Established in 1957 and incorporated in 1988, the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) is a community-based organisation dedicated to the protection and conservation of nature. Incorporation is held under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* [NSW] (registration Y00789-26). NPA is listed on the Australian Business Register (ABN 67 694 961 955) and is registered for GST purposes.

NPA is a registered charity under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* [Cth], and is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office to access income tax exemption, GST concessions and the fringe benefit tax rebate. It is listed as a deductible gift recipient under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* [Cth], and holds a fundraising authority under the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* [NSW].

Registration status is publicly listed on the Australian Business Register, the ACNC Register, and the Service NSW Public Register at:

- http://www.acnc.gov.au

For more information about NPA's structure, and to access a copy of its Constitution, visit:

- https://npansw.org/what-we-do/our-structure

For enquiries about this document, please contact Alix Goodwin, Chief Executive Officer on 02 9299 0000.

© 2018 National Parks Association of NSW Inc.
2017-2018 Highlights

4,064 Members
29,325 Digital Supporters
21,160 Facebook Likes

55 Submissions Made to Government Agencies and Parliamentary Committees
(see page 32 for details)
Appeared Before 2 Parliamentary Inquiries
29 Media Releases

Over 1,000 Activities
Over 120 Active Walks Leaders

54 Citizen Science & Community Engagement Events
Over 900 Participants

36 Corridor Connection Landholder Agreements
Over 650 Native Trees Planted

Record $449,306 from Gifts in Wills
$386,030 Net Operating Income Compared to $(185,459) in 2017
President’s Report

On behalf of State Council and the Executive I would like to welcome you to the 2018 NPA Annual Report. Our vision is for a landscape of intact natural areas where native plants and animals thrive, where people coexist with nature, and where communities respect and nurture the land. Our members share a strong passion for the natural environment. We experience joy and fulfilment from being in natural places and are motivated to restore their condition and secure their protection.

This year, our members have once again participated in many activities across the State, engrossed in the sights, sounds, smells and feel of the outdoors, experiencing its beauty and learning from its intricacies. I have had the great pleasure of sharing some of those enjoyable times with our members, wading among the rock pools at Ulladulla, hugging an ancient spotted gum near Termeil, walking through the eucalypt forests and Hawkesbury sandstone of the Dharawal National Park, looking for whales from the Kattang Nature Reserve headland and being delighted by the recovery in the Warrumbungles after the devastating 2013 fire. Spending time immersed in our land is not only fundamental for our wellbeing, it also helps us appreciate what we have and supports our understanding of natural processes. To these ends, our activities program continues to be essential for our purpose and many thanks go to our activities leaders for their commitment and guidance and thanks to all participants for your companionship and appreciation of this land.

Of course, with enhanced appreciation of wild things and wild places comes an enhanced concern for their loss. Yet the forestry interests who continue to clear-fell healthy native forests seem unconcerned by the cruel and wanton destruction of the habitat of koala, swift parrots and greater gliders. The politicians who prefer Kosciuszko National Park be used for hydro power generation seem unconcerned by the continuing degradation of this unique environment. Engineers and developers who think the only solution to meeting the housing needs of Sydney is to build on flood plains supposedly protected by raising the level of the Warragamba dam and flooding parts of the Blue Mountains National Park seem unconcerned by the loss of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and world heritage landscape. And so, the list goes on – a continuing saga of destruction stemming from a relationship to the land based on economic exploitation rather than a recognition that our lives are intertwined with the ecological processes around us and that we need to nurture and protect the world we live with and depend on.

NPA is a strong organisation because of the strength of our membership and supporters, the quality of our staff and our network of relationships. Whether it is researching, letter and submission writing, on-ground land caring, meeting with politicians, speaking to community groups, strategizing, teaching, discussing, making films, taking photos, protesting, or ensuring good administration, we are resourceful and energetic in working to appreciate and protect what we value. This annual report highlights our activities and conservation work. The work of NPA cannot be done without the continued generosity and backing of our members and supporters and my thanks go to everyone in our extended community for your continuing support, appreciation, and protection of nature.
CEO’s Report

I am pleased to present my first CEO’s report during what is now NPA’s 62nd year of standing up for national parks and nature conservation.

This year saw the release of NPA’s new strategic plan. Led by NPA’s Executive and developed with input from our State Council members, the strategic plan will guide NPA’s campaigning, programs and activities over the five years from 2018 to 2022.

We ended the financial year strongly, having implemented a range of strategies to improve our financial position, resulting in a net surplus of $386,030. The relocation of our office to premises in Pyrmont will see our accommodation costs reduced significantly from 1 July. The receipt of six bequests will enable us to direct additional resources to advocating for our Forests For All and Great Koala National Parks plans.

The primary focus of our State-wide campaign activities this year was ending logging in public native forests. Despite our strong campaigning against the renewal of the Regional Forest Agreements and the draft Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval released in May, the NSW government remains committed to logging public native forests for a further 20 years bringing intensive harvesting to the NSW North Coast, reducing protections for threatened species like the koala, and opening-up old-growth forests to meet unrealistic wood supply agreements.

Along with other environmental groups we found ourselves organising urgent action against the introduction of the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill 2018* by the Deputy Premier; legislation that prioritises an invasive species over threatened native fauna and undermines the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. While we were unsuccessful in preventing its passage through the NSW Parliament, NSW Labor has committed to the repeal of the Act should it win the next State election.

A number of our externally funded projects came to an end this year including our highly successful community engagement projects funded by the NSW Environment Trust and Naturally Accessible 2.0. We are actively pursuing potential new sources of funding so that we can identify and document additional day and overnight walks that are accessible to people with disability.

From day one it has been clear to me that the strength of NPA lies in its member, volunteer, supporter and donor base. Without you it would not be possible for us to defend the national park system at a time of significant and unprecedented threat. Thank you for all you have done during 2017/18, not only in supporting NPA in our work, but in letting those in power know that we must protect NSW’s ever diminishing wildlife from the effects of climate change, urban expansion and deforestation for future generations.
Contents

Protecting nature..............................8

Native Forests...............................................................9
  Regional Forest Agreements......................................................9
  Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill...........................................10
  Draft Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals..............10
  Forests For All...........................................................................11
  Great Southern Forest and ‘Alps to Coast’.................................11

The Great Koala National Park.........................12

Protect Our Parks..........................................................13

50 Park Proposals.........................................................14

Beyond CAR...........................................................................14

Sydney Marine Park.........................................................15

Murray Darling Water Basin Plan.................................15

Connecting people with nature...............16

NPA Activities...............................................................17
  Activities Program.................................................................17
  Community Outreach.............................................................18
  60 Best Walks........................................................................18
  Bushwalking 101.........................................................................18
  Thrive in the Wild Brochure..................................................18
  Naturally Accessible...............................................................19
  Webinars...................................................................................19
  Land Manager Presentations.................................................19
  Staff Changes...........................................................................19

Citizen Science & Community Engagement.................20
  Bringing Back the Buzz to the Cumberland Plain Woodland.........20
  Dragons of Sydney.................................................................21
  Bush Mates...............................................................................21
  Who’s Living on my Land?......................................................22
  Wild Wild Inner West..............................................................22
  Bush Connect..........................................................................23
Strengthening NPAs community...............................24

Membership..................................................................................................................25
  Member Involvement in Branches and Groups.......................................................25

Building Alliances........................................................................................................28
  NCC - Forest Working Group.....................................................................................28
  Environmental Liaison Office....................................................................................28
  National Parks Australia Council..............................................................................28

Celebrating 60..............................................................................................................29

Policy Lab Fellowship.................................................................................................29

Communicating our knowledge.................................................................30

NPA Website................................................................................................................31

Nature NSW................................................................................................................31

Media............................................................................................................................31

Social Media and Mailing Lists...................................................................................31

Environmental Education..........................................................................................31

Environmental Book Club.........................................................................................31

Submissions................................................................................................................32

Strengthening NPA’s operations..........................................................33

A Sustainable NPA......................................................................................................34

Governance..................................................................................................................34
  NPA State Council.....................................................................................................35
  NPA Executive............................................................................................................35
  Governance Review..................................................................................................36
  NPA Committees.......................................................................................................36
  Representation on Statutory Advisory Committees................................................36

Financial Summary...................................................................................................39

Operating Income 2017-2018.....................................................................................41

Operating Expenditure 2017-2018...............................................................................41
Protecting nature

We need a world class, well-managed reserve system to connect natural areas across all land tenures, waterways, and marine areas in NSW. Some bioregions and their subregions are either poorly represented or remain outside the protected area system. Rivers, wetlands, inter-tidal zones, marine areas and fauna also require protection.

We are focused on an increase in the protected areas of NSW from the current 9% to at least the IUCN target of 17%. This protected area network must be supported by world class environmental law, policy, planning and enforcement that reinforces nature conservation. We also expect world heritage status for places of high universal value.
Native Forests

It has been a busy year on the forest front. *Our Forests For All* campaign seeks to end industrial logging in public native forests and to protect forests under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* or as Indigenous Protected Areas. Our challenge has been resisting the rollover of Regional Forest Agreements and the intensification of logging under Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals.

Regional Forest Agreements

The first of a number of significant documents and regulatory instruments relating to native forest logging was the joint 10- and 15-year Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) implementation report. Released just before Christmas, this report assessed progress on the implementation of a suite of milestones that were to be implemented as part of the RFAs in the Eden, Southern and North East regions, and asked for community feedback on RFA extensions. NPA made a detailed submission that the implementation report contained very little data to enable an assessment of the performance of the RFAs to protect forest species and ecosystems. It also failed to ask fundamental questions about the RFA model and whether there are now better options for the management of native forests.

NPA encouraged our members and supporters to make a submission to the RFA review along with other environment groups. Over 5,400 submissions were made during the consultation period, the vast majority of which opposed extending the RFAs and expressed concern about their performance in protecting the environment.

Our submission drive drew the ire of the Commonwealth Assistant Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Anne Ruston. In February we received a letter from Senator Ruston accusing NPA of dishonesty and misleading the Australian public. NPA strongly rebutted the Senator’s accusations in a letter that was subsequently published in the *Guardian Australia* as part of an investigative series on the RFAs.

The strong community opposition to RFAs and native forest logging was noted in the report of the RFA independent reviewer Ewan Waller, who recommended a more thorough review take place; one that considered the impacts of climate change, the socio-economic position of rural communities and support for logging and the conservation status of forests. The NSW and Commonwealth governments are considering the independent reviewer’s report and it is anticipated that they will release their response following the renewal of the RFAs.
Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill

Five months later, the NSW government introduced the Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The Bill confirmed the NSW government’s earlier decision to transfer licensing of private native forestry to Local Land Services, resulting in a single agency with responsibility for land-clearing while improving the public native forestry compliance monitoring and enforcement provisions of the Forestry Act 2012. The bill failed to reintroduce third party enforcement rights with respect to public native forestry. The bill was referred to the Legislative Council’s Standing Committee on State Development on 22 May with eight days for the public to make submissions. NPA made a written submission and also gave oral evidence to the Inquiry. The legislation was passed a little over five weeks following its introduction into Parliament demonstrating the NSW government’s commitment to implementing its forest industry road map before the 2019 State election.

Draft Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals

At the same time as introducing the Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 into Parliament, the NSW government released the draft Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval (IFOAs). The draft IFOA will govern the conduct of forestry operations in NSW under a renewed RFA. The draft IFOA moves to an outcomes-based approach to regulation comprising conditions and protocols. Only amendments to the conditions require the approval of the responsible NSW and Commonwealth Ministers.

Despite claiming to meet the NSW government’s ‘dual commitment’ to no reduction in wood supply and no reduction in environmental protection, and to create a lower cost model for the native timber industry, the draft IFOA actually favours the timber industry and logging over environmental values. NPA made a submission opposing the IFOA and held a series of forums in Sydney to raise community awareness about the significant impact it will have on public native forests if implemented.

The proposed IFOA provides for the remapping and rezoning of old growth forests. This will reduce the extent of informal reserves, and permit logging of areas which retain many key habitat features that have been off-limits to production forestry for at least 20 years. It also seeks to introduce an ‘intensive harvesting zone’ that will permit the Eden logging model across 140,000 hectares of coastal forests between Taree and Grafton, reduce headwater stream buffer zones, nearly double permissible logging intensity in the ‘selective zone’ (all areas besides Eden and the intensive zone), and reduce protections for forest wildlife and nationally-listed threatened species.
Forests For All

During the year NPA produced two key proposals that offer genuine alternatives to logging as the primary use of native forests.

*Forests For All* seeks to end industrial logging in public native forests and to protect forests under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* or as Indigenous Protected Areas. Not all State forests are proposed for reservation as national parks. Some State forests do not meet criteria for national park reservation due to decades of logging degradation (although they can be protected and managed for future recovery). Additionally, there is a wide range of recreational activities that currently occur within State forests. We believe that it is important to promote public access to such forests for public health and wellbeing, and to foster an appreciation of nature. By using a range of reserve categories a much better utilisation of the public estate can be achieved, thereby lessening the pressure for locating intensive activities within national parks.

*Forests For All: Case for Change* was launched in June 2018 at Parliament House, Sydney. This document, consistent with NSW Government business case guidelines, demonstrates significant economic, environmental and reputational opportunities that would be created by phasing out industrial logging. We continue to build support for *Forests For All*, focusing on the health and recreation sectors. We are proud that *Forests For All* is now supported by Doctors for the Environment Australia, Frank Fenner Foundation, Centre for Ecological Learning, Public Health Association of Australia, Climate and Health Alliance, and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Great Southern Forest and ‘Alps to Coast’

The first of the RFAs to expire is Eden in 2019 and NPA members of the NPA Far South Coast branch have also been working via the Great Southern Forest campaign to gain local community and political support to end logging and wood chipping in over 400,000 hectares of state forests in SE NSW from Nowra to Eden and east to Tumut.

We also supported the ‘Alps to Coast’ strategy through our membership of K2C Inc. (Kosciuszko to Coast Committee).
The Great Koala National Park

The Great Koala National Park (GKNP) seeks to add 175,000 hectares of State forests to existing reserves in the Coffs Harbour hinterland. This would protect two koala metapopulations and forests that have repeatedly been identified as important koala habitat by the NSW government. The GKNP is the flagship of a suite of koala reserve proposals to protect koalas through planning and development, protecting koala habitat on private land and reducing mortality from dogs, vehicles and disease.

Thanks to the efforts of NPA members and local community groups on the NSW North Coast, the GKNP profile has been steadily growing. Walking tracks, special natural features and other attractions have been identified so that the new park can maximise benefits to surrounding communities when created. NPA is being assisted by a local online content business, Magic Cupboard Interactive, to create a video highlighting the economic benefits of the GKNP to the region.

The proposed new Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval poses a serious threat to the GKNP. The ‘intensive harvesting zone’ overlaps strongly with the GKNP and would subject koala habitat in these State forests to clear felling, with just a smattering of small trees left for koalas.

The GKNP has attracted support from a number of significant groups and individuals including the Bellingen Shire Council. NPA continues to advocate for the establishment of GKNP.
Protect Our Parks

Our existing parks have become increasingly under threat. A proposal to alienate 60 hectares of Royal National Park for the M6 Motorway corridor between Sydney and Wollongong, was shelved in October 2017 as a result of widespread community opposition including the strong involvement of Southern Sydney members.

The State Member for Murray has made a public commitment to seek Murray Valley National Park degazettal and logging. While Environment Minister Upton has confirmed the Government’s opposition to commercial logging in national parks, and that there are ‘no plans’ to revoke Murray Valley National Park, proposals to revoke national parks are an alarming development. We also viewed with concern an announcement that 15,000 tonnes of timber would be made available to local sawmills from a so-called ‘ecological thinning trial’ within Murray Valley National Park (12,000 tonnes more than previously announced). NPA has maintained a close watching brief and local media presence on this matter.

An extraordinary development was the enactment of the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act in June 2018. The Act prioritises protection of feral horses over native species and ecosystems within Kosciuszko National Park, thereby undermining the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. This is despite the NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee’s preliminary determination on feral horses as a key threatening process. NPA worked with the Colong Foundation for Wilderness, Invasive Species Council, Nature Conservation Council of NSW and other individual stakeholders in a bid to prevent passage of the Bill through Parliament. This included placing a half-page advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald. We were unsuccessful in our efforts and will continue to fight for repeal of the legislation, and for the removal of feral horse populations from this National Heritage-listed national park.

Kosciuszko National Park is also under threat from the proposed Snowy 2.0 hydro-electric pump-storage project. This project is a substantial infrastructure development and has no place in national parks. NPA members have made a detailed EIS submission highlighting the unacceptable environmental pact of the project on the park.

Open hostility to protected areas by members of government, coupled with continued underfunding of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the loss of hundreds of years of in-house experience from its staff, are bringing unprecedented threats to our magnificent reserve network. At the same time, visitation is increasing, and parks are expected to ‘do more with less’. Unless countered, this will inevitably undermine the core function of the national parks network: the protection of nature.

In response to these seemingly unprecedented threats, NPA will increase focus on the Protect our Parks campaign during 2018/19 through hiring a dedicated part time campaigner and engaging our membership base to build evidence and community support for a reversal of the anti-parks attitude of government.
50 Park Proposals

In January we released 50 Park Proposals, a comprehensive program for the reservation of 50 new protected areas and major additions to protected areas under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This was a 12-month project lead by our Landscape Conservation Forum and prepared in collaboration with our branches.

Individual proposals were tested against the principles and approaches included in the draft NSW National Parks Directions Statement (released by the NSW Government in late 2017). Most of the proposals have a long history of community support and previous investigation.

50 Park Proposals formed part of NPA’s submission to the draft NSW National Parks Directions Statement and was provided to the Minister for the Environment, NSW ALP and the Greens. NPA seeks to the early incorporation of these proposals within the reserve system.

Beyond CAR

We commenced work on the development of a 20-year vision for protected areas of NSW based on an evolved comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) framework for the management and expansion of protection areas. We invited a range of NPA and other guest speakers to our March state council meeting to speak on the challenges facing and their vision for wilderness, forests, rivers and wetlands, marine ecosystems, Western NSW and geology. These presentations and their implications were then discussed by state council and other interested NPA members. The enthusiasm the workshop generated for creating a 20-year vision has led us to commence planning for a ‘beyond CAR’ conference and a project to update our previous work on the protection of western woodlands.
Sydney Marine Park

NPA members, particularly the Southern Sydney branch, have been actively participating in the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and Australian Marine Conservation Society led proposal for a marine park between Newcastle and Shellharbour. This proposal would see a marine park covering about 22% of the Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion leaving the majority of waters open to marine harvesting of various kinds.

Murray Darling Water Basin Plan

The environment of NSW is suffering from a lack of water due to its over extraction for irrigation and the prolonged drought. NPA has been supporting the Inland Rivers Network on multiple actions over the year to encourage decision makers to make sure our inland rivers get the water they need to flow across their floodplains and all the way to the sea.
Connecting people with nature

Since NPA was formed in the late 1950s, the NSW population has doubled in size and become more urbanised. Further significant population growth is expected over coming decades. There is evidence of a decline in people’s connection and familiarity with nature, and also of the value and importance they place on it for personal and societal wellbeing. Nature and its protection is increasingly seen as an inconvenient or dangerous hindrance to modern lifestyles, and as a risk to economic prosperity. The importance of national parks remains generally accepted, although there is increasing pressure for their protection to be weakened or even overturned.

NPA will continue to expand its nature-based activities so that more people from all backgrounds have the opportunity enjoy nature and are motivated to actively protect it.
NPA Activities

Assisting people to enjoy and experience our national parks and natural areas has always been a central part of NPA's mission. This year we supported approximately 120 volunteer leaders to organise and run nearly 1,000 activities for members and the broader community. Activities ranged from short rambles to multi-day full pack adventures.

Bushwalking was the most common activity featured on the 2017/18 program (90%). Other activities catered to a broad range of abilities and interests, including camping (6%), talks (5.2%), cycling (1.4%) and canyoning (1%) (some categories overlap). These widely appealing activities enable our members to meet like-minded people, learn more about the NSW environment, develop their skills and experience new areas they may otherwise not have the chance to enjoy.

During the year, we introduced a series of new projects and streamlined management and delivery of the activities program. We also formalised the Field Activities Committee. This meets about six times per year, and oversees strategic management of the activities program and related projects.

Activities Program

We have continued to provide our activities program to members via the NPA website, weekly email bulletins, and a quarterly program delivered either electronically or by post. Our members have transitioned well to the electronic version, and many leaders are including extra details and links to maps in their trip information.

We have also introduced a new ‘try before you join’ email system that allows potential members to quickly receive an email with details on how to join the NPA, information on enjoying their first walk and a list of specific potential walks to try from the current program.
Community Outreach

Last year we saw the Illawarra Branch partner with Jenae Johnston of Bushwalk the ‘Gong to create a regular community outreach program. The program has been successful and popular. The branch is expanding the program to use NPA leaders to lead similar community outreach walks to attract new members. This expansion program is new and we are watching for the results with great interest.

60 Best Walks

After rolling out the 60 best walks program last year some progress has been made to start adding more information to create an ebook outlining more details on each walk. We have created a proforma and are in the early stages of collecting details for each walk.

Bushwalking 101

We have continued to grow our bushwalking101.com site with more articles this year focusing on overnight bushwalks. There are many articles on specific overnight gear selection, use and maintenance. We have also outlined details on menus and meal preparation. Throughout the articles, we have weaved information to help people with disability enjoy the bush, including how to pack a wheelchair for an overnight walk. This content was used to support our Naturally Accessible project and was funded by the Department of Family and Community Services. Each week over 500 people use this resource.

Thrive in the Wild Brochure

With a donation from the Paddy Pallin Rogaine we have produced Thrive in the Wild, a brochure on bushwalking for the general public. The brochure is aimed at people who are reasonably new to bushwalking and provides brief information on what to pack, leave no trace principles, safety and other tips, as well as information about the NPA. Approximately 3,000 brochures have been printed and will be distributed through outdoor stores in the Greater Sydney area.
Naturally Accessible

Naturally Accessible is a project funded by the Department of Family and Community Services focusing on improving access for older people and people with disability to natural areas. This year we have focused on trialling overnight wheelchair accessible bushwalking. We ran three trial walks in a variety of weather conditions and different contexts to identify how to make overnight trips enjoyable for all people including those with disability. Most of the participants had spinal cord injuries, ranging from a few people who could walk short distances with support to two people with incomplete quadriplegia. All participants used manual day chairs, some with significant power assist devices. Each walk was 20 kilometres long, 10 kilometres to the campsite and then return the next day. The overall experience was very positive and we found that the idea of establishing overnight bushwalking for wheelchair users is viable. We developed and refined a few techniques to make the overall experience much more enjoyable.

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in securing funding for phase three and have commenced exploring potential sources to enable us to continue this important project.

Webinars

In collaboration with Sargood on Collaroy, we conducted a series of three webinar events for people with disability promoting the idea of bushwalking in a wheelchair. The webinars included those who had participated in our trial overnight walks and provided tips and tricks on how to bushwalk in a wheelchair along with examples of places to get started.

Land Manager Presentations

We shared our Naturally Accessible manual in a series of presentations to 40 employees of four councils: Hornsby Shire, Central Coast, Ku-ring-gai and Willoughby City Council. The ideas we presented on improving access through the framework were well received and followed by many great questions. We hope that, with the assistance of funding, we will be able to support these councils to develop material and communications plans to implement Naturally Accessible in their area. We also provided a Naturally Accessible webinar for councils to spread the word more broadly.

Staff Changes

It was with sadness that we farewelled Helen Smith this year. Helen has been a dedicated and passionate colleague who shared her broad range of experience and we wish her all the best in her new role in Canberra.
Citizen Science & Community Engagement

Through a range of grant funded projects and member volunteer efforts we have once again provided opportunities for a broad range of people to become involved in environmental research and conservation.

Bringing Back the Buzz to the Cumberland Plain Woodland

*Bringing back the Buzz to the Cumberland Plain Woodland* aims to restore pollinator habitat in remnant patches of Cumberland Plain Woodland with the help of new bushcare groups and school and community pollinator workshops. ‘We are on track to achieve most of our objectives with the exception of tree planting which has been delayed because of drought conditions.

This year working with schools, community groups and locals we completed 632 volunteer hours of bush regeneration across 17 hectares of endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland to improve pollinator habitat. We have also created supplementary pollinator habitat by constructing 225 small insect hotels and run pollinator conservation activities with 136 primary school students from three public schools and 26 community members at two workshops.

So far we have observed 40 pollinator species, including 13 native bee and 19 butterfly species, through 24 pollinator surveys. We have found between 1-3 pollinator species per 400m² plot with butterflies being present in Spring more than Autumn.

The project has reached over 100,000 people through articles published in local newspapers and on Facebook and the NPA website.
Dragons of Sydney

This was also the final year for our Dragons of Sydney project run with funding provided the Environmental Trust. We delivered 20 citizen science surveys throughout the year, engaging 202 volunteers across eight different schools, three corporate groups, and six different community groups some participating twice. The citizen science surveys have provided us with new insights into the reptile’s behaviour and physiology to improve vital habitat.

We also ran an on-line and paper based Sydney-wide Dragons of Sydney backyard survey on the features of backyards that impact on the presence or absence of water dragons between February and April 2018. Run in collaboration with Northern Beaches, North Sydney and Lane Cove Councils the survey was designed in collaboration with researchers from The University of Sydney, The University of Melbourne and Macquarie University. The project was featured on two ABC radio programs, SBS news and news.com.au. A report on the findings of the survey will be published by the end of 2018.

The sheer number of participants in the ‘Dragons of Sydney’ project demonstrates the amount of support in the community for the project, and the general love the public has for these large charismatic reptiles.

Bush Mates

This year saw completion of Bush Mates, a community engagement project located in South Western Sydney and run for the last two years with the support of the Environmental Trust. Bush Mates provided residents with opportunities to learn about, and reduce the impact of urbanisation on the bush in this area.

With the support of Camden and Campbelltown Councils, we delivered Bush Mates events at: the Harrington Forest Frolic in Harrington Park and the Blair Athol Bush Adventure in John Kidd Reserve. A total of 160 people joined in guided walks on birds, creepy crawlies, the ecology of the Cumberland Plain Woodlands, and tree hollows as homes for native wildlife. Highlights included a ‘feature creatures’ stall where local residents could meet and greet native animals, face painting and a native plant giveaway. We were joined by members of NPA’s Macarthur Branch, Community Volunteers Australia, BirdLife, and Hollows as Homes. Articles on Bush Mates in the South West Voice and Camden Advertiser helped raise community awareness of this important project.
Who’s Living on my Land?

2017/18 was another successful year for our *Who’s living on my land?* project. Through the use of infrared cameras, this project helps landholders discover which native and feral species are living on their land, and how they can be effectively managed.

Since its inception in 2015, over 400 private landholders from across south eastern NSW have participated in 21 workshops. The workshops allowed landholders to undertake a two week infrared camera survey on their property. Some participants have been surprised to find species such as koalas, spotted-tailed quolls and deer, that they did not know were present, enabling them to prepare evidence-based conservation and pest management plans.

As a result of the project more than 2,700 hectares of private land has been added to the Land for Wildlife network. This is a handshake agreement conservation program that assists landholders to change their management practices.

Funding under the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program ended in June 2018. However, we are planning to continue workshops for interested local community and landcare groups on an as-requested basis.

Wild Wild Inner West

This year funding was approved for the Wild Wild Inner West project, which will run from July 2018 to March 2019. The project is supported by Greater Sydney Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program. Through a series of events specifically targeted to 18-35 year olds the project aims to reach a generally demographic under-represented in environmental outreach activities.
Bush Connect

*Bush Connect* is an Environment Trust program designed to improve corridor connection by working with private landholders to restore habitat. NPA is delivering two projects under this program, Berry Bush Links in conjunction with Berry Landcare, and the Thin Green Line on the Illawarra Escarpment.

Now in its third year, implementation of these projects has been challenged by near record dry conditions, leading to lower than planned landholder participation. The running of two *Who’s Living on My Land?* workshops helped to offset loss of participation and resulted in five site assessments in the Berry Bush Links project area and six in the Thin Green Line project area.

Berry Bush Links has provided funding and support to 21 landholder sites in the Berry Corridor comprising contract weed control, fencing materials funding, native tubestock and tree stakes and guards, workshops, a landholder forum and funding for NPWS weed control and revegetation using Conservation Volunteers Australia teams. Despite the dry conditions we also conducted a community tree planting day as part of National Tree Day at the Roads and Maritime property “Gembrook” where we had 70 volunteers planting almost 600 native trees and shrubs. Twenty five University of Technology Sydney students planted trees on three sites and produced a short YouTube video clip of their efforts.

We engaged with high school students from the Nowra Anglican College and had 24 students spend a day learning about the importance of the Berry Corridor and then planted 50 native trees and shrubs on the Gembrook property. Post graduate students from the University of Wollongong studied small native mammals in the Berry Corridor and took genetic samples for the purpose of future studies to ascertain if the animals are using the corridors we create to move through the landscape. We also had two UoW interns assisting with the production of the Berry Corridor Landholder Guidebook.

In the Thin Green Line Project, we engaged the Birrim Nuru (Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council) green team to control weeds on their Tongarra lands. We also engaged 15 landholders in the Mount Murray area (north-east of Robertson) and conducted a fox and feral cat trapping program in Spring 2017 with a number of landholders supported by local WIRES contact providing absent landholders with on-ground support with the trapping effort. The process has raised local community knowledge about the issue of threatened species (such as the Long-nosed Potoroo) which was captured in motion camera footage in August 2017. This element of the project was also supported by new partner, the Australian Wildlife Preservation Society which provided $5,000 for 15 cage traps and two feral animal control workshops in Robertson. Landholder interested generated by these workshop resulted in a number of site assessments and landholder agreements, some of which are protecting Yarrawa Brush (Robertson Rainforest) and Southern Highlands Shale Forest and Woodlands, a nationally critically endangered vegetation community.
Strengthening NPA’s community

We have a distinct community of members, supporters, staff, and allied conservation partners. Our strength comes from their numbers, their remarkable experience and expertise, and their dedicated commitment and enthusiasm as advocates for protecting nature. We cannot achieve our goals without them.

Growing and diversifying our membership is essential as we continue to build on our shared purpose and strengthen involvement in our activities. We also rely on committed staff, volunteers and supporters and will seek diverse support and partnerships recognising the strength of broad based community action in protecting nature.
Membership

As at 30 June 2018, NPA comprised 4,064 voting members within 2,841 memberships (individual and household). Membership continues to be relatively stable. During the year 388 new members joined, whilst 340 existing members discontinued, resulting in a net gain of 48 members. Recruitment of new members and retention of long-term members continues to be very healthy. Our supporter base and social media presence continues to expand with a growing online community of over 40,000 individuals. This provides a platform to communicate with a large, interested and generally younger audience.

Member Involvement in Branches and Groups

NPA’s member branches and groups provide a vital platform for voluntary input to policy development, advocacy and nature-based activities. Participation by members contributes significantly to conservation outcomes, generates personal satisfaction and know-how for the participants, and provides a pathway for involvement in governance roles.

Most branches have active bushwalking and outdoor activity programs, and we thank all leaders and contributors. NPA activities are always popular, and are the catalyst for countless experiences and friendships.

Here is a brief summary of the wide-ranging conservation and other activities conducted during the year by member branches and groups.

Armidale prepared submissions on the Travelling Stock Reserves Review, Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy, and Northern Tablelands Regional Pest Management Plan. It held a successful workshop on NSW land clearing laws with a focus on implications for farmers and the environment. This attracted over 40 attendees.

Central Coast conducted a popular activities program, with both local destinations and trips to Tasmania and Lord Howe Island. A Facebook page has been established, and this is contributing to new member interest.
Coffs Harbour provided local support, research and promotion for the Great Koala National Park proposal.

Far North Coast established a working partnership with Ballina Coastcare.

Far South Coast stepped up its collaboration with other groups to support the Great Southern Forests and NPA Forests for All campaigns. It attended a Forest Forum in Moruya in August, made submissions opposing extension of Regional Forest Agreements, and organised cinema ads in Merimbula and Narooma over the summer season. Several branch members were important contributors to Gregg Borschmann’s series of articles on the RFA issue that were published in The Guardian Australia. Submissions were also made on wild horse control in Kosciuszko NP and the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill. Proposals are being made to fund a documentary exposing the damage being inflicted by horses on fragile alpine environments.

Hunter supplemented its regular activities program with a series of walks and bike rides and two community koala surveys within proposed State forest additions to Barrington Tops NP. The reserve proposal was presented to Dungog Council highlighting local tourism and visitor economy benefits, and has received favourable press coverage. Submissions were made in relation to the United Wambo Mine project (biodiversity impacts), Ulan Mine Continuation project (water impacts on Goulburn River NP), use of Big Gibber Road in Myall Lakes NP for vehicle-based commercial tours and closure of the Scone national parks office.

Illawarra has been active in advocating for eco-friendly outcomes for the Mt Keira Summit Park and its incorporation in the Illawarra Escarpment SCA, despite major pressures for unsympathetic tourism and mountain bike proposals. Briefings were undertaken with local politicians, councils and tourism bodies on the Grand Escarpment Walking Track and Great South Coast Walk proposals. Submissions were made on the Dendrobium Mine Subsidence Plan, Wollongong Urban Greening Strategy, Wollongong Community Land Plan of Management, and Tallawarra West Dapto development. A walks brochure has been prepared focusing on southern Wollongong.
Lachlan Valley organised two evenings with guest speakers to complement its regular walks calendar. It has participated in the Parkes “Wildlife Spotter” program.

Landscape Conservation Forum researched, coordinated and prepared the 50 Parks Proposal with input from local branches. Work is currently underway for developing a 30-year vision for the State’s protected areas.

Macarthur continued its longstanding research on local koala populations, and hosted Riverfest on World Environment Day. A major focus of activities is mitigating impacts of urban expansion within Southwest Sydney. Submissions were prepared relating to the Greater Sydney Regional Plan, Mt Gilead housing development and impact on habitat connectivity for koalas and other species, Upper Nepean SCA Plan of Management, and housing development at Tahmoor.


Mid North Coast held its annual bitou bush control week at Crowdy Bay (now in its 40th year). A submission was made on the Port Macquarie Hastings Biodiversity Strategy.

Milton held its third Annual public lecture at the Ulladulla Civic Centre, which attracted 175 people. It has been active in promoting the Great South Coast Walk proposal, holding meetings with the Minister for the Environment, Minister for Tourism and the Member for South Coast. Submissions were made in relation to the Narrawallee development, and dredging of coastal lake entrances. The longstanding Clean Up Australia Day and Mt Bushwalker track maintenance activities continue.

Park Management Committee responded to several park plans of management and commenced a review of existing policies. The Committee has also been active in campaigning against feral horses, particularly in Kosciuszko National Park.

Southern Sydney had a bumper year responding to proposals, including an ‘eco resort’ at Bundeena, the proposed motorway route through Royal NP and Botany Wetlands, the Marine Estate Management Plan 2017-2027, and five separate discussion papers on the future management of Royal National Park and adjoining reserves. Former Premier Bob Carr was guest speaker at the 60th Anniversary Annual Dinner, which proved highly successful and profitable. A recent initiative was a guided day trip showing local ALP activists sites of interest within Royal NP. A similar event is planned for local Liberal Party activists.

Sydney members have been actively engaged in an extensive walks program and have started regular environmental book club discussions.
Building Alliances

NPA works collaboratively with local, regional, State and national community groups that share our vision for protecting nature.

Nature Conservation Council of NSW - Forest Working Group

NPA made significant contributions to the NCC Forest Working Group. This is a network of State- and locally-based environment organisations committed to achieving an end to logging within public native forests. The primary focus of the group this year was responding to the proposed renewal of the Regional Forest Agreements and major regulatory changes affecting public and private native forestry. Over a six-month period, members worked tirelessly to prepare submissions in response to the second and third five-yearly reviews of the Regional Forest Agreements, the draft Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval, and the Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The group also worked collaboratively to design and implement a campaign plan.

Environmental Liaison Office

We continued to be an active member of the Environmental Liaison Office (ELO), an alliance of nine leading environmental organisations from across NSW. ELO aims to ensure that member organisations’ shared concerns and priorities are communicated consistently to Government and parliamentary members. A key focus has been overseeing the development of environment policies for the March 2019 State election and beyond. NPA made significant contributions in relation to national parks, forests and koalas.

National Parks Australia Council

NPA is one of six member organisations that form the National Parks Australia Council (NPAC). NPAC provides a forum for regular communication with our sister national parks associations in each State and territory, and acts as a united voice supporting conservation of the national reserve system. NPAC is also a member of the Australian Committee for IUCN (the International Union for the Conservation of Nature). During 2018, NPAC released a suite of five nationally focused policies on protecting and expanding the national reserve system, marine parks and landscape connectivity. NPAC will be promoting these policies to all political parties in the lead up to the next federal election.
Celebrating 60

We continued to celebrate our 60th Anniversary through the second half of 2017. After running a successful photo competition, 21 images were selected for the Nature in Focus exhibition held at ARO Gallery in Sydney in September 2017. Calendars of the winning photos were sold to members and supporters and given away as prizes. We also ran a charity auction and with the help of our branches and walks leaders, identified what we believe to be the 60 Best Walks in NSW.

We celebrated the anniversary with a picnic on 5 November 2017 at Tunks Hill in the Lane Cove National Park. A series of bushwalks converged at the picnic to join other members and special guests, including Penny Sharpe, opposition spokesperson for the environment and Mehreen Faruqi, NSW Greens, who both spoke and congratulated NPA for 60 years as a voice for national parks.

Policy Lab Fellowship

Between March and September 2016 NPA's Senior Ecologist, Oisín Sweeney, undertook a part-time fellowship with University of Sydney-based Sydney Policy Lab. The fellowship investigated policy barriers to implementing nature-based solutions (NBS). The topic was motivated by the observation that, whilst there is a well accepted understanding of the importance of nature for human wellbeing, this understanding is not consistently translated into actual policy. A full report is pending.
Communicating our knowledge

Communication within the NPA community, with key decision-makers that we seek to influence, and with the media and general public are all essential for achieving our goals. This reflects our role as a community educator on the natural environment, as an advocate for change to environmental law and policy, and as a widely recognised expert on nature conservation.

We need to be highly effective in the way we share our knowledge, ideas and viewpoints. To achieve greatest effect and influence, communication needs to be tailored to the particular audience, and to our particular communication purpose. All communication should be accurate, reliable, attributed, verifiable, and timely.
NPA Website

The NPA website continues to provide our members and supporters with publications, resources, news and NPA updates and membership and other financial transactions.

From 30 June 2017 to 1 July 2018 the NPA website was viewed 124,576 times

Nature NSW

Published four times per year, Nature NSW continues to attract high-end articles from a range of authors including dignitaries, scientists, government staff and well-known conservationists. Featuring a diverse range of articles on national parks, native flora and fauna, NPA’s citizen science programs, campaigns and conservation issues to attract a wide audience.

Media

NPA continues to expand its media outreach, distributing 29 media releases to raise awareness and advocate on key conservation issues, and to promote NPA’s events and citizen science programs.

Social Media and Mailing Lists

NPA’s strong social media presence continued to grow. The continued use of regular posts, memes, videos, social media petitions and actions enabled us to grow our combined supporter base to over 50,000.

NPA continued to regularly engage our supporters and members through our monthly e-newsletter, Nature News and dedicated campaign mailing lists.

Environmental Education

NPA member, Janine Kitson continued to run her excellent series of WEA workshops on significant people and issues of the conservation movement.

Environmental Book Club

In February 2018 we established an environmental book club for members living Sydney and surrounding areas. The book club meets every six weeks to discuss books on current and historical environmental issues and is organised by Conny Harris and Anne Dickson.
Submissions

Government policy, legislation and project approvals can have major long-term consequences to the natural environment—both positive and negative. Advocating for nature conservation to government decision-makers is a vital part of what NPA does, and involves considerable time and effort. During the year, a total of 55 submissions were made to government agencies and parliamentary committees (that’s more than one per week), with further representations made to Ministers, parliamentary members and other officials by way of letters, briefing notes, and face-to-face meetings.

Major submissions and representations were prepared in relation to:

- National Parks System Directions Statement
- Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy
- Travelling Stock Reserves Review
- NSW Regional Forest Agreements Review and Extension
- Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill
- Murray Darling Basin Plan 5 year assessment
- Our 50 Parks Proposal.

About half of all submissions and representations were prepared by volunteer members belonging to branch or specialist committees. These perform an indispensable part of NPA’s advocacy capability.

NPA also assisted members and supporters to carry out their own advocacy, by preparing submission guides and other tailored information, and by making tools available that simplify the task of contacting ministers and parliamentary members. During the year, a major submission guide and lodgement facility was provided in relation to the proposed NSW Regional Forest Agreement review and extension. This resulted in over 5,000 submissions being lodged with relevant agencies. A similar facility was provided in relation to the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill.
Strengthening NPA’s operations

Orchestrating and directing the talents and efforts of the combined NPA community requires the necessary organising structures and resources, otherwise the prospects for success will be greatly diminished. Three essential needs are for effective advocacy methods, a robust financial base and efficient governance and management.

We aim to be better heard and heeded and we will maintain confidence, effectiveness and efficiency through ongoing improvements to our performance.
A Strong NPA

Financial sustainability was a major focus during the year. We successfully implemented significant measures to reduce operating costs, improve efficiency and increase our revenue base.

In response to budgetary pressures we reduced our core staffing levels for eleven months. This, combined with tight budgetary controls and substantially higher than expected donations, resulted in a welcome reduction in our budgeted deficit by almost $42,000 and we thank our staff for their support and professionalism during this period.

We relocated our office accommodation from Woolloomooloo to smaller premises in Pyrmont in February in order to reduce our rental costs. We have a three-year lease with a three-year extension option. We also upgraded our client and financial management systems enabling us to meet increasing member and supporter expectations for electronic delivery of membership information and receipts. The upgrade will have the added benefit of reducing our administrative and other overhead costs.

In preparation for the 2018/19 financial year we undertook a comprehensive review of our overall financial position and our Reserves and Bequest Fund Policy. As a result of this review, and the receipt of bequests valued at approximately $450,000, a decision was taken to return staffing to pre-July 2017 levels, effective from 30 June 2018.

We need to continue to build our already strong supporter and membership base if we are to effectively counter current political and other threats to the protected area system and environment generally. To assist us in this task, we engaged Frank Howarth, former director of the Australian Museum, to undertake a health check on our approach to fundraising. Whilst generally positive about NPA’s current fundraising approach, the health check identified specific opportunities for improvement. These are being addressed by an interim fundraising plan overseen by our newly established Fundraising and Marketing Committee.

Governance

NPA is an incorporated body with an extensive network of local branches. Governance structure and processes are set out in the NPA Constitution and By-Laws.
NPA State Council

The State Council sets NPA’s strategic direction and policy, co-ordinates conservation responses, and is responsible for overseeing the network of member branches and groups. It comprises:

- delegates elected by branch members
- convenors of State Council committees
- members of the Executive
- additional appointed members.

The State Council met three times during the year (at Sydney, Glenbrook and Mt Keira). Significant matters that were considered included:

- *NPA Strategy 2018-2022*—input to strategy content and formal adoption
- *Landscape Vision 2018-4*—discussion forum on a 30-year vision for the State’s protected areas.
- *Reserves and Bequests Fund Policy*—input to policy details and formal adoption
- *Protect our parks campaign*—discussion forum on campaign objectives, strategies and tactics
- routine updates on conservation, member activities, financial and other matters.

An innovation during the year was the first use of a “circulating resolution”, by which a formal resolution was made without a meeting. This was undertaken to authorise the lease for the new NPA office at Pyrmont. It is proposed to make greater use of this facility where urgent issues arise.

NPA Executive

The Executive oversees financial, operational and staff matters, and implements the *NPA Strategy 2018-2022*. The Strategy sets goals and vision for the next five years, and provides the foundation for the Annual Budget and Business Plan. All Executive positions are elected annually by the State Council.

The Executive met eight times during the year in Sydney. Significant matters that were considered included:

- appointment of Ms Alix Goodwin as new CEO
- relocation of NPA office (planning, location selection and logistics)
- facilitating preparation of the *NPA Strategy 2018-2022*
- review of fundraising and bequest programs
- review of Reserves and Bequests Fund Policy
- annual budget and improved financial management
- 60th anniversary activities, including picnic and photo exhibition.
Governance Review

Governance arrangements were strengthened during the year through the adoption of new By-laws by the State Council. The By-laws aim to improve clarity, certainty and consistency, outline duties, responsibilities and procedures, and promote compliance with Australian Charity and Not-for-profits Commission governance standards.

The By-Laws also require that a process be initiated for the review of the present Constitution. A Governance Review Working Group was recently formed by the State Council to advance this review.

NPA Committees

Specialist committees continue to operate in relation to critical management issues. The Finance Committee and the Fundraising and Marketing Committee each comprise selected Executive members and staff attendees.

There are also State Council committees for Recruitment, Landscape Conservation, Park Management, Field Activities and Marine Conservation. Membership includes State Councillors, members and staff attendees. Total membership of State Council committees is about 25 persons.

Branch committees conduct NPA affairs within 14 separate regions of the State. Their work includes local advocacy, membership recruitment, nature-based activities, member newsletters and collaboration with regional conservation networks. Committees are elected annually by members within each region. Total membership of all branch committees currently exceeds 90 persons.

Representation on Statutory Advisory Committees

During 2017/18 NPA maintained representation on the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, the Karst Management Advisory Committee, and on 15 separate National Parks and Wildlife regional advisory committees, all of which operate under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Nominations were made during 2017 for the refilling of positions, based on a new regional structure adopted by the NSW Government.

At the branch level, representation is also maintained on several mining community consultative committees (under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979) and also on various local government advisory committees.
### NPA Executive - 1 Jul 2017 - 4 Nov 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Anne Reeves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Vice President:</td>
<td>Ian Donovan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Samantha Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ian Donovan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ted Woodley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive members</td>
<td>Anne Dickson (from 27 Jul 2017), Grahame Douglas, Brian Everingham, Sam Garrett-Jones.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NPA Executive - 4 Nov 2017 - 30 Jun 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Anne Dickson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Vice President:</td>
<td>Samantha Newton (from 3 Mar 2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Sam Garrett-Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ian Donovan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ted Woodley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive members</td>
<td>Grahame Douglas, Brian Everingham, Tom Fink (from 30 Jun 2018), Samantha Newton (until 3 Mar 2018), Anne Reeves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region/position</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>As indicated above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armidale</td>
<td>Bryan Johnston, Pat Schultz (alt.) (until 4 Nov 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Coast</td>
<td>Maarten van der Wende</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarence Valley</td>
<td>Stan Mussared (until 4 Nov 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffs Harbour</td>
<td>Keith Kendall (until 4 Nov 2017), Penny Kendall (until 4 Nov 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far North Coast</td>
<td>Neil Denison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far South Coast</td>
<td>Doug Reckord (until 31 Oct 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter</td>
<td>Ian Donovan, John Simpson, Wendy Wales, Annii Shiels (alt.), Elisabeth Burton (alt.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illawarra</td>
<td>Graham Burgess, Helen Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>Beth Michie, Rob Michie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid North Coast</td>
<td>Ian Hodson, Phill Shaddock, Julie Mclnerney (from 4 Nov 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Sydney</td>
<td>Brian Everingham, Gary Schoer, Joy Scott (until 4 Nov 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamworth</td>
<td>Ron Webster (until 4 Nov 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW Teachers Federation</td>
<td>Thomas O’Connor (until 31 Dec 2017), Narelle Hill (from 13 Mar 2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Management</td>
<td>Roger Lembit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Conservation</td>
<td>Grahame Douglas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Summary

It is pleasing to report that the 2018 financial year saw an improvement in our financial position, with a net surplus of $386,030. Major contributions to the surplus were increases in bequests and donations. Grant income remains strong.

We would especially like to thank our members and supporters who gave their time and financial support to enable the important work of the Association to continue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2018</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeals, Donations &amp; Bequests</td>
<td>877,129</td>
<td>439,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Sponsorships</td>
<td>480,065</td>
<td>404,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>147,719</td>
<td>152,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>78,037</td>
<td>79,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>1,582,950</td>
<td>1,076,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Insurance</td>
<td>14,810</td>
<td>14,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Activities - General</td>
<td>92,567</td>
<td>102,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Activities - Projects</td>
<td>246,051</td>
<td>210,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Activities - Branch support</td>
<td>62,940</td>
<td>86,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandising &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>17,305</td>
<td>9,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Services</td>
<td>69,866</td>
<td>78,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>19,250</td>
<td>37,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits - Including Grants</td>
<td>631,889</td>
<td>682,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation and depreciation</td>
<td>42,242</td>
<td>40,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,196,920</td>
<td>1,261,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING SURPLUS</strong></td>
<td>386,030</td>
<td>-185,459</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Balance Sheet ending 30 June 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>30 June 2018</th>
<th>30 June 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables &amp; Inventories</td>
<td>31,996</td>
<td>43,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>1,300,127</td>
<td>1,095,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current Assets</td>
<td>1,332,123</td>
<td>1,138,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets at Written Down Value</td>
<td>70,741</td>
<td>68,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Assets</td>
<td>19,844</td>
<td>20,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Non-current Assets</td>
<td>90,585</td>
<td>88,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>1,422,708</td>
<td>1,227,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>348,442</td>
<td>539,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>348,442</td>
<td>539,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSOCIATION FUNDS</strong></td>
<td>1,074,266</td>
<td>688,236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Operating Income 2017-2018

- **Membership Fees**, $147,719
- **Grants & Sponsorships**, $480,065
- **Appeals, Donations & Bequests**, $877,129
- **Other Income**, $78,037

Operating Expenditure 2017-2018

- **Activity Insurance**, $631,889
- **Conservation Activities - General**, $246,051
- **Conservation Activities - Projects**, $17,305
- **Merchandising & Fundraising**, $92,567
- **Conservation Activities - Branch support**, $17,960
- **Member Services**, $62,940
- **Employee Benefits - Including Grants**, $69,866
- **Journal**, $19,250
- **Amortisation and depreciation**, $42,242

- **Operating Income** 2017-2018: $1,652,834
- **Operating Expenditure** 2017-2018: $977,733
- **Operating Income - Expenditure** 2017-2018: $675,101
- **Net Operating Income** 2017-2018: $675,101
- **Operating Income** 2016-2017: $1,850,152
- **Operating Expenditure** 2016-2017: $1,074,909
- **Operating Income - Expenditure** 2016-2017: $775,243
- **Net Operating Income** 2016-2017: $775,243
- **Operating Income** 2015-2016: $1,564,998
- **Operating Expenditure** 2015-2016: $876,513
- **Operating Income - Expenditure** 2015-2016: $688,485
- **Net Operating Income** 2015-2016: $688,485