

# CARBON POSITIVE AUSTRALIA AGM ANNUAL REPORT

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22nd FEBRUARY 2023





A vertical photograph of a plant stem with several green, rounded leaves and clusters of small pink flowers. The leaves have some brown spots, possibly from insect damage. The background is a soft-focus green field.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Carbon Positive Australia acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

We are proud to live, work and play on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja and Kabi Kabi Country.





# MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

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*"I begin this report by acknowledging the traditional owners of this vast and beautiful country. For countless generations, Aboriginal Peoples have nurtured this land, and the land has nurtured them; in a continuous process of ritual care and of respect. This intimate and immersive connection to country has so much to offer the world in these tumultuous times. The majority of Australians are immigrants, and we have brought with us a sense of separation from country. Now is a time to connect, to get our hands dirty and to take up the invitation offered by Aboriginal Australia to become, not Australians, but to become Australia.*

*It is always with great pleasure that I get to talk about the work that donors have funded with Carbon Positive Australia. Yet also, with each passing year, I am reminded of the urgency of our work for future generations and for those we share the planet with.*

This year saw the state of the environment report launched. The report detailed how we are losing species at an alarming rate, and of course, this is primarily down to land clearing and land use. In this financial year, we began a world-class \$1 million carbon project in the Northern Rivers area of NSW (Nimbin project). This project links highly valuable Koala habitats and restores land previously used for cattle grazing. The project began in mid-2021 with a six-hectare restoration area. The carbon restoration project had been planned initially for 2021, but due to climatic impacts, we began in February 2022. The planting was almost delayed further due to the devastating floods in the region, particularly around the Lismore area, but we successfully managed to get 69,070 seedlings into the ground. This project provides significant impacts for the habitat and species that populate the area.

We have continued our work at Eurady this year, moving into a significant project phase to restore the Kwandong Healthland. This has involved seed collection and trialing germination and planting techniques. This seven-year project partnering with Bush Heritage Australia is one of the most significant ecosystem restoration projects in Australia. The data collected and restoration techniques advanced here will have impacts across the restoration landscape of Western Australia and particularly in the Northern Wheatbelt.

As an organisation, we have had a twenty-one-year history of innovation in the carbon landscape, and this year, we have spent time working on developing Plant Trees Australia. This program initiative empowers community tree-planting groups across Australia to connect with helpers and funders to regenerate landscapes and take practical climate action. A lack of funding and access to helpers for grassroots community tree-planting projects means that many great projects do not get off the ground or are limited in scope. There is currently no central hub for landholders, planting groups and funders to find each other. There is also no way of understanding how much impact community groups are having on carbon removal or a means of measuring this impact. Plant Trees Australia brings stakeholders together and provides access to clear information for donors with a minimum effort for the community group whilst measuring the indicative carbon drawdown. The hub will officially launch in 2023, but we have already begun funding groups and using the platform. We are deeply grateful to those early adopters who have funded and trialed the system for us. You can register as a helper to plant trees across Australia at [www.planttreesaustralia.org.au](http://www.planttreesaustralia.org.au)

2023 will be a big year for Carbon Positive Australia, as well as the launch of Plant Trees Australia; we will continue to plant trees on degraded land that otherwise wouldn't be planted. As well as our usual planting activities, we will focus on increasing habitat for threatened species and planting on saline-impacted land, bringing it back to health. As always, we commit to continuing to assist you in understanding and managing your carbon footprint and planting trees across Australia. We are leading the way to ensure that we have a diverse environment, a stable climate, a healthy and caring society and a green and sustainable economy for future generations.

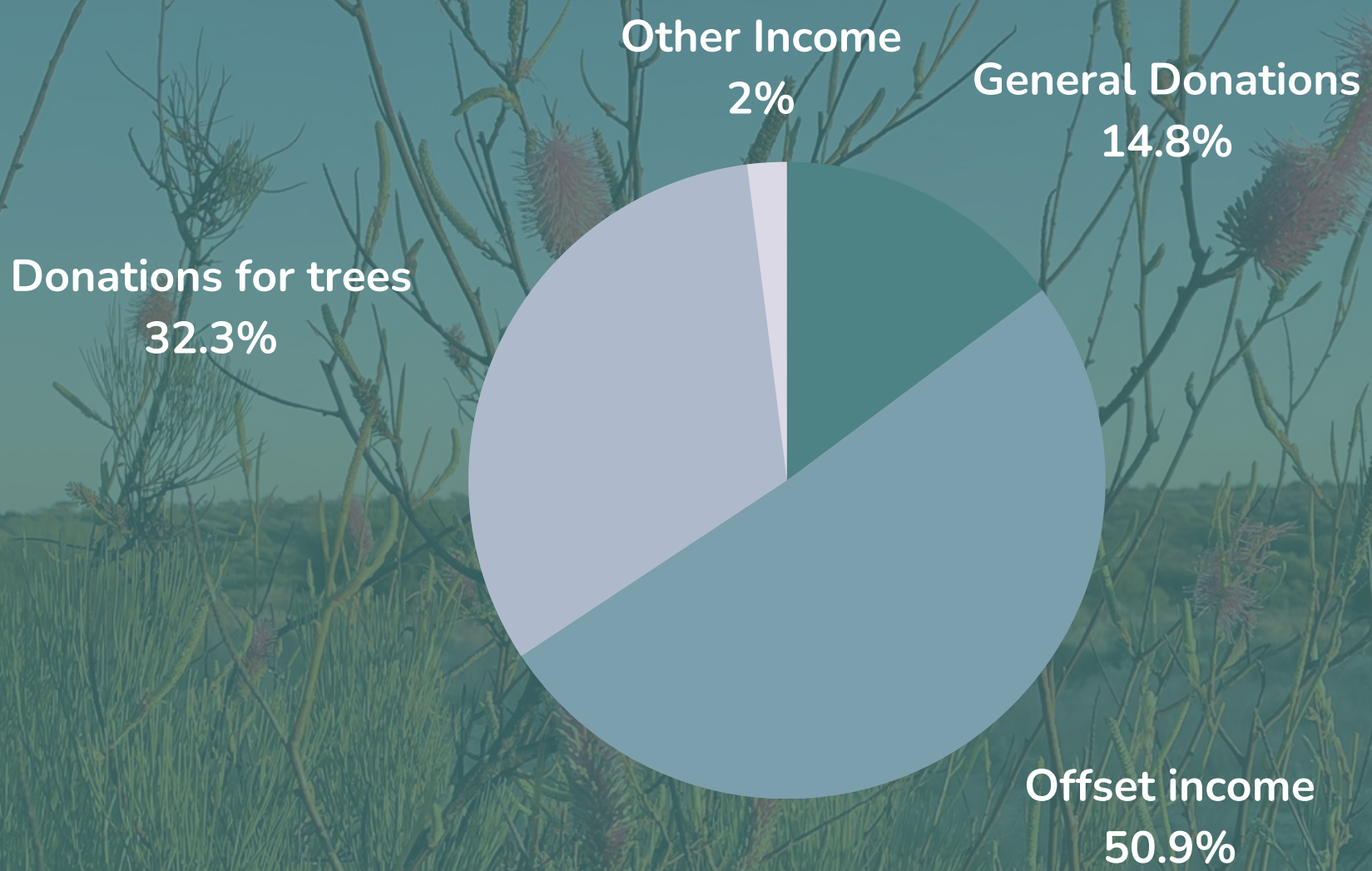
*Ian Rawlings*

Ian Rawlings  
Chair



# FINANCIAL REPORT

In the financial year from 1st October 2021 to 30 September 2022, the organisation recorded a surplus of \$197,457 (2021: \$379,280).



Donor Income increased by 29% compared to the prior year



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Amid incredibly challenging conditions, including flooding events that washed away creek crossings and site tracks, our contractor Future Forests successfully planted 69,500 seedlings during May. A total of 104 diverse species of local native trees and shrubs were hand planted by the team. Canopy cover should be reached within 3 to 5 years, providing habitat and connectivity for native fauna, including koalas, wallabies, land mullet and an array of birds. Planting continued at Eurardy, as we move on to the sandier soils, planting becomes more technically difficult, particularly with regard to seed propagation, climate, and soil moisture retention. This year, we planted approximately 60 hectares of the yellow soils trialling the propagation of several new species, as well as alternative seeding techniques to ensure the future restoration of this area is a success. We planted at Porongurup, this 30-hectare site is located directly adjacent to the Porongurup National Park in the Great Southern region of WA. This area is known for its outstanding biodiversity and is home to more than 750 native plant species, 10 of which are endemic.

Overall we planted 224,000 seedlings and 100kg of native seed.

Alongside Dr Grey Coupland of the Harry Butler Institute, we funded the planting of mini urban forests across suburbs of Perth that are particularly impacted by the urban heat island effect. These fast-growing, low-maintenance native forests help to cool thermal hotspots and provide shade and amenities. They also provide habitat for native fauna, reduce the effects of stormwater runoff and help seed rainfall. In 2022, we funded five of these micro forests in schools and community parks across the Perth City area and one in a community garden in the WA Wheatbelt town of Brookton. Planting Miyawaki forests offers valuable learning opportunities for school children and allows them to take practical action in the face of climate change.

We continued to fund two further projects with Activate Tree Planting, and 75,968 trees were planted across two events. We also funded a further project with Regen the Plains in Victoria. As well as our planting we continue to offer educational opportunities around carbon reduction, reduction and sustainability topics. This year 7,500 people calculated their footprint. We also had 144 people sign up for our online event "Regenerate for a Carbon Positive Future."

In February 2022 we launched "Practical Changemakers - A Carbon Positive Story" a podcast that interviews individuals on a range of sustainability and regenerative subjects. Offering our listenership a range of topics on which they, too, can take action for the climate. In total, we have had 3,683 downloads to date. The organisation has a team of 8 (6.9 FTE) (2021: 7, (6.3 FTE). During the year, the organisation also employed 2 interns and 4 casual employees. There were also circa 1,639 volunteers (2021: 13), which included the Board of Directors who are not remunerated.

For 2023, we will continue to implement our 2020-2025 strategic plan, which includes increasing our planting capacity and encouraging everyone on their carbon positive journey. We will launch the Plant Trees Australia program, which supports community planting in city and urban disinvested communities and planting in remote and regional areas to mitigate climate change

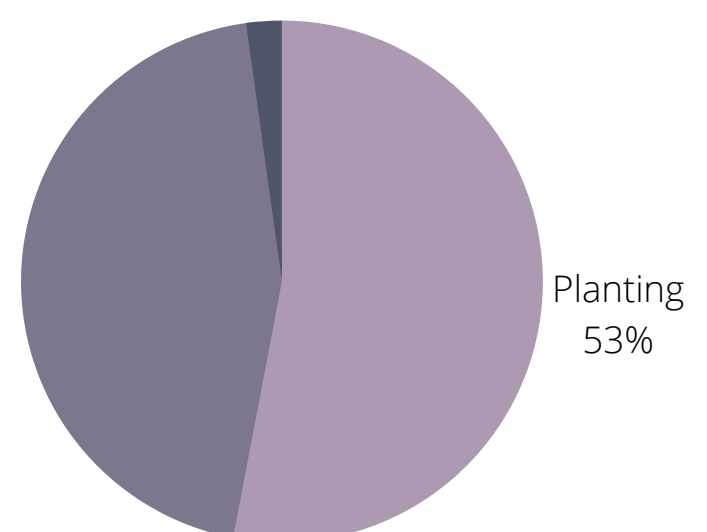
## 2022 Expenditure

The Board supports the re-appointment of Moore Australia as auditors for the 2023 financial year.

The Board recommends that the Financial Statements and Independent Auditor Report for the year ended 30 September 2022 of Carbon Neutral Charitable Fund t/a Carbon Positive Australia be accepted as a true and accurate record of its financial status.

Other Charitable  
44.8%

Admin & Fundraising  
2.2%





# CEO REPORT

*“Every action we take has a carbon impact. Being carbon positive is about always choosing the positive actions that create a thriving environment.”*

Louise-Marlena Tarrier

**At the heart of what we do is a determined belief that we can facilitate change through our actions. By planting trees on degraded land, we aim to sequester carbon and provide habitat for wildlife. Our nature-positive planting restores biodiversity and creates conditions for thriving ecosystems.**

Environmentally 2022 has been a mixed one for our environment. We finally have Australia-wide goals for reducing our emissions by 2030, but this is coupled with the knowledge that the carbon crediting scheme in Australia is rife with opportunities for greenwashing. We continue to lose habitat for our precious wildlife, and extinction rates are unprecedented. The changes in our climate have directly impacted people and nature, and it's been a challenging year for many.

At Carbon Positive Australia we have overcome considerable challenges to restore over 265 hectares of land this year. Our mission to plant on degraded land and restore ecosystems means we have specialist needs. In a year where nursery capacity has been tight, ensuring that we have enough of the many different species of tree we plant has been complex. This has been combined with planting under challenging circumstances (rains and floods) and new soil types, such as the sand plain areas at Eurardy.

One of our biggest highlights in 2022 was planting Miyawaki forests with school children across Perth; these micro-forests are climate heroes, and next year we will be planting them across Australia. We have now begun seed collection for a massive year in 2023, and we can only do that with your help.

By offsetting your carbon, planting trees with us and supporting our work, your gifts ensure we can restore more land, creating homes for wildlife such as the now-endangered koalas and birds like the Black Cockatoo. When we plant for climate, we plant for nature and all of our futures.

For 2023 we are looking forward to our biggest planting season ever. This will include:

- Planting a further 300 hectares at Eurardy Reserve, on Nanda Country, following a successful trial on the yellow sandplain soil this winter. This multi-year project will sequester carbon and restore native vegetation across the Reserve; protecting the land from further degradation and forming a crucial link between Nature Reserves.
- Restoring 185 hectares near Warralakin, on Kalaamaya Country, with a biodiverse selection of native species. This planting will protect the home of several threatened flora and fauna species (including Malleefowl), and provide habitat for a range of woodland species such as Dunnarts, Western Yellow Robins, Brushtail Possums and Pink Cockatoos.
- Working with communities across Australia to plant within local areas, including the planting of Australia's largest-ever Miyawaki Forest in far North Queensland.
- Purchasing land to protect and plant habitat for the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo in the Northern Wheatbelt, WA.

My thanks to each and every one of you for your support throughout 2022.

*Louise Tarrier*



# OUR BOARD

Carbon Positive Australia had a dedicated board of volunteer directors during 2022



Genevieve Simpson



Ian Rawlings



Jeff Bremer



Grahame Reader



Devinder Singh



Adam Marr



Jason Froud

In 2022 the Board met eight times, alternating between in-person and teleconference meetings. They also met for a full day on 26th August 2022 to work on the organisation strategy alongside the Carbon Positive Australia team. The organisation is deeply grateful for the Board's time and care.

We also wish to congratulate Jason Froud and Dr Genevieve Simpson who have joined the board since the last AGM.

**The Board seeks the approval of the members for re-election. A nomination will also be proposed for a new Chair.**

The Board is also seeking a change to the wording of the Constitution to allow it to generate verified offsets.



# OUR TEAM

Carbon Positive Australia had a team of 8 (6.9 FTE) (2021: 7, (6.3 FTE) as at end of September 2022. During the year, the organisation also employed 2 interns and 4 casual employees. There were also circa 1,639 volunteers (2021: 13), which included the Board of Directors who are not remunerated.



**Catherine Patterson**  
Head of Partnerships  
Company Secretary



**Christine O'Brien**  
Head of Marketing



**Pollyanna Darling**  
Head of Community  
& Philanthropy



**Jess Fitzgerald**  
Commercial and  
Carbon Project Co-  
ordinator



**Maddi Ryan**  
Marketing  
Campaign Lead



**Lauren Purcell**  
Communications  
and Partnerships  
Co-ordinator



**Josie Crosby**  
IT Manager



**KA Garlick**  
Donor Support  
Assistant



**John Edakulathur**  
Digital Marketing  
Coordinator



# OUR PARTNERS

In 2022 we worked with the following partners to achieve your goals and objectives. We are deeply grateful for their contribution.



**BUSH HERITAGE**  
AUSTRALIA



**FOR THE PLANET.**  
— NONPROFIT PARTNER —

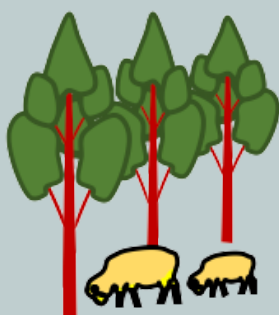
## ▲ ANTHOLOGIE



**Green Skills Inc**



**FarmWoods**



Conservation Council of Western Australia

**ccwa**

Look forward



# OUR SUPPORTERS

In 2022 we were supported by 1,159 individual and company donors. We receive donations for trees, offsets and our general fund. A huge thank you to our supporters





# THANK YOU!



## CONTACT US:

### Website

[carbonpositiveaustralia.org.au](http://carbonpositiveaustralia.org.au)

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### Social

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