

The Year in Review 2016



From our CEO and President

As you would expect with our 35th birthday approaching in 2017, Greening Australia is an organisation steeped in history.

This is best reflected in the people that are bestowed life membership and awards each year for outstanding service and whose legacy is alive in the Australian landscape.

Greening Australia is an organisation that is truly focused on the future, as we embark on new visionary campaigns like Reef Aid.

Front and central to this are our people. Our people come from all walks of life and from different parts of the globe. Greening Australia provides the vehicle for them to make a contribution to something they care deeply about — Australian communities and the environment.

It's the people that make it such a privilege to be involved in the leadership of Greening Australia. Whether you're up there with the biggest names on earth, a staff member, or one of our many volunteers who just like being outdoors, we are proud that you chose us to make this contribution. It's why we have been working harder than ever to ensure we are in the best possible shape to tackle the great environmental challenges of today and those that lie ahead.

We wish to thank the people of Greening Australia and all our friends, partners and supporters from over the past 12 months. Together we truly are a network of capability that demonstrates proof of our impact and generates inspirational stories of people and nature thriving.



Gordon Davis
Chair of the Board

Brendan Foran
Chief Executive Officer



Brendan Foran and Gordon Davis with Sir Richard Branson for Reef Aid

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Cover: Wetlands and waterways along the Great Barrier Reef catchment are vital for improving water quality on the Reef. They're also beautiful natural ecosystems that support many threatened species including a plethora of birdlife.

Saving Victoria's forest fairies

So elusive that they were thought to be extinct until 1961, Victoria's faunal emblem, the critically endangered Leadbeater's Possum, are the focus of an exciting new project in the state. We are working with leading animal and plant experts in Victoria's Yarra Valley to understand the housing needs of these tiny possums, to improve the quality of their existing homes and to create future release sites.

These delicate creatures, also known as Forest Fairies, live in the canopy of swampy forests. As the small possums can only jump between branches less than a metre apart, continuous 'green roads' of vegetation are needed. Through a combination of research and on-ground actions we are working to build fairy highways for this unique possum, helping to secure its future in the wild.



“It is exciting to be working with Greening Australia to develop strategies to restore critical wetland habitat for lowland Leadbeater's Possums.”

Dr Joe Greet
Research Fellow from School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, University of Melbourne



Leadbeater's Possum, photo Dan Harley

Reef Aid – Restoring the Great Barrier Reef



“Stabilising these gullies is critical to the long-term health of the reef and it is a perfectly tractable problem to solve, provided we focus our efforts in the right places. This program is making critical early steps towards achieving the goal of a 50% reduction of sediment loads to the reef, through focused gully rehabilitation.”

Dr Andrew Brooks
Griffith University

In May 2016, we launched Reef Aid, an ambitious program to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef by improving water quality through stabilising eroding gullies and restoring coastal wetlands. Every year, tons of fine sediment and nutrients are washed from the land onto the reef, suffocating fish and coral, creating algal blooms, feeding Crown-of-thorn starfish and weakening the resilience of the marine ecosystem.

Due to the historical legacy of grazing, unsustainable clearing and other disturbances, over 10,000 hectares of the reef’s catchment area are scarred with eroding gullies. The situation is further exacerbated by the loss of over 50% of the catchment’s coastal wetlands, a vital filtering system for water flowing onto the reef.

We’ve partnered with key researchers, natural resource managers, local landholders and community groups to turn the situation around by reshaping and resurfacing the land to reduce sediment run-off. We are also restoring the coastal wetlands that feed the reef. These actions will make a significant contribution to meeting the ambitious targets set out in the *Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan*.

Over the next 3 years we will raise \$20 million for the first stage of the estimated \$100 million project. The program received a major boost last year when the Australian Government announced that they would match private contributions dollar for dollar up to \$2 million.



A plume of sediment following heavy rainfall can be seen flowing out into the reef



Greening Australia’s Ross Andrewartha stands in an erosion gully over three times his height



An estimated 10,000ha of actively eroding gullies feed sediment and nutrients into the Great Barrier Reef

Tasmania Island Ark



“Congratulations to Greening Australia and a lot of others involved with this extraordinary project. This is the first project of its kind that I know of, conducted on a whole-of-landscape scale that engages a significant number of people from local communities. It is also an essential partnership with the University of Tasmania’s trial based research program, which is crucial for anybody wanting to embark on securing the best possible outcome for our native vegetation into the future. It is a privilege to be involved in this life changing restoration program.”

Roderic O’Connor with Kate O’Connor
Local Landholders

Tasmania Island Ark is Greening Australia’s flagship landscape and cultural restoration program in the Tasmanian Midlands. The primary objective is to reverse the decline of native birds and mammals, including eastern quolls, eastern bettongs and eastern barred bandicoots in the national biodiversity hotspot.

The program takes a systematic, science-based approach to restoring, rebuilding and reconnecting habitat. Its ambitious goal is to construct wildlife corridors across the midlands to reconnect the Central Plateau with the Eastern Tiers. The project has already completed over 1,000ha of restoration and revegetation, and is now embarking on the next 5,000ha to complete the task.

Ecosystem health, ecological function and biodiversity values in the Tasmanian midlands continue to deteriorate despite over thirty years of landcare and natural resource management.

One third of all global mammal extinctions have occurred in Australia since European settlement, if we don’t take action now we may lose remaining critical mammal populations that are already extinct on mainland Australia.

We are developing long term partnerships with landholders to ensure our work complements profitable agricultural enterprises. We are also reengaging the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in the midlands, who managed this land sustainably for over 40,000 years. We conduct educational programs with local schools and communities and, along with partners, are creating artworks in the landscape as a vehicle for inspiration, awareness building and community engagement.



Macquarie River plantings near Ross, photo Neil Davidson



Eastern Quoll



Tasmanian Devil



Eastern Barred Bandicoot

Working on country

Indigenous knowledge plays an essential role in conservation and informs our work across Australia. We bring Indigenous land management together with science and modern land management practices to improve ecological outcomes.

We work with Traditional Owners to understand the cultural significance of our regions, engage and collaborate with local Aboriginal groups to engage and collaborate with local Aboriginal groups for high-level advice on program strategy, and build opportunities through training, education and citizen science to help get Aboriginal people back on country.

Sharing traditional knowledge

“It’s only becoming understood now how important caring for the country was from an ecological perspective. Activities like fire management are really important.”

Andry Sculthorpe, Aboriginal Land Management Advisor

A new Bushland Fire Trail has been established at our Sustainability Learning Centre in Hobart to raise awareness of the effects of fire on bushland. Established in 2015, the one kilometre trail gives visitors an opportunity to explore Aboriginal fire management and plant adaptations.

Empowering communities

“The ALEP training was excellent. Learning about the plants, plant recognition, seed collecting, the Breezes Muirhead area where we did the restoration, I liked that. Our trainer, Yvette Brady, was great, she is really good at explaining things and makes it easy for you to understand. The training course helped me a lot – to be more confident and motivated. I’ve gone on to do a Certificate III at CDU and I’m finding it really easy. I wouldn’t have been able to go through with my studies if I hadn’t gone to Greening Australia first.”

Shiralee Martins, ALEP graduate and intern at Greening Australia’s Darwin hub nursery.



Established in 1994, our Aboriginal Landcare Education Program (ALEP) is playing an integral role in helping to empower local communities by increasing employment opportunities for young Aboriginal people. Since the program began, we have engaged thousands of members of the Pilbara and Darwin communities, providing opportunities to participate in on-ground activities and enhancing their environmental skills.

Weaving cultural stories

Our Gippsland Lakes project in Victoria has provided a unique opportunity to work with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation to reveal the Indigenous cultural story behind this special wetland. In addition to capturing the imagination of the local community through the sharing of stories, the three-year partnership has already led to 15 new sites being registered as culturally significant.

“In pre-spring, when the silver wattles are blooming and people from across Gunaikurnai country are gathering for marriage, the water ribbons and wildflower tubers are full, the ducks and swans are laying eggs and the fresh water wetlands would be teeming with life.”

Uncle Wayne Thorpe, Gunaikurnai Elder

Employment opportunities



“Through my position I have the opportunity to work closely with our local Aboriginal community. I see firsthand the pride and enthusiasm my people have and develop when given the chance to connect to culture and build new skills relevant to the environmental industry. I believe it is imperative as a conservation organisation we support Aboriginal people through engagement, training and employment.”

Adam Shipp, Indigenous Engagement and Training Officer, Greening Australia

Aboriginal land management and plant use are a major focus of our Woodlands Restoration Program in the ACT. This has led to the recruitment of Adam Shipp, a full time Indigenous Engagement and Training Officer who works in our Canberra office. Adam brings an indigenous perspective to onground works and provides valuable environmental and cultural learning opportunities for the community.

20 Million Trees to re-green Australia



“Greening Australia is delighted to be delivering 20 Million Trees projects across the continent, from Albany in the west to the Cumberland Plain in the east. We are proud to be part of this significant, whole-of-landscape restoration program that will leave a real and tangible legacy.”

Hugh Wareham
Head of Government Relations, Greening Australia

We're proud to be one of the leading service providers for the Federal Government's 20 Million Trees Programme, the largest restoration program currently being undertaken in Australia.

20 Million Trees will re-establish threatened plant communities and build green corridors across Australia, providing vital habitat for threatened animals while engaging local communities in conservation and reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

With more than 20 large-scale planting projects across Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales (including Western Sydney) and South Australia, Greening Australia is working to plant over 5 million trees by June 2018, in addition to shrubs and understorey, across more than 6,000 hectares of land.

Good progress is being made and by the end of June 2016 we will have completed our planning, much of the site preparation and planted 1.5 million trees.

All the projects have a strong focus on threatened species such as the Leadbeater's Possum, the Growling Grass Frog, Mallee Fowl, Carnaby's Cockatoo, the Red Tailed Black Cockatoo, the Western Quoll and many others. These iconic species will have important habitat restored, improved or created.

The large-scale biodiverse seedlings are planted both by hand with tube stock and by specialised machinery through direct seeding by teams of staff and often the local community. All the projects involve partnerships with landholders aimed at ensuring the long-term survival of trees across the landscape.

The 20 Million Trees Programme is part of the National Landcare Programme funded by the Australian Government.



Cape Jervis, photo James McGregor



Landholder maintenance, photo Mick Durant



Raukkan Metallic Sun Orchid, photo Mick Durant



Direct seeding

Staff, Landholder and Volunteer Awards

Mick Durant

Cumberland Dodds-Award

Mick has been an integral part of our South Australian team for fifteen years during which he has worked across a diverse portfolio of projects. He is able to see the perspectives of multiple stakeholders, taking these into account when developing and delivering projects. Mick has an extensive knowledge of the local landscapes which he readily shares with others. He is passionate about empowering staff by helping them to understand ecological processes and focus on big-picture outcomes.

Glen Steven

New Leader Award

Glen is a Project Officer in the South West of Western Australia who goes above and beyond in all his work. He is a leader in direct seeding technology, leads the use of Geographic Information Systems and is helping to manage three of our properties in the Gondwana Link. With his self-help approach, ability to problem solve and unwavering good humour, Glen is leading by example.

Suzanne Branchett

People and Culture Award

Suzanne has been an integral part of our Brisbane team. She has worked in a number of roles, but most importantly she has always been committed to team culture and had continued focus and attention to health, wellbeing and safety. Suzanne has demonstrated accountability and commitment to the Health and Safety goal of "everyone goes home safely everyday".

David Franklin

Chris Jones Land Stewardship Award

David is one of Australia's great restoration innovators who has been working for years to establish native seed production areas on his property on the Victorian Volcanic Plains. Most notably, he has implemented a method of producing high volumes of native grassland seed. His pioneering work is increasing opportunities for the restoration of local grasslands and wetlands which provide critical habitat for many endangered species.

John Sutton

Volunteer Award

John is a retired farmer, who has been volunteering with our Canberra team for over a decade. He is now in his late eighties, but still joins the Green Team every week whenever he can to help with planting. John approaches all tasks with a smile and willingly helps out new volunteers and shows them the ropes.

Dave Watson

Volunteer Award

Dave, described by our Adelaide hub as "indispensable", has been working with Greening Australia for over seven years. During that time, he has had a hand in producing high quality seedlings every year, as well as fixing or building anything the hub requires. Dave is a committed and reliable volunteer who brings a wealth of experience to his work.

Meg Cook

Volunteer Award

Meg has been a valuable member of our Adelaide team for over seven years, during which time her contribution has been of a consistently high standard. Each year she assists with our annual tree planting day, as well as in the nursery where she has cultivated over 100,000 plants. Meg is a kind-hearted volunteer who always ensures that new volunteers feel welcome and supported.

Trevor Bendall

Volunteer Award

Trevor is a committed volunteer with a wealth of knowledge and a diverse skill set. During his thirteen years with our Townsville team, Trevor has used his mentoring and leadership skills to assist younger participants through programs such as Work for the Dole, helped to establish many partnership programs, and played a core role in the hub winning the Inclusive Communities Award in 2011.

Muzna Aishath

Volunteer Award

Muzna has been an invaluable asset to our Pilbara team for over six years and is a hardworking, tireless and dedicated volunteer. Everyone who comes into contact with Muzna is infected with her positive and caring attitude. She has assisted with a wide range of tasks including cooking meals for events, helping in the nursery, manning market stalls, and collecting and cleaning seed.

Every year we recognise individuals who have given an outstanding or meritorious contribution, service or assistance to advancing our mission and vision through our Staff, Landholder and Volunteer Awards.



Mick Durant

Meg Cook



Muzna Aishath

Glen Steven

Suzanne Branchett

2016 Life Members

Fraser Vickery AM

Fraser has demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation and vision throughout his long history with us. During his nine years as Chairman of Greening Australia SA he led the organisation through a substantial period of change and restructure. Nationally Fraser, who has a strong background in strategy, policy and planning, has made a significant contribution during his time on our Board of Directors.

Mike Clark

Over a 25 year career with Greening Australia, Mike has done it all. From pioneering direct seeding methodology, managing large corporate partnership programs, and developing indigenous training programs, to serving as CEO of Greening Australia NT for seven years, Mike has made a significant contribution. He is an inspirational leader who is well-loved and respected by all.

Geoff Richards

Geoff has selflessly supported Greening Australia since joining our WA Board in 1995. Since then, he has given freely of his time, expertise and networks, serving as WA's Director, National Director, President and Treasurer, and is currently involved in our commercial subsidiaries. Geoff's shrewd business acumen, considered leadership approach and strong ethical framework have been an essential part of our success.

'Green Cities' program underway in Adelaide



“The Adelaide Conservation Action Planning process is an important opportunity to support and validate the strategic planning work across metropolitan Adelaide. Greener, more liveable cities are fundamental to sustainable futures”

Hugh Kneebone
Manager NRM Education and Urban Engagement of Natural Resource Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges

Two out of every three Australians currently live in or close to our capital cities, and this number is increasing. In these rapidly expanding urban landscapes, our connection with and access to nature is diminishing, often to the detriment of the community and the environment.

In Adelaide, Greening Australia is therefore partnering with a diverse group of stakeholders to help make Adelaide a 'Green City' of the future. An initial planning process is underway to identify assets and threats, and propose strategies to protect and improve both nature and liveability within the urban landscape. As part of this, more than 70 people from 40 organisations have contributed to a series of workshops, facilitated by Greening Australia's expert coaches, using the globally-recognised Conservation Action Planning process.

To date, over 100 community volunteers have helped plant trees and shrubs in an important urban biodiversity corridor along the River Torrens. In the future, strategic actions from the program will help to guide investment in environmental projects to improve the quality of life for Adelaide residents.



Community planting in Adelaide

How we use our funds to make a difference

Communications and fundraising

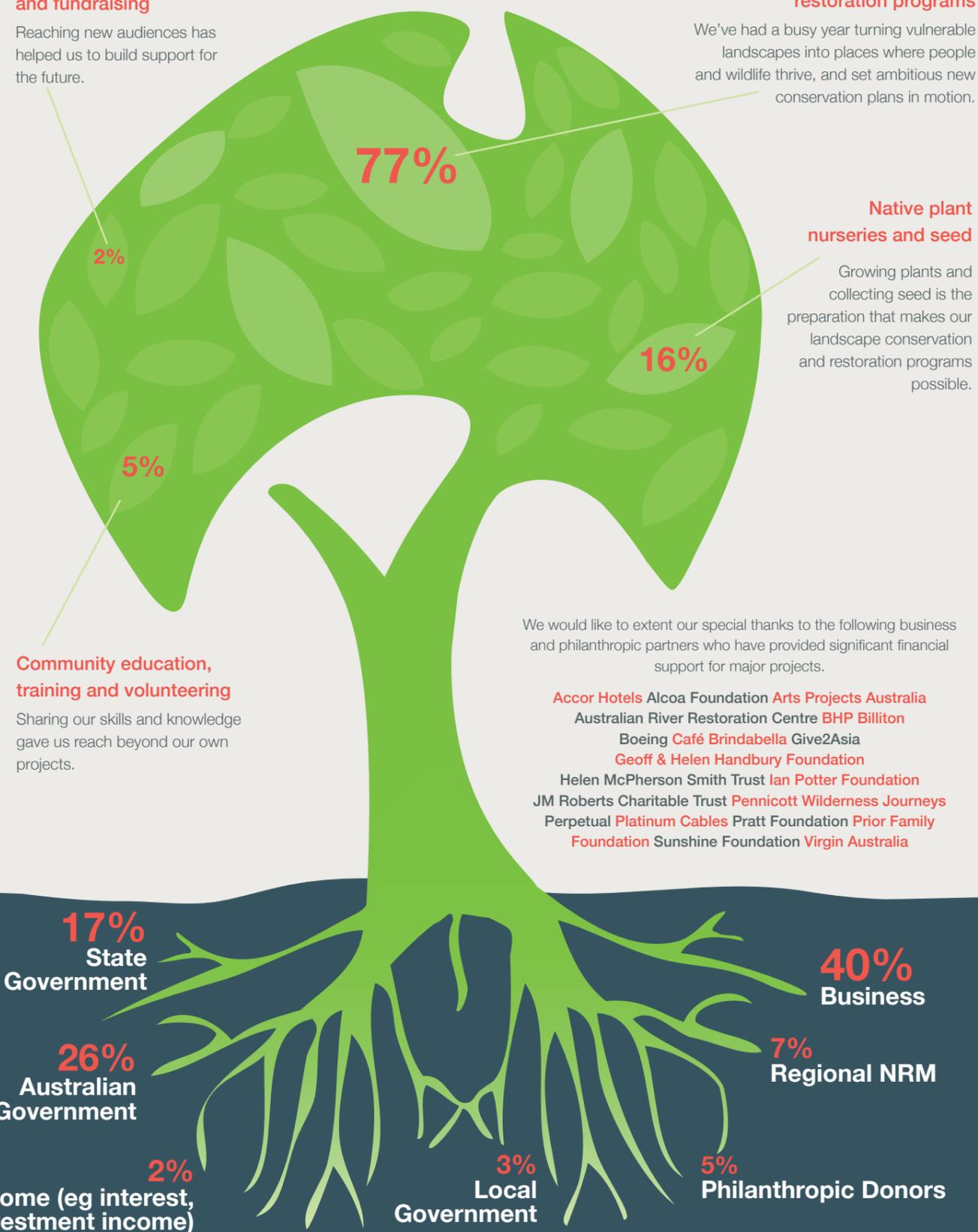
Reaching new audiences has helped us to build support for the future.

Conservation and restoration programs

We've had a busy year turning vulnerable landscapes into places where people and wildlife thrive, and set ambitious new conservation plans in motion.

Native plant nurseries and seed

Growing plants and collecting seed is the preparation that makes our landscape conservation and restoration programs possible.



Where our money comes from



How we achieved our goals this year

Greening Australia's Michael Vyse with Sir Richard Branson for Reef Aid. Photo Virgin Australia

2,902,966 seedlings planted



7,760 kilometres of direct seeding



2,148 kilograms of native seed collected



6,884 hectares of land conserved



119 kilometres of fencing



386 landholders partnered



394 schools engaged



3,817 people trained and educated



6,418 volunteers involved



520 volunteer events



Our Vision

Healthy and productive landscapes where people and nature thrive.

Our Mission

To conserve and restore landscapes at scale through collaborative, science-based and innovative conservation programs.

Our Board of Directors

Gordon Davis	President
James Atkins	Vice President
Arianne Rose	Board Member
Dr Bob Smith	Board Member
Julie Green	Board Member
Dr Colin Creighton	Board Member
Dr Gillian Sparkes	Board Member

Our Leadership Team

Brendan Foran	Chief Executive Officer
Pauline Rawling	Chief Financial Officer
Todd Berkinshaw	National Director of Conservation
Jonathan Duddles	Director of Strategic Engagement
Renay Gamble	Leader People and Culture

