. This is the largest single handback of country achieved so far under the Cape York land tenure reform program for which ACF has been a strong long-term backer, with major support from the Myer Foundation.

ACF also supported the Olkola to build a new tourism business in cooperation with the Intrepid Group. We successfully advocated for an increase of \$14 million by the new Queensland Government in their 2015 budget, to boost much needed funding for conservation management

and for more Indigenous ranger positions across Cape York.

In the Kimberley, ACF continued to make a strong environmental case and build broad community support to contest the development of shale gas mining, which requires risky hydraulic rock fracturing (“fracking”) deep underground.

ACF is supporting the Kimberley Land Council to establish a Cultural Enterprise Hub to foster new tourism and land management businesses.

After years of ACF work building public pressure on Rio Tinto, 2015 heralded a major achievement with the abandonment by Energy Resources Australia (owned by Rio Tinto) of plans to extend the working life of the Ranger uranium mine – which is surrounded by the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park. ACF is working with Indigenous partners to maintain the public pressure to ensure the mine will be closed down as safely and early as possible, and the mine site fully rehabilitated.

After our success in 2014 to assist Traditional Owners remove the threat of a nuclear waste dump at Muckaty in the Northern Territory, ACF was invited by the Federal Government to rethink its approach toward more responsible nuclear waste storage.

However in January 2015, the South Australian Government launched a new push to expand the nuclear industry. ACF has since made the compelling case for why the future of South Australia should be renewable not radioactive. We are currently focussing on the broad community opposition to the threat of South Australia becoming a dumpsite for international nuclear waste.

In response to the Federal Government’s Taskforce on the Development of Northern Australia, ACF mobilised nearly 8,000 supporters in August 2014 to send in submissions arguing for a White Paper plan that was based on protecting the natural and cultural values of northern Australia. The final government White Paper in May 2015 retreated from the more grandiose plans for new dams and food bowls. However a new challenge has emerged with the government announcing a \$5 billion infrastructure fund for this area which could waste taxpayer dollars to subsidise more new fossil fuel and uranium mines.

ACF is working with partners across northern Australia to show that this money could be invested in other ways to achieve healthy and thriving life for our beautiful north.

# SPECIAL THANK YOU

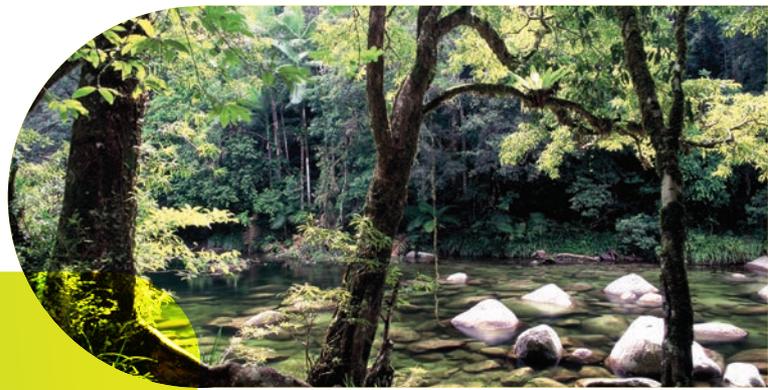
## Patrons

The Honourable Peter Garrett AM  
Ms Penelope Figgis AM AO  
(stepped down during the year)  
Professor David Yencken AO  
(stepped down during the year)

## Honorary Life Members

Ms Beryl Blake  
Mr Trevor Blake  
Ms Cate Blanchett  
Dr Bob Brown  
The Honourable Dr Moss Cass  
Ms Penny Figgis AM AO  
The Honourable Peter Garrett AM  
Mr Geoffrey Goode  
Ms Annelie Holden  
Ms Eve Kantor  
Dr Aila Keto AO  
Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe AO  
Dr Geoff Mosley AM  
Mr Jack Munday AO  
Mr Bill Paine  
Dr bro Sheffield-Brotherton  
Mr John Sinclair AO  
The Honourable Murray Wilcox AO, QC  
Mr Gavin Wigginton  
Emeritus Professor Hal Wootten AC, QC  
Mr Mark Wootton  
Professor David Yencken AO

# THANK YOU - THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE



MOSSMAN RIVER GORGE QLD  
PHOTO: BETTE DEVINE



PELICAN  
PHOTO: DOUG GIMESY

“Without our most dedicated supporters, ACF would not be able to work for a healthy and thriving life for all Australians. The President’s Circle recognises the commitment and passion of these private donors. Over 50 years, ACF has been dependent upon the generosity of vital people”

Kelly O’Shanassy, CEO 2015

ACF would like to thank all of its members and donors for their ongoing and valued support. For more information on ACF’s President’s Circle please go to [www.acfonline.org.au/presidentscircle](http://www.acfonline.org.au/presidentscircle) or contact us on 1800 223 669.

ACF’s President’s Circle was established in April 2013 to recognise committed supporters whose annual donations are \$5,000 or greater.

## Leader (\$25,000+)

Mr Geoffrey Ainsworth  
Cousins Family  
Ms Ann Miller  
Ms Vicki Olsson  
Mr Conrad Oppen and Mrs Alice Oppen  
Mr Julian Tertini

## Protector (\$10,000+)

Dr Barbara Baird  
Mr Clive Blazey and Mrs Penny Blazey  
Mrs Mary Bush and Mr Bill Bush  
Ms Annelie Holden  
Dr Bill N Holsworth  
Ms Valerie Johnstone  
Dr Susan Adams and Mr Andrew Kirk  
Mr Michael Leigh  
Ms Pam Petschack  
Mr Brian Snape AM and Mrs Diana Snape  
The Honourable Thomas Waddell  
Mrs Linda Childs-van Wijk  
Ms Joan Viner

## Advocate (\$5,000+)

Ms Nan Brown  
Prof Carrick Chambers & Mrs Margaret Chambers  
Mr Lindsay Crawford and Mrs Ann Crawford  
Mr George W Dalton  
Dr Tom Evans  
Ms Neilma B Gantner  
Mr Douglas Jackson  
Mr Larry Kornhauser  
Mr Eric Walker and Mrs Judy Walker OAM  
Mrs Marjorie White

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

Miss Marian Bear  
Ms Alice Beauchamp  
Mr Stephen Blakeney and Mrs Janice Blakeney  
Miss Margaret Bowman  
Ms Rhonda Boyle  
Ms Barbara Briggs  
Ms Helen Gillam  
Ms Margaret Hardy and Dr Grahame Hardy  
Dr Jennifer Herrick  
Ms Annelie Holden  
Ms Valerie Johnstone  
Mr Harold Levien  
Mr Bruce Lindenmayer OAM  
Mr Neil McDonald and Mrs Pam McDonald  
Mr Eric Miller  
Dr Barry Moore  
Mr Philip Morris  
Ms Bronwyn Morris  
Mrs Ruth Pfanner  
Mr Frank Pierce  
Ms Morag Ryder  
Mr Gil Smith  
Mr Brian Snape AM  
Mrs Diana Snape  
Mr Peter Timms  
Mr Jack Trezise  
Ms Laurel Tsang  
Ms Bev Weynton  
Ms Marilyn Whimpey  
Dr Judy Williams  
Ms Patricia Williamsz

And thank you to all our supporters who wish to stay anonymous.



TURTLE  
PHOTO: FLICKR CC

## LEGACIES LIVING ON

ACF has received bequests from ten new estates for 2014-15 as well as ongoing payments from previous estates. Bequests added \$2.83 million to our ability to work for a sustainable environment and engage with our members and donors. The supporters from whom we received new bequest gifts this year are acknowledged here. We express our appreciation to their family and friends for their generosity in providing for ACF with a gift in their Will.

Mr John S Bentley

Mr George W Dalton

Mrs Rachel Dempster

Ms Margaret J Droughton

Mrs Betty Gerdson

Ms Mary A Hedgemont

Ms Marie de Montfort Youngman

Mr James G Somerville

Ms Christina Stead\*

Ms Barbara Winkley

\* ACF receives royalties from this Estate

## GIFT IN WILL CONFIRMATION

If you have decided to leave a gift to ACF in your Will or intend to in the future, we would love to hear from you and be able to include you in our functions and special ACF events.

You can easily advise us:

- > online at [www.acfonline.org.au/bequests](http://www.acfonline.org.au/bequests) and using the form provided
- > email [bequests@acfonline.org.au](mailto:bequests@acfonline.org.au)
- > phone **1800 223 669** free-call and asking for Susie Prain or Nola Wilmot

We would very much like the opportunity to thank you for supporting ACF through your Will.

For information on leaving a bequest to ACF please contact Susie or Nola on the email or phone number above.

SHELLS AT KILCUNDA BEACH VIC  
PHOTO: BETTE DEVINE

## GIFTS IN MEMORY

We wish to thank the people who made gifts to ACF in memory of loved ones, friends and colleagues. These gifts honour the commitment and respect held for our natural environment and the trust placed in ACF's efforts to keep our wonderful country safe and healthy. Gifts in Memory have been received for:

Mr Eric Bottomley

Mrs Margery Cross

Mr Mark Durance

Mr Tom Errey

Mr Lance O'Reilly

Mr Iain Paterson

Ms Christiane Roetgers

Mr Stuart Sherwin

Mrs Margaret Tingate

Mrs Judy Walker

To make a gift to the Australian Conservation Foundation in memory of someone special, or to arrange for donations in lieu of flowers for a funeral, please contact Susie Prain on **1800 223 669**.



# SUPPORTER STORY



CONRAD AND ALICE OPPEN  
PHOTO: STUART GARRATT

## Conrad and Alice Oppen

Conrad and Alice Oppen have been supporters of ACF for over 30 years. Here's what Alice had to say about why they are a part of ACF and how speaking out for the natural environment is part of their life.

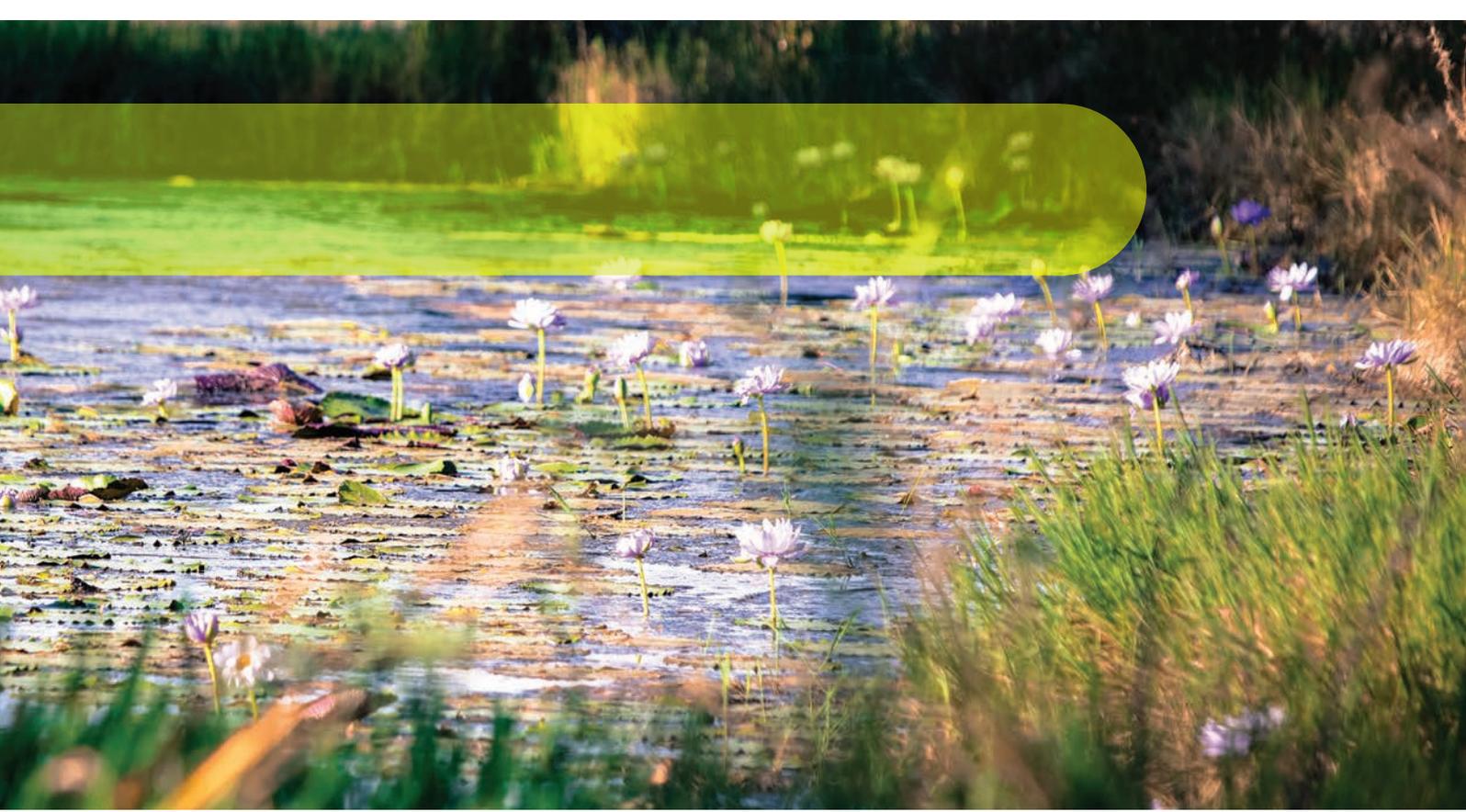
The Australian Conservation Foundation gives us hope. We are refreshed by active younger generations of bright and dedicated people striving for environmental enlightenment.

The Club of Rome awakened us to the importance of environmental advocacy in the late 1960s, not long after we were married, and its 1972 report *The Limits to Growth* made such sense. The Club of Rome's mission was "to act as a global catalyst for change through the identification and analysis of the crucial problems facing humanity and the communication of such problems to the most important public and private decision makers as well as to the general public.

The birth of the Australian Conservation Foundation in the 1960s developed this power of holistic analysis, blending research and scientific measurement with environmental responsibility. ACF has been invaluable over the decades, so vividly showing the beauty and fragility of natural ecosystems and the vital need to live in balance, with respect amid forces of creation and erosion.

We both believe in the power of advocacy and taking action.

In 2004 I founded the Women's Plans Foundation, enabling access to family planning as an integral component of overseas aid and linking helping women to balance childbearing within wider lives, with the most cost-effective, compassionate way of minimising human impact on the globe. Family planning is now seen as a human right, thereby improving health and consequently women's involvement in decision-making.



DOONGMABULLA SPRINGS, GALILEE BASIN QLD  
PHOTO: ALI SANDERSON

After a career in the merchant marine, at sea and then in the shipping industry, Conrad studied environmental and agriculture subjects. He has been planting trees, managing pockets of rainforest, farming for more than thirty years and supporting ACF. We both value the rhythm of the seasons, supporting the best in the environment we share with our children and grandchildren.

We urge leadership at all levels of government to move with certainty to a sustainable system. Locked in the old concept of 'growth', tied by dependence on fossil fuel profits, governments delay moving from reactive mode into leadership.

Australia has the capacity to catch up and take the lead - by developing renewable energy and realising the ability to live within our environmental means, in equity with intelligence.

We are encouraged by ACF's strategic capacity to engage with all -- farmers, conservationists, scientists, schools, politicians, to find common ground in constructive action. We are the species of Jesus, Shakespeare, Galileo, Mozart, Einstein, Cousins, O'Shanassy. We should be able to reach sustainability. The Australian Conservation Foundation is instrumental in our vision of the place of humanity on earth. We are fortunate to be able to respond in many ways, whether that be on Facebook, in petitions and most especially, in giving. We want ACF to carry on the campaign long after any of us is able.

In 2011 Alice was awarded an OAM for services to the community through roles for heritage, women and charitable services. ACF is honoured to count Alice and Conrad among our valued supporters.

# BEQUESTOR STORY



JAN AND STEVE BLAKENEY



## Jan and Steve Blakeney

Jan and Steve Blakeney both grew up in urban California. Although they grew up in the city they found their connection with nature early on.

For Steve, his respect for the natural world grew from time spent during his childhood at his family's high desert farm in the Lucerne Valley. Jan remembers her first 'wilderness' experience being when, as a seven-year old, she visited the Sequoia National Park in northern California.

Their shared connection with nature began in 1966 when they discovered organic gardening and with it "the connection between soil health and their own health."

But these Californians had a dream to move halfway around the world to the promised natural paradise of Tasmania.

This dream turned to reality in 1972 when Steve got offered a job as a teacher in Deloraine in Tasmania. And bravely they moved to the far away land of Tasmania. They fell in love with this beautiful place and have never left.

For 30 years, Jan owned and managed a local health food store in Deloraine and in 1985 Steve became a self-employed timber furniture designer and maker. Jan also pursues her own creative passions of quilting and sewing and together they market their products as 'The Owl & The Pussy Cat'.

When they moved to Tasmania they realised that, even there, not everyone appreciated and respected this beautiful and special place.

"Many Tasmanians didn't know what a treasure they had," said Jan.

The environment in Tasmania needed their support and they quickly aligned themselves with environment groups. The idea of supporting the Australian Conservation Foundation as a national body dedicated to conservation of the environment immediately appealed to them.



THE BALLROOM RAINFOREST TAS  
PHOTO: BETTE DEVINE

Their first memories of their connection with ACF are around forestry campaigning. As Steve explained: “living in Tasmania we could immediately relate to this issue because Tasmania has suffered from poor forest management for decades.”

To Jan and Steve the forests are an essential life-system: “They are the lungs of the earth.

“Without critical numbers of trees everything fails: soil, water conservation, air quality, native animals, flora and our fellow creatures.”

They decided to make a bequest to ACF in their wills because they wanted to leave a legacy behind for the conservation of the planet beyond their own lives.

“To put it in one sentence, while it is good to invest capital on Earth’s account now, it is better in the long-term to multiply that capital through ongoing environmental advocacy.”

“ACF is one of the strongest organisations working to this end and should be number one on anyone’s ‘bucket list’,” said Jan.

The environment has always been special to both of them and they have tried to live their lives in harmony with nature by embracing sustainability.

“We are but two people, but we have endeavoured to create a sustainable living space on our 4.5 hectares that sits lightly on the earth. We work by example – our house and land use reflects our desire to live sustainably,” said Steve.

Jan and Steve helped found the Organic Gardening and Farming Society of Tasmania and they continue to live by its principles. They also support human rights and global social justice organisations.

Jan and Steve have been supporting ACF for over 25 years. They made a decision over 20 years ago to make their wills with a significant gift to ACF. We are honoured to count them as supporters.

If you would like to consider a gift to ACF in your will and support a sustainable environment into the future, please phone free call 1800 223 669 and ask for Susie Prain.

# SUPPORT OF ACF



MAPGROUP PHOTOGRAPHERS BRIAN CARR AND JIM MCFARLANCE AT LAUNCH OF HEARTLAND PHOTO: TONY EVANS



DIRECTOR OF CAMPAIGNS DR PAUL SINCLAIR WITH SUPPORTER PHOTO: STEPHANIE BRADFORD

ACF is fortunate to receive financial and in-kind support from many trusts, foundations and businesses that allow us to do our work.

Thank you to the following trusts, foundations and businesses who helped sustain our campaigns in 2014-15:

6A Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
AMP Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
Arnold Bloch Leibler	Pro bono legal services
Bruce Sadler, Dana Consulting	Organisation change and executive leadership
Charities Aid Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Pro bono legal services
Count Charitable Foundation	Healthy ecosystems campaign
Darkina Pty Ltd	General Counsel
Doug Gimesy Photography	Pro Bono Professional Photography
The Frangipani Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
Henry's Hydraulics Pty Ltd	The Climate Reality Project
Hill Family Conservation Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
Human Synergistics	Into the Blue Culture programme
Hootville Communications	Media training
Hunter Hall International Limited	Support of ACF campaigns
The Intrepid Foundation	Beautiful North campaign
King and Wood Mallesons	Pro bono legal services
Koreen Conservation Ltd	Support of ACF campaigns
Macquarie Group Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
MAPgroup Documentary Photographers	Pro bono professional photography
Margaret Johnson Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
Marich Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW)	Beautiful North campaign
Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute	The Climate Reality Project
Nick Middendorp Family Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
Microsoft Pty Ltd	Software Donation Program
Minax Uriel Pty Ltd	Support of ACF campaigns
The Moore Family Philanthropic Foundation Limited	Support of ACF campaigns
Kevin Murphy Business Services Pty Ltd	Support of ACF campaigns
The Myer Foundation	Beautiful North campaign
Loftus-Hill Fund, a charitable fund account of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
PreviousNext	Web design & development
Platinum Cables	Support of ACF campaigns
PMF Foundation	Healthy ecosystems campaign
Skellern Family Foundation	Support of ACF campaigns
Trusay Pty Ltd	Support of ACF campaigns
XY On Boards	Pro Bono Recruitment Services

If you would like more information about supporting our campaigns please contact Stuart Garratt on (03) 9345 1260 or [s.garratt@acfonline.org.au](mailto:s.garratt@acfonline.org.au)

# VOLUNTEERS



COUNT ME IN EVENT VIC  
PHOTO: STEPHANIE BRADFORD



GREY-HEADED FLYING FOX  
PHOTO: VIVIEN JONES

We'd like to thank our amazing volunteers and interns who help the organisation in so many ways.

Beryl Blake	Auto membership
Jason Clifford	Healthy Ecosystems Program campaign assistance
Claudia Cooney	Assisting the Canberra office team
Nick Driver	Assisting General Counsel
Stuart Evans	Climate Campaign intern
Diane Friend	Library assistance
Maelor Himbury	Library and Melbourne office assistance
Michael Hotton	Assisting with analysis of the Australian coal industry
Ella Krockenberger	Bequests and Fundraising assistance
Ingrid Krockenberger	Bequests and Fundraising assistance
Yolanda Krockenberger	Bequests and Fundraising assistance
Zunni Krockenberger	Bequests and Fundraising assistance
Gustav Lanyi	Assisting General Counsel
John Le Feuvre	Assisting General Counsel
Finn Lloyd	Bequests and Fundraising assistance
Pippa Lloyd	Bequests and Fundraising assistance
Phillis Rea Lloyd	Bequests and Fundraising assistance
Louise McNeil	Assisting General Counsel
Anica Niepraschk	Assisting Nuclear Free Campaigner
Tina Pandeloglou	Assisting General Counsel
Nick Patsatzis	Fundraising assistance
Peter Saunders	Bequests and Fundraising assistance and Library
Mary Trudzik	Library assistance
Lisa Williams	Supporter Services assistance
Kate Wood	Supporter Services assistance
Andrew Woodward	Author of The Week That Was Climate News
Yi Zhai	SPARK Campaign intern

Plus the myriad of wonderful supporters who volunteered their services at our events around the country throughout the year including Count Me In, the Open House in Melbourne, and the Australia We Love and Nature Conversation Events.

ACF also acknowledges the continuing efforts and dedication of our Climate Leaders.

## ACF BOARD 2014-15

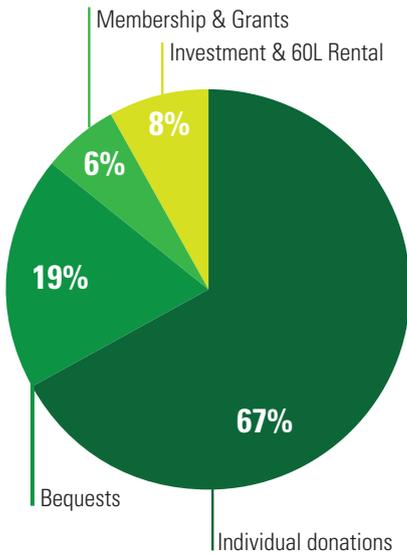
Geoff Cousins AM - President  
Mary Latham - Treasurer  
Jon Anstey - Honorary Secretary  
Irina Cattalini - Vice President  
Rob Fowler - Vice President  
Jimmy Cocking - Board Member  
Andrew Reilly - Board Member  
Peter Christoff - Board Member  
Todd Davies - Board Member  
Piers Verstegen - Board Member

For further information on ACF current Board Members 2015-16 please refer to:  
[www.acfonline.org.au/about-us/governance](http://www.acfonline.org.au/about-us/governance)

# ACF FINANCIAL POSITION SUMMARY

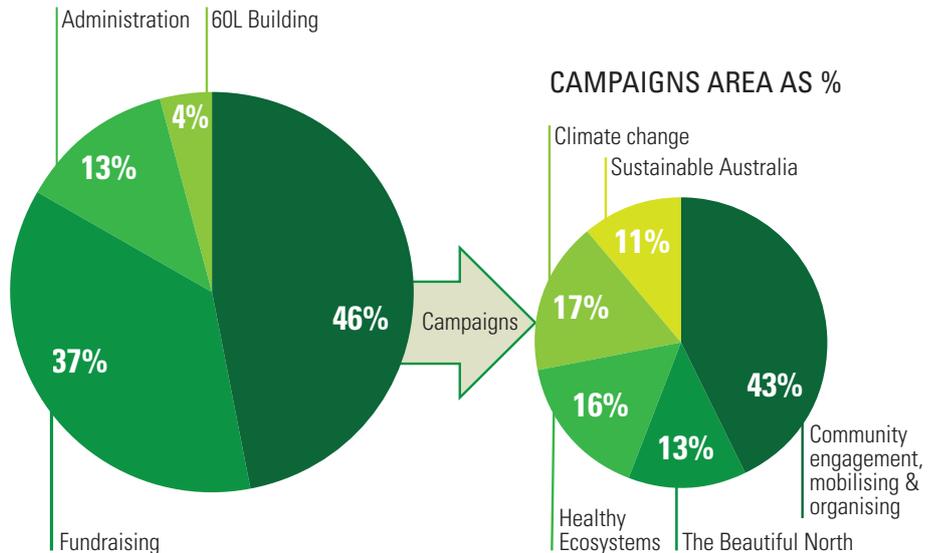
## ACF INCOME 2014-15:

\$14,672,315



## ACF EXPENDITURE 2014-15:

\$12,843,177



ACF continues to maintain a sound financial base upon which to operate.

ACF's asset base is \$16.3 million. Our cornerstone asset is the 60L Green Building in Melbourne (\$9.1 million at cost). Our remaining reserves of \$7.2 million, which we ethically invest and which provide a steady income stream, meet our policy minimums to ensure ACF adequately meet all ongoing operational commitments and budget projections. They also provide a sound operational reserve to accommodate future economic fluctuations.

In fiscal year 2014-15, ACF is pleased to report an unusually large unrestricted surplus of \$2.107 million from our operations. Once again the community showed their generous support through ACF's fundraising, and in the past 12 months we received \$2.8 million in legacies to ensure our critical work continues. In 2014-15, income from all sources including individual donations, bequests,

membership and grants, investments and 60L rental totalled \$14,672,315 (up 19 per cent) against expenses of \$12,843,177.

ACF is committed to strong financial management and regular reporting to ensure any changes that might affect our operations can be mitigated or enhanced so that ACF meets or exceeds its budget expectations.

More than 90 per cent of ACF's income is received through the generosity and goodwill of our individual and private trust supporters, bequests and membership. ACF strives to increase our income year-on-year so that we can invest more in the environmental outcomes that are core to our organisation and supporters. Investing in, and growing our fundraising income requires a long-term fundraising strategy of donor recruitment and retention through our direct marketing, major gift and bequest programs.

Currently, each dollar we spend on fundraising yields \$2.57 to invest in our environmental activities and essential administration. ACF has a three-year goal to increase our overall returns from fundraising to above 3:1; that is over \$3 for each \$1 spent.

To ensure high quality governance of our donor funds, ACF administrative costs and compliance are managed to a budget of 13 per cent of total expenditure.

The financial statements and specific disclosures included in this report have been derived from the full financial report of ACF. This report, including the independent audit report, is available on our website at [www.acfonline.org.au/about-us/governance/annual-reports](http://www.acfonline.org.au/about-us/governance/annual-reports).

KUNZEA BAXTERII  
PHOTO: BETTE DEVINE



**AUSTRALIAN  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**

**AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION**

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Web [www.acfonline.org.au](http://www.acfonline.org.au)



Australian Conservation Foundation



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