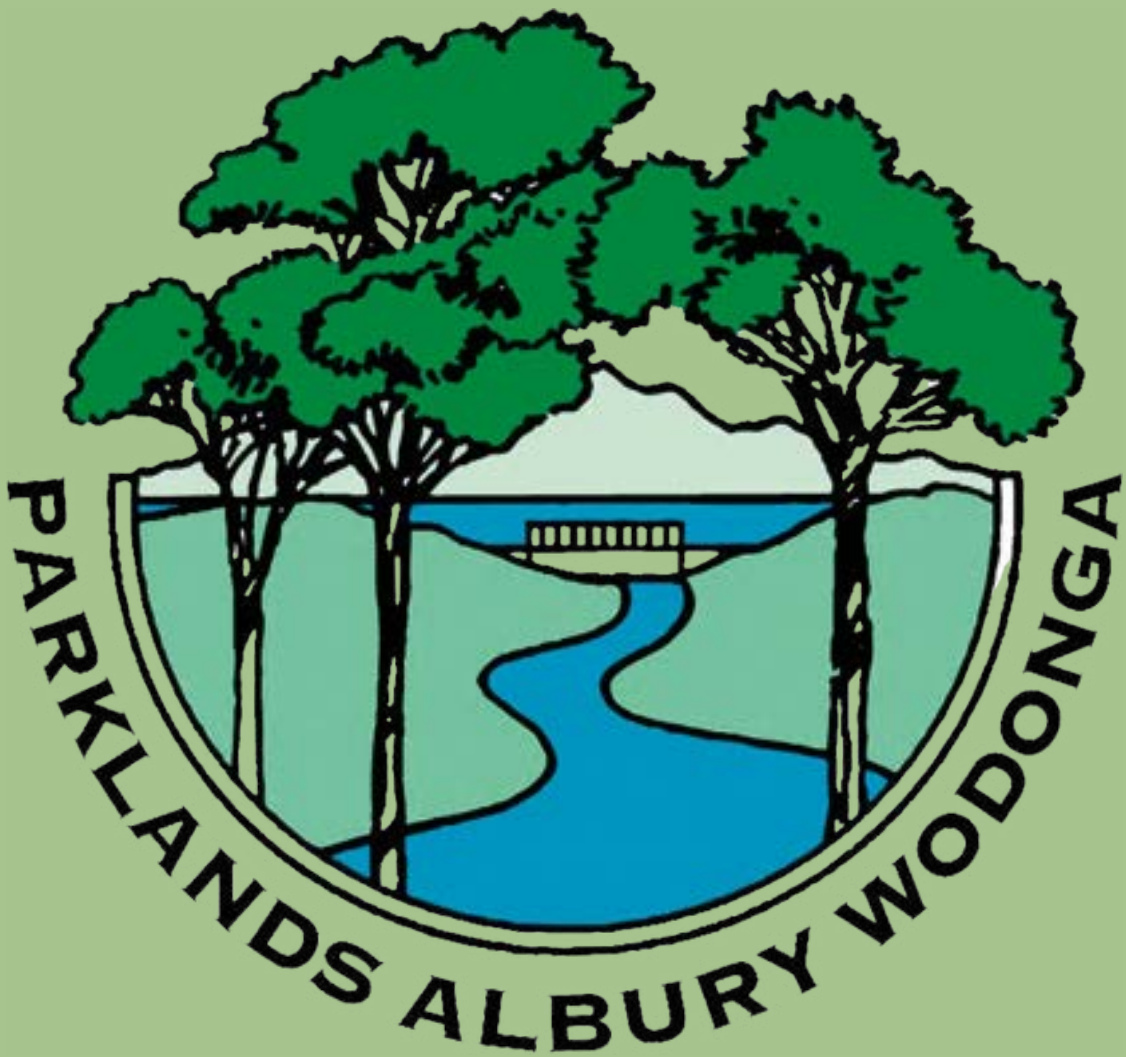


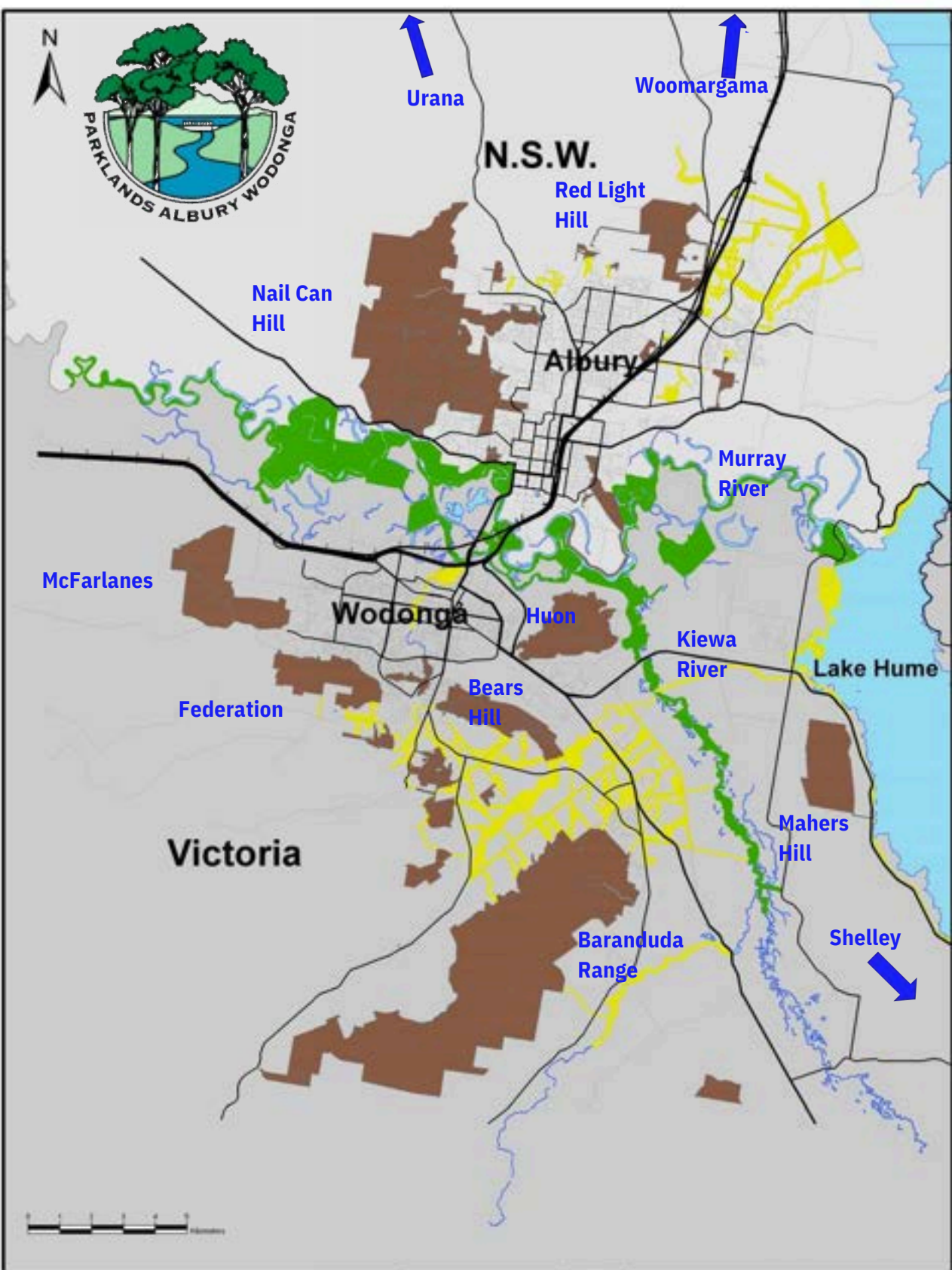
# Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd

## Annual Report

Year Ending 30th June 2024



*Bush parks and trails connecting community.....*



Environmental Land Type		
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: brown; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Hill	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Linkages	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Riverine

## Where We Worked 2023-2024

# PARKLANDS ALBURY WODONGA LTD

2024 Annual Report to the  
Albury Wodonga regional community





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## Parklands' Vision

Our bush reserves and trails will have a high standard of biodiversity and natural values, achieved by empowering community participation and partnerships.



## Parklands' Mission

Restore, improve, and maintain the network of bush parks connecting urban and rural communities.

We encourage community learning and engagement with the local natural environment.



# Chairperson's Report to the Community

*"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." (Jane Goodall)*

Welcome to the 27th Annual Report covering the financial year to 30th June 2024.

Some long-term goals were achieved this year with completion of major park infrastructure projects and 89% of our Business Plan initiatives. We bid farewell to long-serving Board Directors and staff along the way and finished the year with a shift in focus back to landscape-scale repair.

## **Long-serving Board and staff finish up**

I thank the Board of Directors for their strong leadership over a year with plenty of deliberations on whether decisions were 'in the best interests of people and planet'. Special thanks for the valued contributions of long-serving Board Directors Joy Briggs (nine years) and Di Pritchard (four years) who resigned during the year.

With changes to the Deductible Gift Recipient legislation coming into effect from 1 January 2024, we thank outgoing Parklands Public Fund Management Committee member Dougald Frederick for his much-valued time and contributions towards oversight of expenditure of \$212,733 of donations since 2016.

Thank you also to long-serving staff Anne Stelling and Wayne Bishop who retired, leaving large footprints for

Veronica McPherson and Wayne Riddle to leap into.

## **Business Plan initiatives accomplished**

Through pivoting during the pandemic, Parklands Albury Wodonga and partners were grateful to secure recovery funding to deliver on 109 of 122 initiatives identified in Parklands Albury Wodonga's Strategic Plan 2021-2031 and associated Business Plan 2021-2024, with 11 initiatives nearing completion and only two not yet started.

Improvements to the website have been finished which include new interactive maps. Google metrics indicate 1.5 million website page visits as of December 2023, which demonstrates the community demand for up-to-date online information.

## **Major projects completed**

Large-scale landscape repair projects at Lake Hume foreshore and the Upper Murray plus revegetation of another gap in Project 66 - the 66 km landscape corridor - were finished. Murray and Kiewa River access projects were finished with 12 new river ports established along with 56 boardwalk sections and 40 chicane pedestrian gates. 18 First Nations murals were installed. On the High Country Rail Trail, flood recovery works were finished, signs were installed on the Cudgewa mural trail and the historic trestle bridge trail. The strategically important Tallangatta Creek footbridge at Bullioh in nearing completion.

## Wet weather behind us

Pest plant control workloads have eased due to a combination of drier weather and the successful control results after significant and sustained efforts by staff and volunteers over recent wet and unrelenting years.

After a record dry winter, we thank Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation, North East Catchment Management Authority, North East Water, and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder for their efforts to deliver much needed cultural water to Ryans Lagoon wetlands in spring 2024.

## Landscape repair work ongoing

*“We are #GenerationRestoration. We cannot turn back time, but we can grow forests, revive water sources, and bring back soils. We are the generation that can make peace with the land.” (World Environment Day, United Nations)*

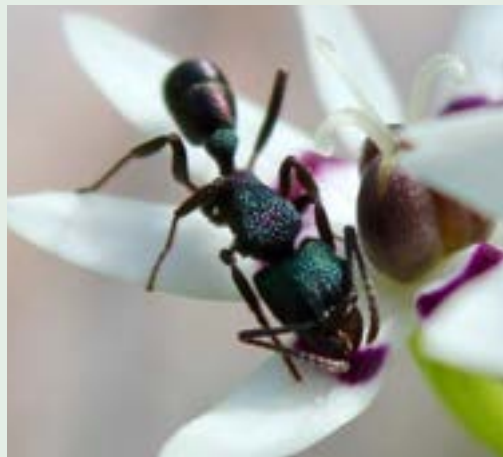
As the year draws to a close, we are grateful to secure some four-year grants from the Victorian and Australian Governments. These will enable our community to sustain efforts in repairing Australia’s landscapes, combining best practice restoration techniques with traditional land management approaches through our partnerships with First Nations people and Traditional Owners.

Daryl Betteridge  
Chairperson



# OBJECT 1: Optimise Biodiversity

Strategic Objectives	What we delivered in partnership with others
Protect old growth trees	2 cultural burns 176 hectares where hard-hoofed grazing was removed
Deliver pest plant and animal programs	47,870 L herbicide sprayed 14,777 woody weed stems removed
Create connected habitat corridors	4 km stock exclusion fencing installed 19,300 seedlings planted
Provide and protect habitat for threatened fauna	262 squirrel glider nest boxes monitored





## OBJECT 2: Educate Regional Community

Strategic Objectives	What we delivered in partnership with others
Provide quality engagement activities that connect a broad cross section of the community with nature	11 nature-based events 311 participants
Share stories about how to protect biodiversity and help nature adapt to a changing climate	92 website stores



## OBJECT 3: Provide Opportunities for Volunteers

Strategic Objectives	What we delivered in partnership with others
Deliver quality citizen science and park stewardship volunteer programs that build capacity, understanding, and on-ground outcomes	591 volunteers involved 305 species recorded during the 2024 Great Southern BioBlitz
Engage volunteers from a diversity of backgrounds	240 CALD gardeners 3 disability groups involved 1 nature play group 4 workplaces 3 schools
Support internships	13 structured workplace learning days
Ensure safe and efficient delivery of all on-ground works and activities	2 roofs installed at new Leneva depot 3 inverter heater/coolers installed at Leneva Hall Workshop ranger regularly maintain, service, and repair plant and equipment

## OBJECT 4: Maintain a Gift Fund

Strategic Objectives	What we delivered in partnership with others
Promote the Gift Fund and share stories of projects	11 website stories
Fundraise to grow Gift Fund	6 philanthropic grants

## OBJECT 5: International Best Practice Management

Strategic Objectives	What we delivered in partnership with others
Improve the visitor experience	28 km grading of Rail Trail 1.5 km realignments of mountain bike trails 18 First Nations murals 46 wayfinding signs with maps 51 interpretive signs
Improve accessibility	56 boardwalk sections across waterways 1 new footbridge Decking replaced on 1 footbridge 2 boardwalks widened to reduce to green grade MTB trail 40 pedestrian chicanes installed 12 river ports providing river access
Improve awareness and online presence	1.5 million visits to interactive GoogleMaps as at Dec 2023 21 interactive park maps 12 printable maps 10 nature trail notes 24 accessibility features (WAGS) on website implemented
Improve capacity with skilled bank of staff	3 staff undertook training
Reduce environmental footprint	19 of 27 Sustainability Actions (70%) delivered 8 of 27 Sustainability Actions progressing



## OBJECT 6: Involve the Community

Strategic Objectives	What we delivered in partnership with others
Consult and involved Traditional Owners and First Nations people	1 co-management agreement  1 cultural watering  2 cultural burns  15 First Nations artists engaged
Consult and involve neighbours	51 licensees  124 rural neighbours
Consult and involved community, workplaces, natural resource management networks, and government	4 workplaces  76 partners
Undertake social procurement and local procurement where possible	3 social enterprises

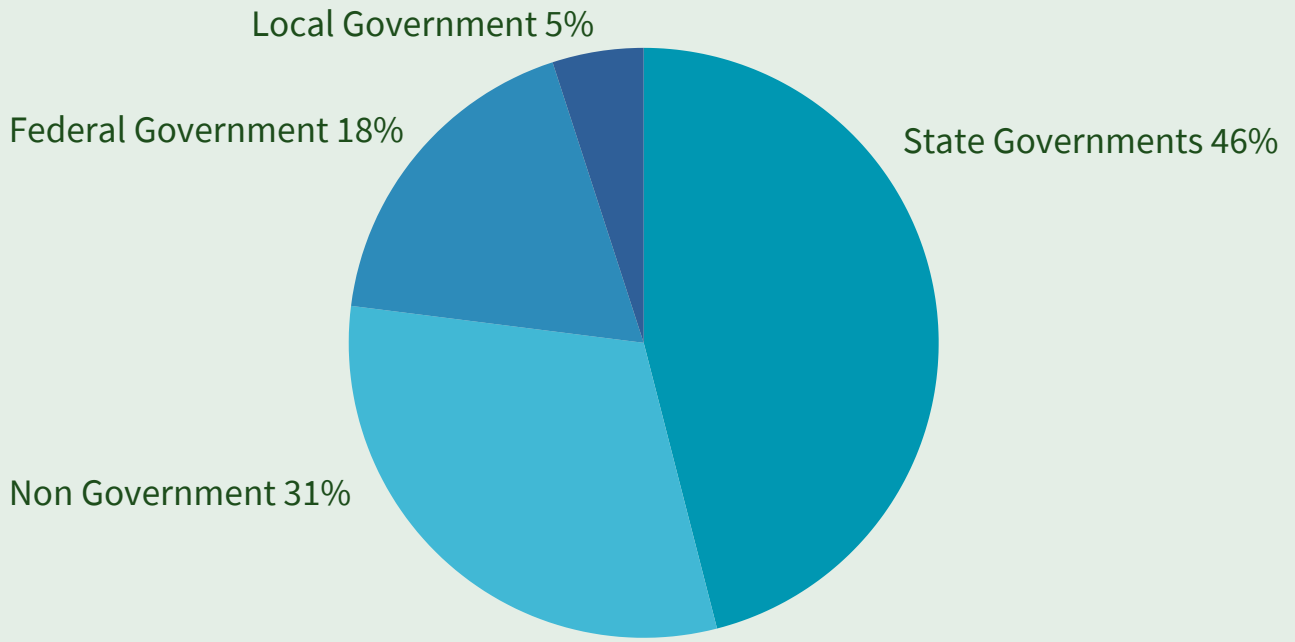


# OBJECT 7: Financial Independence

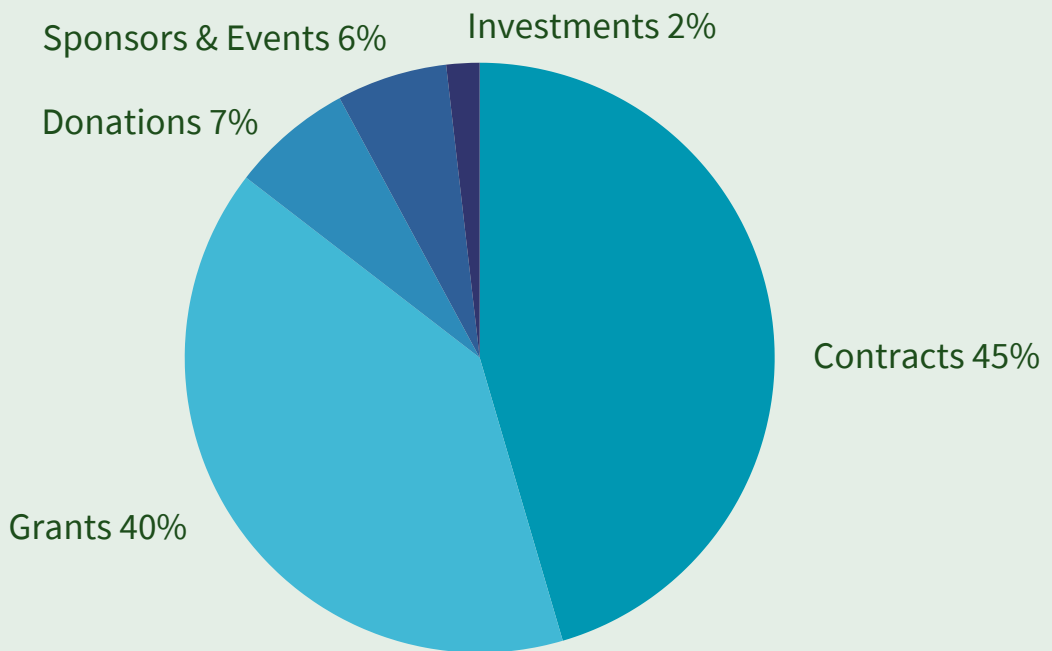
Strategic Objectives	What we delivered in partnership with others
Pursue diverse income streams including good, services, events, donations, sponsorships, grants, licence fees, and niche offerings	46 projects delivered with 127 partners  30 financial partners
Pursue partnerships and in-kind support	76 partners throughout the year
Work towards preferred supplier for delivery of land management and environmental projects across the region	5 contracts
Contribute to the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the regional community	Procured \$0.4 million in goods and services locally  213,000 users of nature trails  Procured from 3 social enterprises
Efficiently and effectively manage projects and administration	46 projects delivered with 127 partners  Maintained 2,300 ha of Committee of Management lands



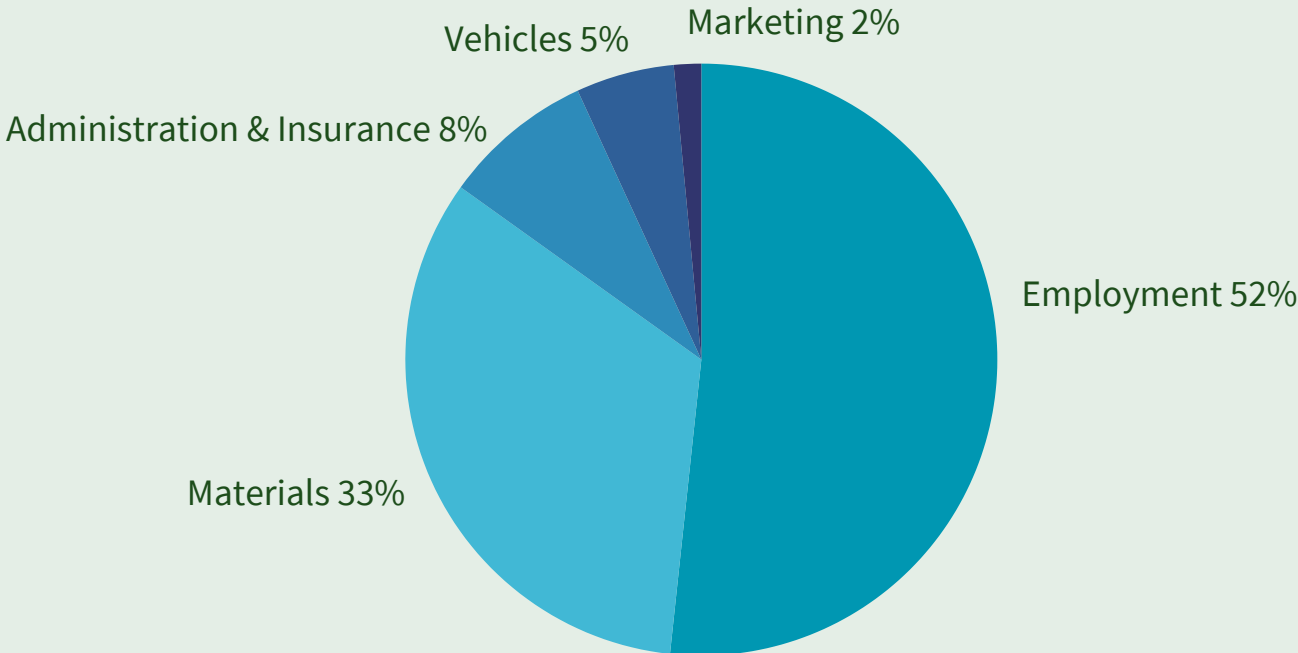
## INCOME SOURCES



## INCOME TYPES



# EXPENDITURE





# Operations Summary



591 volunteers = \$645,059 in work hours



19,300 native seedlings planted



311 event participants



172 km nature trails maintained



76 partner organisations co-operated;  
8 friends groups empowered



47,870 L herbicide sprayed;  
14,777 woody weed stems removed



262 nest boxes monitored



38 km fuel reduction firebreaks;  
4 km stock exclusion fencing

# Parklands Board of Directors

At 30 June 2024

Chairperson and Albury City Representative	Daryl Betteridge
Deputy Chairperson and Environment Representative	Dr. Alison Hayman
Treasurer and Wodonga Representative	Phil Oates
Director - Community Representative	Chris Cotterill
Director - Baranduda Representative	Liz Fuchsen
Director - User Group Representative	Simon Mullumby

# Parklands Staff

At 30 June 2024

Ranger - Traditional Land Management	Allan Murray
Ranger - Community/Executive Officer	Ant Packer
Ranger - Field/Community Engagement	Danny Jones
Ranger - Field/GIS Analyst	Michael Mowat
Ranger - Field/Multicultural Farm	Tilak Chhetri
Ranger - Field	Steve Panozzo
Ranger - Communications	Veronica McPherson
Ranger - Planning	Penny Wladkowski
Ranger - Workshop/Infrastructure	Wayne Riddle

# Many thanks to our financial supporters!

## Community Financial Partners

Albury Wodonga Connected Communities  
Baranduda Landcare Group  
Border Trust  
Bonegilla Rail Trail Advisory Group  
Community members  
Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal  
Rotary Club of Albury Foundation  
Rotary Club of Albury North  
STARTTS  
Tallangatta Rail Trail Advisory Group  
Towong Community Bushfire Disaster Relief Fund

## Business Financial Partners

FC Circular  
Humble Home Services Albury  
Neighbours (grazing licence fees)  
National Australia Bank Foundation  
University of NSW  
Bank WAW

## Government Financial Partners

Albury City Council  
Business Victoria  
City of Wodonga  
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (VIC)  
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (VIC)  
Department of Industry, Science and Resources (Aus)  
Murray Local Land Services  
National Emergency Management Agency  
NSW Cross Border Commissioner  
NSW Soil Conservation Services  
North East Catchment Management Authority  
Towong Shire Council  
VicTrack