

THE AUTHORS

1 Florence Falls, Litchfield National Park, Top End.
Photo by Glenn Walker

Dr John Woinarski is a Principal Scientist with the Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources Environment and the Arts, and an Adjunct Professor at Charles Darwin University. Dr Woinarski is recognised internationally as an expert in conservation ecology, especially the ecology of Northern Australia. Dr Woinarski has spent the last 20 years conducting scientific research on conservation and management issues in Northern Australia, and has published more than 150 scientific research papers on a wide range of conservation issues. In 2001, Dr Woinarski was awarded Australia's premier science award, the Eureka Prize for his ecological research.

Professor Brendan Mackey is a professor of environmental science in the Fenner School of Research & Environment, College of Science, at The Australian National University, and is Director of the ANU WildCountry Research & Policy Hub. His doctoral thesis was on tropical forest ecology in far North Queensland. Professor Mackey is currently lead chief investigator for an Australian Research Council grant researching connectivity conservation issues in Northern Australia. Professor Mackey was the lead author of a major report for the Queensland government on the natural heritage significance of Cape York Peninsula. He has worked as a research scientist with CSIRO and the Canadian Forest Service, and is involved in various international programs through the IUCN (World Conservation Union) and the Earth Charter initiative. Professor Mackey has written over 100 scientific publications on environmental matters.

Emeritus Professor Henry Nix AO is co-chair of the Australian Wild Country Science Council, with Emeritus Professor Michael Soulé. Professor Nix is a Visiting Fellow and former Director, from 1986–1999, of the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES), now the Fenner School of Environment and Society, at the Australian National University. Prior to this he was Senior Principal Research Scientist in the CSIRO Division of Land and Water. He is a pioneer of computer-based methods of land resource inventory and evaluation for a wide range of potential uses that include field and horticultural crops, forestry, hydrology and biodiversity conservation. His continent-wide evaluation of the climate, terrain and soil constraints on arable land revealed the extremely limited potential of Northern Australia for agricultural development. He has travelled extensively across all regions of the North, spending four to six weeks each year since 1985 in field surveys of freshwater fish and riparian birds. He is a Life Member, former Councillor and President of Birds Australia 2001–2005.

Dr Barry Traill is currently Director of the Wild Australia Program of the Pew Charitable Trusts. Prior to this he worked for 30 years as an ecologist. Dr Traill has worked as a conservation advocate with The Wilderness Society and other government, non-government and business organisations, specialising in the conservation of tropical and temperate woodlands. He has initiated and led a wide range of conservation programs in woodland and savanna areas in northern and southern Australia. He has particular expertise in the ecology of woodland birds and mammals. He is President of the Invasive Species Council of Australia.