

# WILD CAT

A tiger is captured in a dynamic splash of water. The tiger's head and front paws are visible, with its mouth slightly open. The water is splashing all around it, with many droplets frozen in mid-air, creating a sense of motion and energy. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the tiger and the water.

Issue 05

## **EDIE'S WILD ADVENTURE**

Learn about the exciting next step in Edie's transition to the wild!

Page 4

# From the **DIRECTOR**

The past few months have been an emotional journey for everyone at the Wild Cat Conservation Centre. The unexpected decision by Emmy to abandon her cubs and the subsequent loss of Exton and Dottie has been deeply challenging. Nature has a way of reminding us that, despite our best efforts, the unexpected can still occur. While we strive to be as prepared as possible, these events have a profound impact on all of us at the centre. However, our team remains dedicated to caring for Ezra and Darcie, who are thriving under our watchful eye. Please follow our social channels for the latest updates on these two as they continue to grow!

Amidst these challenges, our beloved Edie has been a shining light and a powerful reminder of why we do what we do. Receiving updates from the team in South Africa is one of the highlights of my day, especially as we witness Edie's remarkable progress while we're fast asleep here in Australia. Watching her acclimate effortlessly to her new environment and grow stronger every day is the ultimate reward. It's been a lifelong dream and commitment to see our cheetah return to the wild, and Edie makes every moment of this journey worthwhile.

I'd like to make special mention and thank you to all our supporters, both long-standing and new for your belief in our mission and commitment to our cause. Especially through the difficult times over the last few months, you have rallied behind us financially and emotionally, and we continue to be blown away by your generosity and continued belief in what we do and, most importantly, why we do it. So, thank you.

Yours Sincerely,



Ben Britton | Director  
Wild Cat Conservation Centre



## **OUR MISSION**

**To protect and ensure the survival of wild cat species through the provision of education and carrying out of research, and dedication to conservation breeding & rewilding programs.**

## **CONTACT**

PO Box 7320  
Wilberforce NSW 2756

Phone  
0404 058 039

Email  
[info@wildcatcentre.org.au](mailto:info@wildcatcentre.org.au)

ACN  
132 007 713

ABN  
64 132 007 713

# INTERNATIONAL CLOUDED LEOPARD DAY!

Each year on August 4th, International Clouded Leopard Day shines a spotlight on the challenges faced by the clouded leopard. Native to the dense forests of Central and Southeast Asia, these elusive cats are known for their secretive nature, making conservation efforts particularly challenging.

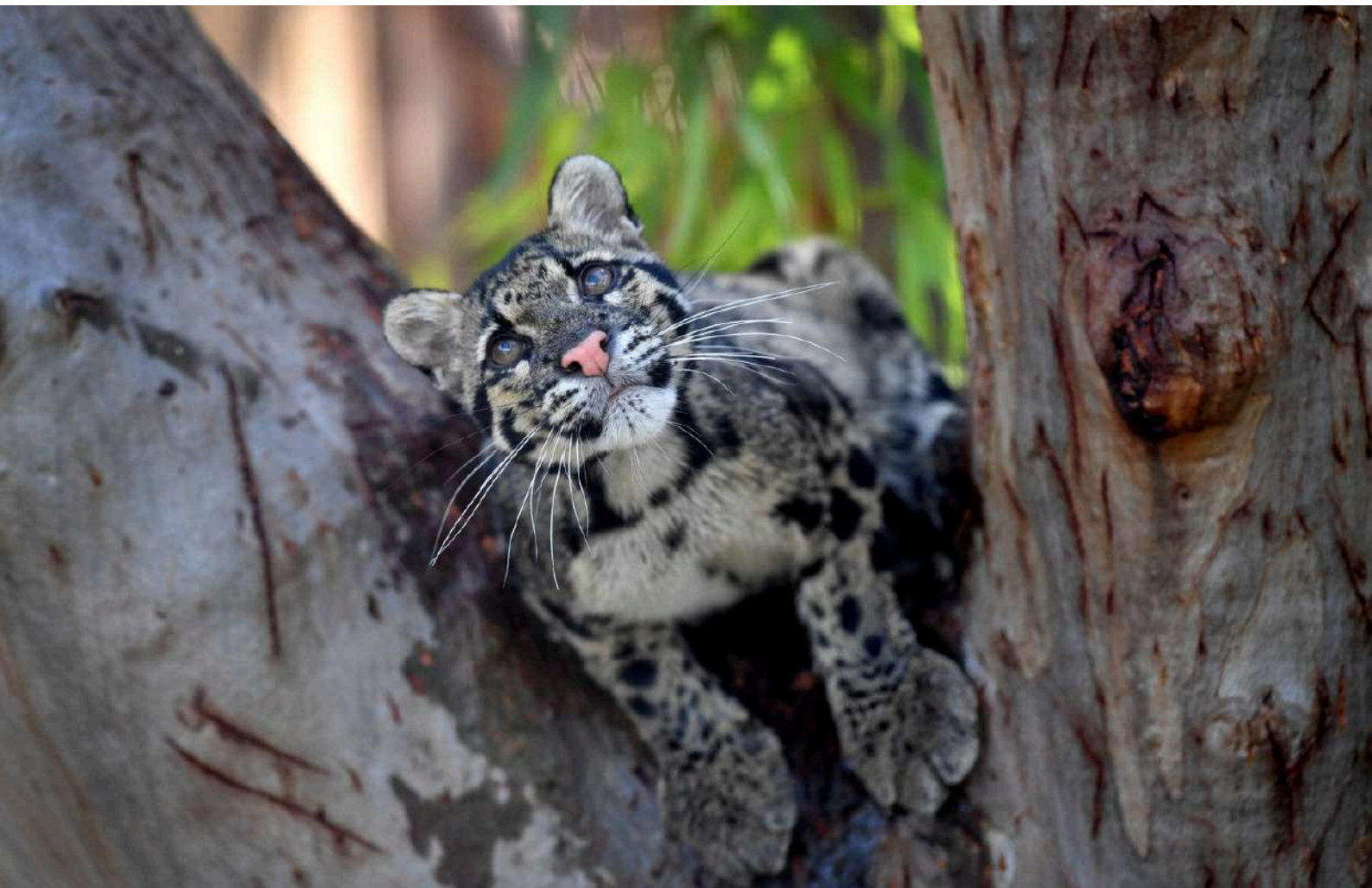
Clouded leopards are under constant threat due to their rapidly shrinking habitat and the illegal hunting for their fur. Current estimates suggest that fewer than 10,000 clouded leopards remain in the wild, making their conservation more critical than ever.

At the Wild Cat Conservation Centre, we are proud to be the only facility in Australia that houses these incredible cats. Our resident clouded leopards—Mark, Moana, Tai, and Cinta—have become beloved ambassadors for their species, captivating visitors with their incredible tree-climbing abilities, formidable teeth, and stunning coats. We are deeply committed to their care and are actively working towards establishing a successful breeding program to contribute to the global conservation of this species.

Recently, we have taken a significant step forward by partnering with The Clouded Leopard Working Group, an organised network of conservation partners dedicated to safeguarding wild cat species, including the clouded leopard, Asiatic golden cat, and marbled cat, along with their respective habitats. This collaboration spans a vast region from Nepal to Vietnam within mainland Asia.

The Clouded Leopard Working Group's mission is to create a harmonious balance between ecological stewardship and community engagement. By working hand in hand, they strive to ensure a future where clouded leopards, Asiatic golden cats, marbled cats, and their habitats can thrive within the natural heritage of mainland Asia.

We are honoured to join forces with such dedicated teams around the globe to ensure the future of these incredible wild cat species. Together, we can make a lasting impact on their conservation and help secure a brighter future for clouded leopards.



# THRIVING IN THE WILD

Edie continues to reach and surpass every milestone in her rewilding journey. We are thrilled to announce that she has successfully completed the final phase of her rewilding at Mziki Private Game Reserve in South Africa and is now officially considered a wild cheetah!

Edie is now fully self-sufficient, hunting for herself and making multiple kills. She has shown remarkable skill in honing her abilities, particularly in selecting appropriate prey sizes, such as small antelope. Her successful adaptation to the wild is evident in how well she has established herself at Mziki, where she remains relaxed even when monitored daily by trackers and the team.

In an exciting development, Edie's success has led to discussions about introducing male cheetahs into the reserve with the hope of mating her. This is a significant milestone for the program. The possibility of Edie becoming pregnant in the wild and continuing her genetic line is crucial for the long-term success of the rewilding initiative.

This success highlights our “why”. It is the driving force behind everything we do—to return these cheetahs to Africa, their natural home, where they can breed and contribute to the genetic diversity of the wild population. Edie's journey proves that with the right management, even cheetahs born in captivity can be successfully rewilded.

We are also excited to share that we will be hosting a special “Cheetah Conservation Trip” in partnership with The Classic Safari Company, offering our long-term supporters a unique opportunity to travel to Mziki with Ben to view Edie in the wild. It would be truly special for those who have followed Edie's journey from a tiny cub at our centre in Wilberforce to now seeing her thrive as a wild cheetah in Africa. More about this trip in the newsletter.

We are incredibly proud of Edie's achievements and deeply grateful to our supporters for the role they have played in making this journey possible. Thank you for believing in our vision and helping us make it a reality.



# CUB UPDATE

Following the loss of Exton and Dottie, we are heartened by the resilience and strength of their siblings, Darcie and Ezra. Now 4.5 months old, these two cheetah cubs are developing quickly, delighting in playing games of chase and wrestling with each other.

Although Emmy, their mother, ultimately rejected them, the first eight weeks of care she provided were crucial. During that time, she passed on vital instincts necessary for their survival as cheetahs. It's wonderful to see how, despite forming strong bonds with our team here at the centre, Darcie and Ezra still clearly recognize themselves as cheetahs. This awareness is key to their future success and potential eligibility for rewilding, much like their big sister Edie.

In the coming months, as the cubs continue to grow, our conservation team will begin assessing their personalities and observing how their wild instincts develop. Understanding their awareness of their environment is the first step in our rewilding process here at the centre. It helps us determine how suitable they might be for the journey back to the wild.

We already have some early impressions of their characters! Darcie, though the smallest of the litter,

is following in her big sister's footsteps. She is highly aware of her surroundings, thoughtful in her actions, and exhibits a bit of attitude—all important traits for a cheetah that may one day be rewilded. On the other hand, little Ezra is shaping up to be a confident and strong cheetah. Already weighing 1.5kg more than his sister, he is developing into a robust and handsome cub. While he's a bit more brash than Darcie and tends to act before thinking, his confidence could serve him well in the wild.

By the time they reach six months of age, we will have a clearer understanding of their instincts and personalities, allowing us to make informed decisions about their futures. Over the next few months, these early assessments will be a vital part of our rewilding program, ensuring they are suitable candidates for the next phase of their journey. This phase includes exploring the savanna, with the ultimate goal of returning them to Africa.

Despite the challenges we've faced, Darcie and Ezra's journey to the wild remains very much a possibility. In the meantime, this is a perfect opportunity for visitors to come to the centre and witness their growth firsthand. The cubs have recently moved down to our display exhibits so can be viewed on every tour booked of the centre.





# HONOURED VISITS

We were deeply honoured to recently welcome two special visits within the same week.

Firstly, we had the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Federal Minister for the Environment and Water join our good friend, Susan Templeman MP, Federal Minister for Macquarie visit the centre to see our cheetah cubs and other residents. Followed later that week by a special visit from the NSW Premier, the Hon. Chris Minns.

Minister Plibersek, alongside Ms. Templeman, played a pivotal role in helping us secure the necessary permits for Edie's ground-breaking transfer to Africa and her subsequent rewilding. As the first-ever wild cat transfer out of Australia, our request to return a cheetah to the wilds of Africa initially perplexed various government departments. Traditionally, zoos exchange animals among themselves, so our intent to release Edie back into her natural habitat raised some eyebrows—it had simply never been done from Australia before. Thankfully, Ms. Templeman, a long-term supporter of our centre and a passionate advocate for our mission within her local electorate, championed our cause. Her efforts, along with Minister Plibersek's support, were instrumental in getting the transfer request approved.

Without the backing of both Ministers, Edie would not be where she is today, settling into her new home in South Africa. It was a pleasure to welcome Minister Plibersek to the centre, where she had the opportunity to meet our cubs, receive updates on Edie, and learn about our plans for Darcie and Ezra to follow in Edie's footsteps.

In the same week, we were also privileged to host NSW Premier Chris Minns. During his visit, Premier Minns learned about the vital conservation work we are undertaking, received updates on Edie's progress, and explored the savanna with us. His enthusiasm for our mission was evident, and he expressed pride in New South Wales' role in global wild cat conservation. Premier Minns also offered his government's continued support as we move forward with our future plans at the centre.

The conservation of endangered species should not be limited to Australia's native wildlife alone. As part of a global community, Australia can—and should—play a significant role in the conservation and rewilding of exotic species such as the cheetah. The success of Edie's transfer is a testament to what we can achieve when we work together for a common goal.





# A TOAST TO CONSERVATION

There are still limited bottles of our Wilding Gin available! With the weather slowly warming up, the gin is the perfect blend crafted for African sundowners and those refreshing G&T moments.

What makes this gin truly special is not just its exceptional taste, but also the heart behind it. When Nick and Ally from Karu Distillery approached us with the idea of collaborating, we saw a shared ethos and passion for conservation. Karu Distillery are known worldwide for their award-winning gins, and joining forces with them on this project has been an incredible opportunity for us. When they visited our centre late last year, we knew we could do something really special together and here it is - Wilding: Jubatus!

A gin that is heavily influenced by the origins of the endangered Cheetah. Traditional in style, incorporating bitter, sweet, citrus, and spice to create a gin that is worthy of accompanying you as

the sun goes down on a warm afternoon. Juniper forward, bursting citrus, bitter pelargonium root, herbaceous floral of diosma, depth of thyme, and warm cassia bark. With every bottle purchased, you are contributing toward our ongoing cheetah rewilding efforts, so have a drink and help save a cheetah at the same time! The perfect drink for an African sundowner or two!

It's an opportunity for our supporters to indulge in a delicious beverage while making a meaningful impact on wild cat conservation now and into the future. Money from every bottle sold is directed back to our conservation and rewilding programs.

Available to purchase at:

<https://karudistillery.com.au/products/wilding-jubatus>



# BECOME A WILD CAT SPONSOR

Wild Cat Conservation Centre is committed to securing a future for the forgotten wild cat species! Our unique centre stands proudly in Wilberforce, Australia, as a pioneering force in understanding and protecting smaller wild cat species.

Our brand-new sponsorship program seeks to connect our community of supporters with the cats under our care, while generously supporting Wild Cat Conservation Centres' efforts to protect and ensure the survival of wild cat species. We do this through the provision of education and carrying out research, and dedication to our conservation breeding programs.

Each of our cats are available to sponsor and every sponsorship package comes with a great sponsorship keepsake pack! Our sponsorship packages make the perfect gift for the cat conservationist in your life, so spoil yourself or a loved one.

With a number of sponsorship packages available, know that every donation you make goes a long way in helping us achieve our mission!

Head to **[wildcatcentre.org.au](http://wildcatcentre.org.au)** today to meet our cats and sponsor your chosen animal!



# MEET OUR CATS!

ZIVA



ZANE

BLANCA



DUKE

EMMY



COOPER



FINNEGAN



SIMBA

KATO



CRUNCHIE



KAIA

TAI



CINTA



MARK



MOANA

Head to [wildcatcentre.org.au](http://wildcatcentre.org.au) today to sponsor a cat

# JOIN US ON A WILD CAT CONSERVATION TRIP

## NEW CHEETAH CONSERVATION TRIP IN 2025!

We are excited to announce that we have recently partnered with The Classic Safari Company. The Classic Safari Company is Australia's leading safari specialist. Since 1992, they've been exploring the world and sharing their passion, using first-hand experiences to create exceptional safaris and journeys to Africa. This new partnership will allow us to provide even more unique wild cat experiences for our supporters.

These hosted trips allow the opportunity for our supporters to spend quality time with our directors learning about wild cat conservation whilst at the same time visiting and viewing wild cats in their natural habitat, knowing that monies raised from these trips goes directly to conserving wild cats!

**Our April 2025 Wild Cat Conservation Trip is now sold out though we have a brand-new hosted trip scheduled for August 2025!**

Ben will lead a small group of 8 guests to visit Edie at Mziki Private Game Reserve in South Africa before travelling to Phinda Private Game Reserve to learn more about cheetah conservation and the work being done by WCCC and our conservation partners to prevent the extinction of this beautiful cat.

This trip is not to be missed, guests being able to view Edie, our cub born here at the centre now living as a wild cheetah in Africa! A conservation success story!

This tour is capped at only 8 guests, ensuring a uniquely intimate experience. Don't miss out, secure your spot today!

**To book a spot please email:**  
**[info@classicsafaricompany.com.au](mailto:info@classicsafaricompany.com.au)**





**WILD CAT  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**

**Thank you to our major supporters**

**PLATINUM**

Hashim K Aghajan  
Ryan Walkinshaw

Patricia Dixson  
Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Joanna Collins  
Charlie and Lesley Britton

**GOLD**

The Alec Baldwin Foundation  
Kim Maguire

Anthony Suters & Associates  
Cenversa Ltd

Wilberforce Vet Hospital

**SILVER**

QANTAS  
Ottomin Foundation  
John Cary

Rob Deutsch  
Mark Davis

Anita Jacoby  
Dan Walkington

**BRONZE**

Aya Murasawa  
Hanasoft  
Robert Hamilton  
Butter Media

Carlos Boustani  
Helen James  
Robyne Hamilton

Freightnet International  
Alpine Treemovals  
Faye Adams



## HOW YOU CAN HELP!



### **DONATE**

Our vision is to secure a long-term future for the world's wild cat species, and we can't do it alone. Wild Cat Conservation Centre relies on the generosity of supporters like you and our corporate partners to achieve our conservation goals.

By donating to Wild Cat Conservation Centre, you are helping us protect the forgotten wild cat species.



### **VISIT**

Join us at the Wild Cat Conservation Centre and experience our wild cats up close!

The funds generated from your visit directly supports our conservation efforts, such as breeding and rewilding programs. Your support allows us to help make a difference to wild cats!