

2025 Ecology and Conservation Internship Program



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1. About AWC

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is a global leader in conservation, providing hope for Australia's wildlife with a science-informed, land management partnership approach which delivers high impact results. We protect endangered wildlife in iconic regions such as the Kimberley, Cape York, the Top End and Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre.

AWC's mission - to deliver effective conservation for all native animal species and their habitats - is achieved by:

- **Operations** – delivering effective large-scale land management including fire management, feral animal control, weed control and infrastructure management.
- **Science** – delivering a nationally-coherent program of ecological surveys with a focus on monitoring key conservation assets and threats, conducting applied research relevant to wildlife conservation, implementing conservation programs including reintroductions, and providing advice to management.
- **Fundraising** – mobilising finance (primarily, tax deductible donations) from the general public and philanthropists including through effective communication of AWC conservation programs.

AWC's work is guided by the following values. In pursuing our mission, we are:

- **Informed** – working together to acquire and apply evidence, knowledge and experience
- **Respectful** – demonstrating care, recognition and integrity
- **Accountable** – taking ownership of our actions and outcomes
- **Dedicated** – committed to delivering effective outcomes, with resilience and tenacity
- **Innovative** – applying creative thinking for effective solutions
- **Sustainable** – delivering long-term financial and ecological viability.

The delivery of AWC's mission is highly reliant on all AWC working collaboratively with each other under a model called *OneAWC*. *OneAWC* is defined as 'a cohesive, engaged, collaborative, high performing group guided by strong, effective leaders. A group of people who all understand AWC's mission, vision and their role in contributing to the achievement of mission and vision, all connected and working towards a common purpose, guided by a set of shared values'.

2. About the internship program

AWC's science program plays a fundamental role in helping AWC meet its mission. AWC ecologists:

- Measure and evaluate the ecological health of AWC's wildlife sanctuaries and partnership sites;
- Conduct research on key issues relevant to the conservation of wildlife;
- Plan, implement and monitor reintroductions,
- Contribute to conservation and land management strategies, and report on their outcomes and
- Assist with AWC's communication and fundraising activities which may include participation in supporter events, media and webinars.

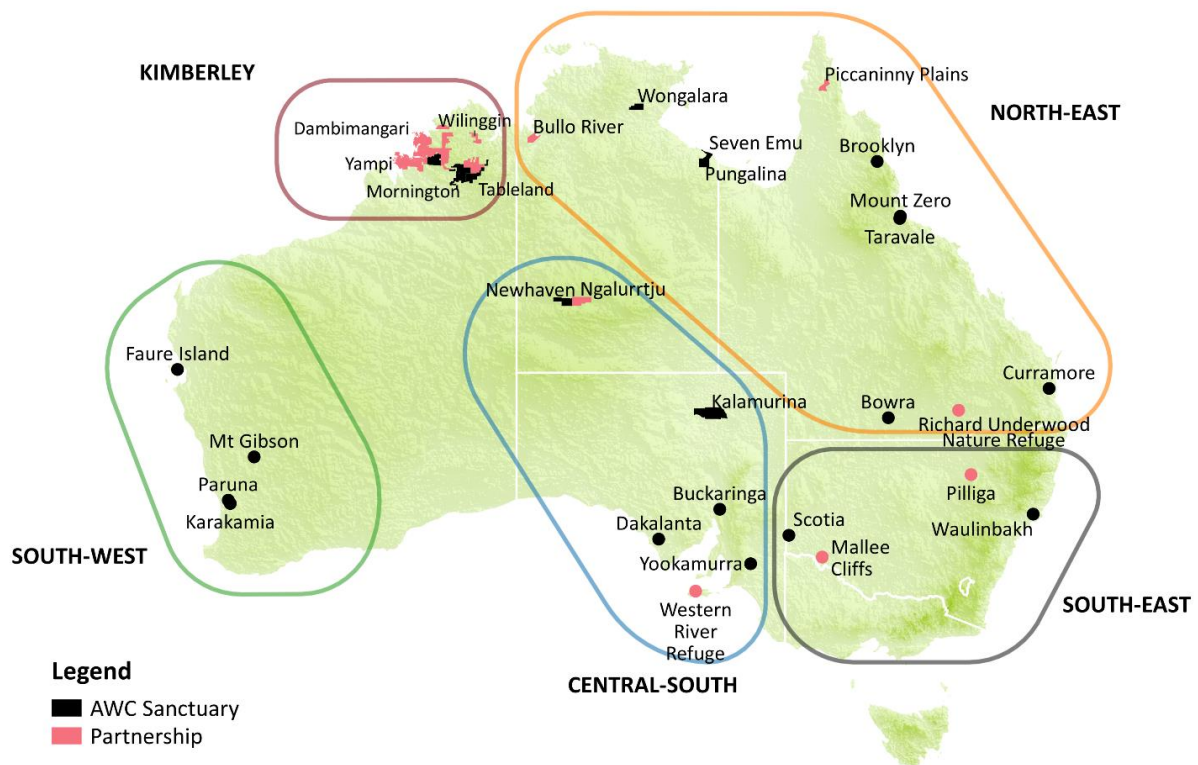
AWC offers opportunities for promising graduate students to get involved in the science program and gain valuable field experience in conservation research via the Ecology & Conservation Internship Program. In 2025, AWC will offer **up to twenty internships** of 4-6 months duration, across its network of sanctuaries. Each internship has been designed to provide an exciting training program. The program is

designed to introduce conservation biologists to a variety of sanctuaries with a host of different ecosystems, flora and fauna, field techniques, and conservation issues. The internships provide a modest living stipend and travel assistance for the duration of the program. A relocation allowance is also provided at the beginning and end of the internship placement.

Below are the proposed intake periods for 2025's Ecology & Conservation Internship Program. These dates *may vary* however, this will be discussed with the successful candidates at the interview and offer stages.

**Please Note: AWC provided accommodation may not be available at some locations. An additional accommodation/travel allowance may be provided to the intern to support other arrangements. This will be discussed further with the successful applicants.*

Internship Placements	Intake period	Positions available
North-west Interns will spend 6 months at Mornington, Marion Downs, Tableland, Charnley River-Artesian Range, Yampi Sound Training Area [WA] with possible trips to other NW managed and partnership properties. Note, there is also a <i>possibility</i> of a few weeks at Newhaven [NT] during the program. This will be discussed further with the successful candidate.	1. May – September 2025	4
North-east Interns will spend 5 months based in Cairns* with trips to Brooklyn, Piccaninny Plains, Mt Zero-Taravale, Bowra and Curramore [QLD], Pungalina Seven-Emu, Bullo River Station and/or Wongalara [NT].	1. March – July 2025 2. July – December 2025	2 2
South-west Interns (Karakamia, Paruna and Faure Island) will spend 6 months at Karakamia, Paruna and Faure Island [WA] with possible brief visits to Mt Gibson [WA].	1. January – July 2025 2. July – December 2025	1 1
South-west Interns (Mt Gibson) will spend 6 months based at Mt Gibson [WA], with possible brief visits to one or more of the other south-west sanctuaries.	1. January – July 2025 2. July – December 2025	1 1
Central and South Interns (Yookamurra, Kalamurina, Buckaringa, Dakalanta and Western River Refuge) will spend 5–6 months based at Yookamurra [SA], with trips to one or more of the other central and south sanctuaries.	1. February – July 2025 2. July– December 2025	1 1
Central and South Interns (Newhaven and Ngalurrtju) will spend 5-6 months based at Newhaven [NT] and may participate in some Ngalurrtju [NT] based projects for short periods. There is also the possibility of trips to other sanctuaries in the region [SA].	1. March – August 2025 2. April – September 2025	1 1
South-east Interns (Mallee Cliffs, Pilliga and Scotia) will spend 5 months based at Mallee Cliffs NP*, the Pilliga* and Scotia [NSW].	1. February – July 2025 2. July– December 2025	2 2



3. Training program

AWC has constructed a training program that will:

- Enable Interns to experience a range of Australian ecosystems, and associated flora and fauna;
- Provide experience with a wide variety of field techniques including:
 - Different types of survey and trapping techniques;
 - The handling of many different types of animals;
 - Specialist skills such as pit tag insertion, DNA sampling, animal husbandry, radio- and GPS- tracking.

The Intern will be mentored by a team of experienced ecologists, who will provide on-going assessment throughout the training program. At the end of the training program, the Intern's progress will be evaluated, and an assessment report provided.

4. Intern supervision

Supervisors for interns in 2025 are listed below:

North-west:	Dr Skye Cameron, Dr Pippa Kern, Dr Karen Young, Dr Tom Sayers, Dr Jarrah Dale, Larissa Potter, Naomi Blondel, Jake Barker, Robyn Davies
North-east:	Dr Alexander Watson, Dr Helena Stokes, Dr Eridani Mulder, Dr Gabrielle Beca, Andy Howe, Felicity L’Hotellier, Hayden de Villiers, Melissa Christi, Aiden Wright
South-west:	Dr Amanda Bourne, Dr Sophia Callander, Dr Bryony Palmer, Joshua Hungerford
South-west (Mt Gibson):	Dr Amanda Bourne, Dr Louis O’Neill, Robin Sinclair
Central and South:	Helen Crisp, Dr Alexandra Ross, Keith Bellchambers, Gillian Kowalick
Central and South (Newhaven & Ngalarurtju):	Helen Crisp, Dr Helenna Mihailou, Dr Tim Henderson, Dr Danae Moore, Samantha Mulvena
South-east:	Dr Greg Holland, Dr Vicki Stokes, Dr Rachel Ladd

5. Required skills/selection criteria

- A Bachelor’s degree with Honours (or equivalent experience) in an ecology/conservation program (e.g. BSc Hons)
- Strong commitment to wildlife conservation
- Fauna and flora survey experience
- Demonstrated capacity to live and work in remote areas (including extended periods camping in the field whilst undertaking surveys) with small groups of people
- Demonstrated capacity to diligently collect and manage data
- Understanding of, and ability to learn identification of Australian flora and fauna
- Physically capable to undertake strenuous fieldwork and possessing a high level of fitness
- Preparedness and capacity to follow OHS and animal ethics procedures
- Ability to conduct fieldwork for extended hours at night
- Valid manual Australian (or internationally recognised) drivers’ licence and experience driving manual vehicles
- Fluency in English
- Internships are open to all applicants with the right to work in Australia (appropriate visa, permanent residency etc), though noting key criteria is an understanding of Australian flora and fauna

Individuals of Indigenous background are encouraged to apply. Please contact us if you require support with your application.

6. How to apply

All our internship details are posted on our internships page, with multiple internships across the country which all have requirements as listed on the page and advertisement.

If you are interested in applying, we recommend following these steps:

Step 1: Do your research:

- Ensure you research what work we do at the Australian Wildlife Conservancy and how this relates to your prior experiences and education.
- Invest time into each individual region and how this would align to your academic and career interests. You can find more info on our [FAQs](#).

Step 2: Prepare your application:

- Visit our [careers page](#) and create a new profile or log into your existing profile. Build your resume and application and ensure to keep track of when applications close.
- For help and information on building your application, please view our FAQs and our application tips. Ecology & Conservation Internship Application Tips can be found [here](#).

Step 3: Apply:

- Lastly – once you've finalised all the details on your application and have proofread it – apply!
- Your application will need to include two separate documents to be uploaded.
 1. Your CV or resume
 2. Two-part covering letter
 - a. Explaining your interest in applying for the internship program (1-2 pages)
 - b. Briefly addressing each of the selection criteria listed above (2 pages)
- Applications that do not meet the above requirements will not be accepted.
- If you have preferences for particular regions, you will have the opportunity to select your preferences in the application process. If you do not have a preference and are happy to be considered for all regions placements, please select 'Any Region' in your questionnaire response.
- **Applications must be submitted by Sunday 29 September 2024**

Please note:

1. Applicants must be an Australian citizen/permanent resident or have a suitable visa in place in order to apply for the internship program. Sponsorship is not available.
2. If you apply for this role, AWC will include you in its ongoing updates and communications about its events, activities and fundraising initiatives. You may opt out of these communications at any time.
3. Any application submitted to AWC will be handled in accordance with our Privacy Policy, available at www.australianwildlife.org/privacy-policy. By providing us with your contact details, your consent to receive communications and direct educational material will remain current until you advise us otherwise.

7. Key contacts

If you have any further questions which aren't covered in this document or our [FAQs](#), please reach out to either:

- the contacts listed below for region-specific questions or
- the People (HR) Team at intern@australianwildlife.org for any recruitment and broader internship specific questions.

North-west:	Dr Tom Sayers, Wildlife Ecologist tom.sayers@australianwildlife.org
North-east:	Hayden de Villiers, Field Ecologist Hayden.deVilliers@australianwildlife.org
South-west:	Dr Bryony Palmer, Wildlife Ecologist Bryony.Palmer@australianwildlife.org
South-west (Mt Gibson):	Dr Louis O'Neill, Wildlife Ecologist Louis.ONeill@australianwildlife.org
Central and South:	Dr Alexandra Ross, Wildlife Ecologist Alexandra.Ross@australianwildlife.org
Central and South (Newhaven):	Dr Helenna Mihailou, Senior Field Ecologist Helenna.Mihailou@australianwildlife.org
South-east:	Dr Vicki Stokes, Senior Wildlife Ecologist Vicki.Stokes@australianwildlife.org

8. Internship locations

a. North-west

Charnley River-Artesian Range lies in the northwest Kimberley, the only part of Australia that hasn't experienced mammal extinctions in the past 200 years. Its rugged sandstone and volcanic ranges protect a suite of regionally endemic species (such as Golden-backed Tree-rat, Wyulda, Monjon, Black Grasswren, and Western Giant Cave Gecko), as well as threatened mammal species that have declined significantly from other parts of northern Australia (e.g. Northern Quoll, Golden Bandicoot). AWC's science program focuses on inventory and monitoring, plus research on the impacts of fire and feral cats on this unique community. Due to the flood event at Mornington in 2023, the primary base for the Internship program will be the Charnley River Homestead – Operations Base, with fieldwork across all AWC Kimberley management areas.

Mornington, Marion Downs and **Tableland** protect almost 900,000 ha of the central Kimberley, WA. Massive sandstone mesas and heavily folded ranges overlook savanna plains and a large section of the mighty Fitzroy River. Mornington's Wildlife Link Centre for Research and Conservation was the base for an award-winning conservation program that is helping to protect iconic species like the Gouldian Finch, Northern Quoll and Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, since the impact of the 2023 January Floods, the base has reduced staff and facilities, however AWCs key conservation programs and the Purple-crowned Fairy-wren research continues.

Yampi Sound Training Area is managed under an agreement with the Department of Defence, in collaboration with the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation. Yampi consists of a diversity of habitats including lowland plains and riparian areas, rugged dissected sandstone ranges with rainforest pockets, and coastal habitats such as mangroves and mudflats. These diverse landscapes provide refuge habitat for threatened species (e.g. Northern Quoll, Kimberley Brush-tailed Phascogale, Western Partridge Pigeon, Golden Bandicoot), as well as endemic species such as the Golden-backed Tree-rat and Wyulda.

b. North-east

Curramore is located about 90 km north of Brisbane, on the western escarpment of the Maleny Plateau in south east Queensland. Despite its relatively small size, Curramore is home to a remarkably high diversity of wildlife, thanks to its wide range of vegetation types and its connectivity to more extensive forest on adjacent land including the Maleny National Park. Curramore Sanctuary protects a total of 279 species of native vertebrates, including several hundred species of birds and reptiles that dominate the forests during the day. The canopy comes to life at night with possums and gliders, and threatened species like the Koala, Marbled Frogmouth, Grey-headed Flying Fox, and the rare Golden Tipped Bat.

Bowra Wildlife Sanctuary lies northwest of Cunnamulla, in central southern Queensland. The property protects 14,113 ha of diverse habitat from mulga woodlands to alluvial sands and claypans. Bowra supports over 300 species of native vertebrate animals including a number of species near their eastern or western range limits, such as the Striated Grasswren, Blue-Winged Parrot, Desert Spadefoot Toad, Striped Skink, Pebble Dragon and Little Red Flying-Fox. The diversity of species is a consequence of the sanctuary's location, straddling a suite of habitats on both the Warrego River plains and the plateau further west.

Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary lies in far north Queensland, spanning a range of habitat types and topography: from a wall of mountains reaching the edge of the Daintree rainforests in the east, to the open floodplains of the Mitchell River in the west. Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary contains an extraordinary concentration of

wildlife, and provides a refuge for more than 30 species that are threatened with extinction. Over 40% of Australia's bird species and 30% of Australia's mammals can be found on the property, giving it immense conservation value. The 86 mammal species on the property include many that are restricted to particular rainforest types in the region like the Lumholtz Tree Kangaroo, Musky Rat Kangaroo and three species of mountain ringtail possum.

Piccaninny Plains, situated in the centre of Cape York Peninsula, extends from the foothills of the McIlwraith Range to the western plains of the Gulf of Carpentaria. Fifty-two kilometres of the Archer River and its towering gallery forest form the southern boundary, from here, a network of wetlands, woodlands, tall grasslands and deciduous vine forests extend 60 kilometres to the north, meeting the rainforests of the Wenlock River and the north eastern boundary. The gallery and vine forests are home to some of the sanctuary's more striking wildlife, including the Spotted Cuscus, Striped Possum, Palm Cockatoo, Magnificent Riflebird, Eclectus Parrot. Feral horses, cattle and pigs are the most problematic feral herbivores on the property, and are being removed by trapping, mustering and shooting, as well as strategic fencing to limit reinvasion and protect wetlands. In the last 5 years, field staff have removed over 6,000 pigs, 5,500 cattle, and over 900 horses.

Pungalina is perched on the edge of a rugged sandstone plateau, overlooking the vast coastal plains of **Seven Emu**. The two properties are connected by the Calvert River and together cover an area of 306,911 ha. The vast sanctuary supports a rich montage of habitats including coastal rainforest, mangroves, riparian forest, eucalypt woodlands, perched wetlands and bubbling thermal springs. This diversity makes it a refuge for many species that are in sharp decline elsewhere in northern Australia. Pungalina-Seven Emu is an important refuge for the declining wildlife of the Gulf of Carpentaria, protecting nearly 50 mammal species, over 200 bird species and over 100 reptiles.

Bullo River Station AWC has formed an innovative partnership with the owners of Bullo River Station to deliver land management and science on one of Australia's most iconic pastoral leases. AWC and Bullo River are working in partnership to demonstrate how conservation and pastoral activities can co-exist. This partnership protects a suite of threatened species consistent with its use as a commercial cattle property and eco-tourism operation.

Wongalara Covering over 190,000 hectares on the southern edge of Arnhem Land, Wongalara makes a vital contribution to conservation within the poorly reserved Gulf Fall and Uplands Bioregion. It contains a range of topography and a variety of landscapes supporting distinct assemblages of plants and animals. The various ecosystems on Wongalara form an intricate and complex pattern, with fine-scale variation. AWC's management at Wongalara is aimed at halting and reversing the decline in wildlife that is sweeping across northern Australia. One of the measures undertaken was the establishment of the largest feral herbivore-free area on mainland Australia (1,000 square kilometres).

c. South-west (Karakamia, Paruna, Faure Island)

Karakamia protects 275 ha of Jarrah forest in the south-west of Western Australia. Karakamia was the first property acquired by AWC. A 9 km feral proof fence around the entire property has provided sanctuary for the Brush-tailed Bettong (Woylie), Quenda and Tammar Wallaby.

Paruna is located in the Avon Valley east of Perth. The sanctuary was established by AWC in 1998 to create a 2,000 ha wildlife corridor between two National Parks: Walyunga National Park to the southwest and Avon Valley National Park to the northeast. The Paruna sanctuary vegetation is dominated by Wandoo and

Powderbark Wandoo woodlands. The sanctuary supports populations of Black-flanked Rock-wallaby, Tamar Wallaby, Quenda and Western Quoll (Chuditch).

Faure Island is AWC's only offshore sanctuary, located within the Shark Bay World Heritage Area. At around 4,500 ha, Faure Island provides a feral predator-free refuge for four species of nationally threatened mammals released onto Faure Island: Burrowing Bettong (Boodie), Shark Bay Mouse, Banded Hare-wallaby and Shark Bay Bandicoot.

The internship includes the possibility for visits to **Mt Gibson** which covers 130,500 ha of largely pristine semi-arid ecosystems in the mid-west of Western Australia. Mt Gibson is the site of one of Australia's most ambitious mammal reintroduction projects to date. AWC has established a 7,800 ha feral-free area at Mt Gibson, into which 10 regionally extinct mammals have been reintroduced. Greater Stick-nest Rats, Numbats, Bilbies, Banded Hare-wallabies, Shark Bay Bandicoots, Shark Bay Mice, Red-tailed Phascogales, Brush-tailed Bettongs (Woylies) and Brushtail Possums have already been introduced into the feral predator-free enclosure on the sanctuary. Brushtail Possum and Chuditch/Western Quoll have also recently been reintroduced on the wider sanctuary, outside the enclosure.

d. South-west (Mt Gibson)

Mt Gibson covers 130,500 ha of largely pristine semi-arid ecosystems on Badimia country in the mid-west of Western Australia. AWC has established a 7,800 ha feral-free area at Mt Gibson with a 43km long predator-proof fence. This is the site of one of Australia's most ambitious mammal reintroduction projects to date, with 10 regionally extinct species having been reintroduced into this safe haven. Greater Stick-nest Rats, Numbats, Bilbies, Banded Hare-wallabies, Shark Bay Bandicoots, Shark Bay Mice, Red-tailed Phascogales, Brush-tailed Bettongs (Woylies) and Brushtail Possums have already been introduced into the feral predator-free enclosure on the sanctuary. Brushtail Possum and Chuditch/Western Quoll have also recently been reintroduced on the wider sanctuary, outside the enclosure. In 2025 we will also be translocating woylies outside of the enclosure. As well as monitoring our species of conservation concern, Mt Gibson is also the site of a significant feral predator monitoring program.

Much of our work program focuses on monitoring the reintroduced species through targeted surveys including mammal trapping, spotlighting, camera trapping and radiotracking. The internship includes likely visits to one or more of the other south-west sanctuaries, to assist in the region's wider science programs and survey efforts.

e. Central and South (Yookamurra, Kalamurina, Buckaringa, Dakalanta and Western River Refuge)

Yookamurra was established more than 30 years ago and protects over 5,000 ha, particularly rare old-growth mallee in south-eastern South Australia. Four regionally extinct mammal species including the Burrowing Bettong, Brush-tailed Bettong, Numbat, and Greater Bilby have been reintroduced into the 1,100 ha feral free area. Yookamurra is also an important stronghold for other wildlife such as the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat, Common Brushtail Possum, Malleefowl, Carpet Python, and a range of woodland birds. Yookamurra also hosts AWC's only dedicated education program, with multiple school groups visiting per internship to learn about conservation, the mallee, and AWC. Interns will help manage school groups and run science activities with the Wildlife Educator.

Kalamurina is a vast desert wilderness, covering a remarkable 679,000 ha in northern South Australia on the northern shores of Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre. Kalamurina protects the lower sections of three major drainage lines that flow into this expansive inland lake as well as the extensive dune and swale systems and other unique landforms of the three deserts that are found there. Kalamurina protects a range of threatened ecosystems and fauna, such as the Dusky Hopping Mouse, Crest-tailed Mulgara, Australian Bustard, Grey Falcon, and Woma Python.

Buckaringa in the central Flinders Ranges is a small but critical piece of the rugged ranges bisected by spectacular Redgum-lined gorges, typical of this landscape. Buckaringa protects an important colony of the threatened Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. AWC implements a feral animal control program to help safeguard the rock wallabies and other species. The success of this management is measured by AWC's science program.

Dakalanta on the Eyre Peninsula of South Australia protects over 13,600 ha of mallee, Callitris woodland, and Drooping She-oak grassy woodland. Dakalanta is an important stronghold for the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat and Malleefowl and a range of woodland bird and reptile species and was the site of a large revegetation program focussed on restoring the threatened Drooping She-oak woodland.

Western River Refuge located on Kangaroo Island protects critical habitat that supports a suite of endemic and threatened species such as the Kangaroo Island Dunnart, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, and Southern Brown Bandicoot. In response to the 2019/20 bushfires AWC has partnered with Kangaroo Island Land For Wildlife and local landholders to protect 369 ha of critical habitat for threatened species (the Western River Refuge) and work in partnership to deliver effective conservation.

f. Central and South (Newhaven and Ngalurrtju)

Newhaven lies on the eastern edge of the Great Sandy Desert in the Northern Territory and protects over 260,000 ha of arid zone ecosystems. It is a renowned hotspot for central Australian wildlife, including threatened species such as the Brush-tailed Mulgara, Black-footed Rock-wallaby, and Great Desert Skink. Newhaven is also the site of one of Australia's most ambitious mammal reintroduction projects. AWC has established a 9,450 ha feral-free fenced area into which at least 10 regionally extinct mammals will be reintroduced. Mala, Red-tailed Phascogales, Brush-tailed Bettongs, Burrowing Bettongs, Greater Bilbies, Central Rock-rats, Golden Bandicoots and Brushtail Possums have already been reintroduced, with Shark Bay Mouse and Western Quoll planned for reintroduction over the coming years. AWC's science program at Newhaven in 2025 will involve intensive monitoring of reintroduced species inside the fenced area, as well as ecological health surveys of the wider property.

Ngalurrtju Aboriginal Land Trust (Ngalurrtju) is the traditional lands of the Anmatyerr, Warlpiri and Luritja First Nations People. Ngalurrtju lies immediately to the east of Newhaven and protects over 323,000 ha of arid zone ecosystems, including those that support threatened species such as the Black-footed Rock-wallaby and Great Desert Skink. In 2022, AWC entered into a lease agreement with the Ngalurrtju Aboriginal Land Trust trustees and the Central Land Council, to manage the property for conservation. The Ngalurrtju initiative aims to deliver conservation science and land management that will protect and enhance Ngalurrtju's ecological values, whilst working collaboratively with traditional custodians.

In 2025, it is possible that Newhaven and Ngalurrtju interns may also visit one or more of the **central and south sanctuaries**, to assist in the science program and broaden their internship experience.

g. South-east

Pilliga is one of two projects run by AWC in partnership with the NSW Government, in the dry forest/woodlands of north-central NSW. A key pillar of the Pilliga project is an ambitious program to reintroduce six regionally-extinct mammals to the forest. A 5,800-ha feral predator-free fenced area has been established within the 36,000 ha reserve, with five species already reintroduced (Greater Bilby, Bridled Nailtail Wallaby, Brush-tailed Bettong, Shark Bay Bandicoot, Plains Mouse). Work in the Pilliga includes a comprehensive biodiversity monitoring program, as well as detailed monitoring (including radio-tracking) of reintroduced species.

Mallee Cliffs is one of two projects run by AWC in partnership with the NSW Government, in the semi-arid woodlands of far south-western NSW. The project is part of an exciting initiative to reintroduce 10 regionally-extinct mammals. In 2019, AWC completed construction of a 9,570-ha feral predator-free fenced area within the 58,000 ha reserve. To date, 8 species have been reintroduced into the Park (Numbat, Greater Bilby, Brush-tailed Bettong, Burrowing Bettong, Red-tailed Phascogale, Mitchell's Hopping Mouse, Greater Stick-nest Rat and Bridled Nailtail Wallaby). The Shark Bay Bandicoot is scheduled for release in 2025-26. A comprehensive biodiversity monitoring program is delivered across Mallee Cliffs National Park as well as detailed monitoring (including radio-tracking) of the newly reintroduced species.

Scotia protects 65,000 ha of mallee in western NSW and is the location of one of the longest running reintroduction programs in Australia. The sanctuary supports established populations of four reintroduced mammals within an 8,000-ha fenced area: Numbat, Greater Bilby, Burrowing Bettong, and Bridled Nailtail Wallaby. A fifth species, Red-tailed Phascogale, is scheduled to be reintroduced in 2025. The sanctuary also protects extensive areas of high-conservation value Mallee woodland home to a range of extant and nationally significant threatened species such as the Malleefowl and Southern Ningai. AWC's science program monitors the status of these species, plus the impacts of its land management programs on the biodiversity of the sanctuary.

9. Program overview

a. North-west

The table below summarises the tasks that the North-west Intern will undertake at Mornington, Marion Downs, Tableland, Charnley River-Artesian Range and Yampi Sound Training Area.

Dates of internship: April – September

Objectives	Tasks	Learning outcomes	Evaluation of outcomes
Assist with biodiversity surveys and fauna monitoring programs to monitor the ecological health of the sanctuaries and responses to land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping, scat plot, observational, vegetation, audio recording, camera trapping, track and spotlighting surveys • Fauna identification • Fauna handling (including collecting morphometric data and genetic samples) • Image processing from camera traps • Spotlighting • Targeted searches • Record data from field work • Enter data into established databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna species and their conservation status • Experience with different survey techniques • Experience with identifying and handling a wide range of fauna including birds, small-medium mammals, reptiles and frogs • Quarantine and husbandry procedures • Value of accurate records • Team work • Use of GPS and qGIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in northern Australia • Ability to use different capture methods and handle animals proficiently • Knowledge of vegetation sampling methods • Accurate record keeping and data entry • Ability to work independently and as part of team • Understanding of quarantine issues • Ability to work independently and as part of team

Objectives	Tasks	Learning outcomes	Evaluation of outcomes
Mornington, Marion Downs, Charnley River – Artesian Range, Yampi			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to adhere to different working requirements of partnership properties

(intermittently between other activities)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist with monitoring of feral animals and predator research to estimate population density and distribution of Dingoes and cats • To estimate population size of Northern Quolls, Northern Blue Tongue Skinks etc Mornington, Marion Downs, Charnley River – Artesian Range, Yampi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Image processing • Camera trapping • Individual ID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful record keeping • Accurate navigation and use of GPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to carry out fieldwork promptly and to schedule
Participate in science and regional staff meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss issues relating to research and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public speaking • Negotiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to interact in a positive way with a range of staff and stakeholders

b. North-east

The table below summarises the tasks that the North-east Intern will undertake at several of the following sanctuaries; Brooklyn, Piccaninny Plains, Mt Zero-Taravale, Bowra and Curramore [QLD], Pungalina Seven-Emu, Bullo River Station and Wongalara [NT].

Dates of internship: March – July & July –December

Objectives	Tasks	Learning outcomes	Evaluation of outcomes
Assist with biodiversity surveys and fauna monitoring programs to monitor the ecological health of the sanctuaries and responses to land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping, scat plot, observational, vegetation, audio recording, camera trapping, track and spotlighting surveys • Fauna identification • Fauna handling (including microchipping, collecting morphometric data and genetic samples) • Image processing from camera traps • Spotlighting • Targeted searches • Record data from field work • Enter data into established databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna species and their conservation status • Experience with different survey techniques • Experience with identifying and handling a wide range of fauna including birds, small-medium mammals, reptiles and frogs • Quarantine and husbandry procedures • Value of accurate records • Team work • Use of GPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to use different capture methods and handle animals proficiently • Ability to identify and handle a range of Australian fauna • Ability to carry out fieldwork promptly and to schedule • Careful record keeping • Understanding of quarantine issues • Ability to work independently and as part of team
To assist with monitoring of feral animals and predator research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Image processing • Camera trapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful record keeping • Accurate navigation and use of GPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to carry out fieldwork promptly and to schedule

To assist with supporter events at Mt Zero-Taravale and Bullo River			
Participate in staff meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss issues relating to research and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public speaking • Negotiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to interact in a positive way with a range of staff

c. South-west (Karakamia, Faure Island, Paruna)

The table below summarises the tasks that the South-west Intern will undertake at Karakamia, Paruna, Faure Island and, possibly, Mt Gibson.

Dates of internship: January – July & July – December

Objectives	Tasks	Learning outcomes	Evaluation of outcomes
Assist with the reintroduced fauna monitoring program at Faure Island, Karakamia and Paruna Wildlife Sanctuaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping, scat plot, camera trapping and spotlighting surveys to monitor the health of reintroduced species • Fauna handling (including microchipping, collecting morphometric data and tissue sampling) • Learn and adhere to quarantine protocols • Image processing from camera traps • Scat and track identification • Spotlighting • Transportation of animals • Record data from field work • Enter data into established databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna species and their conservation status • Capture and handling techniques • Translocation methods • Quarantine and husbandry procedures • Accurate navigation and use of GPS • Team work • Value of accurate records • Knowledge of alternative approaches to monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to use different capture methods and handle animals proficiently • Understanding of quarantine issues • Ability to work independently and as part of team

<p>Assist with biodiversity surveys and extant fauna monitoring programs at Karakamia, Paruna and Faure Island to monitor the ecological health of the sanctuaries and responses to land management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping, scat plot, observational, vegetation, audio recording, camera trapping, track and spotlighting surveys • Fauna identification • Fauna handling (including microchipping, collecting morphometric data and genetic sampling) • Image processing from camera traps • Spotlighting • Targeted searches • Record data from field work • Enter data into established databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna species and their conservation status • Experience with different survey techniques • Experience with identifying and handling a wide range of fauna including birds, small-medium mammals, reptiles and frogs • Quarantine and husbandry procedures • Value of accurate records • Team work • Use of GPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to use different capture methods and handle animals proficiently • Ability to identify and handle a range of Australian fauna • Ability to carry out fieldwork promptly and to schedule • Careful record keeping • Understanding of quarantine issues • Ability to work independently and as part of team
<p>If required, assist with the Mammal Restoration Project at Mt Gibson including monitoring of reintroduced species and conducting wildlife translocations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping, scat plot, radio tracking and camera trapping to monitor populations of reintroduced species • Capture of animals from source locations and release at Mt Gibson • Monitoring of populations at source locations • Fauna handling including collection of morphometric data, microchipping and genetic sampling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna species and their conservation status • Working with external organisations and government departments • Capture and handling of animals • Animal welfare and husbandry procedures • Team work • Careful record keeping • Accurate navigation and use of GPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to use different capture methods and handle animals proficiently • Understanding of animal welfare issues • Ability to work as part of a team

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport of animals • Image processing from camera trapping • Record data from field work • Enter data into established databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with different trapping and survey techniques 	
Participate in staff meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss issues relating to research and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public speaking • Negotiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to interact in a positive way with a range of staff

d. South-west (Mt Gibson)

The table below summarises the tasks that the South-west Mt Gibson Intern will undertake at Mt Gibson.

Dates of internship: January – July & July – December

Objectives	Tasks	Learning outcomes	Evaluation of outcomes
<p>Assist with biodiversity surveys and fauna monitoring programs at Mt Gibson to monitor the ecological health of the sanctuary and responses to land management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping, scat plot, observational, vegetation, audio recording and camera trapping surveys at a series of permanent monitoring sites • Fauna trapping, identification and handling (including collecting morphometric data, microchipping and genetic sampling) • Image processing from camera traps • Recording data from field work • Entering data into established databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna species and their conservation status • Experience with different trapping and survey techniques • Experience with identifying and handling a wide range of fauna including birds, mammals, reptiles and frogs • Understanding of animal welfare and husbandry procedures • Careful record keeping • Accurate navigation and use of GPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to use different capture methods and handle animals proficiently • Ability to identify and handle a range of Australian fauna • Ability to carry out fieldwork promptly and to schedule • Careful record keeping • Understanding of animal welfare issues

<p>Assist with the Mammal Restoration Project at Mt Gibson, including monitoring reintroduced species and conducting wildlife translocations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping, scat plot, radio tracking and camera trapping to monitor populations of reintroduced species • Capture of animals from source locations and release at Mt Gibson • Monitoring of populations at source locations • Fauna handling including collection of morphometric data, microchipping and genetic sampling <p>Image processing from camera trapping Recording data from field work Entering data into established databases</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna species and their conservation status • Working with external organisations and government departments • Capture and handling of animals • Understanding animal welfare and husbandry procedures • Team work • Careful record keeping • Accurate navigation and use of GPS • Experience with different trapping and survey techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to use different capture methods and handle animals proficiently • Understanding of translocation methods and requirements • Understanding of animal welfare issues
<p>Assist with the Introduced Predator Ecology Project at Mt Gibson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera trapping • Image processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful record keeping • Accurate navigation and use of GPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to carry out fieldwork autonomously to schedule
<p>Participate in staff meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss issues relating to research and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public speaking • Negotiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to interact in a positive way with a range of staff

h. Central and South (Yookamurra, Buckaringa, Kalamurina, Dakalanta, Western River Refuge/Kangaroo Island)

The table below summarises the program for the Central and South Intern: Yookamurra, Buckaringa, Kalamurina, Dakalanta and Western River Refuge/Kangaroo Island .

Dates of internship: February – June & August – December

Objectives	Tasks	Learning outcomes	Evaluation of outcomes
Assist with the fauna reintroduction and monitoring program at Yookamurra Wildlife Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping, spotlighting surveys, diurnal transect surveys at a series of permanent monitoring sites to monitor the population and health of reintroduced species • Fauna handling (including micro-chipping, collecting morphometric data and genetic samples) • If required, assist vets with treatment of animals • Learn and adhere to quarantine protocols • Record data from field work • Enter data into established databases • Assist with report writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna species and their conservation status • Capture and handling techniques • Translocation methods • Quarantine and husbandry procedures • Accurate navigation and use of GPS • Teamwork • Value of accurate records • Knowledge of alternative approaches to monitoring • Writing for scientific purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to use different capture methods and handle animals proficiently • Understanding of quarantine issues • Ability to work independently and as part of team • Ability to clearly communicate survey results through written reports

<p>Assist with biodiversity surveys and flora/fauna monitoring programs at Yookamurra, Buckaringa, Kalamurina, Dakalanta and Western River Refuge (Kangaroo Island) to monitor the ecological health of the sanctuaries and responses to and management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping, camera trapping, spotlight surveys, diurnal transect surveys, and observational surveys at a series of permanent monitoring sites • Image processing from camera traps • Fauna and flora identification • Fauna trapping (installing monitoring sites, setting traps, checking traps) • Fauna handling and data collection and management • Vegetation surveys • Record data from field work • Enter data into established databases • Assist with report writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna and flora • Experience with different trapping and survey techniques • Experience with identifying and handling a wide range of fauna including small-medium mammals, birds and reptiles • Quarantine and husbandry procedures • Use of GPS • Value of accurate record keeping • Accurate navigation • Writing for scientific purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to identify and demonstrate knowledge of Australia’s flora and fauna • Ability to carry out fieldwork efficiently and to manage time • Ability to handle and collect data from a wide range of fauna • Accurate record keeping • Ability to work independently and as part of team • Ability to clearly communicate survey results through written reports
<p>If required, assist with the reintroduction program at Newhaven including monitoring of reintroduced species and conducting wildlife translocations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping, radiotracking and camera trapping to monitor populations of reintroduced species • Capture of animals from source locations and release at Newhaven • Monitoring of populations at source locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna species and their conservation status • Working with external organisations and government departments • Capture and handling of animals • Animal welfare and husbandry procedures • Team work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to use different capture methods and handle animals proficiently • Understanding of animal welfare issues • Ability to work as part of a team

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauna handling including collection of morphometric data, microchipping and genetic sampling • Transport of animals • Image processing from camera trapping • Record data from field work • Enter data into established databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful record keeping • Accurate navigation and use of GPS • Experience with different trapping and survey techniques 	
Promote AWCs mission through engagement opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help facilitate visitor experiences while at AWC sanctuaries • Convey accurate information through guided walks and presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with public speaking • Experience with adapting information for the audience • Experience with science communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to interact in a positive way and effectively communicate AWCs mission
Participate in staff meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss issues relating to safety, research and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public speaking • Negotiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to interact in a positive way with a range of staff

e. Central and South (Newhaven and Ngalurtju)

The table below summarises the program for the Central and South Intern: Newhaven and Ngalurtju.

Dates of internship: March – August & April – September

Objectives	Tasks	Learning outcomes	Evaluation of outcomes
Assist with the reintroduction program at Newhaven, including monitoring of reintroduced mammal populations within the fenced area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic live trapping and camera trapping to monitor populations of reintroduced species • Fauna handling, including collection of morphometric data, microchipping and genetic sampling • Capture of animals from source locations and release at Newhaven (possible) • Radio-tracking of reintroduced species (possible) • Installation, maintenance and image processing of camera traps • Record data from field work • Enter data into established databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna species and their conservation status • Capture and handling of mammal species • Experience with different trapping and survey techniques • Animal welfare and husbandry procedures • Understanding of reintroduction projects • Experience in use of camera traps • Team work • Careful record keeping • Accurate navigation and use of GPS programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to use different capture methods • Proficiency in handling and collection of morphometric data from a variety of species • Understanding of animal welfare issues • Ability to work as part of a team

<p>Assist with biodiversity surveys and fauna monitoring programs at Newhaven and Ngalurrtju to monitor the ecological health of the sanctuary, threatened extant species, and responses to land management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauna trapping (installing monitoring sites, setting traps, checking traps) • Fauna and flora identification • Fauna handling, data collection, and management • Record data from field work • Enter data into established databases • Involvement in land management activities (possible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia’s fauna and flora • Experience with different trapping and survey techniques • Experience with identifying and handling a wide range of fauna including small-medium mammals and reptiles • Quarantine and husbandry procedures • Value of accurate record keeping • Accurate navigation and use of GPS programs • Understanding of the interaction between land management and ecological health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to identify and demonstrate knowledge of Australia’s flora & fauna • Ability to handle and collect data from a wide range of fauna • Ability to carry out fieldwork efficiently and to manage time • Accurate record keeping • Ability to work independently and as part of team
<p>Promote AWCs mission through engagement opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help facilitate visitor experiences while at AWC sanctuaries • Community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience communicating with a range of visitors and stakeholders (e.g., volunteers, donors, traditional owners) • Experience with science communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to interact in a positive way and effectively communicate AWCs mission
<p>Participate in staff meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss issues relating to safety, research and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public speaking • Negotiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to interact in a positive way with a range of staff

f. South-east

The table below summarises the program for the South-east Intern: Pilliga, Mallee Cliffs and Scotia.

Dates of internship: February – June & August – December

Objectives	Tasks	Learning outcomes	Evaluation of outcomes
<p>To assist with the fauna reintroduction program (of endangered species) at Scotia, Pilliga and Mallee Cliffs Wildlife Sanctuaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct systematic trapping, transect surveys, or radio-tracking of (depending on Sanctuary) reintroduced species populations • Monitor health of reintroduced populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauna trapping • Radio-tracking • Fauna handling (including micro-chipping, taking of morphometrics, and tissue sampling) • Record data from field work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia's fauna species and their conservation status • Capture and handling techniques • Translocation methods • Use of GPS • Team work • Value of accurate records • Knowledge of alternative approaches to monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of conservation issues in Australia • Ability to use different capture and research methods and handle animals proficiently • Ability to work independently and as part of team
<p>To undertake biodiversity monitoring surveys at Scotia, Pilliga and Mallee Cliffs sanctuaries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauna identification • Fauna trapping (installing monitoring sites, setting traps, checking traps) • camera trapping • nocturnal fauna surveys • diurnal bird surveys • Malleefowl mound surveys • Vegetation and habitat assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased knowledge of Australia's fauna and flora • Experience with different trapping and other survey techniques • Experience with handling a wide range of fauna • Use of GPS • Accurate record keeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to identify and demonstrate knowledge of Australia's fauna and flora • Ability to carry out fieldwork efficiently and to manage time • Ability to handle and collect data from a wide range of fauna

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauna handling and data collection • Record data from field work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate navigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate record keeping • Ability to work independently and as part of team
Participate in staff meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss issues relating to research and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public speaking • Negotiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to interact in a positive way with a range of staff