



**TreesForLife**

# Restoring Our Home

**2022 – 2023 Impact Report**



**OUR PURPOSE:** We conserve and restore South Australian landscapes so nature can flourish.



**OUR VISION:** Thriving landscapes that support diversity of life.



Trees For Life acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of our land and waters and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that First Nations have to Country.



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# Contents



# From our President

As I reflect on my past six years as President, I am deeply mindful of the pressing environmental challenges facing our natural landscapes that demand our collective attention, innovation and unwavering commitment. From the escalating threats of a changing climate to the preservation of precious ecosystems, the Trees For Life mission has never been more vital.

Amidst all the challenges, so much great conservation and nature education work continues to take place.

From helping the recovery of threatened species, the revegetation of our landscapes, involving people in nature protection, and providing leadership across the sector, we've had a significant impact.

Guiding our future will be the next iteration of our strategic plan. In its final stages of development, this plan will outline our focus areas over the next years.

At the heart of our efforts lies an incredibly powerful force – our dedicated volunteers, landholders and supporters who work side by side with us.

Our partners play a key role in supporting and enabling our efforts. Thank you to the many local councils, Landscape Boards, government agencies and departments and those corporations, both large and small, who see the value of investing in South Australia's natural environment.

We are fortunate that the reputation and ethos of Trees For Life attracts outstanding board members who combine their skills and expertise with a desire to make a difference.

I would like to thank all our board members for their wisdom and guidance and in particular outgoing board members Therese Halili and Ingrid Franssen.

I am grateful for the wisdom and leadership of First Nations Australians who have supported our reconciliation journey and helped us achieve the publication of our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan.

As I step down as President it has been a joyful experience to reflect on the legacy that has been built over the past four decades by Trees For Life. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the Trees For Life story.

“It's the little things that citizens do. That's what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees.” Wangari Maathai

**Jeanette Gellard – President**



# From our CEO



While both locally and globally the world navigates an uncertain and increasingly complex world, keeping nature restoration and conservation as a priority requires an adaptive and determined approach.

Keeping abreast of emerging challenges and opportunities is just as important as responding to current priorities.

Seed collection has been extensive this year – in geographic scope, species diversity and volume.

We completed bushfire recovery revegetation projects, with over 80,000 native seedlings returned to five regions of South Australia since 2020.

Our much loved and appreciated volunteers have participated in revegetation, bushcare, nursery propagation, backyard growing and seed collection across the state.

With an eye to the future, the past year has seen us invest in significant projects that expand both on-ground biodiversity outcomes and the capacity to measure and demonstrate our impact.

A research project commissioned by Trees For Life undertook bird and vegetation surveys on 20 of our earliest direct seeding sites to determine their habitat value for native birds. The findings from this research are the basis for a new pilot project to increase vegetation diversity and complexity and expand the way we support private land conservation in the future.

Over the past year Trees For Life has also been developing a monitoring and evaluation plan. This plan will define the data collection requirements and methods needed to demonstrate the impact of our restoration activities. We look forward to finalising this plan in late 2023.

While Trees For Life rarely becomes involved in public advocacy, in early 2023 we participated in a campaign to protect the Bush For Life site and adjacent native grasslands in the South Park Lands from the proposed development of police horse stabling facilities. It was a great relief that the original decision was overturned.

So, 2022/23 has been another full and productive year, and I am extremely grateful to the dedicated and capable staff team, generous supporters and partners, and our inspiring volunteers, including the committed board members who provide excellent governance and strategic direction. Special thanks to outgoing President Jeanette Gellard for her steadfast and inclusive leadership over the past six years.

**Natasha Davis – CEO**





# Summary of the year



**891,413**  
native seedlings grown



**1,055**  
paddock trees planted in  
Limestone Coast



**140,227**  
hours of work by  
volunteers

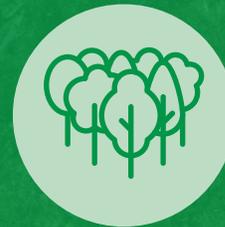


**1,827**  
volunteers



**3,664**

tonnes offset through  
Trees For Carbon



**36,680**

hours of bush regeneration



**285**

people trained



**452**

species in our Seed Bank



# Restoring our landscapes

## Landscape scale restoration

### Direct Seeding

Our Direct Seeding program enables us to deliver large areas of biodiverse revegetation.

2023 has seen the largest area of direct seeding ever delivered – 475 hectares (1,175 kilometres). This included two large projects – 360 hectares in Point Pearce on Yorke Peninsula in partnership with Landcare Australia and the Narungga community and 400 hectares in Cambrai in partnership with Cassinia.

We were very pleased to support further revegetation at Belvidere on a private conservation project and formed a new partnership with the City of Burnside to undertake revegetation in Kapunda for the Burnside Carbon Offset Scheme.

The purchase of new equipment has enabled this expansion, including a third tractor which allowed us to reduce the delivery time for large projects.

GPS units have also been fitted into each seeding vehicle which enables us to deliver seed more accurately, thereby saving seed and other inputs as well as map where seeds have been placed.



**475**  
hectares  
seeded



**~587,500**  
plants



**15**  
sites



**45**  
seed collection  
days



**385**  
kilograms of  
seed collected



**40**  
species



## Regent Parrot Trees For Habitat

Trees For Life is working with landholders near Renmark to create a safe flight path for the Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides*) a nationally threatened species under the EPBC Act (1999).

These beautiful birds are sadly under threat from a range of factors including clearance of mallee vegetation, drought, human disturbance and, importantly, loss of breeding habitat.

Through direct seeding Trees For Life is creating a vegetation corridor to link the parrot's feeding and nesting sites along the River Murray with an existing patch of mallee woodland. The revegetation includes a broad range of local native species to provide important sources of protection and food.

Last year the Direct Seeding team seeded 24 hectares, and 60 kilometres of furrows, with 30 kilograms of seed made up of 23 local species to create a corridor for the parrots to use to safely travel from the river to their feeding area. Tracking by the Recovery Team has indicated the feeding area is concentrated in the large remnant patch of old growth mallee further east from the river. Between these is a large expanse of mostly cleared country with only a little roadside vegetation. It is this gap the program is attempting to bridge.





## Communities helping Cockies

Since 2018, Trees For Life has been playing an important role in restoring habitat for the charismatic and incredibly threatened South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*) as part of the Australian Government funded Communities helping Cockies project.

The project is improving the condition of feeding habitat for these notoriously 'fussy' eaters by planting Buloke and Stringybark food trees and weed control. Buloke woodland revegetation has been a particular focus of Trees For Life's work due to the lack of remnants in the upper South East and its listed status as an Endangered community.

In spring 2022, a team of hard-working volunteers travelled from Adelaide to the South East to help out with weed control efforts on three properties.

Our Seed Bank, Westwood Nursery and Tree Scheme volunteer growers have all played an important role in collecting seed and propagating seedlings for this project.

At the conclusion of this five year project we thank participating landholders and volunteers who helped us achieve so much to secure the future of this beautiful and much loved bird.

\*At the time of writing future funding for this project is uncertain.

### Five year achievements



**36,373**

seedlings planted  
(including 8,388 Buloke and 2,825 Stringybark)



**167**

hectares of revegetation



**2,027**

hectares of woody  
weed control

## Limestone Coast Paddock Tree Project

This project is creating a new generation of paddock trees in the Limestone Coast by enabling landholders to plant new trees as well as protect and value existing trees.

Trees For Life is working with landholders by supporting them with materials and advice to incorporate paddock trees into their property management plans. The project works closely with the South Eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery Project, helping address the habitat loss that has led to the decline in this beautiful bird.

Highlights for 2023 include connecting with landholders at the South East Field Days and a Farm Tour at Marcollat which enabled participants to share their experiences of how different paddock tree guards were working. The tour also shared experiences with the successful Mount Lofty Ranges Paddock Tree Project Trees For Life has been delivering since 2016.



**1,055**  
new paddock trees  
planted and guarded



**3**  
hectares were fenced, protecting  
59+ remnant paddock trees and  
native understorey





# Restoring our landscapes

## Creating habitat across South Australia



### Tree Scheme

We continued to offer this unique nature restoration program by matching volunteer seedling growers with landholders across the state.

In many regions of South Australia our Tree Scheme is the only way landholders can access local native seedlings suitable for planting in their area. Materials are distributed to over 20 depots across the state — from Port Lincoln to Mount Gambier ready for growers to collect and start the annual cycle of raising their native seedling 'babies'.

This year was the final year of subsidies for bushfire affected landholders across all areas impacted by fire in 2019/20. Subsidies were also made available to landholders with ElectraNet easements and community groups and schools. We are grateful to the partners who make these subsidies possible — Wildlife Recovery Fund, ElectraNet and the Harvey Foundation. Thank you also to SA Power Networks for supporting our volunteer grower workshops and growers booklet.



**175,875**  
seedlings grown



**447**  
volunteer growers



## Betty Westwood Nursery

This year our specialised experience in local provenance and hard-to-grow orders has enabled us to grow and supply plants for our on-ground works and a number of important projects such as;

- Paddock Tree Project.
- TFL Works restoration projects.
- Rare species project.
- Restoration of habitat connectivity across Adelaide golf courses.
- South Olary Plains Living Landscapes conservation, a collaborative project to conserve 850,000 hectares in an area north of Berri, where the River Murray meets the outback.

The nursery has been trialling the propagation of around 20 hard to sow species by both seed and via cuttings, with success across most of the species.

These include Comb grevillea (*Grevillea huegelii*) and Bush bananas (*Marsdenia Australia*), an important food plant for First Nations.

Our annual plant sale remains a popular event. Over 18,000 native plants went to new homes across the state during three days in early June, with both new and experienced gardeners and property owners enjoying the opportunity to mingle with our experienced staff and volunteers for advice on their planting goals.



**128,038**  
seedlings grown





## Bushfire recovery

Since 2020, Trees For Life has been working side by side with partners, volunteers and landholders affected by bushfires across South Australia to help heal the land on Kangaroo Island, Cudlee Creek, the South East, Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula. Thanks to our partners and many individual donors.



**83,270**

native seedlings grown and distributed to five regions



**29**

planting days delivered by Trees For Life and our partners

## Kangaroo Island Tasmanian Blue Gum project



**12**

trips to Kangaroo Island between May 2021 and Feb 2023 to remove Tasmanian Blue Gum wildlings



**>\$150,000**

worth of effort by volunteers



**3,845**

total hours contributed by staff and volunteers



**290**

hectares of high priority native vegetation on roadsides and in private property treated



**~\$154,000**

total value of staff time contributed to the effort



**12**

volunteers per trip, with approximately 50 volunteers travelling across to Kangaroo Island from the mainland during the project



**20**

local volunteers from Friends of Parks and the Western Kangaroo Island community participated

# Restoring our landscapes

## Bushland conservation

### Bush For Life

Bush For Life continues to harness the power of volunteers to protect and restore precious fragments of bushland which are home to our native plants and animals.

The Bush For Life team had another busy and successful year, with 145 full day supervised activities, including nearly 70 people attending for the first time as 'Come and Try' participants.

Over the last few years the team have been managing a large number of planting days as well as bushcare activities. Planting days focused around the rare species project and the final year of bushfire recovery planting days as well as a coastal planting events. The Threatened Species Day event was held at the Halbury Parklands in 2022, home of the critically endangered Halbury Greenhood.

We're incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of Green Adelaide, our council partners, SA Water, ElectraNet and other partners who make this possible. And of course, our incredible volunteers who love South Australia's bushland and dedicate so much time to improving its health. We are very disappointed to end our private Bush For Life sites due to ongoing reductions in funding. However, we are exploring new ways to support private landholders.



**1,382**  
registered  
Bush For Life  
volunteers



**240**  
Bush For Life  
sites



**530**  
'adopt-a-site'  
bushcarers



**66**  
people attended a  
Bush Action Team  
day for the first time



**969**  
activities supervised  
by our professional  
field officers



**29,150**  
hours of  
volunteer  
bushcare



**16**  
planting days with  
over 300 volunteers



## Rare species project

Seven plant species listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered were re-introduced in Adelaide as part of a unique recovery program. They were surveyed in early 2023 and appear to be growing well — an encouraging sign for the conservation of these rare species. Golden billy buttons, tall daisy and the small scurf-pea are just some species re-introduced thanks to a joint initiative by Green Adelaide, Trees For Life and the SA Seed Conservation Centre.

The aim of the project is to enhance the conservation prospects of these threatened species quickly and improve our urban biodiversity.

Our Westwood Nursery grew the rare seedlings which were planted at 20 sites across eight Adelaide metropolitan councils, with our volunteers and staff helping to plant them on Bush For Life sites.

Scientific name	Common name	Conservation status in SA (National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972)	Conservation status in Green Adelaide
<i>Brachyscome diversifolia</i>	Tall daisy	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Swainsona behriana</i>	Southern swainson-pea	Vulnerable	Critically Endangered
<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>	Showy copper wire daisy	Rare	Vulnerable
<i>Pycnosorus chrysanthes</i>	Golden billy buttons	Endangered	Critically Endangered
<i>Dianella longifolia grandis</i>	Yellow-anther flax lily	Rare	Endangered
<i>Cullen parvum</i>	Small scurf-pea	Vulnerable	Endangered
<i>Glycine latrobeana</i>	Clover glycine	Vulnerable	Rare
<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	Variable glycine	Vulnerable	Vulnerable

## TFL Works

Our primary focus is conserving and restoring natural landscapes through minimal disturbance weed control and revegetation services.

We undertake work across a broad range of plant communities, from coastal cliffs and dune systems to high rainfall areas in the Mount Lofty Ranges and everywhere in-between.

We work with landholders to:

- maintain areas of high biodiversity
- repair and restore waterways
- prepare Management Plans
- prepare for bushfire seasons.

We work in partnership with local government and the Landscape Boards to:

- maintain public reserves.

We work with Trees For Life programs to:

- plant tube stock for environmental and community projects.

### Key projects from the last 12 months include:

- Working with Nukunu Wapma Thura Aboriginal Corporation to remove weeds and plant native trees at the Ochre Pit site in Melrose, a project we will continue in 2023/24.
- Working with key local government partners including City of Onkaparinga, Adelaide Hills Council, City of Tea Tree Gully, City of Port Adelaide Enfield and City of Holdfast Bay to maintain natural areas of environmental significance.
- Finalising stage three of the Ahrens revegetation project which saw 6,000 trees and shrubs planted across their iconic Kingsford Estate property.
- Completing broad scale weed control and revegetation at Glenthorne National Park and Upper Field River in partnership with Department for Environment and Water.
- Significant weed control and debris management project in high biodiversity site at Mylor Parklands in partnership with Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and Adelaide Hills Council.

- Numerous projects providing contractor support to friends groups and volunteers including Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park, Friends of Aldgate Valley Landcare Group and of course Bush For Life!
- Assisting landholders to secure funding through Green Adelaide's Grassroots Grants program.
- Securing further funding to continue the Paddock Tree Project through the Landscapes Priority Fund and partnership with the Mount Lofty Region Bird Alliance.





# Involving people

## Training and workshops

Trees For Life deliver popular workshops for volunteers, land managers and partners in a range of areas – seed collection, plant propagation and bushcare techniques.

Our Bushcare Workshop continues to attract good numbers, and workshops were held on Sunday for the first time. Volunteer grower workshops for the Tree Scheme continue to be very popular – with 96 people attending 12 workshops. Online workshops and YouTube training videos are very popular for our regional growers. We're very grateful for the continued support from SA Power Networks for our volunteer grower workshops and handbook.

285

people attended workshops

116

people attended a Bushcare Workshop

96

people attended 12 volunteer grower workshops



## Working with First Nations

Trees For Life's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan was endorsed in May 2022. Our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) provides us with the foundation for embedding respect, relationships and opportunities for First Nations peoples across our organisation.

We have made strong progress over the past year.

We're very grateful for our First Nations Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group members Sharon Meagher and Clem Newchurch for their wisdom and guidance in developing and implementing our first RAP, as well as the wholehearted participation of a number of staff members.

Sharon provided an invaluable cultural learning experience for staff and Clem played a key role in the publication of our first RAP, including production of a beautiful artwork which represents our reconciliation journey.

Most importantly, we have grown and strengthened our partnerships with First Nations groups and this is providing us with a strong base for working together to heal Country.



Clem Newchurch, Reconciliation Action Plan artist with the basket he created.



## Diversity and inclusion

### Stepping Stones into Nature

After four years of delivering the project and working closely with the Murray Bridge Migrant Resource Centre, in 2022/23, we supported the centre to deliver the program themselves. This was a significant milestone for Trees For Life, handing over a successfully established project for the local community to continue.

There were many new faces at the events, as regulars were recommending the project to their friends and co-workers.

What was consistent was the interest, inquisitiveness of both adults and children and the trust that we developed with the culturally and linguistically diverse community in the Murray Bridge region and surrounds.

#### Highlights:

- Delivery of eight well attended nature activities.
- Supporting the Murray Bridge Migrant Resource Centre to deliver their own Stepping Stones into Nature project.

- Taking the culturally and linguistically diverse community beyond their familiar Murray Bridge home and providing supportive, informative and fun locations where they now feel comfortable to revisit with friends and family.
- Connecting the Murray Bridge Migrant Resource Centre with supportive people such as the Ngarrindjeri community and the Environmental Team at The Rural City of Murray Bridge.

11

partnerships built on or implemented

50

participants attended, with approximately two thirds returning and 50% were children

12

activities delivered by the Murray Bridge Migrant Resource Centre and Trees For Life

# Diversity and inclusion

## Regenerate

The Regenerate in the Adelaide Park Lands project was funded in 2022, providing activities in the second half of 2022. With diverse activities, the project is popular with both older generations and international students living in the City of Adelaide and surrounding suburbs. In early 2023, we successfully secured three years of funding through the City of Adelaide's Community Impact Grants & Strategic Partnerships program, starting in the 2023/24 financial year. This will enable us to plan and deliver a consistent and intergenerational project that is open to everyone, with the target audience being international students and people over 55 years who want to support their mental health and wellbeing.

### Highlights:

- Engagement of the local Kurna community through Southern Cultural Immersion.
- Trips to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and West Terrace Cemetery exploring bush tucker and pre-European vegetation.
- Citizen Science events with bird surveys and delving into iNaturalist.
- Collecting local seed and propagating seedlings for participants gardens.

20

diverse events delivered

73

participants

393

hours of on-ground work





# Our Supporters, Sponsors and Partners

## Sponsors

Ahrens Group  
ElectraNet  
SA Power Networks  
Alfred James  
Earth Greetings  
Taking Care of Trees

## Carbon and Trees For Habitat supporters

City of Burnside  
Complete Removals  
Fleurieu Cranes  
Galpins  
Greenstar Group  
Racing Team (Aust) Pty Ltd  
Terandi Pty Ltd  
Whyalla Veterinary Clinic  
Bache Brothers  
Al-RU Farm  
Welland Wines  
Robbie's Jewellery  
BJ Energy

## Bush For Life financial partners

City of Adelaide; Adelaide Hills Council; Adelaide Plains Council; Alexandrina Council; Barossa Council; Carrick Hill; City of Burnside; City of Holdfast Bay; City of Marion; City of Mitcham; City of Onkaparinga; City of Playford; City of Port Adelaide Enfield; City of Tea Tree Gully; City of Victor Harbor; Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council; South Australian Department for Environment and Water; Mount Barker District Council; ElectraNet; Light Regional Council; Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing; SA Water; Town of Gawler; Wakefield Regional Council

## Bush For Life supporters

Aboriginal Lands Trust; Australia Migrant Resource Centre; Catherine House; Common Ground, Elpida House; Flinders University; Housing Choices; TAFE SA

## Research partners

### \*Stringybark dieback project

The University of Adelaide; Adelaide Hills Council; Mount Barker Council; Nature Conservation Society of SA; Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board; Northern and Yorke Landscape Board; University of SA; University of Western Sydney

## Funding partners

Green Adelaide  
Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board  
Limestone Coast Landscape Board  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
Australian Government (National Landcare Programme)  
City of Adelaide  
South Australian Department for Environment and Water  
South Australian Department of Infrastructure and Transport  
Cassinia  
One Tree Planted  
Thyne Reid  
Perpetual Foundation  
Harvey Foundation  
Nature Foundation Ltd  
Landcare Australia Ltd  
Wood Foundation  
Brighton Lions Club

# Organisational resilience



## Our infrastructure

During 2022/23, we refurbished our main office. The works addressed a number of safety concerns that had arisen over recent years and provided improved functionality and amenity for staff.

We replaced inadequate storage facilities with ergonomically sound shelving and storage; and created extra office space for our TFL Works team in our hall. Then we targeted our main office; removing the trip hazard posed by aged carpet and replacing broken furniture, updating inadequate air conditioning, removing asbestos and thoroughly cleaning the premises.

Thanks to the generosity and support of local trades and suppliers, all services were delivered on time and in a very cost-effective manner. In particular, we'd like to acknowledge:

- Oscar's Electrical Plus
- Carpet Court – Marlestone
- CMP Pro Paint
- Jaymel Airconditioning
- Dynamic Warehouse Solutions
- IKEA Adelaide
- Epoxy Floors Adelaide
- Industrial Clean SA
- Keen Office Furniture – Mile End
- Hood Sweeney





## *Climate resilience*

### **Seed sustainability**

Seed sustainability and security has been the focus of our climate resilience work over the past year. Making the most of the wetter weather, staff and volunteers spent weeks in the field collecting seed to increase the diversity of species in our Seed Bank and meet the requirements for large projects in 2023. Staff undertook trips to the Limestone Coast, Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula and the Mid North, making the most of the species that were abundant, including small peas, native grasses and daisies, like pultenaea, acacia and eucalyptus species, hakea and banksia and much more.

### **Direct Seeding research**

In the summer of 2022, we undertook monitoring of our direct seeding trials involving a new direct seeding machine designed to use less seed and improve our capacity to deliver successful large-scale habitat restoration projects in a changing climate. Trials involved seeding three sites (low, medium and high rainfall conditions) with a control (normal seeding method) as well as four additional areas with 100%, 80%, 65% and 50% of the normal weight of seed. The current normal seeding method has just two seed boxes for fine and large seeds. The new seeder has seven boxes and intermittent flow, aiming to improve the distribution of species as well as reduce the amount of seed.

The medium and high rainfall sites had promising results and further trials will refine the testing approach. Unfortunately, the low rainfall site was impacted by heavy wind and had poor germination, so this trial will need to be repeated.

## Stringybark dieback project

We continue a long-term research project investigating the causes of Stringybark dieback, working with partner organisations\*. There are three Stringybark species in the Mount Lofty Ranges; Messmate Stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*), and Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) in the Mid North. All are experiencing varying levels of dieback across their range, from healthy stands to complete stand collapse.

The Stringybark Dieback Steering Committee, chaired by Trees For Life, will provide support to two UniSA PhD students to research the causes of this dieback and the consequences to ecosystem function, as well as developing techniques to assess dieback extent using remote sensing and other imaging tools.

This will help us understand the complex interactions leading to a decline in health and death of Stringybarks, the extent to which natural regeneration is being impeded and the impact on ecological function, and will ultimately assist with identifying management approaches.



## Fundraising and Marketing

Despite the effects of increasing cost of living pressures, and the general economy, our fundraising campaigns have performed well over the past 12 months. This speaks to the solid reputation and trust Trees For Life engenders within the community. It also reflects the commitment and affection our supporters have for their 'home' here in South Australia.

### Highlights:

- Our success with campaigns has resulted from a strong value proposition, clear alignment of donor aspirations with our purpose and vision to restore and protect our landscapes.
- As the effects of climate change are becoming more and more visible, providing hope becomes a vital role for Trees For Life.
- Projects such as gathering seed to safeguard our future, and restoring habitat for birdlife have given people tangible ways they can make an impact.
- Regular Giving is set to be revitalised over the coming financial year.
- We have experienced a strong interest from businesses seeking to invest in habitat restoration.

- Bequests have had a significant impact on fundraising income this year. The growing number of notifications from donors that they intend to leave a bequest, or are considering doing so, provides a positive outlook for our future financial resilience and reinforces the need to ensure effective stewardship.

In late 2022, we invited nearly 5,000 of our supporters to complete a survey. The questions focussed on our strategic goals, our communications and fundraising. We believed that this was an important opportunity to reflect, learn and gain valuable insights from our stakeholders as we prepared to review our current strategic plan. People also expressed an interest in knowing more about areas of our work.

This feedback has helped to shape the content and themes of our communication to supporters; including our quarterly magazine ReLeaf, fundraising campaigns, and on our social media platforms. The use of social media is an increasingly important engagement tool for us to build brand appreciation of Trees For Life programs and opportunities as well as providing valuable information and education. As a result, we have witnessed the consistent growth of our social media supporter base over the past year.



## Survey results



people rated they experienced excellent or very good interactions with Trees For Life.



rated our work as extremely or very important for future generations.



rated *"To restore and protect South Australian Landscapes"* as the most important part of our mission.

## Our Board

### President

Jeanette Gellard

### Vice President

Phil Donaldson

### Treasurer

Marina Deaville

### Secretary

Therese Halili

### Ordinary Members

Martin Breed

Jason Size

Dr John Virtue

Ingrid Franssen

Michael Cornish

Bryce Winter

# Audited Report



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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR TREES FOR LIFE INCORPORATED**

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial report of Trees for Life Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2023. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 29 September 2023. That financial report, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on that financial report.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of Trees for Life Incorporated.

## **THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Board Members of the entity are responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial report.

## **AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

## **OPINION**

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of Trees for Life Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2023 are consistent, in all material respects, with that audited financial report.

## **NOT FOR PROFIT ACCOUNTING SPECIALISTS KESWICK SA 5035**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Mostert', is written over a dotted horizontal line.

Ian Mostert CPA  
Registered Company Auditor No 539768  
Dated: 29 September 2023

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30 2023

# Statement of Profit Or Loss And Other Comprehensive Income

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Subscriptions	114,337	131,280
Fundraising & Donations	742,788	540,109
Sponsorship	113,732	116,468
Fee Income	1,963,383	1,629,212
Grant Income	1,412,290	2,137,385
Sundry Sales	255,866	243,900
Auspice Income	207,209	5,400
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,809,605</b>	<b>4,803,754</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Interest Received	46,107	8,479
Profit on Disposal of Property, Plant & Equipment	982	-
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>47,089</b>	<b>8,479</b>
<b>Total Revenue and Other Income</b>	<b>4,856,694</b>	<b>4,812,233</b>

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Employee Related Expenses	2,861,896	2,966,394
Travel & Vehicle Costs	114,873	116,160
Supplies & Services Expenses	294,384	235,578
Project Expenses	498,971	961,579
Contractor's Costs	72,771	50,366
Office Expenses	303,139	196,808
Fundraising & Marketing Expenses	75,934	83,637
Depreciation & Amortisation	128,162	113,594
Other Operating Expenses	66,147	55,510
Auspice Expenses	205,209	5,400
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4,621,486</b>	<b>4,785,026</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income For The Year</b>	<b>235,208</b>	<b>27,207</b>

## FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30 2023

# Statement of Financial Position

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	2,333,400	2,950,981
Trade & Other Receivables	787,895	464,783
Inventories	288,705	275,843
Prepayments	45,796	26,648
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,455,796</b>	<b>3,718,255</b>

<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,497,534	1,258,009
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>4,953,330</b>	<b>4,976,264</b>

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade & Other Payables	344,054	319,125
Income Received in Advance	557,667	887,961
Provisions	489,499	421,250
Lease Liabilities	27,406	33,795
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,418,626</b>	<b>1,662,131</b>

<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Lease Liabilities	33,920	57,557
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,452,546</b>	<b>1,719,688</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,500,784</b>	<b>3,256,576</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>3,500,784</b>	<b>3,256,576</b>

# Treasurer's Report



Despite challenging times Trees For Life has achieved strong financial results in 2022/23. The headline net surplus of \$235,208, up from \$27,207 last financial year, is underpinned by careful cash management and robust financial governance. The organisations net assets increased by 7.5% to \$3.5 million by the end of the year.

I give credit to our CEO and the very professional and highly experienced administration and finance team who have diligently managed the day to day operations. Financial performance was stable and tracked close to budget throughout the year.

It was also a significant year for on-ground achievements in all areas of Trees For Life, as this report demonstrates. The investment in a third tractor enabled us to deliver kilometres of seeding across many regions of SA.

The mix of funding continues to be a major uncertainty for our organisation, noticeably government funding dropped by 24% from \$2.93 million to \$2.23 million. The

significant drop in grant funding for the very successful Paddock Tree Project is one example, and reflects the declining level of government revenue available for nature restoration projects.

Clearly a drop in government funding of this magnitude puts pressure on the ongoing support and generosity of the many friends and supporters of Trees For Life. This year we have been incredibly fortunate to have a number of generous people include Trees For Life as a beneficiary in their Wills. This type of income is never assumed or expected and was received with heartfelt thanks. The impact of such donations makes what sometimes feels impossible actually become achievable.

After careful consideration and planning the long term objective of updating and renewing the administrative hub of the May Terrace building complex was undertaken. The cost effective delivery of this project is due to the dedicated and hardworking key staff and extends to the generous support of tradespeople, and commercial neighbours who joined to make this big development happen.

This was an investment in our future where all can meet in a safe, fit-for-purpose environment that is conducive to collaboration and inclusion. The first two phases were successfully completed on time and within budget. Planning for the remaining phase is underway.

When times are tough and options are plentiful it's clearly very hard to decide who and what to support. At this point I would like to echo my predecessor, Janine Lynch, when I say I contribute to Trees For Life because I am "confident every dollar will be spent wisely and will make a real impact for the land we love". Sometimes the world seems a little mad and that's when I focus on what we should be doing, looking after our corner of the world by conserving and restoring South Australian landscapes.

After 2022/23s solid financial performance we are well placed to start the new year.

**Marina Deaville – Treasurer**





**TreesForLife**

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