



## Annual Report



# 2023





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# Our Business

For over 120 years, BirdLife Australia has been at the forefront of bird conservation in Australia, and throughout that time we've achieved some incredible outcomes for threatened birds.

But now we're facing our greatest challenge yet: Australia's extinction crisis. Birds are more vulnerable than ever, and they urgently need our help to survive.

To combat this crisis, we have set ambitious goals to save Australia's birds:

- Stop human-driven extinction of threatened birds by 2032
- Improve the status of at least 30 per cent of threatened birds by 2032
- Halt overall bird species population declines by 2050

Achieving these lofty targets will not be easy, so we have painstakingly formulated a comprehensive blueprint to save Australia's birds—BirdLife Australia's *Bird Conservation Strategy*.

We already know what needs to be done and that conservation works when it has proper resourcing. The results already achieved by BirdLife Australia are proof that we can achieve extraordinary outcomes. But we can't do it alone, so by collaborating with other scientists, partner organisations and a community of passionate nature and bird lovers, we are urgently working together to drive the recovery of Australia's most threatened birds and restore their environments.

To achieve this, our strategy is built around four key pillars:

**Sites**

Protecting and restoring important places for birds



**Systems**

Saving nature by changing laws and industries



**Society**

Empowering people to take action



**Species**

Saving birds is what we're all about



Because birds respond quickly to changes in the environment, they are early-warning messengers, telling us about the health of the planet. Many perform vital roles within ecosystems on which we rely for our own survival, and so alert us to threats to the environments and ecology that support our forests, farms and fisheries. We need birds now more than ever before.

As we've done for more than a century, BirdLife Australia is maintaining its place at the cutting edge of conservation, combining the best of conservation practice and sound science to achieve critical wins for Australia's most threatened birds.

**And we're not stopping now.**

# Our Performance at a glance

More than  
**375,000**  
members and supporters standing together to protect Australia's birds and halt human-driven extinctions

**89,503**  
bird surveys conducted in 2023

More than  
**24 million**  
records in Birddata (and counting), fuelling Australia's largest bird database, which informs the Threatened Species Index

**107**  
ecologists working to save birds

**60,598**  
people participated in the Great Aussie Bird Count in 2023, making it Australia's largest citizen science event.

**603,000**  
visitors to our website





## President's Review



Dear Members,

BirdLife Australia is entering an exciting new phase. With our ambitious Bird Conservation Strategy, a new CEO and enthusiastic and skilled staff, members and supporters are all poised to increase our impact, driving the recovery of our native birds and their environments.

I am so proud of BirdLife Australia's strong conservation focus and the equally strong dedication of our people – our staff, our members and everyone who volunteers their time or contributes in other ways.

Indeed, a major aspect of BirdLife Australia's increasing impact is its people.

In my first year as President, I have been lucky to work with our new CEO, Kate Millar. Kate's enthusiasm, passion for the environment and support for Birdlife Australia's people is infectious, and her experience with management, government and the private sector is a huge asset to the organisation.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the dedicated work of Professor Martine Maron, our immediate Past President for her insight, knowledge and guidance of the organisation during her 11 years on the Board of Birdlife Australia. Martine is stepping

down from the Board this year. I would also like to acknowledge the immense effort of our former CEO, Paul Sullivan, who guided the organisation through a sustained period of growth during his 10 years at the helm. Thank you both for your dedicated service to the organisation.

This year, the BirdLife Australia Board recognised the work of Professor Robert Heinsohn by awarding him the prestigious D.L. Serventy Medal for his extraordinary body of research work on Australia's birds, particularly some of our challenging threatened species. Meanwhile, Dr Roz Jessop was awarded the J.N. Hobbs Memorial Medal in recognition of her decades'-long study of shorebirds, including banding countless waders. In addition, dedicated members Sheena Gillman, Jane Robinson, Lachlan Garland, Margaret Bennett and Annette Sutton were all presented with Honorary Life Membership for their tireless volunteer work: Sheena in building partnerships to further the conservation of Queensland's birds; Jane and Lachlan for their valuable work in BirdLife Australia's H.L. White Library; Margaret for all her work to conserve the birds and their habitats on King Island; and Annette for her dedicated work with BirdLife Townsville.

It's the collective efforts of *all* of our people that has allowed BirdLife Australia to have such a significant impact on bird conservation across the country. Increasingly, our expertise is being sought by State and Federal Governments and we are forging partnerships with other conservation NGOs to increase our collective impact on the conservation of Australia's birds.

With one in six birds threatened with extinction, Australia's birds have never needed our help more than they do now, and BirdLife Australia is stepping up to meet the lofty goals of our Bird Conservation Strategy. They're ambitious goals, but, with so many dedicated people on our side, we're determined to make them reality.

**Mandy Bamford, President**

## CEO's Review



Dear Members,

Since becoming CEO in July 2023, I've had the privilege of connecting with and listening to branches, staff, supporters and partners nationwide. I am reminded daily of our important role in conservation, and I would like to express my gratitude and admiration for every one of you.

Your unwavering support and tireless contributions are the organisation's foundation. BirdLife Australia draws incredible strength from its grassroots network of branches and volunteers. A new team was established this year that is dedicated to supporting the BirdLife Australia network. We have been listening to what matters to the network, and there is a strong program of work to ensure that network support is prioritised.

I would like to acknowledge Paul Sullivan who, as CEO for over a decade, steered the organisation through a period of major growth culminating in the launch of the Bird Conservation Strategy. I will also like to thank Former President, Professor Martine Maron. Martine's contribution to BirdLife Australia has been outstanding. She was instrumental in

building engagement and understanding of the new strategy amongst key stakeholders and supporters. This significant achievement is critical in ensuring our national efforts contribute to the broader global goals captured in the UN Biodiversity Framework and BirdLife International Global Strategy.

In 2023, BirdLife Australia has invested significantly in the delivery of the new Strategy. BirdLife Australia's stable financial position has enabled a range of programs to be initiated or expanded to increase BirdLife Australia's impact:

- Stronger Nature Laws: grassroots advocacy and strategy policy impact.
- Australian Ornithological Conference: Tickets sold out, high-quality program, expert network
- Nature-positive activities: Influenced nature repair bill (including removal of offsets), Birds on Farms and Victorian Landscape Conservation Partners innovative financing
- Recovery program successes.

Behind all these programs are BirdLife Australia's amazing people. You will see a number of new and familiar faces in the coming pages as we highlight just some of the people that make all these projects possible.

I would also like to acknowledge the BirdLife Australia members who have been impacted by extreme weather events this year. As the climate emergency continues to affect people and nature, I have been impressed by the care and support that you have extended to BirdLife Australia members and staff who have been directly affected. From my experience in emergency management, I know the road to recovery can be complex, and remaining connected to the people and things you are passionate about makes the journey that much easier.

**Kate Millar, Chief Executive Officer**





# Where we operate

We have 157 staff, 33 local groups, 4 special interest groups, 4 reserves and observatories and over 375,000 supporters from all over Australia.

Broome Bird Observatory



**Western Australia**  
12 staff  
1 local group and 6 regional sub-groups with 20,081 members  
Species we work with here include Baudin's, Carnaby's and Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Fairy Tern, Western Ground Parrot and Western Bristlebird.

Eyre Bird Observatory



**South Australia**  
11 staff  
2 local groups with 317 members  
Species we work with include Kangaroo Island subspecies of Western Whipbird, Glossy Black-Cockatoo and White-eared Honeyeater, as well as the Mount Lofty Ranges subspecies of Southern Emu-wren and Chestnut-rumped Heathwren.



**Northern Territory**  
2 local groups with 338 members  
Species we work with here include Eastern Curlew, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit and Ruddy Turnstone.

Gluepot Reserve



**Tasmania**  
2 staff  
1 local group with 1484 members  
Species we work with here include Swift Parrot, Dusky Robin, Orange-bellied Parrot and the King Island subspecies of Brown Thornbill and Scrubtit.

Clarkesdale Sanctuary

## BirdLife Australia Raptor Group

Promotes the conservation, management and study of Australia's birds of prey, including projects in Western Australia and Victoria.

## BirdLife Photography

Inspires and supports photographers of Australian birds, and provides images for conservation, scientific and educational efforts. They also host a biennial conference, run the annual BirdLife Australia Photography Awards, and have branches in Melbourne, South Australia and Townsville.



**Queensland**  
14 staff  
6 local groups with 1261 members  
Species we work with here include Eastern Curlew, Eastern Bristlebird, Kalkadoon and Carpentarian Grasswren and Sarus Crane.



**NSW and ACT**  
23 staff  
4 local groups with 9426 members  
Species we work with include Powerful Owl, Regent Honeyeater, Gould's Petrel, Grey Range Thick-billed Grasswren and Glossy Black-Cockatoos.



**Victoria**  
95 staff  
13 local groups with 6045 members  
Species we work with include Australasian Bittern, Red-tailed and Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Hooded Plover and Australian Pelican.



## Members' Impact

### BirdLife Australia Members: Ann and Bruce McGregor

Australia's birds have been a lifelong passion for **Ann and Bruce McGregor**.

"As a birder from a young age, a great highlight was having Superb Lyrebirds in our garden in the Dandenong Ranges," said Ann. "My Uncle Fred signed me up to the Bird Observers Club when I was eight years old and sent me recordings of birds so I could learn their calls."

"Birding is still a favourite activity," she said.

"My father introduced me to birds and grew native plants all his life to provide habitat for birds in his garden and on his farm," added Bruce. "A love of nature and birds drew Ann and me together, and this has remained a great focus for us."

As young adults, both learnt more about birds and their habitats at lectures and on field trips run by Birds Australia. Their participation in projects like Birddata, and undertaking surveys and monitoring, has been satisfying as they extended their understanding of bird migration and contributed to an invaluable dataset for conservation planning.

Ann and Bruce support BirdLife Australia because of our innovative projects to protect habitats and our work to protect and advocate for threatened birds. Without the effective community organising work done by BirdLife Australia, valuable habitat like Toondah Harbour would not be protected.

They support BirdLife Australia to activate its power—as the peak national bird organisation with a large membership—to influence governments to substantially increase public investment into nature conservation, restoration and protection. There is much work to be done and it is urgent for our birds.

## Volunteers' Impact

As well as having some of Australia's best scientists and researchers working for us, BirdLife Australia draws incredible strength from our army of volunteers. We value and salute their efforts.

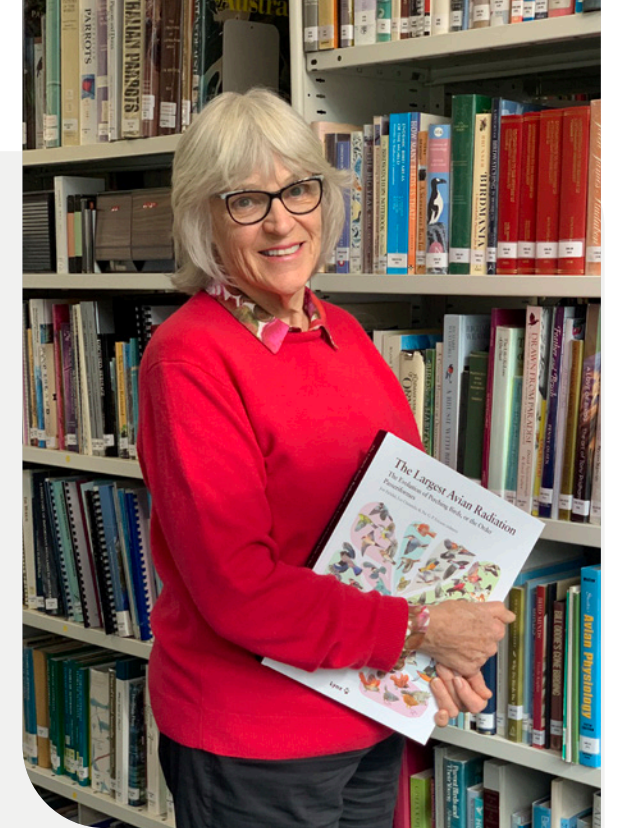
### Birds on Farms volunteer: David Pool

Virtually all of BirdLife Australia's field-based projects rely on the efforts of our enthusiastic volunteers. Without these thousands of willing people, much of our conservation work would be impossible to undertake.

One such volunteer is **David Pool**, who has been a BirdLife Australia member since 1985. He says that it's his membership which has presented so many different opportunities to get involved in bird conservation. He's volunteered his time in a number of our field-based programs, ranging from searches for threatened parrots to conducting Birddata surveys. Indeed, he has submitted over 7,300 Birddata surveys from many parts of Australia, specialising in repeat surveys, which are a vital tool for monitoring the health of Australia's birdlife.

However, it's his efforts in our Birds on Farms project that are truly remarkable. He conducts regular surveys at 22 different sites on farming properties scattered across the western half of Victoria. And each year he seems to add another property or two to his burgeoning list of survey sites, with plenty of people on the land keen to share the results of the conservation actions they've taken on their properties.

Birds on Farms is BirdLife Australia's fastest growing program, and with volunteers like David and his bevy of keen cockies, it's easy to see why.



### Volunteer Librarians: Jane Robinson and Lachlan Garland

It's not just in the field where our volunteers have a real impact on the vital conservation work conducted by BirdLife Australia.

**Lachlan Garland** and **Jane Robinson** have both served as BirdLife Australia's volunteer librarians for well over a decade. Their tireless work to oversee the transition of our H.L. White Library from one based on shelves of dusty books and journals to a cutting edge, electronic resource that is available for all has underpinned the value and significance of this collection. Jane and Lachlan have worked doggedly to ensure that the library retains its key ornithological content, acquiring new books and journals and providing access to the full back catalogue of items that were once only available within National Office. This upgrade required significant work to scan and curate many of the hard-copy journals and then edit and re-catalogue books and journals. This mammoth task has also ensured that the H.L. White library is aligned with our supplementary collections at Gluepot and Broome Bird Observatory, establishing a single point of access. Their vital work continues apace as more and more material becomes available online.

Thanks to Lachlan's and Jane's dedication to making this comprehensive ornithological resource state of the art and thus readily available, BirdLife Australia's scientists and researchers now have a world of information at their fingertips.





# 2023 Student Grants

BirdLife Australia offers a number of grants for tertiary students in Australia to provide financial assistance for field-based research. The most well known of these are the **Stuart Leslie Bird Research and Travel Grant** and the **Professor Allen Keast Research Award**.

The research topics that the grants assist is limited only by the imagination. In 2023, the Stuart Leslie Bird Research and Travel Grant awarded a total of \$42,500 to 18 research projects which covered a diverse range of topics, with field and laboratory work conducted across Australia.



**Kirrily Hastings, Edith Cowan University, WA**

"My research is a comparative study of occupied and abandoned territories of the Western Hooded Plover along the coastline between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin in south-western Western Australia. Focusing on differences in sand-dune characteristics, wrack coverage on beaches, food resources and the intensity and patterns of human use, this project is investigating whether abandoned territories differ from occupied ones with respect to potential food resources, changes in human behaviour or changes in the physical environment. Conversely, if abandoned territories provide equivalent habitat quality to occupied territories, do abandonments imply a shift in this species' regional population stability?

I received an Alan Keast Research Grant, which was essential for getting my research project off the ground, paying for all the starting equipment that I needed to commence fieldwork (including items such as a cameras and tripods for videoing birds, and materials for sampling macroinvertebrates). The grant also made a substantial contribution towards the travel costs of the survey, which involved driving more than 3500 kilometres."



The young people conducting this research are the future of bird conservation in Australia. BirdLife Australia is making sure that — in the face of mounting threats, especially climate change — by nurturing their talents now, our native birds will be in safe hands for years to come.



**Ariana La Porte, Monash University, Vic.**

"I am studying the effects of nest and habitat microclimate on the nestlings of Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Because it is a habitat specialist and its choice of microclimates is inherently limited, the Purple-crowned Fairy-wren is an ideal species to examine how microclimates can vary within habitats, and how the birds can take advantage of small-scale differences in climate to buffer themselves against climate change. Previous research has shown that nestlings are smaller and have lower reproductive output when they grow up under hot, dry conditions, but we don't know whether that's because of the direct effects of growing up in a hot nest, or indirect effects on provisioning and adult behaviour. Further, I am also researching which habitat factors influence nest microclimate, focusing particularly on the role temperature plays in the trade-offs that birds make when choosing a nest site.

I received a Stuart Leslie Bird Research and Travel Grant which provided vital support, allowing me and a field assistant to travel to our remote field site in the Kimberley region."



## Conservation and Science



Since 1901, BirdLife Australia has been collecting and communicating exceptional science to understand and protect Australia's native birds. We know that nature

underpins our society and sustains our existence. And we know that birds are our early-warning system—tracking the health of our planet. Right now, the alarm bells are ringing.

Like the rest of the world, Australia faces an extinction crisis, driven by human activity such as land clearance and the introduction of invasive species, and now compounded by climate change. But extinction is a choice. Where we have tried, Australia has been remarkably successful at recovering threatened species.

Securing and improving habitat for threatened species remains one of the most powerful and cost-effective tools at our disposal. Along with our conservation scientists, I believe it is essential that Australia focuses on protecting the habitats of, and directly addressing the threats to, species in order to combat the current extinction crisis. From this foundation, the enormous task of restoration and repair can spread.

While at BirdLife we are very much focused on recovering birds, it is also about putting nature at large on a path to recovery. To do that, we have to trace back threats to the root cause, to the systems and drivers that have led us to this mess we're in. We need to influence government policies and corporate practices, including those influencing investment in conservation.

We launched our ambitious Bird Conservation Strategy in 2023, and it articulates the solutions needed to address the drivers of bird decline both nationally and internationally. The Strategy continues our long history of science-based conservation and the power of our partnerships. It's a roadmap for our

part in ending the extinction crisis and putting birds and nature on the path to recovery.

One of the key strengths of the new Strategy is the emphasis on partnerships. Partnerships are already at the heart of our work, and the new Strategy recognises this and aims to more fully realise this potential by strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new, non-traditional ones. In our conservation and research work, we continue collaborating with governments, civil society, community, progressive businesses and First Nations partners to prevent extinctions. And now, more than ever, we must champion stronger nature laws to help prevent the extinction of unique Australian wildlife.

As Head of Conservation and Research, I am leading our people to campaign for stronger nature laws, and I welcome you and others interested to join us in this endeavour.

Thank you for your support in our conservation and research efforts, and I am pleased to present to you our key staff and the impact of their nationwide conservation programs in 2023.

**Samantha Vine, Head of Conservation and Science**

**“To influence we need to build power. The voice of communities, progressive businesses, research and our civil society partners needs to be so loud that it cannot be ignored. Our Strategy provides a blueprint for shaking up the system—because nothing less will save our birds or way of life.”**



**Dr Grainne Maguire**  
Coastal and Wetland Birds Program Leader (VIC)

Australia's beaches, wetlands and waterways support a huge variety of birdlife, including resident and migratory shorebirds—the world's most threatened group of birds. Through our Coastal and Wetland Birds Program, BirdLife Australia is helping monitor, restore and protect these critical habitats across Australia and the birds which rely on them. Our National Migratory Shorebird Program empowers local communities to help conduct targeted monitoring of significant shorebird roosting and feeding habitat and reduce human disturbance at these sites, while our Wetland Birds team works with land managers, volunteers, governments, Traditional Owners, researchers and conservation and community groups across Australia to fill key knowledge gaps and conserve coastal and freshwater wetlands and wetland birds.

And with the support of hundreds of dedicated volunteer citizen scientists, our Beach-nesting Birds Program continues to be a nationwide success. Our team helps monitor and improve the breeding success of vulnerable beach-nesting birds and the management and protection of their coastal habitats and breeding sites – and in 2023, we completed the first population census of threatened Fairy Terns and their breeding sites in south-eastern Australia.

**Lyndel Wilson**  
Terrestrial Birds Program Leader (TAS)

Across the country, BirdLife Australia's Terrestrial Birds Program is leading the way in monitoring and protecting some of our most threatened terrestrial and woodland bird species.

This includes the Critically Endangered Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater—species that our Woodland Birds team is monitoring and surveying across their range (through our mainland Swift Parrot Search and involvement in the National Regent Honeyeater Monitoring Program).

By collaborating with governments, Traditional Owners, leading experts, researchers and local communities and volunteers, our team is helping inform and guide urgent recovery and habitat restoration efforts to prevent the extinction of these remarkable birds. After a bumper spring breeding event in Capertee National Park saw at least 16 juvenile Regent Honeyeaters fledge—the most successful Regent breeding since 2017. Our team was also thrilled to record the first-known successful breeding attempt in NSW between a zoo-bred and wild Regent Honeyeater in 2023.

Our innovative Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) guide our work with key partners, and drive strong strategies and actions to help threatened and declining woodland, mallee and King Island species recover—including some of our most threatened birds, like the Mukarrhippi Grasswren. Meanwhile, our black-cockatoo counts and citizen science programs foster community engagement in conservation and citizen science to collect critical data on Glossy, South-eastern Red-tailed and Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo populations and their habitat requirements. Our teams use this robust scientific data to inform on-ground recovery efforts, like installing artificial nest hollows, protecting feeding sites and planting critical feed trees.





## Carolyn Jones

SystemsChangeandInnovations Program Leader (VIC)

To stop bird extinctions and put nature on the path to recovery, we must change the system. That's why we're exploring and championing new and innovative approaches to bird conservation through our new Systems Change and Innovation Program—and addressing the economic, systemic and social drivers behind the major threats to Australia's birds and their habitat.

We are identifying opportunities in the carbon and biodiversity markets to fund habitat restoration and ensure positive outcomes of Australia's native birds—such as providing financial incentives to landholders and businesses to advance nature-based climate solutions.

Using our expertise and scientific credibility, we're also scaling up our existing programs and partnerships to help drive the recovery of priority threatened birds and their habitats—by developing targeted emergency interventions for species at high-risk of extinction and supporting landholders to improve woodland bird habitats on private rural properties through our Birds on Farms project.

In 2023 we continued to champion the Victorian Landscapes Conservation Partnership—a unique collaboration between several conservation organisations. This exciting 18-year project focuses on the South West/central Victorian Woodland Birds Program, and aims to protect and increase habitat for threatened and declining woodland birds species across 47,000 hectares of private land.



## Erin Farley

CampaignsandParticipation Program Leader (VIC)

In early 2023, BirdLife Australia launched its campaign calling on Federal, State and Territory Governments to step up their protection of the Lake Eyre Drainage Basin and its hundreds of wetlands—and the birds which rely on it to survive. With hundreds of gas and oil wells already drilled across this fragile basin—and more proposed—we urgently needed our governments to commit to saving the heart of Australia.

13,793 people took action and joined us in calling for greater protection of Lake Eyre Basin—and in December, our efforts were rewarded when the Queensland Premier announced new environmental regulations, including banning future oil and gas projects in the state.

In 2023, over 42,300 Australians joined us in advocating for the protection of our threatened birds and their habitats. Our supporters took more than 81,000 actions to stand up for nature—including signing petitions, emailing MPs and making submissions during State and Federal Government comment periods. By engaging, empowering and mobilising people to join us in stopping bird extinctions, we helped protect critical bird habitat from clearing and development while lobbying governments for strong and effective environmental legislation—and much more!



## Dr Golo Maurer

CitizenScienceProgram Leader (QLD)

Citizen science is key when it comes to our bird conservation work across the country, and volunteer citizen scientists are using Birddata to effectively monitor birds on a national scale.

Thousands of citizen scientists have logged over 26 million Birddata surveys—including over 89,000 bird surveys in 2023 alone. This data was downloaded more than 15,000 times in 2023 and provides an invaluable insight into how birds are faring—helping scientists and researchers model population trends, identify Key Biodiversity Areas, track the breeding success of threatened species and monitor the impact of threats like disease and habitat destruction.

In 2023, Aussie Bird Count data was added to Birddata for the first time, and we were thrilled to launch our new Site Booking Tool, thanks to the generous support of The Tony and Lisette Lewis Foundation. This significant upgrade allows volunteers to explore, choose and book their own bird survey sites—streamlining the coordination of surveys, ensuring key conservation sites are surveyed regularly and simplifying the user experience to make it easier than ever to be a part of Australia's largest citizen science network. Meanwhile, our Urban Birds program continues to grow from strength to strength—engaging tens of thousands of participants from Australia's towns and cities in citizen science, educating and empowering them to protect and care for their local birds.

## Dr Monica Awasthy

ScienceandConservationPlanning Program Leader (QLD)

Guided by strong, ambitious targets, BirdLife Australia's bold Bird Conservation Strategy is the blueprint for saving Australia's birds. Our Science and Conservation Planning program is vital in ensuring we achieve these conservation goals, helping plan and deliver our bird conservation work around the country.

Our Science and Conservation Planning team work with ornithological and academic communities, and were instrumental in making the 2023 **Australasian Ornithological Conference (AOC) in Brisbane a reality.** The AOC is the largest biennial meeting of ornithologists in Australasia. Hosted by BirdLife Australia and Birds New Zealand, the event saw over 430 attendees enjoy an action-packed program of talks and workshops, fieldtrips and bird walks led by some of the region's leading bird experts. And in a huge-win for bird researchers and enthusiasts, HANZAB is now available for free online—thanks to the monumental efforts of the team which finished digitising all seven volumes of the *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*—one of Australia's most important scientific natural history publications—in 2023.





50 Year Members

- Alan Leishman

Alan Morris AM

Alan Reid OAM

Alan Rogers

Alec Hawtin

Alison Hatfield

Alma de Rebeira OAM

Andrew Corrick

Andrew Isles

Andrew Krumins

Anthea Fleming

Anthony Forbes

Antony Layton

Audrey Leishman

Barbara Garrett

Bernice Seton

Bessie Tyers

Bette Mitchell

Bill Russell

Bill Weatherly

Bob Swindley

Brian Speechley

Bruce Abbott

Christopher Morse

Clare Miller

David Ap-Thomas

David Buntine

David Close

David Hughes

David Milledge

David Morgan

David Nicholls

David Niland

David Plant OAM

David Stewart

Deborah Pitman

Dennis Gosper

Don Saunders PSM

Donald Clark

Dorothy Foley

Douglas Quinn

Dr Anthony Nicholls PSM

Dr Colin Barraclough

Dr David Hollands OAM

Dr David Paton AM

Dr Lester Short

Dr Michael Drew

Dr Michael Newman

Dr Peter Dann

Dr Peter Fullagar

Dr Peter Shaughnessy

Dr Richard Donaghey

Dr Robert Rogers OAM
- Dr Shelley Robertson

Dr Xenia Dennett

Duncan Mackenzie OAM

Edward Milne

Eileen Collins OAM

Elizabeth Turnbull

Francis Crome

Frederick Fogarty

Gail Lonnon OAM

Gary Richards

Genevieve Binns

Geoffrey Berry

Geoffrey Lodge

George Bedggood

Gifford Hatfield

Gina Cowling

Graeme Chapman

Graeme Hosken

Graeme Stevens

Gwenda Taws

Heather Arnold

Henry Dee

James Cane

Jill Anderson

Jill Plowright

Jim Hone

John Carabella

John Courtney

John Ravenhall AM

Jonathan Fell

Joy Fleay

Julia Hurley

Juris Ozols

Kath Johnson

Ken Harley

Kenneth Semmens

Laurie Jones

Leo Joseph

Lesley Brooker

Lesley Perkins

Lillian Durran
- Lloyd Nielsen OAM

Lynette Johnson

Margaret Brooke

Margaret Jansen

Marion Crouther

Mark Kala

Mary LeCroy

Mavis Cooper

Max Burrows

Michael Brooker

Murray Gunn

Neil Marriott

Neil Weatherill

Noel Arnold

Noel Brown

Noela Kirkwood

Nola Caffin

Pamela Knight

Pamela Masters

Pat Minton

Patricia Forrest

Paul Chick

Paul Sagar

Peter Haselgrove

Peter Hopper

Peter Menkhorst

Peter Roberts

Peter Tierney
- Philip Brook

Philip Veerman

Phillip Fuller

Prof John Woinarski

Prof Michael Tarburton

Prof Richard Loyn

Richard Cooper

Robert Elvish

Robert Missen

Rodney Horner

Roger Thomas

Ronald Hadley

Rosemary Adams

Sharon Hawtin

Shaun Austin

Sid Cowling

Spencer Unthank

Susanna Ap-Thomas

Thomas Fletcher

Timothy Hunt

Tom Lowe

Tony Hertog

Trevor Pescott OAM

Virginia Morrison

Walter Mitchell

Wendy Marriott

Distinguished Service Award

- Alan Brown

Alec Hawtin

Allan Briggs

Alma de Rebeira OAM

Andrew Ley

Annette Sutton

Barbara Garrett

Barbara Reidy

Barbara Williams

Bessie Tyers

Bob Semmens

Bob Young

Celia Browne

Clare Miller

Clive Nealon

Col Kohlhagen

David Ap-Thomas

David Coutts

Deborah Harris

Don Saunders PSM

Donald Roberts
- Dr Colin Barraclough

Dr Elisabeth Karplus

Dr Laurie Living

Dr Mike Bamford

Dr Stephen Debus

Dr Xenia Dennett

Duncan Turnbull

Frances Bray

George Baker

Graeme Hosken

Graham Harrington

Hazel Britton

Helen O'Donnell

Ian Morgan

Ian Muir

Jane Robinson

Janet Hand

Jeanette Olley

Jennifer Rogers

Jill Plowright

Joan Peters
- John Crowhurst

Jon Wren

Judith Harrington

Judith Hoyle

Julia Hurley

Kathleen Shurcliff

Keith Stockwell

Lachlan Garland

Leonie Robbins

Lionel Bloss

Liz Walker

Margaret Bennett

Margaret Philippson

Marleen Acton

Marlene Lyell

Max Burrows

Nancy Taylor

Peter Mason

Peter Sedgwick

Ralph Cooper

Richard Stevens
- Rob Anderson

Rob Parker

Rod Smith

Ron Bone

Sheena Gillman

Shirley Cameron

Shirley Cook

Sonja Ross

Susan Abbotts

Suzanne Mather

Tania Ireton

Tim Mintern

Tina Dotto

Trish Teesdale

Val Ford

Virgil Hubregtse

Wallie Coles

Wendy Napier

William Ramsay

Fellows

- Assoc Prof Penny Olsen AM

Dr Allan Burbidge

Dr Barry Baker

Dr Michael Newman
- Dr Mike Bamford

Dr Peter Dann

Dr Philip Moors AO

Prof Hugh Ford
- Prof Kate Buchanan

Prof Stephen Garnett

Prof. Mike Clarke

Sid Cowling

Honorary Life Members

- Brian Snape AM

Dr Patricia Bingham

Geoff Deason

Gerard Early
- Graham Harrington

Howard Plowright

John Barkla

Kate Ravich
- Rosemary Payet

Sheena Gillman

Suzanne Mather

Patricia White

We sadly note the passing of

- Alasdair Bulloch

Alyson Paull

Barry Fielding

Clive Napier

Colleen Fagan

Donald Reid

Dr Margaret Cameron AM

Geoff Behncken

Hans Lutter

Harry Dunn

Janet Brierley
- John Balmer

Kevin Maynard

Kristen Proudfoot

Lorraine Lane

Marion Jarratt OAM

Peter Lowe

Thomas Karplus



Government

- Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management

Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Burnie City Council

Central Coast Council

Central Tablelands Local Land Services

Central West Local Land Services

Cessnock City Council

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Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

Cradle Coast Authority

Department for Environment and Water (National Parks and Wildlife)

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Director of National Parks

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

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North-East Catchment Management Authority

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Northern Tablelands Local Land Services

NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

NSW Environmental Trust

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West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

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Indigenous partners

- Anindilyakwa Land & Sea Rangers

Crocodile Island Rangers

Dhimurru Rangers

Djurrubu Rangers

Esperance Tjaltjiraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation

Gudjuda Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Mapoon Land and Sea Rangers

Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council

Mungalla Aboriginal Business

Northern Land Council

Timber Creek Rangers

Tiwi Land Council

Wellesley Islands Rangers

Yirrganydji Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers

Supporting and research partners

- Arthur Rylah Institute

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Australian Geographic Society

Australian Landscape Trust

Australian Marine Conservation Society

Australian National University

Australian Ornithological Services

Australian Tropical Herbarium

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Bellarine Bayside Coastal Management

Biodiversity Maintenance Australia

BioLinks Alliance

BioPlatforms Australia

Bird Alliance (Mount Lofty Ranges)

BirdLife International

BirdLife International Tokyo

Birds Korea (ROK)

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Kaarakin

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South West Catchment Council

Taronga Conservation Society Australia

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Friends of the Hooded Plover Mornington Peninsula Inc

Friends of Western Ground Parrot

Geelong Field Naturalists Club Inc

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Hunter Bird Observers Club

Illawarra Bird Observers Club

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King Island Landcare Group

Manning Great Lakes Birdwatchers Inc

Native Arc Inc (WA)

NT Field Naturalists' Club

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- Shorebirds SE Inc (SA)

Victorian Wader Study Group

Wildbird Protectors

We sincerely thank our 2,485 Wildbird Protectors, whose tremendous commitment to making regular gifts enables us to sustainably fund vital work to save threatened Australian Birds and prevent habitat destruction for various species nationwide.

Estates

- Estate Jessie Humphrys

Estate Judith Thompson

Estate of Bruce James Knight

Estate of Catherine O'Neill

Estate of Frank Gnauck

Estate of John Simpson
- Estate of Lorraine Faulds Lane

Estate of Margaret Helen Ralph

Estate of Pamela Ruth Beanham
- Estate of Pauline Ann Baker

Estate of Robert Henry Thorne

Estate of Stewart Christopher Hammond

Legacy

We are extremely grateful to our 500 generous supporters who included a gift in their will to Birdlife Australia. We acknowledge their extraordinary commitment to empowering our scientists to save Australian native birds into the future.

Major Donors

- Agnes Day

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- HWL Ebsworth



# Our Directors



**Amanda Bamford (President)**  
**Appointed May 2016**  
BSc. (Hons) zoologist and science communicator, small business partner, Chair Herdsman Lake Regional Park CAC, President WA Gould League, member Community Grants & Awards Committee



**Prof Hugh Possingham (Vice-President)**  
**Appointed May 2020**  
DPhil (Oxon), BSc (Hons, Adelaide), FAA, FNAS, Research Professor (University of Queensland), member Research & Conservation Committee, Chair Community Grants & Awards Committee, Chair Australasian Ornithological Conference 2023



**Gerard Early PSM**  
**Appointed May 2011**  
MPA, BA, Grad Dip Admin, GAICD, environmental and public sector consultant, formerly Deputy Secretary of the Australian Government Environment Department, Chair Governance Committee



**Judith Hoyle**  
**Appointed May 2021**  
BHSc, Nursing; Grad Dip Clinical Studies – Infection Control, Grad Cert Leadership and Management, Dip App Sci Nursing, Cert ICU, Cert STN, Member Community Grants & Awards Committee



**Prof Martine Maron**  
**Appointed Dec 2011**  
BSc (Hons), PhD (Monash), Professor in Environmental Management at The University of Queensland



**Penny McMullin**  
**Appointed May 2023**  
Chartered Accountant, ANZ, member of Finance and Audit committee



**Gary Nelson**  
**Appointed Nov 2019**  
BCA, Chartered Accountant, Chair Finance & Audit Committee/Australian Bird Fund Committee



**Tuanh Nguyen**  
**Appointed May 2023**  
B Com, LLB (Monash University), LLM (Melbourne University), member of Governance Committee



**Jarrod Pittson**  
**Appointed March 2020**  
BSc (Hons) Chemistry, PGDip Environmental Management & Legislation, member Governance Committee



**Pamela Sutton-Legaud**  
**Appointed July 2017**  
MBA, CFRE, MFIA, CEO Homeward Bound Projects, Board member Inner West Community Enterprises/Seddon Community Bank, Director of the Western Melbourne Tourism Board and Hobsons Bay Community Fund, Councillor Hobsons Bay City Council, Chair Development Group, member Governance Committee

Three directors stepped down in 2023: Duncan MacKenzie OAM, who served from May 2014 to May 2023, Alex Morgan, who served from September 2019 to August 2023, and Alanna Vivian, who served from May 2014 to May 2023.

## Meetings Attended

	Attended	Held/Eligible
Mandy Bamford	6	6
Prof Hugh Possingham	6	6
Gerard Early PSM	6	6
Judith Hoyle	5	6
Prof Martine Maron	6	6
Penny McMullin	2	3
Gary Nelson	6	6
Tuanh Nguyen	3	3
Jarrod Pittson	6	6
Pamela Sutton-Legaud	3	6



# BirdLife Australia Board Committees

## Governance Committee

The Governance Committee assists the Board to discharge its responsibility in relation to Director roles and responsibilities, Board composition, purpose and strategy, risk management, organisational performance, Board effectiveness, accountability, capacity building, culture and engagement.

Meetings Attended		
	Attended	Held/Eligible
Gerard Early (Chair)	4	4
Timothy Bawden	4	4
Tuanh Nguyen	3	4
Jarrold Pittson	4	4
Pamela Sutton-Legaud	2	4
Brendan Sydes	4	4

## Development Committee

The Development Committee provides advice to the Chief Executive Officer on fundraising and financing activities to assist in resourcing BirdLife Australia's bird conservation programs.

Meetings Attended		
	Attended	Held/Eligible
Pamela Sutton-Legaud (Chair)	2	4
Jarrold Pittson	2	2
Alec Brennan	3	4
Dr Michael Martin	3	4
Assoc. Prof Peter Sainsbury	4	4
Dr Alison Street	3	4
Alex Morgan	3	3

## Community Grants and Awards Committee

The Community Grants & Awards Committee administers community grants to empower local communities and our Network to protect birds and restore their habitat through on-ground conservation efforts and advocacy.

Meetings Attended		
	Attended	Held/Eligible
Prof Hugh Possingham (Chair)	3	3
Mandy Bamford	3	3
Stuart Cooney	3	3
Judith Hoyle	2	3
Sarah Knoll	3	3

## Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance & Audit Committee assists the Board to discharge its responsibility in relation to financial reporting and management, budgeting, accounting policies, internal control systems, audits, investment policies and fund performance.

Meetings Attended		
	Attended	Held/Eligible
Gillian Jervis	3	4
Gary Nelson (Chair)	4	4
Penny McMullin	2	2
Prof Hugh Possingham	2	2
Alex Morgan	3	4
Alanna Vivian	2	2
Duncan Mackenzie	1	2
Jarrold Pittson	1	1

## Research and Conservation Committee

The Research and Conservation Committee (RACC) provides advice to the Chief Executive Officer on scientific and conservation matters, particularly bird conservation objectives and strategic directions, research priorities and scientific publications.

Meetings Attended		
	Attended	Held/Eligible
Dr Birgita Hansen	3	4
Brendan Sydes (Chair)	4	4
Dr Georgia Garrard (Chair)	3	4
Prof Hugh Possingham	4	4
James Trezise	4	4
Prof James Watson	3	4
Prof Kate Buchanan	3	4
Dr Steve Murphy	4	4
Dr April Reside	3	3
Steve Pruett	2	2



# BirdLife Australia

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023



### Director's Report

As BirdLife Australia continues to implement our ambitious Bird Conservation Strategy (to stop the extinction of birds by 2032), the board made a considered decision in 2023 to increase investment of BirdLife Australia's resources to deliver a greater impact in the medium term. By strategically drawing down from BirdLife Australia's reserves, we believe new development initiatives commenced in 2023 will lead to growth in future income and deliver the conservation outcomes that are so urgently needed.

The Committee has thoroughly considered the findings from the 2023 audit and will continue to closely monitor BirdLife Australia's financial position, to ensure continued financial stability as we move into the new financial year.

**Gary Nelson, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee**



# Statement

## Statement of Profit or Loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Project income	4,076,317	5,187,189
Donations	5,648,557	5,383,487
Bequests	592,550	3,302,256
Subscriptions	507,756	435,663
Sales, courses, and fees	1,223,765	1,105,388
Finance income	859,169	794,298
Other income	13,108	17,987
Net gain in revaluation of financial assets at fair value through Profit or Loss	1,340,670	(3,431,200)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>14,261,892</b>	<b>12,795,068</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Employee costs	12,080,413	8,699,711
Printing, stationery, and magazine costs	560,120	458,592
Finance and administration costs	1,470,048	1,343,343
Project non-employee costs	2,414,863	2,490,084
Occupancy expenses	347,931	309,638
Travel expenses	471,792	306,640
Subscriptions Paid	38,812	42,530
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>17,383,979</b>	<b>13,650,538</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(3,122,087)</b>	<b>(855,470)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>(3,122,087)</b>	<b>(855,470)</b>

# Statement

## Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,515,038	7,256,573
Trade and other receivables	933,797	916,263
Other financial assets	492,592	188,203
Other assets	50,489	62,854
Contract Assets	244,240	273,737
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>4,236,156</b>	<b>8,697,630</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Investments	15,330,291	13,831,002
Right of use assets	312,522	35,811
Property, plant & equipment	1,437,311	1,220,516
Intangible assets	14,571	38,418
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>17,094,695</b>	<b>15,125,747</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>21,330,851</b>	<b>23,823,377</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	1,373,322	934,962
Lease liability	105,593	18,674
Provisions	1,841,260	1,562,881
Contract Liabilities	1,221,808	1,609,966
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,541,983</b>	<b>4,126,483</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provisions	154,435	133,273
Lease liability	215,011	22,112
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>369,446</b>	<b>155,385</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>4,911,429</b>	<b>4,281,868</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>16,419,422</b>	<b>19,541,509</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained surplus	16,419,422	19,541,509
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>16,419,422</b>	<b>19,541,509</b>





**RSM Australia Partners**

Level 27, 120 Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000  
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## Independent Auditor's Report To the Members of BirdLife Australia and Controlled Entities

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of BirdLife Australia and Controlled Entities, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion, the financial report of BirdLife Australia has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – *Simplified Disclosures* under AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the BirdLife Australia in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Other Information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in BirdLife Australia's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2023, but does not include the financial report and the auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The Responsible Entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – *Simplified Disclosures* under AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and for such internal control as the Responsible Entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Responsible Entities are responsible for assessing BirdLife Australia's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate BirdLife Australia or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

  
**RSM Australia Partners**

  
**K J Dundon**  
Partner

Dated: 2 May 2024  
Melbourne, Victoria

## THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING

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# Financial Performance

## Financial Performance 2023

The Consolidated Financial Statements for BirdLife Australia (BirdLife) and its controlled entities, includes the National Office, BirdLife Australia network of branches, reserves, observatories, and special interest groups.

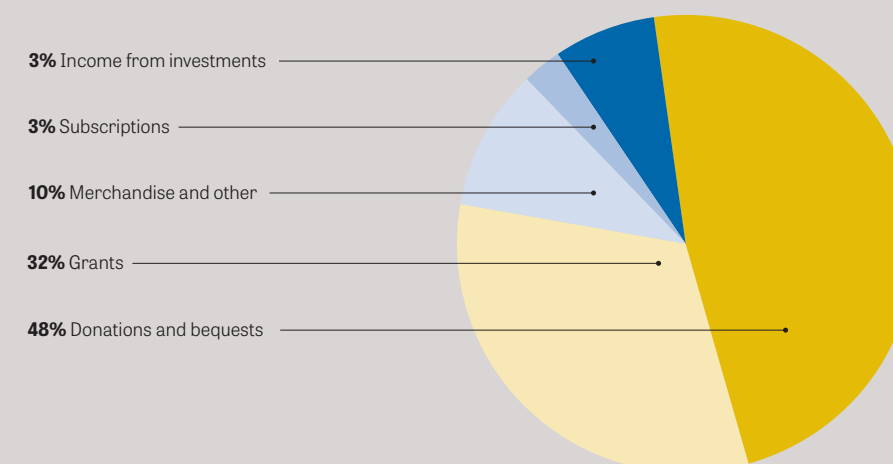
Our Total Revenue in 2023 increased to \$14.3m compared to \$12.8m in 2022. Of this \$1.5m increase; \$4.7m resulted from the increase in fair value of our investments compared with 2022. This was offset, however, by lower bequest (\$2.7m) and grant income (\$1.1m) received in 2023.

BirdLife continues to be focused on managing costs during a period of economic uncertainty, while investing in the future. Core administrative costs have remained stable at 15% of overall 2023 expenditure (2022: 15%).

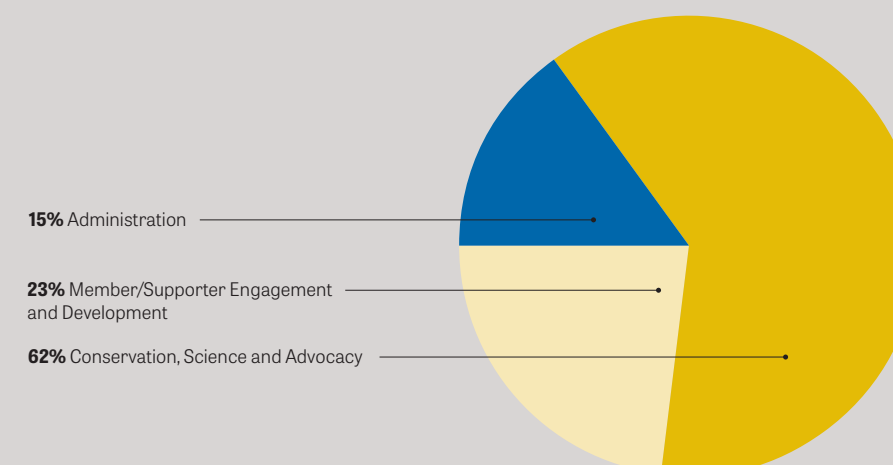
The overall (\$3.1m) deficit is supported by strong cash reserves which are being monitored and applied in a strategic manner to support the delivery of the ambitious Bird Conservation Strategy.

Thank you to all our supporters during another challenging year and for your continuing financial support to deliver our vision of ensuring native birds are protected, valued, and enjoyed by all Australians.

### Revenue 2023



### Expenditure 2023







ORGANISATIONAL  
MEMBER



**BirdLife Australia**

ABN: 75 149 124 774

**Suite 2-05 60 Leicester Street Carlton VIC 3053**

**1300 730 075 [birdlife.org.au](http://birdlife.org.au)**

BirdLife Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Country on which we live, work and learn and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise and are grateful for the immense contribution of Indigenous people to the knowledge and conservation of Australia's birds.

