

A photograph of two young boys of Asian descent laughing heartily. The boy on the right is in the foreground, his head tilted back and mouth wide open in a laugh. The boy on the left is slightly behind him, also laughing. They are both wearing dark-colored hooded jackets. The background is out of focus, showing a green structure and a clear blue sky.

**KENNARDS**  
HIRE  
FOUNDATION

# **KENNARDS HIRE FOUNDATION ANNUAL UPDATE**

**2020-2021**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION DIRECTOR



Welcome to the Kennards Hire Foundation annual update. Now in its fourth year, the Kennards Hire Foundation assists 16 not-for-profit organisations in their work supporting disadvantaged young people and in land and species conservation. These organisations have had a significant impact throughout the past 12 months, achieving great outcomes that are aligned to our vision to make Australia and New Zealand better places for future generations.

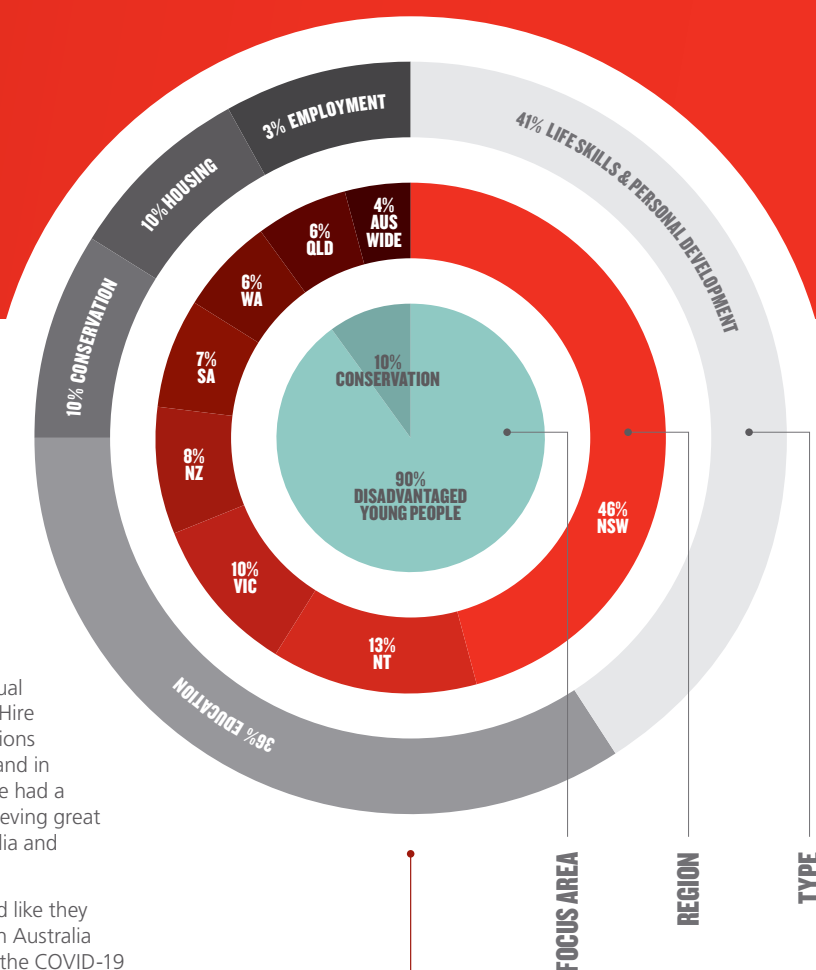
After the rollercoaster ride that was 2020, things looked like they had started to return to normal. However, many of us in Australia and New Zealand were again significantly impacted by the COVID-19 Delta variant. Once again, like last year, we have been impressed by the resilience and agility demonstrated by all of our partners in these challenging times. The need for the programs and services they deliver has only increased and we are proud of the way they have risen to the challenge.

Some highlights from the past 12 months include:

- The successful species translocation of five mammal species into Australian Wildlife Conservancy sanctuaries, including Numbats, Mala and Red-tailed phascogales. These species now have an opportunity to establish self-sustaining populations.
- The NT government has finally approved the Nawarddeken Academy's applications to provide education to two new communities in West Arnhem Land, Manmoyi and Mamardawerre. We have always believed in this unique approach to education and are proud to have been an integral part of this successful outcome.
- Seeing the expansion of the social enterprises developed by several of our partners, including BackTrack and Dismantle, to provide vulnerable young people with the work experience they need for successful pathways to long-term employment.
- Welcoming our newest partner, TRACTION, a youth charity in Queensland working to empower vulnerable young people to discover, connect and realise their own positive and rewarding future.

We look forward to continuing to work with all of our wonderful partner organisations.

**Kirsty Kovacs**  
Kennards Hire Foundation Director



## 2020-21 SNAPSHOT OF GIVING



In October 2021, the Nawarddeken Academy opened schools in two new West Arnhem Land locations. This is a brilliant outcome that will allow many more children to access quality, full-time bi-cultural education.





# GETTING HANDS ON WITH TRACTION

The Kennards Hire Foundation is delighted to have welcomed a new charity partner in 2021, **TRACTION**. Based in Queensland, their purpose is to empower vulnerable young people to discover, connect and realise their own positive and successful future. Their key program, Bicycle Build, provides the opportunity for young people to gain experience in bicycle building and maintenance. Each program delivers over 54 hours of mentoring and the chance to build resilience, teamwork and leadership skills.

One of TRACTION's main fundraising events is the CEO Bike Build – a day where a group of community leaders experience first-hand the benefits of TRACTION programs in the community, while helping TRACTION continue to provide a safe, learning environment for its participants. Kennards Hire's own Matt Hardy took part in the event in September this year.



Taking part in the CEO Bike Build with Alex, a TRACTION participant, was a fantastic experience. I came away with a greater appreciation of the important role TRACTION plays in my community helping young people develop resilience, stay in school and explore career pathways.

Getting on the tools and spending time working with Alex, and being able to share my experience with other Queensland business leaders, made for an inspiring day.

**Matt Hardy**  
General Manager, QLD Operations

We feel honoured to have been welcomed by the Kennards Hire Foundation. We value partnerships with like-minded organisations and admire the way Kennards Hire has operated as a family business, supporting communities across the country for so long.

One in ten young people are disengaged from education, training and employment. That rate is higher still in low-socio economic areas. Through TRACTION programs, and events like the CEO Bike Build, we show young people that there are many adults in the community who care, and who want to help young people achieve their goals.

**Sandy Murdoch**  
CEO, TRACTION



*Top left: Alex and Matt working on their bike at the CEO Bike Build*

*Left: The completed bike!*





# CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORIES

While so much of our focus has been on the pandemic over the last two years, our conservation partners have been busy continuing their important work in bushfire recovery, species renewal and land conservation. In support of conservation, the Foundation partners with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), Bush Heritage Australia (BHA), Taronga Zoo and the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT).

In August this year, **AWC** announced great news, revealing that a population of bilbies has more than doubled at Mallee Cliffs National Park since they were reintroduced to western NSW in December 2019. In 18 months, the founding population of 50 bilbies has increased to over 120 individuals, a sign that the reintroduction of one of Australia's most iconic threatened species has been a success.

In September, **BHA** shared extraordinary photos of a 5,000 strong population of Dawson's Burrowing Bees emerging from their burrows at Hamelin Station Reserve, Malgana country in Midwest Western Australia. These large and furry native critters have not been seen in such numbers since BHA took over management of the reserve and it was destocked, allowing it to recover with hard-hoofed animals no longer impacting the bee's breeding sites.



The critically endangered Plains-wanderer has seen its wild populations decline dramatically (>90%) over the past 20 years. Estimates suggest there are fewer than 1,000 individuals across the two remaining wild habitats in the Northern Plains of Victoria and the Riverina in New South Wales. The Kennards Hire Foundation has been supporting the Plains-wanderer species recovery program at **Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo** and **Taronga Zoo Sydney** for three years. The program is proving to be very successful, most recently with eight zoo-bred birds released into the Northern Plains of Victoria to help bolster wild populations. This is the second release for the recovery program and an outstanding result, having zoo-bred birds being released within five years of the program commencing demonstrates the important role that zoos are playing in securing a future for species under threat of extinction.

**Below: Greater Bilby**  
Image © Australian Wildlife Conservancy

**Below left: Plains-wanderer**  
Image © Taronga

**Below right: Dawson's Burrowing Bee**  
Image © Michelle Judd, Bush Heritage Australia





# AMPLIFYING OUR IMPACT

Events are an essential and important part of fundraising for charities. They not only raise funds for the organisation, but also raise awareness of work they do in the community. COVID-19 has severely impacted the ability to hold live events. Our partners showed extraordinary flexibility in both 2020 and 2021, moving smoothly to virtual events. They also embraced the power of dollar matching and we have been pleased to support these events by utilising Kennards Hire Foundation donations to harness more support for some of our partners.

**Stepping Stone House's** Sleep Under the Stars was converted to an at home event, **The Smith Family** encouraged participants to set their own running challenge and **Springboard** held an online fundraising night. Everyone will welcome the opportunity to hold live events again, but it seems some great lessons have been learnt from moving online and we may well see a variety of event styles into the future.



MITS students at Howard Springs, Darwin

## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

Last year we reported that the charity sector had responded quickly and with great agility to the challenges presented by COVID-19. In 2021 we've again seen incredible resilience from our partners when their recipients needed it most.

The students from **MITS** in Melbourne were once again relocated to Darwin, NT to continue their studies. **BackTrack** in Armidale, NSW were able to keep their doors open when others in the community couldn't, providing essential care and support for vulnerable young people.

**Ganbina**, an Indigenous school-to-work transition program in Shepparton, VIC, moved quickly to provide food deliveries for families who were unable to leave home due to isolation requirements. They also provided remote learning equipment where needed to ensure students could continue their studies.



In New Zealand, **KidsCan** have seen an increase in demand, with more schools interested in partnering with them and more families receiving food deliveries at home. **Springboard** moved their programs back online and have been pleased to see their young people remaining engaged throughout the disruptions.

# OUR PARTNERS



everyone's family



For further information on the  
Kennards Hire Foundation, please email  
[foundation@kennards.com.au](mailto:foundation@kennards.com.au)

or search **Kennards Hire Foundation**



We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of the cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples.