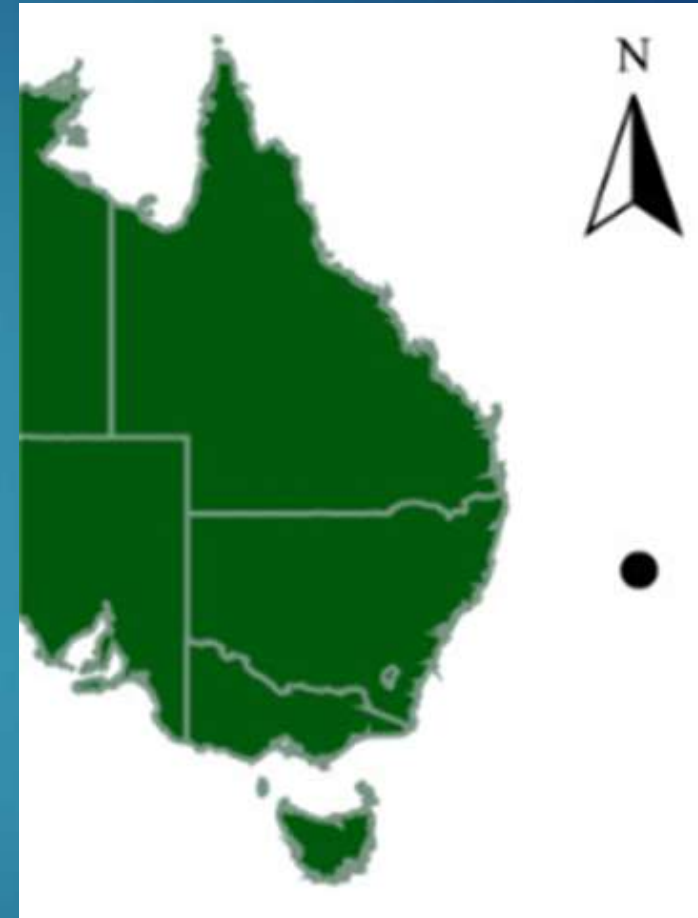




**LORD HOWE ISLAND**  
just paradise.

# Contents

1. About the Destination
2. What we are doing to protect it
3. How you can help



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# ***Welcome to Lord Howe Island***

As a tourist destination, Lord Howe Island is one of Australia's most unique and special places to visit. It has been referred to many times as the 'jewel in the crown'. It truly is something that needs to be seen to be believed.



# *Where and How?*

Q. Where is Lord Howe Island and how do I get there?

- ▶ It's located 600km's directly east of Port Macquarie
- ▶ It's only a 2 hour flight with QantasLink
- ▶ There are regular direct flights from Sydney and Brisbane.

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# *About Lord Howe Island*

At first sight of the island when flying in, you can't help but gasp in awe at the draw dropping beauty of the transparent aqua blue lagoon with the stunning mountain peaks that emerge straight up out of the ocean. It's like a scene from the movie Jurassic Park, more beautiful than any picture can express.





# Sir David Attenborough says ...

When Sir David Attenborough visited Lord Howe Island he said it was one of the most extraordinarily beautiful places he had ever seen.

In this picture Sir David is meeting the rare Phasmid, a stick insect which was thought to be extinct but in 2001 was found at Balls Pyramid on Lord Howe Island.



# *What makes Lord Howe Island unique?*

- ▶ The entire island is World Heritage Listed.
- ▶ Travelling around the island is primarily on bicycle or foot.
- ▶ There is abundant bird life with 14 different species of seabirds breeding on the island.
- ▶ The outdoor activities are experiential and unforgettable.
- ▶ The Island is remote.





# *As a holiday destination ....*

- ▶ With visitor numbers capped at just **400** at any one time and only 350 residents residing on the island, the natural beauty remains **untouched**.
- ▶ 80-90% of the island is covered by native forest and 75% is in a permanent park reserve meaning enthusiasts and adventure seekers will find something incredible to do all year round!



# *Lord Howe Island Experiences*

- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Scuba Diving
- ▶ Trekking
- ▶ Bird Watching
- ▶ Sporting



# *Lord Howe Island Experiences*

There are many water activities:-

- ▶ Diving
- ▶ Snorkelling
- ▶ Paddle boarding & Kayaking
- ▶ Kite Surfing
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Turtle tours, around island tours and coral tours.







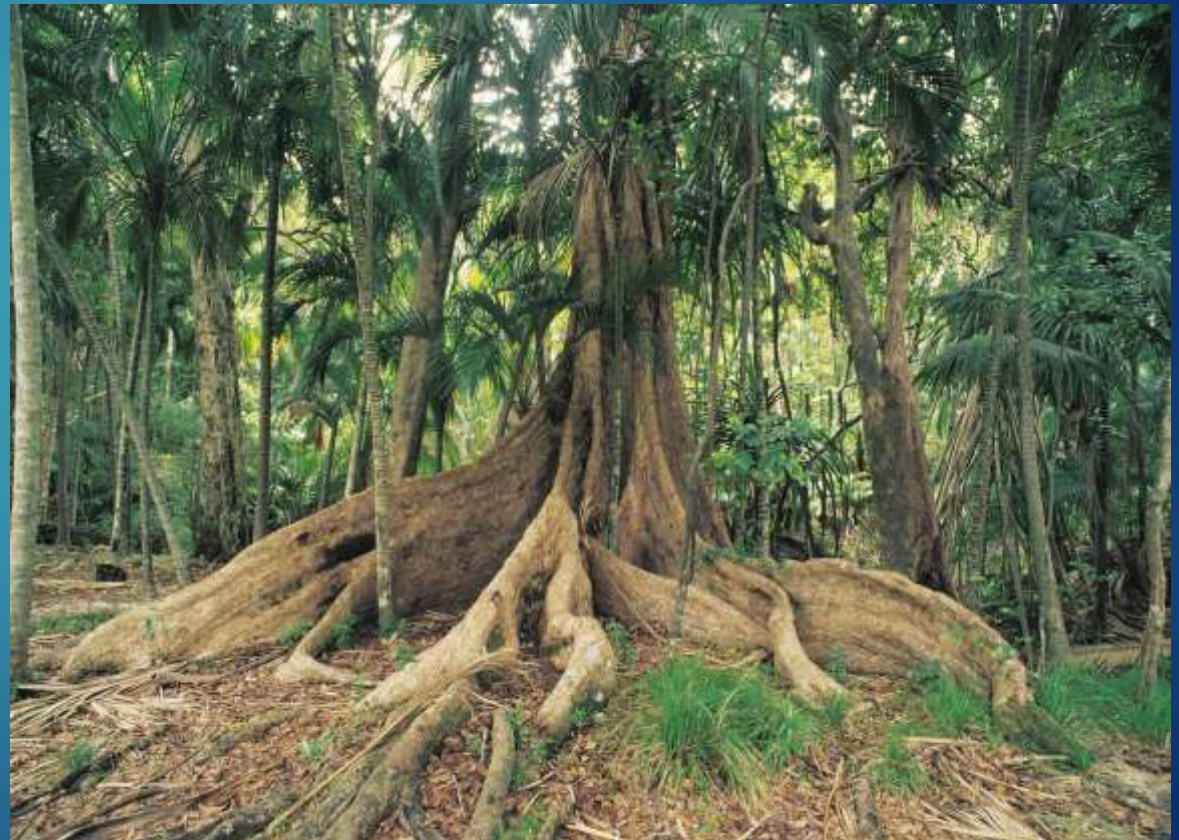
# *World Heritage and Sustainability*

- ▶ In 1982, Lord Howe Island was listed as a World Heritage property in recognition of the global significance of the island's beauty and biodiversity.
- ▶ The World Heritage property now includes the main island, offshore islets and Balls Pyramid, totalling about 1,455 hectares of land. A further 145,000 hectares of marine environment are included in the World Heritage Area.
- ▶ The island's isolation and its varied landscape of mountains, valleys, hills, lowlands and sea-cliffs have resulted in a diverse array of habitat types supporting many distinctive flora and fauna collections. Vegetation ranges from exposed coastal grasses to mossy, misty rainforest.
- ▶ In 1988, the island's surrounding waters were declared a Marine Park to protect its unique marine environment.
- ▶ Today, approximately 87% of the island's original natural vegetation remains intact and undisturbed. Likewise, the beaches, coral reef and marine environment are pristine.



# *The Lord Howe Island Tourism Association*

- ▶ The role of the LHITA is
  - ▶ Marketing and promotion of the island
  - ▶ Partnership and stakeholder relations with all tourism bodies
  - ▶ Representation of the islands' tourism industry
  - ▶ The primary point of contact for Destination North Coast (DNC), Destination New South Wales (DNSW) and the broader tourism industry
  - ▶ Management of the Membership base





# Role of the LHITA continued

- ▶ This role includes collation of statistical data as well as research and development to enhance product and experiences on island.
- ▶ To research current market trends, look for suitable opportunities to leverage exposure and knowing the target market. Eg. Securing an Ambassador that fits our target and securing partnerships with media, Government bodies and stakeholders.



# How the LHITA have collaborated

- ▶ The LHITA work closely with stakeholders and value our partnerships. We work closely with our partner DNC who are the regional tourism body and provide funding for the LHITA. Our other partners include:-
  - ▶ The Lord Howe Island Board who also provide funding for marketing initiatives and operations;
  - ▶ DNSW who support us with marketing campaigns, PR and collaborations upon application;
  - ▶ Qantas our dominant air carrier and partner;
  - ▶ Wholesale and industry partners.



# Partnership Collaboration Examples

Examples of partnership collaborations with the LHITA are:-

- ▶ Our Yearly Winter Campaign which includes partnerships with DNSW, Qantas and Wholesalers; (reasons)
- ▶ Special Activities eg: Channel 7 Sunrise live Weather Crosses collaborating with Qantas and Wholesalers;
- ▶ New partnerships in eco-tourism involving the conservation program and other Eco bodies.





# *Working for the Members of the LHITA*

- ▶ Lord Howe Island was voted as No. 3 in the Experience Oz Top 10 Islands of Australia for 2017.
- ▶ The LHITA are securing media attention and opportunities.
- ▶ The LHITA are working with and for their members to bring them exposure and to project the brand of LHI.





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Thank you

[www.lordhoweisland.info](http://www.lordhoweisland.info)



# Lord Howe Island – Protecting Paradise

Andrew Walsh - Lord Howe Island Board



# Natural Environment

- 241 native plants
- 182 bird species
- >1600 invertebrates
- 1 mammal
- 2 reptiles
- > 30 vegetation communities



LHI land snail (*Placostylus bivaricosus*)



Photo: Michael Murphy

Photo: Ian Hut





# Marine Environment

- Mix of tropical and temperate species
- 447 species of fish
- 83 species of coral
- 4 turtle species
- Migration pathway for Humpback and Sperm Whales





# Settlement

- Discovered 1788
- Pigs and goats introduced prior to settlement as food
- First settled in 1834
- Cats introduced after settlement
- Rats arrived 1918



# Extinctions



## Reversing the Decline

- Pigs eradicated 1979
- Cats eradicated 1981
- Feral goats eradicated 1999
- Major drivers of woodland recovery





## Reversing the Decline

- Lord Howe Island Stick Insect now in captive breeding program at Melbourne Zoo



## What's Our Outlook Now?

# Lord Howe Island Group



*“Good management is in place and, provided resourcing and commitment to addressing the key threats to World Heritage values are sustained, the values should remain preserved. The outstanding scenic values are likely to remain in good condition and, subject to funding and effective program implementation, the significant natural habitat, rare plants and threatened wildlife are likely to persist in their current or an improved condition. However, it is crucial that invasive species eradication projects continue and are successfully implemented.”*

# Outlook - Key Threats

## ⚠ Overall THREATS High Threat

*“The values of the site are significantly threatened by rodents, weeds, African Big-headed Ants, pathogens (Phytophthora and Myrtle Rust), oceanic warming and marine debris.”*





# Sustainability – Development

- Establishment of the Permanent Park Preserve - 75% of land protected
- Bed Cap – 400 Visitors
- Local Environmental Plan



# Sustainability – Waste Management

- Community and tourist driven waste separation
- State of the art waste management facility
- 83% of waste diverted from landfill
- Compost provided for the community



# Sustainability – Waste Reduction and Education

- Community driven waste reduction programs





# Sustainability – Future Generations



#MyOceanPledge



## Conservation – Research, Citizen Science and Employability

- Dedicated research facility
- Numerous volunteers i.e. Friends of LHI
  - ~ 90 weeding trips
  - Over 23,400 volunteer hrs since 1995
- Green Army



# Conservation – Eradication of African Big-headed Ants

- Introduced ~ 1993
- Identified 2003
- Treatment and monitoring 2011- 2016
- Monitoring in Dec 2017 will hopefully declare eradication success
- The first for an oceanic island!





## Conservation – Weed Eradication

- 10 years in to a 30 year program
- 68 species targeted – ecosystem modifiers and early intervention
- High level resourcing to remove matures & deplete seed banks



## Conservation – Weed Eradication 10 year update

- 129,600 hours of search effort on ground
- Over 2 million weeds removed
- Approx. 500 hectares searched per year
- Investment over \$7M to date
- New techniques trialled





## Conservation – Weed Eradication results so far

- 80 % reduction in weeds (all life stages)
- 90 % reduction in mature weed plants encountered
- 6 weed species ERADICATED
- > 20 weed species nearing eradication





## Conservation - Plant Pathogens

- Myrtle rust – outbreak detected and eradicated 2017
- Phytophthora – one small infestation quarantined and treated quarterly



# Conservation - Biosecurity

- Improved biosecurity on island and at mainland departure points



# Conservation – Rodent Eradication





## Rodent Eradication - What's at Stake

- Over 70 species threatened by rodents on LHI
- 7 species listed as *Critically Endangered*



Photo: Ian Hutton

White-bellied Storm Petrel (*Fregetta grallaria*)



# LORD HOWE ISLAND RODENT ERADICATION PROGRAM

The largest populated island to attempt a full scale eradication of rodents.  
What does it take for an operation of this magnitude to be successful?

## 1 PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION 2001-2017

Mice and rats are responsible for the extinction of at least 5 endemic bird species and 13 invertebrate species since 1918. Non-action will threaten the unique biodiversity values on which World Heritage listing is based.



150,000 MICE 210,000 RATS

House Mice (*Mus Musculus*) arrived on Lord Howe Island before 1860. Black Rats (*Rattus rattus*) were introduced in 1918 when the ship SS Makambo ran aground.

Lord Howe Island Phasmid:

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED



70+ THREATENED SPECIES IMPACTED BY RODENTS

Including the world's rarest insect, the Lord Howe Island Phasmid. Thought to be extinct since 1920, it was rediscovered on a rodent-free island in the Lord Howe Island Group in 2001.

## 2 PLANNING, LOGISTICS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SEP 2017-MAY 2018

The chosen eradication method combines aerial and ground baiting followed by dog teams on the ground. Located 600km off the coast from Sydney, Lord Howe Island's remote location means the project requires extensive planning and logistics management to ensure the greatest possible chance of success.



## 1 SUPPLY SHIP

Most of the equipment needed for the project will be shipped by the Lord Howe Island Trader.



## 8 CORE PROJECT CREW

Responsible for project planning and logistic management.

## 3 BAITING JUN 2018

### AERIAL TEAM

Aerial baits will be focused on the non-settlement areas of the island. It is anticipated that two drops will be sufficient to kill all rodents. The drops are scheduled for winter to decrease the risk to non-target native animals.

## 2 AS350 HELICOPTERS WITH 3 X 720KG BAIT BUCKETS

## 2 AERIAL BAIT APPLICATIONS

3-5 days each, 14-21 days apart. Scheduled for June 2018.

## 2 HELICOPTER PILOTS

Highly skilled with experience flying in challenging conditions.



## 3 AERIAL SUPPORT CREW

One helicopter engineer, one GIS officer and one loading supervisor.



## 7 BAIT LOADERS

Keeping the buckets full to maximise flying time.

DROP 1: 12kg/ha  
DROP 2: 8kg/ha

Each helicopter is equipped with a flight-line Global Positioning System (GPS), recording accurate flight lines to ensure bait is dropped with 100% coverage.

## GROUND TEAM

A combination of hand broadcast and bait stations will be used throughout the settlement area to ensure coverage, in conjunction with the two aerial drops.



## 30 GROUND BAITING CREW

Responsible for hand broadcasting and placement and monitoring of bait stations in the settlement area.

SETTLEMENT AREAS  
Bait stations, hand broadcasting

NON-SETTLEMENT AREAS  
Aerial baiting

LESS THAN 1KG 3000 BROIDIFACOU  
A total bait application of 42 tonnes of cereal pellet containing just 840g of the active ingredient brodifacoum.  
BAIT STATIONS  
Scattered across the island in places the helicopters can't access.

2100ha OF SURFACE AREA TO BE BAITED

## 4 MONITORING & CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT MAY 2018-AUG 2020

Intensive rodent monitoring for two years, followed by ongoing biosecurity monitoring. If no rodents are detected two years after the initial eradication the project will be deemed a success.



## 6 CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT CREW

Up to 350 endemic birds (85% of woodhens and 60% of currawongs) will be captured and caged during baiting. This crew provides specialist care for the birds during the monitoring phase.



## 6 SPECIALLY TRAINED DOG TEAMS

Two permanent biosecurity dogs and their handlers will monitor rodent activity. Four rodent detector dogs and their handlers will also be used for two weeks after the baiting.



## 5 OUTCOMES AUG 2020

- ✓ Increased biodiversity.
- ✓ Enhanced world heritage values.
- ✓ Increased numbers and breeding success for birds such as the Masked booby, Masked booby and White-bellied storm petrel.
- ✓ Increased seeds and seedlings for numerous plant species including the critically endangered Little Mountain Palm.
- ✓ Recovery of endemic ground lizards and invertebrates such as land snails.
- ✓ Reintroduction of the world's rarest insect, the Lord Howe Island Phasmid.
- ✓ Long term benefits to tourism and the island's economy through improved visitor experience.

White-bellied storm petrel



INCREASED POPULATIONS



Little Mountain Palm



Masked booby



INCREASED BIODIVERSITY

## TIMELINE

PRE-2017

2017

2018

2019

2020

POST-2020

PROGRAM BUDGET:  
\$9.5 MILLION

1

2001-2004  
Feasibility study.  
2007-2012  
Initial trials.  
2012  
Funding received.

2

2012-2017  
Additional studies and community engagement.

3

SEP 2017-MAY 2018  
Recruitment, planning and logistics.

4

MAY 2018  
Woodhen and currawong capture.  
JUN 2018  
Aerial and ground baiting.

5

JUL-NOV 2018  
Environment and health monitoring.  
AUG 2018  
Dog monitoring and Masked Owl eradication.

6

SEP-OCT 2018  
Currawong (staged) release.  
NOV 2018  
Woodhen release.

7

JUL 2018-JUL 2020  
Rodent detection and biodiversity benefits.  
AUG 2020  
Final detection and dog monitoring.

8

AUG 2020  
Outcome of project declared.

9

POST-2020  
Long term biodiversity monitoring over 3-10 years, plus ongoing rodent and biosecurity detection.

LORD HOWE ISLAND  
RODENT  
ERADICATION  
PROJECT





# Conservation Outcomes Post Eradication

- Dramatic and rapid increases in
  - the numbers of breeding seabirds and fledging success
  - seeds and seedlings of many species
  - forest birds, invertebrates and ground lizards





# NO MORE EXTINCTIONS ON MY WATCH!!



## Our Challenge to You

- Show our community that the REP is important to LHI and the world
- Be on LHI during the eradication in winter 2018 as a visitor or volunteer!!
- Get exclusive behind the scenes access to the operation and staff
- Tell your friends!!





We ***do not*** inherit the earth from our ancestors ***we borrow*** it from our children.

Native American Proverb

Thank You

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<http://lhirodenteradicationproject.org/>