

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR 2004-05

The mission of the Fund is to advance, primarily through education of individuals and organisations, environmental sustainability and preservation of Australia's biodiversity.

The Purves Environmental Fund (PEF) was established in August 2004 by Robert Purves with an initial gift of \$10 Million. PEF was established with the following charitable purposes:

- (a) to protect and enhance the natural environment;
- (b) to enhance the protection of Australia's unique biodiversity for the benefit of future generations through the protection of native species and the ecological processes that support them, particularly in the primary production landscape;
- (c) to provide information and education about the natural environment and to improve the Australian community's understanding of the urgent need for greater sustainability; and
- (d) to support scientific research and field projects that are aimed at supporting catalytic work to find solutions for important environmental issues that are not currently supported by environmental groups or government.

Initially, PEF operated through the Company Secretary and the Board of Directors. In late March 2005 the Fund recruited an Environmental Officer to manage the Fund's operations. The Environmental Officer undertook an initial scoping exercise to investigate Australian climate change initiatives and how and where PEF could contribute. During this period PEF also became more fully operationally established, with the set-up of internal policies and procedures.

PEF's activities were necessarily limited during the establishment and scoping stages. Despite this, PEF supported a number of initiatives and organisations during 2004-05:

- writing of *The Weather Makers*
- Conservation on Private Lands (Penelope Figgis)?
- Environment Business Australia – benefactor membership and production of the discussion paper “*Australia's Choice, Building on national prosperity – opportunities for Australia by pursuing a sustainable future*”
- The Climate Group conference
- Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) climate change communications research scoping study

ACTIVITIES

The Weather Makers

During 2004-05, PEF supported Tim Flannery to take a sabbatical to write his ground-breaking book on climate change, *The Weather Makers*. In 2005-06 PEF continued to support *The Weather Makers* as it was launched nationally. *The Weather Makers* has become a catalytic force in the Australian climate change debate, helping to raise awareness and understanding of impacts and solutions.

EBA

During the year PEF supported EBA through benefactor membership. PEF also supported the production of an EBA discussion paper titled “*Australia’s Choice, Building on national prosperity – opportunities for Australia by pursuing a sustainable future*”. Work on the paper commenced in 2004-05 and carried through to 2005-06. The paper was launched towards the end of the 2005 calendar year.

The Climate Group

In April 2005 the Climate Group held its inaugural Australian conference in Melbourne and PEF’s Environmental Officer attended the conference. PEF supported the Climate Group to purchase carbon offsets so that the entire conference, including flights of delegates, was carbon neutral.

CANA

During 2005-06 PEF supported CANA to commission new research into communicating climate change. The project commenced in 2004-05 with a scoping exercise that PEF also separately funded. The output from the research project will be a communications toolkit that will be available for use by all CANA members. It is hoped that the research will lead to more effective climate change communications.