



**The
Norman
Wettenhall
Foundation**

**THE SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT
2001**

The Foundation receives numerous requests to fund PhD students in their research. In making our decision in favour of a project, we pay particular attention to how widely the research results are to be disseminated. No matter how good the applicant or how useful his or her research, it would seem to us to add little to the sum of human knowledge where the intended research fails to either engage with key people at the regional level or moves only marginally beyond a file on the applicant's computer.

Another new Trustee joined the Foundation during the past year. A Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Dr Sarah Ewing gained her PhD by examining the Australian landcare movement. Other of her research areas that are of relevance to the Foundation include looking at participatory policies in natural resources management and the mechanisms for undertaking R & D in developing an integrated catchment management (ICM) approach.

Last year's inaugural Norman Wettenhall Memorial Lecture by evolutionary scientist Tim Flannery proved a great success, with a full house in attendance. As this annual report goes to print, we are about to hold the second Norman Wettenhall Memorial Lecture to be delivered by another outstanding scientist and environmentalist, Ian Lowe. This year we welcome Museum Victoria in joining us in hosting the lecture series along with Birds Australia and the Trust for Nature.

Projects funded in the past financial year are summarised in this report, along with updates on the progress of previously monitored projects. Feedback on a project's progress is requested as a condition of funding by the Foundation.

Once again, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable support and counsel of my fellow Trustees and the sterling back up provided by the Foundation's Administrator, Scott Anderson.

Donations to help us achieve even more are always gratefully received. All donations to the Norman Wettenhall Foundation are tax deductible.



Gib Wettenhall
Chairman
Norman Wettenhall Foundation

Ecology and Conservation of

Owls



Editors: Ian Newton,
Rodney Kavanagh,
Jerry Olsen & Iain Taylor

*The soon to be released Owls 2000
proceedings*

AUSTRALASIAN RAPTOR ASSOCIATION

PUBLICATION COSTS OF THE OWLS 2000 PROCEEDINGS

A grant of \$7,500 was paid towards the publication of the proceedings from the Owls 2000 conference, titled 'Owls: Biology and Conservation in the 21st Century'. Over 30 papers from the conference have been edited by Ian Newton, Rodney Kavanagh, Jerry Olsen and Iain Taylor to bring together findings from a wide range of research.

ILFRACOMBE SHIRE COUNCIL

VIEWING PLATFORM FOR WETLAND

HABITAT

A grant of \$2,700 was paid towards the construction of a viewing platform on the recycled water ponds on the outskirts of Ilfracombe. The project will provide an opportunity for residents to see what type of trees and shrubs attract different birds into their gardens as well as raise the awareness of people to the diversity of the region. While not a sanctuary, the habitat will provide a degree of security from the ravages of foxes and cats, as well as offer a year round supply of water to the birds.



*Transplant volunteers planting trees at the Wright Retarding Basin.
Photo courtesy of Melbourne Water*

TRANCEPLANT

TREEPLANTING WITH 'ATTITUDE' PROJECT

A grant of \$5,000 was paid towards a treeplanting project that was aimed at attracting youth to become involved. After planting along the Moonee Pond Creek at the back of Broadmeadows in a location known as 'Wright Retarding Basin', the volunteers were treated to a dance party at a location in South Melbourne. The Foundation provided support to allow the purchase of plants for the day. For information regarding Tranceplant, see their website at www.tranceplant.org.



A volunteer recording for the New Atlas of Australian Birds

BIRDS AUSTRALIA

NEW ATLAS OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS

A grant of \$20,000 was paid to assist in the publication of the *New Atlas of Australian Birds*, the only continental zoological atlas of its type in the world. Completed between 1998 and 2002, the database for this project involved 8,000 volunteers and covered some four million records. A hard cover single volume, the book will display distribution maps for over 750 species, highlighting habitat preferences, migratory status, breeding and foraging characteristics as well as changes in abundance over the last 20 years. For more information, see Birds Australia website at www.birdsaustralia.com.au

TOTAL GRANTS \$86,733



TRUSTEES

Mr. Gibb Wettenhall, Chairman

Dr. Sarah Ewing

Miss Patricia Feilman, AM

Mr. Geoff Park

Mr. Ian Sinclair, FCA

Mr. Bill Weatherley

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