ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

Our CEO Andrew Cox with project officer Carol Booth and conservation officer Candice Bartlett.

OUR TEAM

- Andrew Cox, CEO
- Candice Bartlett, conservation officer
- Carol Booth, project officer
- John Sampson, communications
- Alison Chan, admin officer
- Anthony Sharwood, Reclaim Kosciuszko campaigner

- Bev Job and Janet Cross, Townsville yellow crazy ant community taskforce
- Helen de Jode, Threats to Nature project manager
- Reece Pianta, invasive ants campaigner
- Miguel Yamin, Reclaim Kosci digital content creator
- Karen Price, bookkeeper

OUR AMBASSADORS

Richard Swain, Indigenous ambassador

Richard has spent his life in the Snowy Mountains and has first-hand experience of the huge impact feral animals are having on the natural values of Kosciuszko National Park. As ambassador, Richard is working with other Indigenous people to advance improved pest management across Australia.

Christine Milne AO

As an ambassador for the Invasive Species Council Christine is helping to raise the profile of the ecological disasters being driven by invasive species, working for increased funding and national action as well as seeking a more integrated Asia Pacific regional and global response from Australia.

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

FROM THE CEO

Andrew Cox

The past year has seen our world turned upside down, with extensive bushfires fuelled by rising greenhouse gas emissions and a global pandemic. While a suspension of international travel has slowed the arrival of pest and weeds, what is already in Australia continues to spread and wreak havoc.

Pest, weeds and diseases continue their damage regardless of whether we are in lock-down or going about our daily lives.

We must apply the lessons from this pandemic to the natural environment. Prevention and early action against new pests and diseases is the best way to reduce long-term harm.

As you can see from our activities over the past financial year, the Invasive Species Council calls for action to confront one of the biggest threats to Australia's native wildlife with a louder and more effective voice.

Andrew Cox, CEO

Norman Lees from the Townsville City Council with our staff and volunteers Andrew Cox, Janet Cross, Yvette Williams and Bev Job.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In these tough times I once again thank the invaluable support from our partners, donors and volunteers. I wish to thank our CEO, Andrew Cox, our dedicated staff and my fellow board members for making this year such a success.

Stuart Reeh

PREVENTION AND EARLY ACTION

WHERE WE FOCUS 75% OF OUR EFFORTS

Our Objective: A biosecurity system is in place by 2022 that reduces the risk to Australia's natural environment.

Providing compelling information

- High-profile media interviews in the aftermath of the 2019-20 summer bushfires helped shift the public conversation towards action on pests and weeds.

- A new, more dynamic Invasive Species Council website was launched to better present information about the threats of invasive species.

- Published a review of the conservation and ethical consequences of the use of 1080.

Promoting an effective biosecurity system

- Began a three-year Threats to Nature project to overhaul the national system of reducing invasive species and other threats, supported by the Australian Communities Foundation.

- In partnership with Animal Health Australia and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, continued to advance the five-point Biosecurity 2030 Agenda:

  1. Setting 2021-30 as a decade of biosecurity.
  2. Mobilising a 25 million-strong biosecurity mass movement of people.
  3. Developing a national biosecurity strategy and sustainable investment plan.
  4. Creating a formal national partnership between government, industry and community.
  5. Designing an innovation-centred biosecurity system.

- Despite our advocacy, the federal government abandoned a proposed biosecurity levy on shipped imports, in part due to the COVID-19 induced economic downturn.

- Championed the National Biosecurity Statement, adopted in November 2019.

- Pushed for an invasive species hub under the new national science program.

Working with processes and organisations

- Submissions: seven substantive submissions to state and federal government processes, including the independent review of national environmental laws.

- Participated in the working group developing the National Biosecurity Statement.

- Member of the national environmental biosecurity advisory group and Norfolk Island Argentine ant steering committee.

- Invited to the 2020 Managing Wild and Weedy Australia Fenner Conference that developed new ways to radically transform weed research, management and practices.

- Participated in the national biosecurity forum, national environmental biosecurity forums and national forest biosecurity surveillance group.

Supporting practical action

- Unveiled the results of a three-year joint Monash University Invasive Insects Risks and Pathways project that identified more than 240 insect pests that could enter Australia and cause environmental harm. We made 23 recommendations to improve our preparedness and prioritise the identification of other potential invaders. The project was supported by the Ian Potter Foundation.

- Completed the first comprehensive vegetation map of Norfolk Island, a foundation for stronger investment in biosecurity and island-wide pest and weed control. This was supported by the Eldon and Anne Foote Donor Advised Fund of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

Our joint report with Monash University revealed environmentally destructive ants, bees and wasps could be hitching a ride into Australia on an international bug superhighway.

The tawny crazy ant has invaded North and South America. In areas colonised in Texas, this ant has within one year reached densities up to two orders of magnitude greater than the combined abundance of all other ants.

Photo: Alex Wild and Ed Le Brun

Our Reclaim Kosci team on the firegrounds after the summer bushfires.

ERADICATION, CONTAINMENT AND CONTROL

WHERE WE FOCUS 25% OF OUR EFFORTS

Our Objective: Eradicate invasive species from selected islands and sites, contain emerging species and direct control efforts to threatened sites.

Facilitating eradication

- Continued monitoring the $411 million red fire ant eradication program in SE Queensland and the $18 million yellow crazy ant eradication program in the Wet Tropics near Cairns.

- Coordinated the Townsville Yellow Crazy Ant Community Taskforce, working with Townsville City Council, to search for and treat yellow crazy ants and raise community awareness. This work is supported by a Queensland Government Community Sustainability Action grant.

- Worked with Monash University using environmental DNA analysis to determine to boundaries of an outbreak.

Advocating for containment

- Led the Reclaim Kosci campaign,

Townsville City Council staff Norman Lees and Melissa Green, left, brief volunteers and residents about the location of yellow crazy ants in Nome, Townsville.

a partnership of diverse interests seeking to overturn the protection of destructive feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park.
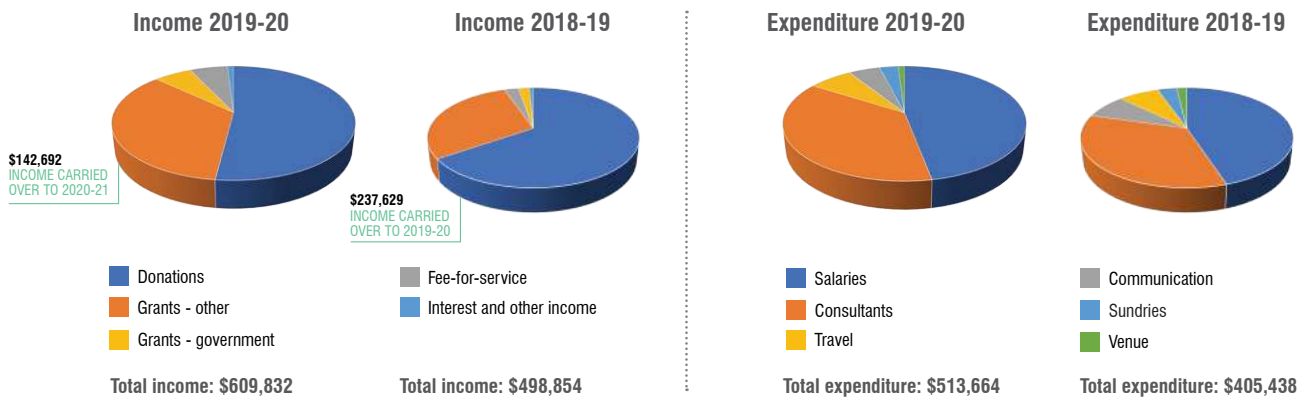
- Reclaim Kosci achieved the restart of feral horse removal after a two-year hiatus.

- Contributed to the Australian Senate inquiry into the impacts of feral deer, pigs and goats.

Supporting targeted control

- Participated in the national feral cat task force and Parliamentary inquiry into the impacts of feral cats.

- Achieved approval of additional cat trapping methods in Victoria.

- Secured funding to offer free desexing and microchipping of domestic cats on Norfolk Island.

Our full strategic plan is on our website: invasives.org.au.

Annual Report 2019-20

Yearly income and expenditure

Income 2019-20

$142,692
INCOME CARRIED OVER TO 2020-21

Income 2018-19

$237,629
INCOME CARRIED OVER TO 2019-20

- **Donations**
- **Grants - other**
- **Grants - government**
- **Fee-for-service**
- **Interest and other income**

Total income: $609,832

Total income: $498,854

Expenditure 2019-20

Expenditure 2018-19

- **Salaries**
- **Consultants**
- **Travel**
- **Communication**
- **Sundries**
- **Venue**

Total expenditure: $513,664

Total expenditure: $405,438

Outreach and communication

Froggatt Award winners

- Queensland's Southern Downs Regional Council for a pioneering and innovative Invasive Pest Control Scheme

- Milo Yeigh, who reported yellow crazy ants in Lismore leading to their rapid eradication

- Hon David Littleproud for the creation of the Office of Environmental Biosecurity and appointment of Australia's first ever Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer

Feral Herald

- Six issues
- 24 stories
- 5000+ subscribers to Feral Herald and Reclaim Kosci email updates

Twitter

- 1857 followers
- 14% increase

Facebook

- 9114 page likes
- 16% increase

1080 baiting for foxes and cats has been critical to the survival of numbats, listed as endangered.

Photo: Seashalia Gibb from Pixabay

The hard work of our policy officer Carol Booth on the use of 1080 in Australia came to fruition with the release of our report, *1080: A Weighty Ethical Issue.* The report found that the use of 1080 in Australia to control feral animals remains critical to the success of large-scale conservation programs and the recovery of threatened species until a viable replacement is found.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our generous donors, supporters and grant providers. In particular, we thank:

- **Australian Communities Foundation and its sub funds**
- **Curlew Fund**
- **Ian Potter Foundation**
- **Ecology Australia**
- **Eldon and Anne Foote Trust of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation**
- **Garry White Foundation**

- **Helen MacPherson Smith Trust**
- **Mullum Trust**
- **Paddy Pallin Foundation**
- **The Royal Society of Victoria**
- **Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; Melbourne Water; Queensland Department of Environment and Science.**

The nationally endangered Norfolk Island green parrot is threatened with predation by cats and rats. The Invasive Species Council has created the first island-wide vegetation map to assist with future pest and wed control. Photo: Luis Ortiz-Catedral

Andrew Cox with Council of Australasian Weed Societies immediate past president Rachel Melland after meeting to discuss environmental biosecurity with federal ministerial advisors in Canberra.

SAVE KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK FROM WILD HORSES AND OTHER FERAL ANIMALS

Greetings from **Kosciuszko National Park**

WALKING

REPEAL THE BRUMBIES BILL

SAVE Kosciuszko NATIONAL PARK FROM WILD HORSES & OTHER FERAL

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invasive species council