

THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION
TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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 (left)



CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Last year I highlighted in my report how we were inviting others to ‘buy in’ to resourcing our community-driven, whole of landscape approach for protecting and expanding habitat across Victoria.

Over the past year we have focused on how this might occur. In particular, we are exploring MOUs with government agencies to take on recurrent operational costs, such as project worker funding or on-ground actions like revegetation and fencing. Encouragingly, the Foundation is developing an MOU with the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA), whereby we facilitate partnership formation and a blueprint for action on landscape or wetland restoration, while the NCCMA covers recurrent operational costs.

This approach could act as a template in other CMA regions. We have also over the past year looked at ways we could partner with the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in granting for biodiversity projects.

As I’ve said many times before, we ought never forget that parks, reserves and conservation properties – no matter how large – are islands, fragments within a matrix of privately held land. Electrified fences to keep out cats and foxes like those at Mt Rothwell or the Australian Wildlife Conservancy’s Scotia and Newhaven reserves hold the line on the plummeting numbers of Australian mammals. Clearing of cats on Bruny Island off Tasmania or Dirk Hartog Island, West Australia, are similarly noble in intent, although equally short term fixes; that is, unless we choose to narrow our horizons to confining the full suite of our unique fauna to Jurassic Park-style reserves.

To stem Australia’s biodiversity bleeding away, the longer and harder road to travel involves the pursuit of collaboration, connectivity, cultural change and custodianship on a grand scale. (As one of our major donors, Bruce McGregor of the Melliadora Fund opines, alliteration makes for memorable acronyms).

In philanthropy, much is made of breaking down ‘silos’ and working together. If we are to stem the slow bleed of our unique fauna and flora, the time to put the five Cs into action is well past. This is why I am fully supportive of the move to establish a new private land conservation network that arose out of the second Australian Land Conservation Alliance Conference in November, of which The William Buckland Foundation and ourselves were major sponsors. Protecting and expanding habitat across the nation’s private landholder matrix could act as the new network’s overarching objective (www.alca.org.au).

In pursuit of the five Cs, I am also fully supportive of our name change. Next year is the 20th anniversary of The Norman Wettenhall Foundation’s formation. We want to refresh our image,

broaden our scope to partner, and make it clearer where we stand. You will all be invited to the launch of the Wettenhall Environment Trust at the Melbourne Museum next May. I am sure my father would approve: he could always see the big picture.

Gib Wettenhall
Chair, Norman Wettenhall Foundation

Below: Gib Wettenhall with King Parrot at birdwatching 'dawn patrol' at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, Lamington National Park, south-east Queensland



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



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We've had a productive year since our last annual report. As well as administering the four grant rounds each year, and managing the landscape restoration program, I try to do some professional development — last year I went on the box ironbark ecology course which was incredibly useful. This year I'm on a wetland plant identification course up in the swamps near Kerang.

This kind of professional development helps me in assessing grant applications, and in working closely with our landscape restoration projects.

We are proud to support the projects we do, and proud to put what money we can into the biodiversity conservation sector.

I'm happy to report that we are now working with Equity Trustees as one of our major donors in the Small Environmental Grants Program. On behalf of the Albert George and Nancy Caroline Youngman Trust, we will be granting \$80,000 a year to threatened mammal conservation.

Equity join long time donors, the RE Ross Trust and The William Buckland Foundation, as well as sub-funds of the Australian Communities Foundation. It is my absolute pleasure to be working with these donors and the staff members within these organisations who, like myself and the NWF Trustees, are seeking the best long term environmental outcomes for their funds.

I look forward to seeing everyone next year at the Melbourne Museum Theatre, on Friday 19th May 2017, 5pm for the launch of our new name, and an interesting evening of discussion about the last 20 years of the nature conservation movement in Australia. We will have a panel of expert guest speakers and a tribute to Founder, Norman Wettenhall. Please put the date in your diaries and look out for an invitation closer to the time.

Best wishes, happy travels, and see you all next year for our 20 year celebrations and relaunch.

Beth Mellick
Executive Director

SPECIAL SUPPORTER EVENT

In 2012 NWF awarded a grant to Bronwyn Fancourt, then from the University of Tasmania, to help with her research project “Drought, disease or destiny? Identifying the cause of decline of the eastern Quoll”.

We heard about the Mount Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre from this work of Bronwyn’s and decided to look into it more fully.

Enclosed by 450ha of electric fencing, Mt Rothwell is the largest predator free ecosystem in Victoria. The property is exclusively managed for the conservation of some of Australia’s most threatened faunal species, including the Eastern Barred Bandicoot and Eastern Quoll.

On the NWF Executive Director’s first trip to the centre she was ‘hooked’ by the two young women running the place - their knowledge, their dedication, their passion, and their drive, along with the centre’s vision to breed up genetically-viable populations of threatened mammals.

We gave a small grant of \$8,000 for a project called “Genetic infusion for three threatened mammal species,” in which they wanted to improve the genetic diversity of three threatened marsupials in order to maximise their survival potential when used in reintroduction programs.

Later, with a \$100,000 donation from the



Worworing Fund, we were able to set up a large granting program with the centre in order to support their capacity in partnering with a range of groups who are interested in captive breeding and protecting threatened species from extinction.

We invited our special supporters to an event at the centre to get up close to their facilities, the animals, and the workers for National Threatened Species Day in September.

Having events like these help us to showcase the work of the NWF to our donors and supporters. Next year we can report on the large grant and what outcomes were achieved. Thanks to everyone who came.

SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS SCHEME 2015/2016

Mungalla Aboriginal Corporation, <i>Biodiversity sampling on Sandridge</i>	9,300
Bushcare's Major Day Out, <i>Weed identification app for mobile phones</i>	4,600
Latrobe University, <i>Loranthaceae mistletoes</i>	4,800
Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld, <i>Recovering the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly</i>	7,800
Deakin University, <i>Seascape genetics of a keystone marine species</i>	5,000
Stephen Murphy, <i>Using bioacoustics to understand the cryptic and rapidly disappearing Carpentarian Grasswren</i>	10,000
Nature Conservation Council of NSW, <i>Fire and Restoration Network</i>	4,500
Latrobe University, <i>The conservation biology and landscape ecology of a threatened marsupial, the Brush-tailed Phascogale</i>	5,000
Environs Kimberley, <i>Seagrass monitoring - a decade of committed community science</i>	9,980
University of Wollongong, <i>Spotting the Spotted-tailed quoll: landholders and scientists unite</i>	3,500
Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Corporation, <i>Enhancing the capacity of the Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal community revegetation nursery</i>	9,480
Project Maratus, <i>Discovery and distribution of Peacock jumping spiders in WA</i>	2,500
Butterfly Conservation SA, <i>Update of the butterfly conservation SA website</i>	2,500
Bulimba Creek Catchment Co-ordinating Committee, <i>Myna humane reduction program</i>	1,000



RE Ross Trust - flora and fauna conservation in Victoria

Jocelyn Lindner, <i>Flora and fauna of the Victorian and South Australian Mallee</i>	5,000
Friends of Wilson Reserve, <i>Bat box citizen science: a long term mark-recapture study</i>	8,295
Geelong Performing Arts Centre, <i>"Extinction" by Hannie Rayson</i>	5,000
Conservation Ecology Centre, <i>Otways threatened species network - solving the most urgent wildlife conservation issues in the Otways</i>	10,000
Wombat Forestcare, <i>Wombat forest research project</i>	3,000
Australian Platypus Conservancy, <i>Conservation of the Australian Water rat</i>	7,000

The William Buckland Foundation - Landscape restoration and education

Tarrangower Cactus Control Group, <i>Promoting biodiversity through community actions, education and networking</i>	10,000
Mid-Loddon Sub-catchment Management Group, <i>Community education and monitoring of the Bush stone-curlew</i>	3,870
Northern Plains CMN, <i>Grassland management for Plains wanderer</i>	6,000

Worrowing Fund

Mount Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre, <i>Reinvigorating rock wallaby habitat</i>	30,000
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Yulgilbar Foundation - conservation in the Clarence catchment

Clarence Environment Centre, <i>Coastal Emu genetics project</i>	8,491
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Left: The Conservation Ecology Centre at Cape Otway received a large 3 year grant from the Ian Potter Foundation to carry out research and monitoring on native fauna. Our small grant helped them purchase a vehicle that increases their capacity to do this work www.conservationecologycentre.org

FEATURED GRANTS IN THE SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS PROGRAM



Mungalla Aboriginal Corporation *Biodiversity Sampling on Sandridge - Mungalla*

Mungalla Stud is a property in north Queensland that has been purchased by the Nywaigi Traditional Owners. It was previously a cattle station, but a rehabilitation program has dramatically improved the condition of the riparian corridors and wetlands.

The aim of this project is to establish a baseline survey of the terrestrial biota on the sand dune complex that is immediately adjacent to the significantly improved wetlands. The primary goal is to gather baseline data on mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs.

This project is designed to fill a “knowledge gap” — baseline data is required to understand what shifts in biodiversity occur as a result of improved land management practices and how animals may use the country. It will also assist Indigenous trainees in trapping and identification techniques, and bird watching and identification. This will be important when Mungalla increases and expands the eco-tourism activities currently operating.

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Jocelyn Lindner, *Flora and Fauna of the Victorian and South Australian Mallee*

Norman Wettenhall was a great supporter of the production of books on flora and fauna ID. We don't fund as many books as we used to but there are some authors that really deserve an injection of external funds into their projects. Jocelyn Lindner applied to us with these words: “The overarching aim of my book is to share my love and intrigue of the flora and fauna that survive in extremes of climate, and to encourage locals and tourists alike to stop along our highways, and visit the parks and reserves throughout the Mallee...”

This is a truly beautiful publication that Jocelyn has really put her heart into. It has clear photos and descriptions of plants and animals; the plant section in particular has tremendous appeal because of the season section on flowering plants. This grant helped to keep the price point affordable and I hope it acts as a bit of a template on how to produce a great community guide.

Tarrangower Cactus Control Group, Promoting Biodiversity through Community Action, Education and Networking

This project will extend on the work that this fantastic community group has done over the past ten years, building upon their community connections and engagement to combat the spread of wheel cactus in Victoria.

The group plans to develop and extensively distribute new educational material that will inform local landholders about control of wheel cactus and its impact on biodiversity. The overall goal is to improve landscape health by reducing the spread of wheel cactus, using education and collaboration with landholders, community groups, and government agencies.

Statewide, the aim is to develop a network or task force, similar to the gorse and blackberry taskforces, that will take the project to the next level. The funding employs a worker and will allow this group to share their community-based model of pest control and conservation with like-minded groups, as well as incorporating expert advice from academics and other specialists. This model will hopefully be adopted by the State Government in the future.



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Jarlmadangah burru Aboriginal Corporation, Enhancing the capacity of the Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community Revegetation Nursery

A Green Army team built a specialist revegetation nursery with this group a few years ago. The grant from NWF will now enable an experienced Aboriginal horticulturist to provide specialist training to the group to help them with seed collection and propagation.

The group will grow local provenance native plants, in particular, bush food and medicine plants, for rehabilitation of the National Heritage listed Fitzroy River floodplains.



The senior Nyikina Mangala Traditional Owners based at Jarlmadangah are keen to see widespread planting in degraded areas of their traditional lands, and future projects will use the locally grown nursery plants. The grant, however, will also see long term benefits for remote Aboriginal youth being engaged in natural resource management.

Photos: Above left is Beth Mellick, NWF Executive Director with Jacob Cassady from Mungalla in Ingham; Left is a page from the Lindner book; Top is one of the Tarrangower group injecting wheel cactus with poison; Above is one of the Aboriginal workers erecting the Indigenous plant nursery.



Steve Murphy, *Using bioacoustics to understand the cryptic and rapidly disappearing Carpentarian Grasswren in remote northern Australia*

Until recently, the extremely shy Carpentarian Grasswren (CGW) occurred in four populations in northern Australia. However, recent analyses suggest that they have disappeared from 33-93% of historical sites, and one population in the Northern Territory is apparently extinct. CGWs are listed as 'Endangered' in the Northern Territory, 'Near Threatened' in Queensland, but are not listed federally. Frequent, large-scale fires are presumed to be the main reason for this dramatic decline.

The aim of this research is to develop a robust and repeatable survey method for CGWs. This is required so that survey results can be properly analysed — being able to apply estimates of so-called 'detection probability' that will then allow analyses into species decline. Quantitative analyses of survey results will also allow the conservation status of the species to be properly assessed.

Having robust survey tools will also permit more detailed ecological studies that will increase our understanding of the biology of this species, particularly in relation to fire ecology, and explain why it has declined so much. This project is needed to provide a critical first step towards saving Carpentarian Grasswrens from further population decline, and possibly extinction.

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Project Maratus, *Discovery and distributions of Peacock Jumping Spiders in Western Australia*

Peacock jumping spiders in the family Maratus are unique to Australia. It was only discovered early this century (2005), that they have a unique colourful dancing courtship ritual which is new to science and has commanded worldwide attention. At that stage only 8 species were known. Currently there are over 40 species described and 60 known across Australia.

There is little known about the ecology and distribution of these newly discovered Australian jumping spiders. The main aims of the project are to survey, sample, locate and map new distributions of existing species, expanding the known locality and habitat information for them to assess their status in the environment.

More funds are needed to carry this research forward and you can contact the group via their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/projectmaratus>

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.

Samantha Grover, Leadership Development Grant

Samantha Grover received a Leadership Development Grant from us earlier this year. She is putting the funds towards the fee to attend the Homeward Bound Antarctica expedition for women scientists. Homeward Bound will train 1,000 women over 10 years in high level leadership and strategy skills, forming a network for creating a sustainable future.

Samantha is actively involved in the conservation and restoration of wetlands in the south west of WA, as well as the conservation and restoration of peatlands in the Australian Alps, after completing a PhD in this area. She is also active in her community around issues of climate change, sustainability and urban food production.

The strategy component of the Homeward Bound training will develop Samantha's ability to devise and carry out a plan of action to better resource wetland restoration, particularly in the Australian Alps.

Below: Samantha Grover



LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECTS

We continue to provide support to projects in our program as needed, and to work with them in achieving their landscape restoration goals on an ongoing basis.

All the groups come together annually for a landscape restoration workshop. We use this forum to update our data on conservation outcomes from each of the groups.

It is also an opportunity for each group to share information and stories, and for Wettenhall to learn from the groups and how their projects are running, helping us to adapt our model to suit the needs of each project and the organisation driving it.

There is no doubt it's been a tough couple of years since the Coalition government came to power and drastically cut funding to the

Landcare sector, but our groups are surviving these tough times.

NWF is partnering with the North Central Catchment Management Authority to develop a model in which they support the on-ground works of groups we have built up under our model.

The Loddon Plains Landcare Network's GOANNA project is the first project that the NCCMA is going to fund under this new arrangement, and we look forward to brokering more of these community partnerships in the future. We also hope it can serve as a model for other CMAs around the state to investigate.



**Landscape restoration program grants
awarded in 2015/2016**

Loddon Plains Landcare Network, GOANNA project	30,000
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, JARR Project	30,000

**The William Buckland Foundation
Landscape Restoration Grants**

Loddon Plains Landcare Network, GOANNA Project community education	10,000
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, JARR Project community education	10,000

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**The Ian Potter Foundation Landscape
Restoration Grants**

Swamps Rivers and Ranges	30,000
Swamps Rivers and Ranges	10,000

TRUSTEES

Trustees are: Gib Wettenhall (Chair), Bill Weatherly, Geoff Park, Peter Howie, Adam Wettenhall, Jane Halliday, Neil Tonkin, and Camilla Waterhouse.

Special thanks to Camilla Waterhouse, who replaced Rebecca Dabbs as Chair of the Finance Committee. Her help with finances is invaluable to the Trustees and to the Executive Director. Camilla has been doing a probationary stint with the Trustees, and at our November 2016 meeting, she was officially appointed as a Trustee. Congratulations to outgoing Finance Chair, Rebecca Dabbs, on her appointment as a partner at Ernst and Young.

Trustees meet four times a year to make decisions on grants, as well as meeting annually for strategic planning and a field trip. This year we met up and stayed at Boort on the Loddon Plains, north of Bendigo, with one of our landscape restoration projects, GOANNA, run by the Loddon Plains Landcare Network. This is a terrific team who took us on a boat trip up the Serpentine Creek, and on a bus tour around their network area to see on-ground works projects with local landholders.

Below: Beth Mellick, Jane Halliday (Trustee), farmer Tom Smith, Jenny Spence (DEDJTR), Neil Tonkin (Trustee), Peter Howie (Trustee), Bill Weatherly (Trustee), Gib Wettenhall (Trustee), Geoff Park (Trustee)



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.

Donations from major donors into the Small Environmental Grants Program 1st July 2015 - 30 June 2016

Biophilia Foundation	15,000
Melliodora Fund (sub-fund ACF)	9,500
Diana and Brian Snape AM	15,000
The RE Ross Trust	55,000
The William Buckland Foundation	110,000
The Yulgilbar Foundation	35,000
Worrowing Fund (sub-fund ACF)	100,000



Donations from our supporters 1st July 2015 - 30 June 2016

Annonymous	100
Colin Agar	250
Robert Burn	3,000
Donald Coventry	50
Jean and David Edwards	300
Ian Endersby	100
Elizabeth and Ian Fraser	50
Lesley Griffin	4,000
Peter Howie	700
Julia Hurley	50
Margaret Kelso	180
Anne Latreille	200
Susan and Lynton Morgan	2,000
Allan Myers AC QC	3,000
Carol Richardson	200
Jennifer Skewes	100
Keith Stockwell	300
David Wettenhall	1,000
Martin Wettenhall	1,000
Williams Fund (sub-fund ACF)	10,000

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Many thanks for the donation we received this year in memory of John Bate who was an inspiration to many.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2016

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$603,339
Trade and other receivables	\$73,729
Investments	\$3,302,007
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$3,979,075
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
Other assets- office equipment	\$354
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$354
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,979,429
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Provisions	\$266,045
Trade and other payables	\$5,754
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$271,799
NET ASSETS	\$3,707,630
EQUITY	
Capital gifts	\$1,679,343
Capital profits	\$1,064,534
Retained profits	\$174,586
Asset revaluation reserve	\$789,167
TOTAL EQUITY	\$3,707,630

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2016

REVENUE	
Income - donations	\$237,341
Income - investments	\$264,181
Realised share trading activities	-\$5,470
Income - interest	\$14,664
TOTAL INCOME	\$510,716
EXPENSES	
Internal operating expenses, publications, events and workshops	\$133,260
External expenses (incurred on behalf of landscape restoration projects)	\$8,817
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$142,077
NET PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	
Distributions (grants)	\$333,616
TOTAL NET PROFIT	\$35,023

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

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

A further thanks to the Finance Committee
for their extra contributions to running the organisation:

Camilla Waterhouse (Finance Chair)
Peter Howie
Gib Wettenhall

Special thanks to Alastair McLeod for advice on investments to
the Finance Committee; to Bruce Dolphin for another tight year of
bookkeeping; and to Sean Denham for a seamless audit.

(Please note that Camilla Waterhouse does not participate in any
discussion on investments due to potential conflicts of interest.)

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Roma Earless Dragon (Tympanocryptis wilsoni), near Amby, Queensland.
Image: Museum Victoria. Photographer: Andrew O'Grady.

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