

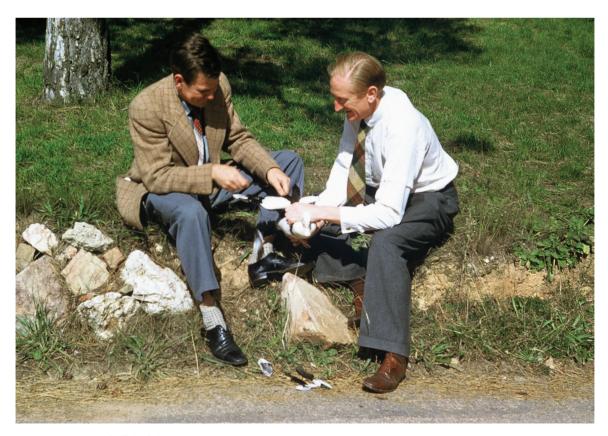
#### THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION

An environment organisation and philanthropic trust, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation's objective is to support projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment.

Established in 1997, the Norman Wettenhall Foundation acted as the culmination of Norman's lifelong love affair with the Australian bush and the birds and plants that inhabit it.

Funds for the Foundation were raised from the sale of Norman's treasured natural history book collection, which was widely regarded as the most complete private collection celebrating the wonder and beauty of Australia's fauna and flora. Since Norman's death in the year 2000, the Foundation has continued his legacy to fund a wide range of conservation projects, significantly increasing distributions and building the corpus.

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation is a member of Philanthropy Australia and the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN).



Dr Norman Wettenhall (right)

#### CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Revegetation changes are measured in decades, if not centuries. Support must be ongoing if habitat is to be brought back.

The foundation's seven landscape restoration partnerships follow a classic community development model of facilitating full participation at the planning stage so as to ensure landholders gain 'ownership,' and it is their vision that is being implemented. Once a vision is completed, we pay a consultant to help the partnerships prioritise and prepare fully costed action plans to implement the strategies identified to achieve habitat creation and landscape repair. The costed action plans have proven successful in leveraging grant funds from other philanthropics and government agencies.

Throughout these two strategic planning stages of vision building and then prioritising strategies, the foundation's Executive Director, Beth Mellick, and our expert trustees provide guidance and support in ensuring good governance, capacity building, undertaking evidence-based research, collecting data, monitoring and adapting strategies where necessary. This framework aims to optimise performance and ensure longevity.

After eight years, we are now looking beyond the NWF's limited resources to other trusts and foundations, corporates and government agencies to aid in resourcing communitydriven landscape restoration projects so they continue for the long haul. The challenges are twofold. First, to ensure our existing landscape restoration partnerships survive and thrive. And, second, spread the message that partnering with landholders not only increases habitat linkages, but could also move to the next level of fostering custodianship of landscapes.

Already, we have found new partners among philanthropic foundations for our approach of focusing on cultural change and custodianship. One of the founders of the Landcare movement, the Ian Potter Foundation has granted \$150,000 over three years towards the introduction of a new community-driven restoration partnership in NE Victoria, called Swamps, Rivers and Ranges. The William Buckland Foundation has just completed three years and nearly \$300,000 in funding of project worker wages, bird monitoring surveys, action plan preparation and community education material.

We would like to invite other other trusts and foundations, corporates and government agencies to support the community-driven landscape restoration model. We have produced a dossier on what we describe as *A new partnership-based approach to land restoration*. Ask ED, Beth Mellick, for a copy if you're interested.

We have to move beyond environmental restoration models simply involving the establishment of habitat (e.g. tree planting or creating a reserve), which is then abandoned.

Even if government had the resources, 70% of Victoria is privately held. As Tim Flannery has written, ours is "a new kind of environmentalism – one with its roots in working, regional Australia, and yet passionate about preserving nature."

We seek to harness the resources, knowledge and skills of farmers and other landholders so that they can act as custodians, looking after the land they own, contributing to the health of the landscape they inhabit.

Gib Wettenhall Chair, Norman Wettenhall Foundation



Executive Director Beth Mellick with Chair Gib Wettenhall, nest box checking at the Regent Honeyeater Project

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Funders are exploring new ways of grantmaking like impact investing or collaborating on joint projects.

Some traditional trusts and foundations experience barriers to different styles of grantmaking because of their structure – eg a board of trustees making decisions about applications at quarterly meetings.

This foundation has a traditional structure with quarterly board meetings, but we are exploring other ways of grantmaking. We recently engaged with crowd source funding.

We accepted an application in the grant round and allocated funds in the normal way. When the grant was acquitted and we ascertained that the project was successful, I went out and met the grantees, and together we designed a new project for funding.

The project was posted on a crowd source funding platform. We used Pozible, and the Foundation trustees, family and friends helped to promote the project through Facebook. The group made their \$10,000 fundraising target, but there were hiccups.

We thought we could run the Pozible campaign for the group so they could get on with their core work. But it's impossible to set up the admin on behalf of a group, what with signing up to Give Now, entering bank details, and knowing what rewards they want to give etc. Only they can do this.

The best way to help is to 'shop' the project around through social media. But the group itself needs to have a social media presence and this can't be over stressed. Money won't just naturally 'flow' in. You have to push, push, push the project as far and wide as possible.

Pozible formed a partnership with Landcare NSW last year and set up an 'environment' section on its site. A bunch of Landcare projects were chosen to be promoted for the launch. Generally, the international Landcare projects didn't meet their targets. Groups who did were those that I assume had good supporter bases, like schools with garden or bee projects. A lot of local landcare groups didn't get their projects funded.

I've watched other crowd funding sites, and I was intrigued when four guys managed to raise quite a large sum of money for a swift parrot project. And the Australasian Bittern project that we had previously supported also met their rather large target (and beyond). I found this surprising. People are definitely giving to a wide and varied range of projects on-line, but you have to ask and ask and ask.

We like the idea of adapting to new ideas and technologies. We have the ability to adjust our funding programs, while keeping some of the traditional structures in place; eg the trustees really like to come together to discuss grants. But we will continue to participate in engaged grantmaking with grassroots landscape restoration projects, to look at new funding areas, and to run events to share information.

Beth Mellick, Executive Director, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation

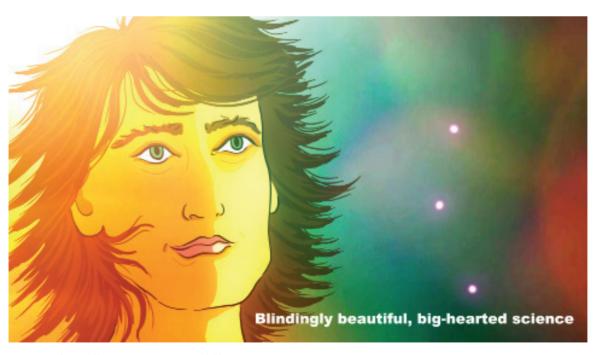
#### SPECIAL SUPPORTER EVENT

On World Environment Day, we held a small event for our supporters in Melbourne at Donkey Wheel House. We had two guest speakers - Trustee Geoff Park and grant recipient Jilli Rose.

The theme for the evening was *The Evolving Nature of Nature Journals* in which we heard about new ways of engaging people in conservation and nature.

Foundation Trustee, Geoff Park, runs his own nature blog, mainly focusing on birds, in the small town of Newstead in central Victoria where he lives. Geoff spoke about the history of keeping nature journals, why people want to keep nature records, why people are interested, and ways to keep a nature blog alive.

Jillis Rose is an animator and artist and creator of an animation on the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect, called *Sticky*. Jilli talked to us about her experiences on Lord Howe Island, and how she creates her images. Jilli received funds from the Foundation for her next project which is a series of biodiversity films in order to engage children on the themes of extinction, biodiversity, science and environmental stewardship.



A snippet from Jilli Rose's next animated film

# SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS SCHEME 2014/2015

Monash University Flying to new heights for a bird's eye view of conservation monitoring	5,000
Bespoke Animation Twig by Jilli Rose	11,500
Deakin University Next generation tracking: animal movement in the third dimension	4,868
Geomancia A rugged field survey system for Olkola Indigenous Land Managers, Central Cape York Peninsula	5,000
Museum Victoria The distribution, ecology and conservation of endangered Earless Dragons (Tympanocryptis) in the grasslands on the Darling Downs, Queensland	5,000
Halfmoon Biosciences Breeding season foraging range and distribution of the vulnerable Lesser Noddy (donor: Harris Estate Trust)	9,855
Federation University Australia Investigating the pre-history of two floodplain wetlands in Australia using microfossils	3,500
University of Adelaide Overcoming a conservation conundrum: improving blackberry control to increase native vegetation regeneration and wildlife habitat in a Critically Endangered swamp community	4,950
WWF-Australia Community Priority Flora Search and Rescue Project	10,456
University of Wollongong Investigating the possible role of Australian White Ibis in urban wildlife disease	5,000
Zoo and Aquarium Association <i>Use of conservation genetics for recovery of a critically endangered iconic Australian parrot - orange-bellied parrot</i>	6,000
CoastEd Field guide to the Rocky Shores, Gold Coast	4,000
Malaysian Genomics Resource Centre <i>An amphibian biodiversity survey of Bellinger Valley</i>	3,450
Bush Heritage Australia <i>Naree Station: stage 3 research monitoring</i> (donor: Diana and Brian Snape AM)	9,000
Central Qld University A community initiative to raise awareness and restore seagrass in a distrubed subtropical environment	5,000
University of NSW Engaging volunteers in arid zone threatened species research	4,600
Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests Common goldfield eucalypts: a guide for beginners (donor: Worrowing Fund)	6,000
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc (ANPC) Bring back the Banksias - Stage 1 (split with Ross)	4,900

### RE Ross Trust - flora and fauna conservation in Victoria

#### Bayside Friends of Native 9,034 Wildlife Conserving the microbats of Bayside Mt Rothwell Biodiversity 8,000 Interpretation Centre Genetic infusion for three threatened mammal species RMIT University Quantifying 5,000 the contribution of environmental education - pilot project Euroa Arboretum *Box-ironbark* 9,720 ecology course Panyyabyr Landcare Group 9,925 Finding nature Australian Network for Plant 4,900 Conservation Inc (ANPC) Bring back the Banksias - Stage 1 (split with NWF)

# The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation - sustainable land management in NSW

Conservation Volunteers Australia A field guide to identifying wetland plants on the NSW South Coast	6,000
Condobolin & Districts Landcare Sustainable land management field tour	10,000
GLENRAC Inc Know your natives - education for rural land managers	5,275
Murrumbidgee Landcare Water for wildlife in the Wah Wah District	9,000
Holbrook Landcare Network Finding Nanno	10,000
Albury Conservation Company Developing scientifically-sound citizen science: a comparison of techniques for monitoring and wildlife management	4,725

# The Yulgilbar Foundation - flora and fauna conservation around the Clarence River catchment, NSW

Bungawalbyn Landcare	2,165
Protecting the endangered Emu	
population in Bungawalbyn	
Clarence Valley Council	18,454
Taking the fight to coral tree in	
the Clarence Valley	

# FEATURED GRANTS IN THE SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS PROGRAM

# **Halfmoon Biosciences** Breeding season foraging range and distribution of the vulnerable Lesser Noddy

The Lesser Noddy is a threatened species that breeds in Australia only at the Houtman Abrolhos islands, 60km west of Geraldton, WA. The applicant, Dr Chris Surman, has spent 24 years studying the breeding and feeding behaviour of the seabird and is the first person to successfully track a Lesser Noddy.

Given the restrictive nature of the Lesser Noddies' nesting habitat, and the narrow interbreeding distribution of the species at sea, this project is focused on collecting information about the location of key foraging areas during the breeding season.

Funds were used to buy Pathtrack GPS tracking units so more birds could be tracked, and a better picture built up about the health of the species, and changes to the ocean environment.

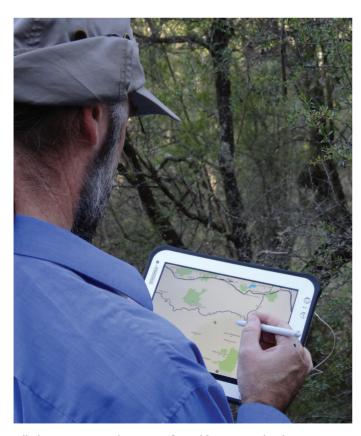


Dr Chris Surman with Lisa the Lesser Noddy

## **Geomancia** A rugged field survey system for Olkola Indigenous Land Managers, Central Cape York Peninsula

Geomancia has been providing technical and geospatial information support to Indigenous land managers across northern Australia for the last four years.

Olkola Indigenous Land Managers were given a rugged tablet and trained in the use of the Dragonfly Field Survey and Mapping Toolkit. The land managers received one-on-one training by expert scientists, and included a comprehensive workshop. The database associated with the toolkit incorporates fields for traditional plant and animal use based on information requirements provided by CSIRO, who are also working with Olkola rangers on a cultural recording project. The intention of the database is to record ethnobotanical data that can be shared with the *Atlas of Living Australia*. It is expected that the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation will use the kits with field survey teams.



Olkola ranger using the Dragonfly Field Survey technology

#### LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECTS

We decided to look back over our landscape restoration program to see what the groups have achieved. Each group has been operating for different time periods - Connecting Country started in 2007, Swamps Rivers and Ranges is only in its second year. They shared data on their on-ground works, community education and research activities, the partnerships they've made, and the funds they've leveraged from other sources.

What we learnt is that we've spent around \$800,000 on these projects and they have leveraged just over \$10m from other sources, which is at least 12 times our investment.

Our grants have covered three key areas: capacity (funding a worker), research (funding bird monitoring programs) and community education (funding production of materials to engage landholders).

Our two main funding collaborators in this program have been The William Buckland

Foundation who have invested nearly \$300,000 into three of the projects, and The Ian Potter Foundation who have granted \$150,000 to set up a new project.

We are pleased to be able to report that the program is filling a crucial gap in private land conservation - community-driven landscape restoration to reconnect and restore habitat for native fauna and flora, owned by those that live and work in these landscapes. We ensure that the groups who set out to do this work are well resourced, soundly facilitated, and receive our support and guidance.

All the information on the landscape restoration program has been developed into a dossier called *A new partnership-based approach to land restoration* and you can obtain a copy by emailing beth@nwf.org. au or you can view the film called *Investing in communities driving landscape change* https://vimeo.com/143560511



Community members learn about planting techniques up at the Regent Honeyeater Project, near Benalla

#### Landscape restoration program grants awarded in 2014/2015

Regent Honeyeater Project - funding capacity for their Co-ordinator	30,000
Loddon Plains Landcare Network - GOANNA Project, funding capacity for their Facilitator (The William Buckland Foundation)	30,000
Swamps Rivers and Ranges - funding capacity for their Project worker, (The Ian Potter Foundation)	30,000
Swamps Rivers and Ranges - community education project (The Ian Potter Foundation)	10,000
Swamps Rivers and Ranges - research and monitoring project (The Ian Potter Foundation)	10,000
Beyond Bolac - funding for new worker	30,000



The seven projects in our program, run by seven different community organisations

#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

#### **Grant Details**

Leadership Development Grants are to support those people playing a key role in conservation projects in Australia. The grant is to provide individuals with funds for professional development in their field, largely focusing on landscape restoration.

The main aim is to support people become or remain a leader in nature conservation.

Grant guidelines are available on the NWF website.

"With support from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation Leadership Development Grant, I was able to build my skills in GIS mapping, Box-Ironbark ecology knowledge, and leadership and facilitation, to help my career in landscape restoration"

Anthony Gallacher, Facilitator Loddon Plains Landcare Network and the GOANNA Project



Past grant recipient Anthony Gallacher working in the field with mentor and farmer Bill Twigg

#### 2015 Grant Recipient, Judith Symonds

Our latest Leadership Development Grant went to Judith Symonds. Judith is from the Maranoa Regional Landcare Association in Queensland. She is working on a project to set up a Holistic Management Hub as part of the Savory Institute Network. The Network has a number of leaders around the world.

The overall goal of holistic management is to achieve landscape-scale restoration of grazing land to be socially, environmentally and economically regenerative. The goal for Judith's group is to bring 50,000 hectares of land under holistic management within five years with landholders having a current planned grazing chart. Planned grazing means that land is recovering and not stocked for 90% of the year and grazing can be moved around key mating and breeding seasons of native fauna.

The project also looks at gathering baseline data, soil carbon measurements, soil surface health and flora diversity. This follows the "Cows Save the Planet" philosophy of Judith Schwartz which talks about keeping grazing soil covered to address a whole host of environmental problems including species extinction.

We recognise that Judith is a community leader who has been a finalist in the Qld Rural Women's Network and participates in various rural women's projects and coalitions. She used her grant to travel to the United States to attend a conference at the Savory Institute. This training gives her accreditation to lead holistic management training.



Judith attending the Savory Institute Network Conference, she is to the left of the guy in the cowboy hat at the back



"Since 2008 the R E Ross Trust has partnered with the Norman Wettenhall Foundation to administer grants on its behalf through the Small Environmental Grants Program. It is an outsourcing arrangement that is closely managed by the Trust's staff and is done so with the recognition that the Norman Wettenhall Foundation has particular expertise and on-theground knowledge of this subject matter and therefore more effective and better targeted grant making will occur. All grants made by the Norman Wettenhall Foundation still align with the Trust's wider environmental granting strategy of practical projects that benefit the Victorian community." Louise Kuramoto, Program Manager, RE Ross Trust







The
WILLIAM BUCKLAND
FOUNDATION
\_\_\_\_\_WBF\_\_\_\_\_



#### DONORS, PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation is a charitable trust with tax deductible status. Donations that extend the Foundation's ability to augment the wellbeing of the Australian natural living environment are gratefully received.

# Our major donors for projects in the Small Environment Grants Program are:

RE Ross Trust	55,000
The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation	50,000
Yulgilbar Foundation	35,000
Diana and Brian Snape AM	15,000
Harris Estate Trust	9,855
Worrowing Fund	6,000

# Our major donors into the Landscape Restoration Program:

The William Buckland	53,000
Foundation (year 3)	
The Ian Potter Foundation	50,000

Please note that total donations on this page do not equal total donations in the finance report as some of the major donations span two financial years.

## Donations from our supporters 1st July 2014 - 30 June 2015

John Bate AOM	5,000
Allan Myers AO QC	3,000
Williams Fund	2,500
Margaret Ross	2,000
Lynton and Susan Morgan	2,000
Lesley Griffin	1,500
Willemspruse Pty Ltd	700
Peter Cope and Zoe Metherall	600
Rob Southey	500
Keith Stockwell	300
Donald Coventry	300
Jennifer Skewes	250
Anne Latreille	200
Professor Carrick and Margaret	200
Chambers	
DS and DJ Edwards	200
Margaret Kelso	175
Julia Hurley	150
Rosemary Davidson	50

We love hearing from our donors and supporters, who help to guide our work

#### FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

#### Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2015

CURRENT ASSETS Cash and cash equivalents Trade and other receivables Investments	\$493,398 \$77,708 \$3,583,730
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$4,154,836
NON-CURRENT ASSETS Other assets- office equipment	\$851
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$851
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,155,687
CURRENT LIABILITIES Provisions Trade and other payables TOTAL LIABILITIES NET ASSETS	\$149,990 \$10,565 \$160,555 \$3,995,132
EQUITY Capital gifts	\$1,679,343

\$1,064,534

\$139,563

\$1,111,692

\$3,995,132

#### Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2015

#### REVENUE

Capital profits

Retained profits

TOTAL EQUITY

Asset revaluation reserve

Income - donations	\$246,500
Income - investments	\$264,170
Realised share trading activities	(35,303)
Income - interest	\$17,457
Other income	\$5,135
TOTAL INCOME	\$497,959
EXPENSES	
Operating expenses, events and workshops	\$173,245
External expenses (incurred on behalf of landscape restoration projects)	\$11,650
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$184,895

#### NET PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Distributions (grants)	\$350,422
TOTAL NET PROFIT	(37,358)

Many thanks to the Trustees for another great year of grantmaking:

Gib Wettenhall (Chair)
Bill Weatherly
Geoff Park
Adam Wettenhall
Peter Howie
Jane Halliday
Rebecca Dabbs
Neil Tonkin

Also a big thanks to the Finance Committee, and Alastair Macleod, for making decisions on our investments.

THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION
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Front cover photo:

Looking towards Mt Bogong from Mt Porepunkah Fire Tower
by Stephen Routledge, Swamps Rivers and Ranges

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