



Support conservation efforts in the Kimberley

Thank you for being a supporter of Australian Wildlife Conservancy's (AWC) conservation efforts in the Kimberley. Over the last two years, your support has contributed to recovery efforts at Mornington-Marion Downs Wildlife Sanctuary, after it was washed out in the heavy rainfall from ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie. Since the flood, AWC staff and volunteers have worked on the restoration of electricity and water facilities, the removal of debris, and the recommencement of priority operations such as prescribed burning.

Recovery at Mornington

Thanks to your support, AWC's Operations and Science teams have been able to restore sanctuary function to a level that supports ongoing biological monitoring.

Key operations have been able to recommence, with AWC's large feral herbivore control back in full swing in 2024 at Mornington. In addition, early dry season prescribed burns were essential in providing firebreaks to protect remaining infrastructure, as well as habitat for the endangered Purple-crowned Fairy-wren.

Rebuilding of infrastructure has also begun at Mornington, including a recent rebuild of the communal kitchen. Future reconstruction will continue to be guided by topographical analysis of the flood event, allowing for informed restoration decisions.





Purple-crowned Fairy-wren. Brad Leue/AWC.

Purple-crowned Fairy-wren research

Your contribution to AWC has enabled research into the endangered Purple-crowned Fairy-wren to continue at Mornington.

In January 2025, a team of ecologists from AWC and Monash University made a strange observation of a Purple-crowned Fairy-wren feeding a fledgling brush cuckoo. This was a surprising find, as whilst cuckoos lay their eggs in the nests of other birds, leaving the hosts to raise a chick that isn't their own, Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens are not the usual targets of brush cuckoos. Over the course of a fortnight, the ecologists watched as a dutiful family of fairy-wrens fed the brush cuckoo each day, seemingly unaware that the fledgling was not one of their own. Your support helps us to better understand the complexity of the natural world and interactions between species.

In other news, Mornington continues to host PhD, Masters and Honours students interested in undertaking research on the Purple-crowned Fairy-wren. Recently, Honours student Tommy Landmann investigated the response of the fairy-wrens to different fire regimes. His research found that Purple-crowned Fairy-wrens are negatively impacted by high intensity burns but respond positively to cool burns. This research can be implemented to AWC's fire management at Mornington, to deliver the best outcomes for threatened species.

Thank you for supporting this project – your contribution to conservation in the Kimberley has been essential in ensuring the future of AWC's operations in Australia's expansive north region.

