


Biennial Report 2022 – 2023

Growing Australian Conservation



Friends of the Australian
Bush Heritage Fund

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the places in which we live, work and play. We recognize and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Yellow Gum *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* woodland on John Douglas Reserve, Dja Dja Wurrung Country, Vic.
Image: Rowan Mott
Cover image: Pygmy possum.
Image: Michelle Hall

Contents

Introduction	2
Hello from our Executive Director	3
Get to know Bush Heritage Australia.....	4
Greetings from our Founding Partner.....	5
Project highlights	
Bush Heritage obtains the highest level of environmental protection in Queensland	6
Emerging conservationists gain experience on the ground	8
Evelyn Downs acquisition creates protected corridor in South Australia	9
Airbnb chooses FOABHF to support Australian conservation.....	10
Australia and U.S. share Indigenous wisdom	12
Donor spotlight: What inspires author Geraldine Brooks to give?	14
Thank you to our generous 2022–2023 donors	14
Energize the future of Australian conservation today	15
Our Financial Report: Investing in our future to help Australian conservation grow today	16
Meet our Board of Directors.....	17

Introduction

Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund (FOABHF) is a U.S. nonprofit organization established in 2009 and dedicated to the conservation of Australia's unique biodiversity.

Our vision is an Australia where rich natural and cultural heritage thrive for the benefit of all.

Our mission is to advance the conservation of natural and cultural heritage in Australia amidst the crises posed by climate change, biodiversity decline, and cultural heritage loss. We do this by connecting U.S.-based supporters with dynamic and effective Indigenous and non-Indigenous conservation organizations in Australia.

Our Board of Directors, with backgrounds in the sciences, conservation, philanthropy, sustainability, business and finance, provides strategic oversight for the organization.

Through education and outreach, FOABHF seeks to heighten awareness of Australian conservation needs in the U.S., receive and direct funds to support partners in Australia making meaningful progress toward conservation goals.

Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Federal EIN #27-0671965.

Burrowing bee burrows on Hamelin Reserve, Malgana Country, WA.
Image: Katrina Blake

Hello from our Executive Director

G'day from the Land Down Under! Thanks to you, our opportunity to make a difference in Australian conservation has grown exponentially over the last two years.

In 2022, Airbnb Community Fund awarded us a \$750,000 grant to support Bush Heritage Australia's (Bush Heritage's) Aboriginal partnerships for the next three years. In 2023, thanks to financial assistance from the Wyss Foundation, we supported Bush Heritage to obtain the highest level of legislative protection for private lands in Queensland, known as Special Wildlife Reserve status. In both years, we supported Bush Heritage's Seeding the Future program which funds early-stage career scientists and conservationists through education and practical experience, thanks to funding from LinkedIn.

Working with our Australian partners, we have taken important steps towards realizing our vision of an Australia where rich natural and cultural heritage thrive for the benefit of all. And there is much more to do to raise awareness about the dramatic challenges facing the continent. The impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and invasive species inundation are reaching a critical stage in Australia.

Through our educational outreach efforts in the U.S., we've brought together Indigenous Americans and Aboriginal Australians to discuss the shared understanding of the value of cultural burning practices in maintaining a healthy landscape, and to promote knowledge and conservation of native Australian species. We look forward to connecting more U.S.-based supporters to dynamic and effective Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian conservation organizations.

Significant opportunities lie ahead for all of us to do our part to help the unique plant and animal species endemic to Australia thrive. Through the generosity of our passionate donors, we are truly making a difference in the future of the continent.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We truly appreciate you!



Jennifer Smith Grubb
Executive Director
Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund
Image: Gina Grubb

"The impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and invasive species inundation are reaching a critical stage in Australia."



"Over the past two years, we have expanded our reserve network, adding close to 600,000 hectares (over 1.5 million acres) to the land in our care."

Get to know Bush Heritage Australia

Bush Heritage Australia (Bush Heritage) is a leading not-for-profit conservation organization that protects ecosystems and wildlife across the Australian continent. Bush Heritage uses the best science, conservation, and right-way knowledge to deliver landscape-scale impact. They are on the ground, working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the agriculture sector to make sure their impact is deep, sustainable, and collaborative.

As our founding partner, we coordinate closely to deliver the most impact for Australian conservation. Our teams work together to maximize our outcomes and leverage our strengths. You can learn more about Bush Heritage's efforts by visiting their website at: www.bushheritage.org.au

Red-capped Robin on Ngulamburra Reserve,
Dja Dja Wurrung Country, Vic.
Image: Rowan Mott

Greetings from our Founding Partner

Australia is a magical place. Home to rare, endemic species and landscapes so unique and vast they will take your breath away.

An ancient country, nurtured by the world's oldest civilization, the First Nations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have cared for this country for more than 60,000 years.

Our continent is remarkable. Remarkable in its unique ecosystems, its large number of species found nowhere else on the planet and the ancient knowledge held by our first nations people. Sadly, it is also remarkable in the number of species under threat, species extinctions and our record as the country with the highest rate of deforestation in the developed world.

Australia needs our help. Desperately.

For the past 33 years, Bush Heritage Australia has played a key role in answering nature's urgent call for help. What started with the purchase of two small blocks of old-growth forest destined for logging in the Liffey Valley, Tasmania, on Palawa Country in Australia's south, has grown into a reserve network of 44 reserves across the continent.

Today, Bush Heritage Australia protects more than 3.5 million hectares (more than 8.6 million acres) of land, home to more than 7,735 native species. We work with first nations people, walking hand in hand to heal country and learn together, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships across many millions of acres of land. And we partner with farmers to help them understand and protect the ecological values on their land. In 2021, we launched our 2030 strategy. It's an ambitious strategy, and it has to be so. It is focused on deepening and doubling our impact by 2030. We've already taken important strides towards this goal, and with your support it is achievable.

Over the past two years, we have expanded our reserve network, adding close to 600,000 hectares (over 1.5 million acres) to the land in our care. We have expanded our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships and supported a wide range of activities on country. We have launched a program to support the next generation

of conservationists, *Seeding the Future*, and we have developed new technologies in partnership with the brightest minds in science.

We have done this, and will do so much more, thanks to you.

Protecting and nurturing some of the world's most precious and threatened ecosystems is a challenge we face together. We are incredibly proud of the support we received from not only those who have seen our challenges firsthand, but also from supporters around the world, including generous donations via the Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund.

Your support through the Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund has allowed us to be the national organization we are today, with dedicated staff, countless volunteers and supporters, all committed to our shared vision of *healthy country, protected forever*.

We are so grateful for the support we receive from our friends in the U.S. Over the past two years, key staff have visited donors and the many volunteers involved in Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund three times, and each time we have been humbled by the generosity.

On behalf of all of us at Bush Heritage and our many partners: Thank you. Thank you for your support and trust in us.



Rachel Lowry
Chief Executive Officer
Bush Heritage Australia
Image: Bee Stephens

Bush Heritage obtains the highest level of environmental protection in Queensland

Over the last two years, Bush Heritage has continued to deepen its partnerships with First Nations communities throughout Australia, thanks in part to the support of donations via Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund.

Aboriginal Australians have lived on the land for millennia, developing a strong commitment to look after it and accumulating generations of knowledge about landscapes and species.

Whenever it purchases land for conservation, Bush Heritage seeks to engage with the Traditional Owners to ensure they maintain access and a connection to the land and to learn from them to manage the land in the right way.

Bush Heritage also partners with Aboriginal groups who are themselves landowners – often of vast estates – to provide support with science, monitoring, governance and other aspects of land management.

Bush Heritage's Ethabuka and Pilungah Reserves in Queensland's vast Simpson Desert together total over 1 million acres. These properties are located on the lands of the Wangkamadla people, with rich cultural heritage including rock paintings and significant ceremonial sites. Bush Heritage works closely with the Wangkamadla people to protect these sites and the delicate desert ecosystems which are home to rare reptiles, birds and mammals. This includes using strategic burns to prepare the landscape for bushfire season and enhance biodiversity.

A key area of collaboration in recent years has been the effort to improve the level of protection afforded to both reserves.

“Aboriginal Australians have lived on the land for millennia, developing a strong commitment to look after it and accumulating generations of knowledge about landscapes and species.”

Queensland is unique among Australian states in having a level of legal protection for private land which is akin to a national park – this is known as ‘Special Wildlife Reserve’ status.

This status, which is reserved for areas of exceptional natural and cultural value, immediately extinguishes mining and forestry permits and prevents further permits from being granted.

Since 2022, the Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund and the Wyss Foundation have been supporting Bush Heritage to pursue this enhanced protection for its Queensland reserves.

The Wangkamadla people have helped to spearhead this work for Ethabuka and Pilungah reserves, advocating for Special Wildlife Reserve status to remove the significant mining interests over their land.

Thanks to these efforts, mining giant Rio Tinto has removed all its applications to mine the reserves.

As Wangkamadla woman Avelina Tarrago says, *“We have a responsibility to look after these landscapes... they’re irreplaceable.”*

In this project, and in all its work throughout Australia, Bush Heritage is reliant on the knowledge, generosity, and time of First Nations people to protect these irreplaceable landscapes.

Whether working on land it owns and manages directly, or on land managed by Aboriginal groups, Bush Heritage walks in partnership to restore areas which have been degraded and to protect what’s left. Together, they are restoring the land to good health.

Above: Avelina Tarrago on Pilungah.

Image: Victoria Pengilley/ABC

Inset: Centralian Blue-tongue on Pilungah.

Image: Ingo Schomacker



Project highlights

Emerging conservationists gain experience on the ground

Our planet is in dire need of our help, but sometimes getting involved in conservation can be difficult – especially for early-career conservationists who have the right qualifications, but lack practical experience. This challenge, felt across the conservation sector in Australia, is now being tackled head-on by Bush Heritage.

In 2022, the organization launched *Seeding the Future*, a program focused on providing opportunities to work in the field, learning from Bush Heritage staff and gaining practical experience. Participants range from paid interns and student placements to post-graduate scholars and those participating in traineeships.

Overseen by Program Lead Michelle Stook, the program has been welcomed by students and the conservation sector.

"I vividly remember someone who broke down in tears on the phone to me. He said, 'I did my undergrad; I couldn't get a job. I've done my master's; I still can't get a job. And I'm just constantly told, 'You need some practical experience.' This program is



helping bridge that gap, to the benefit of students and our entire sector," explains Michelle Stook.

During this reporting period, 112 students and interns have participated in the program.

Above: *Seeding the Future* intern Madeline Taylor.
Image: Madeline Taylor

Below: *Seeding the Future* intern Georgea Kamara.
Image: Georgea Kamara



Project highlights

Evelyn Downs acquisition creates protected corridor in South Australia

Bush Heritage plays a critical role in protecting some of Australia's most delicate ecosystems and places of cultural significance. Over the past 33 years, Bush Heritage has built a reserve network of more than 40 reserves, focused on priority landscapes and providing critical protection of the continent's most threatened species or important landscapes.

In 2023, an opportunity like never before arose: an incredibly important property in South Australia's Painted Desert, home to more than 60 plant and animal species of conservation significance and a place of high cultural and ecological value, was listed for sale.

Evelyn Downs sits on the edge of our South Australian Arid Rangelands Priority Landscape, which is threatened by total grazing pressure, invasive plants and animals, and climate change. Currently, just 8.6% of this landscape is protected for conservation. The 235,000 hectare (580,000 acre) property links with neighboring properties to contribute to a nature corridor spanning almost 4.7 million acres.

Evelyn Downs is rocky outcrops, flat chenopod country, striking Coolabahs and River Red Gums. It's ephemeral wetlands, creek lines and numerous cultural sites. These natural features provide a vital refuge for desert species, including the endangered Arckaringa Daisy and the nationally vulnerable Bronzeback Legless Lizard. And they take your breath away as you drive, walk or fly across the reserve.

"The Breakaway-type Country is such a special place. The Breakaways are massive escarpments that emerge fiercely above desolate rocky plains. It's thought they were once like islands rising out of an ancient inland sea that evaporated when a continental shift warmed the climate. I wish everyone had a chance to see them change color in the sun," says Bush Heritage Healthy Landscapes Manager Graeme Finlayson.

To secure the property required Bush Heritage to undertake the largest fundraising campaign in its history. With the support of Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund and supporters here and in Australia, Bush Heritage Australia raised the funds needed. Evelyn Downs is now part of Bush Heritage's reserve network.

Below: White and yellow ochre bluffs of the Painted Desert. Inset: Graeme Finlayson with wildflowers at Evelyn Downs, Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Country, SA.
Images: Annette Ruzicka



Airbnb chooses FOABHF to support Australian conservation

At the close of 2022, Airbnb Community Fund chose Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund to support Aboriginal partnerships in Australia through Bush Heritage Australia, allowing them to transform their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) workforce, ATSI leadership structure and the organization's cultural competency.

This work has been critical to ensure the appropriate framework and capacity at Bush Heritage to deepen their Aboriginal Partnerships program, as per the aspirations of their 2030 Strategy. The number of ATSI staff employed has grown from 7 to 10 percent – coming closer to their longer-term goal of 12 percent. This increase is partly due to the creation of Aboriginal-identified positions and traineeships through their 'Seeding the Future' program, which provides training and support for early-career conservationists.

Bush Heritage created several Aboriginal Partnerships Manager positions throughout Australia and three ATSI members were elevated to the Senior Leadership Team. This new leadership model ensures that ATSI voices are central in the decision-making processes relating to all areas of Bush Heritage's work. It also acknowledges the nuanced cultural obligations and priorities of ATSI communities across Australia.

The geographically disparate team with lived connections to different regions will help grow a deep and functional knowledge of diversity at the Executive level.

The increased representation of ATSI people in the workforce, and the change in leadership structure, will improve Bush Heritage's capacity to understand and support the needs of their Aboriginal Partnerships around the country.

Airbnb provided the following statement: "As part of our commitment to share Airbnb's success with our stakeholders, we want to give back to the neighborhoods and towns our Hosts call home. In 2020, Airbnb created the Airbnb Community Fund to distribute \$100 million USD through 2030 to help strengthen communities around the world."

We are delighted to be among the 2022 grant recipients, along with organizations around the world such as: Leave No Trace in the US, WWF-Brazil Coral Reef Restoration Project in Brazil, EcoExploratorio in Puerto Rico, Retake Roma in Italy, Lapalala Wilderness School in South Africa, The Association of National Trusts in Japan, and the National Trust of Korea in Korea.

Full Airbnb press release: [Airbnb Community Fund 2022 Grant Recipient Press Release](#)

"In 2020, Airbnb created the Airbnb Community Fund to distribute \$100 million USD through 2030 to help strengthen communities around the world."

Aboriginal Partnerships Manager conducts culturally led burn with expert team to manage the land, reduce fuel build-up, control weeds and create strategic fire breaks.



Above: Fire expert Dean Freeman, Tarcutta Hills Co Reserve Manager Kelly Price and Aboriginal Partnerships Manager NSW Vikki Parsley inspect the burn area on Wiradjuri Country.
Image: Bee Stephens

Below: Cultural Burn in progress. Image: Vikki Parsley



Australia and U.S. share Indigenous wisdom

As President of FOABHF's board, Jennifer Smith Grubb welcomed representatives from Bush Heritage Australia, Native American leaders, as well as many of our supporters to the University of California at Santa Cruz Arboretum for an afternoon of connection and education in the fall of 2022.

The Arboretum is home to a dedicated Australian garden (pictured below), allowing visitors from all over the world to view native Australian flora in California.

Esselen Tribal Chairman Tom Little Bear Nason and Bush Heritage Australia's Aboriginal Partnership Manager of New South Wales Vikki Parsley opened with a meaningful ceremony of song, blessing, and welcome, together grasping the Esselen carved totem stick. Bush Heritage Australia's then CEO Heather Campbell shared conservation progress and plans in Australia.

Chairman Nason and Aboriginal Partnership Manager Parsley, both experts in cultural burning, were joined by Esselen Tribal Member and 4th year student of forestry and fire sciences at Cal Poly University Chanel Keller, as well as Alex Michel of the Central California Prescribed Burn Association and Bush Heritage's then CEO Heather Campbell in a panel discussion of cultural and prescribed burning practices in both California and Australia.



Guests visited the Australian Garden within the University of California, Santa Cruz Arboretum.
Image: Anastasia Torres-Gil

Speakers from California and Australia had just participated in a shared cultural burning training experience in the Klamath region of northern California, led by the women of the Yurok Tribe.

"It was a beautiful, moving event from start to finish. You have given us all so much to think about, and also, so much hope!"

**Kaia Huseby, 3rd Grade Teacher,
Santa Cruz, California**

One year later, in October 2023, FOABHF supporters gathered in Santa Cruz to welcome Bush Heritage's Dr. Rebecca Spindler, Executive Manager, Science and Conservation and Vibeke Stisen, Executive Manager, Engagement, and were among the first to learn of the intended acquisition of Evelyn Downs Station in South Australia. The purchase of this former sheep station gives Bush Heritage a protected nature corridor in Southwestern Australia where species such as the endangered Legless Lizard and Arckaringa Daisy plant can now thrive.

2022 event



1



3



4

1. Jennifer Smith Grubb, then FOABHF President (center), Heather Campbell, former CEO of Bush Heritage Australia (left), and Vikki Parsley, Bush Heritage Aboriginal Partnerships Manager NSW, introduce our event.

2. Esselen Tribal Chairman Nason (left) welcomes Vikki Parsley as a fellow indigenous leader, while Esselen Tribal member Chanel Keller observes.

3. Chanel Keller (left) shares her cultural burning experience with Central California Prescribed Burn Association's Alex Michel.

4. Aboriginal Partnerships Manager Vikki Parsley (left) and Esselen Tribal Chairman Tom Little Bear Nason (right) were among the experts featured.

Images: Anastasia Torres-Gil

2023 event



1



2



3

1. Supporters mingle with Bush Heritage Australia guests at the reception.

2. Executive Director Jennifer Smith Grubb presents the need for US support of Australian conservation.

3. Dr. Rebecca Spindler, Executive Manager, Science and Conservation and Vibeke Stisen, Executive Manager, Engagement welcome guests to Venus Spirits Tasting Room, the Santa Cruz reception venue.

Images: Liz Birnbaum, The Curated Feast

Donor Spotlight: What inspires author Geraldine Brooks to give?

Every single one of our supporters has a reason as to why they have decided to join us in support of Australian conservation. We had a chance to chat with bestselling author Geraldine Brooks about her connection to the bush.



I grew up in Sydney's inner west in an urban, un-outdoorsy family. In my twenties I became a journalist and began covering environmental issues. It changed everything for me. Bushwalking in Kakadu and the Colo, snow-camping threatened backcountry in the NSW alps, rafting the Franklin River and the Gordon Splits – all these experiences filled me with awe for Australia's magnificent natural landscapes and fury at the forces who would destroy them for short-term profit.

This year, traveling again with Bob Brown to blockade sites in Takayna/Tarkine, I was reminded that we only have what we have because brave people continue to fight for it. When our government fails to protect areas rich in precious biodiversity, Bush Heritage is the last line of defense, and that's why I support it. Image: Randi Baird

Thank you to our generous 2022–2023 donors

Organization Support

Airbnb Community Foundation
LinkedIn
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Wyss Foundation

Individual Support

Lori and Kevin Atwood
Kat Banister
Geraldine Brooks
Christian Brutzer
Chris Doherty
Kim Ely and Wayne Lewis
Jennifer Smith Grubb and Hugh Grubb
Suzanne Heinze and Greg Vaughan
Sabine Johnson-Reiser
Patricia Kennedy
Irena and Owen Lawlor
Laura and David Leroy

Jason and Rebecca Luksich
Kathleen Mandis
The Martin Pool and Stephanie Miller Fund
Kathy Musial
Ann Pace
David and Deena Pais
Caprice Potter and Terence Welch
R. Pamela Reid
Mary E. Savina
Gary Tabor
Elizabeth and Christopher Vaden
April Williams
Kent Wommack and Gro Flatebo
Mary M. Yang, PhD
Daniel Zucker

Thank you as well to our many 2022-2023 donors who prefer to have their acknowledgement remain anonymous – we are grateful for you!

Energize the future of Australian conservation today

Take pride in a legacy of conservation by declaring your bequest to FOABHF now. Through your estate plan, **you can help** preserve Australia's legacy – its magnificent landscapes and unique flora and fauna – for generations to come.

Your decision to support Australian conservation will provide vital resources to thwart the real life challenges the continent faces, including extreme weather events, risks posed by invasive flora and fauna, and the highest mammalian extinction rate in the world.

Through our Australian partnerships, we are dedicated to making your estate gift have the most impact possible. As we are a 501(c)(3), you will maintain the same tax benefits that you would for any American charity. Our Board of Directors will ensure that funding is directed toward the most vital and timely projects.

From supporting property acquisitions and funding landscape management plans in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, to conducting sustainable fire management strategies and species surveys, the opportunities to leverage your legacy gift are infinite.

Supporting Australian conservation in your estate plan allows you to leave a legacy that reflects your values and commitment to environmental stewardship.

What seeds are you planting for the future?



Wildflowers on Hamelin Reserve, Malgana Country, WA.
Image: Katrina Blake

Our Financial Report: Investing in our future to help Australian conservation grow today

2022–2023 Financial Summary

In late 2022, while working on resolving state compliance issues in California, legal counsel discovered that FOABHF had been incorporated first in Delaware and then in California. The result of this was the unintended creation of two distinct legal entities. How and why this occurred is unknown to current staff and until it was discovered, operations were conducted as if only a single entity existed. In light of the foregoing, legal counsel advised FOABHF to hold any distribution of funds until all compliance issues were resolved, and a strategy was approved to resolve the two-entity matter.

After determining that the information of the Delaware entity was used to obtain a federal employer identification number ("EIN") for FOABHF and confirming that all federal and state filings were submitted using the EIN issued to the Delaware entity, legal counsel recommended, and management agreed, that the California entity be dissolved after being brought into compliance leaving the Delaware entity as the sole corporate form of FOABHF. Thereafter, the Delaware entity would be registered to do business in California as an out-of-state nonprofit and obtain state exemption retroactive to its date of formation. As of the date of this published report, the California entity has been dissolved, and the registration of the Delaware entity as an out of state non-profit is in progress.

FOABHF has retained its federal exemption intact throughout the process. Impacted partners were well informed and once the compliance issues were fully resolved in 2023, all funds were promptly transferred as intended. We have continued to grow our organization, making investments in organizational capacity, including staff, systems, and professional services.

Category	FY23	FY22	FY21
Revenue			
Donations	\$71,211	\$76,008	\$168,027
Grants	\$60,000	\$900,000	\$0
Interest	\$8,731	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$139,942	\$976,008	\$168,027
Expenses			
Disbursements	\$885,990	\$0	\$190,000
Employee Costs	\$68,276	\$0	\$0
General Administrative	\$42,449	\$4,024	\$0
Fees	\$2,818	\$754	\$2,292
Total Expenses	\$999,533	\$4,778	\$192,292
Net Income	(\$859,590)	\$971,230	(\$24,265)

Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage's fiscal year is Jan 1 – Dec 31.

Meet our Board of Directors



Sabine Johnson-Reiser

Acting President

Sabine graduated from UC Berkeley with a BS in Environmental Economics and Policy and has worked in the environment and climate change sectors in both the US and China. After moving to Australia in 2013, she focused on preserving its biodiversity, working with Bush Heritage Australia in major gifts and philanthropy until 2020. She completed a Master of Liberal Arts in Sustainability Studies at Harvard University in 2020 and has been Head of Philanthropic Partnerships at Oxfam Australia since October 2021.



Chris Doherty

Secretary and Acting Treasurer

Chris is a Senior Director of Business Operations for an international legal services and consulting firm. He also has over 15 years of experience in climate change, conservation, and sustainability through prior work spanning forest restoration and community development in Southeast Asia, carbon sequestration initiatives in Western Australia, and consulting on sustainability, climate change & risk management for global companies. Chris holds a Master's in Sustainable Development and, though based in Portland, Oregon, hails from Wagga Wagga in NSW, Australia – Wiradjuri country.



Jennifer Smith Grubb

Executive Director and Ex-Officio Director

Throughout her life, Jennifer has dedicated herself to the care and healing of our planet. Inspired by the unique treasures of the Australian bush, Jennifer has become a champion for the conservation of Australia's natural and cultural heritage. She has invited Australian conservation scientists and Indigenous leaders to the US to share both innovative and traditional approaches to protect the continent's precious biodiversity, manage risks due to fire and climate change, and nurture plant and animal species for future generations. Through her work on the Ecology Action Board, as founding Executive Director of Sustainable Silicon Valley and as Founder of the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability, Jennifer has been recognized for her environmental leadership.



Dr. Gary Tabor

Director

Gary is the Founder and CEO of the Center for Large Landscape Conservation. His achievements include establishing Kibale National Park in Uganda and co-founding key initiatives such as the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative and the Western Governors' Association Wildlife Corridors Initiative. Gary is an Australian-American Fulbright Scholar in Climate Change. His academic affiliations include being named an Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Queensland and a Professor of Conservation Practice at Cornell University.



Doug Humann

Director

Doug has over 30 years of leadership experience in the NGO sector, including serving as Bush Heritage Australia's inaugural CEO and working with First Nation communities and natural resource management authorities. He runs his own consulting business and serves as Chairman of Landcare Australia and a Board Member of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance. In 2014, Doug was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his significant contributions to conservation and the environment.



Dr. R. Pamela Reid

Director

Pam is Professor Emeritus of Marine Geosciences at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, specializing in tropical marine sediments and reefs. She has published over 100 scientific articles and focuses on microbialites, Earth's earliest reefs built by microbes. Pam conducts microbialite research in Hamelin Pool, the Bahamas, and Chile's Atacama Desert. She is also the founder and Executive Director of the Bahamas Marine EcoCentre.



Kent Wommack

Director

Kent is the Executive Director of the Liz Claiborne & Art Ortenberg Foundation, which supports wildlife and community-based conservation initiatives globally. Before joining in 2016, Kent spent 34 years with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), where he led programs in Maine, Australia, and Canada and served as Managing Director of TNC's Global Lands Program. His connection to Australia began during a sabbatical with Bush Heritage Australia, where he later returned as TNC's first in-country Executive Director.



John Mittermeier

Director

John is the Director of the Search for Lost Birds at American Bird Conservancy, with a lifelong passion for bird conservation. Their fieldwork has taken them to Madagascar, Suriname, Indonesia, and the Solomon Islands. John holds a PhD in biodiversity conservation from the University of Oxford and a master's in ornithology from Louisiana State University's Museum of Natural Science. *John completed his Board Service at the close of 2022.*



Peggy Brannigan

Director

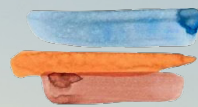
Peggy Brannigan is a sustainability leader and advisor, currently chair of the board for the Business Council on Climate Change and a board member at Acterra. As Director of Global Environmental Sustainability at LinkedIn, she advanced the company's 2030 climate goals and supported green innovations in workplaces and datacenters. She also collaborated on LinkedIn products that connect users to green jobs and skills while guiding grantmaking for environmental equity. Prior to LinkedIn, Peggy worked in Europe on sustainability initiatives and held leadership roles at Apple and Wells Fargo. She holds an MBA from Stanford and lives in Silicon Valley. *Peggy began her board service in 2024.*

Our Vision

An Australia where rich natural and cultural heritage thrive for the benefit of all.

Our Mission

To advance the conservation of natural and cultural heritage in Australia amidst the crises posed by climate change, biodiversity decline, and cultural heritage loss. We do this by connecting U.S.-based supporters with dynamic and effective Indigenous and non-Indigenous conservation organizations in Australia.



**Friends of the Australian
Bush Heritage Fund**

Contact us

Friends of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund
P.O. Box 5672, Santa Cruz, CA 95063
www.friendsofbushheritage.org
Info@friendsofbushheritage.org

Pilungah Reserve, Wangkamadla Country, Qld.
Image: Bee Stephens