



PHILANTHROPY  
AUSTRALIA

# Kangaroo Island Field Trip

Sat 3 to Mon 5 Aug 2024

Image: Western River Refuge by Brad Leue / Australian Wildlife Conservancy

Join the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN) and incoming CEO Claire O'Rourke on Kangaroo Island as we explore the lived experience and impacts of climate change on local communities and the environment.

Almost half (212,000ha) of Kangaroo Island was burnt during the 2019/20 bushfires, devastating the community, wildlife, habitat and the economy. Beside the NGO sector and government, philanthropy has played an important role in supporting strategic recovery and restoration work for people and place.

Hosted by AEGN in partnership with Philanthropy Australia, this two-night, three-day field trip offers funders the opportunity to hear from local community and conservation experts about the island's post-bushfire recovery, adaptation and the important role of philanthropy.

## Kangaroo Island Nature

Lying approximately 15 kilometres off the Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia, Kangaroo Island (KI) is home to numerous species and ecological communities found nowhere else on earth.

Being free of rabbits and foxes, KI is nationally important for nature conservation with many endemic fauna species, threatened or extinct in other parts of Australia, able to persist. But the devastating bushfires of 2019/20 compounded the threats of cat predation, habitat decline and climate change.

With critical philanthropic support, great community conservation initiatives are underway responding to predation from cats; weed control; re-vegetation of endemic and threatened species; along with marine conservation and reef restoration initiatives around the island.

# Kangaroo Island Community

KI's population of almost 5,000 has experienced a climate-induced disaster first-hand. Four and a half years on from the devastating bushfires, we'll be meeting some very special KI and SA locals. From property visits (Cygnet Park, Western River Refuge, Seal Bay Conservation Park) to special dinner conversations including a degustation at Sapphire, expert guests will share their stories, insights and outrage. Hear from:

- Dr Jamie Doube (KI Doctor, conservation landholder and island junkee)
- Pat Hodgins (Australian Wildlife Conservancy ecologist and KI dunnart expert)
- Heidi Groffen (KI Land for Wildlife, ecologist)
- Caroline Paterson (Birdlife Australia, bushfire recovery ecologist)
- David Paton (Conservationist, BioR and KI Rare and Threatened Plant Nursery)
- Paul Jennings (KI Landscape Board, feral cat eradicator, )
- Anita Nedosyko (The Nature Conservancy, ocean coordinator)
- Tony Bartram (KI Dolphin Watch, coordinator)
- Jayne Bates (Community champion and former mayor)

And many more!

## Who is the trip for?

This is a funder only event but open to AEGN members and non-members.

The field trip is for philanthropists and foundation staff and board members interested in climate and nature. If you would like to deepen your understanding of the impacts of extreme wildfires, and post-fire conservation and community initiatives, this trip is for you. There'll also be time to connect with each other and local experts.

Please share the invitation to your networks.



# Itinerary

## Sat 3 Aug

We meet at the Adelaide Airport for a 9.05am flight to Kangaroo Island.

First stop - Cygnet Park (KI Rare and Endemic Plant Nursery).

Introductions to the First Nations story, 2019/20 bushfires and the nature conservation significance of KI.

Check-in to the Mercure KI, American River.

Welcome drinks at Boobook (property of AEGN member Henry Rischbieth) with local champions including conservation experts on the Dudley Peninsula cat control.

Dinner at the Mercure with KI special guest on impacts and recovery from the 2019/20 bushfires, Jamie Doube (KI medical doctor and conservationist).

## Sun 4 Aug

We visit the Western River Refuge, hearing from local landholders and Australian Wildlife Conservancy experts on the threatened KI dunnart.

Onto one of the first KI Land for Wildlife properties, a Buddhist stupa, one of the few properties in the west of the island that wasn't burned during the fires.

After lunch and an introduction to wildlife monitoring we head to Seal Bay Conservation Park and learn about the island's important marine environment.

Back to the Mercure for downtime before a short walk to the Sapphire Restaurant and degustation featuring KI produce.

## Mon 5 Aug

Breakfast with experts and more about KI's ocean and coast, including oyster reef restoration, a post-fire initiative for nature and people.

Check-out of the Mercure and head to the KI Sculpture Trail.

Reflections and funder de-brief over lunch.

Catch the ferry from Penneshaw, and then coach from Cape Jervis into Adelaide.

Airport drop-off (approx. 4pm) then drop off at the Adelaide Convention Centre (approx. 4.30pm).

Check into your accommodation before the Philanthropy Australia welcome drinks.



# Registration

- Double / Twin share: \$2,179 (ex GST); to be booked in pairs i.e. couples who will share a room
- Single: \$2,336 (ex GST); to be booked in a single room

## What's included?

- Flight to Kangaroo Island
- Sealink ferry off the island and coach transfer to Adelaide
- Two nights' accommodation at the Mercure Kangaroo Island Lodge
- Transfers between site visits on KI
- Insights from environmental experts, local community leaders and philanthropists
- All main meals and beverages

## What's not included?

- Accommodation in Adelaide pre and post the field trip
- Transfers to the Adelaide Airport on day one
- Other incidentals during the field trip

Participants will also be asked to sign an indemnity waiver.  
Registrations extended and will now close on Mon 8 July.

For more information contact Margie Jenkin (AEGN Program Manager – Nature) on [margie@aegn.org.au](mailto:margie@aegn.org.au) or 0403 789 110.

