

WETTENHALL ENVIRONMENT TRUST
TWENTY-SECOND **ANNUAL REPORT — 2018**



WETTENHALL ENVIRONMENT TRUST

Dr Norman Wettenhall

An environment organisation and perpetual charitable trust, the Wettenhall Environment Trust's objective is to support projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment.

Established in 1997, the Wettenhall Environment Trust (then The Norman Wettenhall Foundation) acted as the culmination of founder Norman Wettenhall's lifelong love affair with the Australian bush and the birds and plants that inhabit it.

Funds 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.

Wettenhall Environment Trust is a member of Philanthropy Australia and the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN).



CHAIRPERSON REPORT

I've put in 18 years as Chair of the Wettenhall Environment Trust. Not only is it time to go, but a worthy successor is waiting in the wings to take over in 2019, my sister Jane Halliday, a Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne. She is an epidemiologist with expertise in human genetics and public health and leads a research group at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne. On the environmental side, she has followed in founder Norman Wettenhall's footsteps and is a dedicated birdwatcher and list keeper. Where it comes to expertise, she completed her undergraduate degree with a major in Zoology.

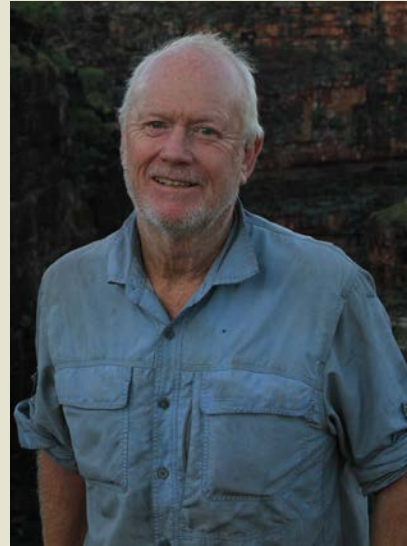
The trust's Finance Committee has undergone significant change, as well. Camilla Waterhouse from the environmental audit division of Ernst & Young has moved to New York. Before she left, we asked her to recommend a replacement (preferably another woman) from the environmental audit division. She nominated Kirstin Hengen, who is the new Chair of the Finance Committee. Like her predecessors, she has the remarkable facility of being able to look at a Balance Sheet and can instantly see where it doesn't quite add up.

On the investment side, retired stockbroker Neil Tonkin has resigned after five years on

the Finance Committee. He was shrewd and knew how to ask the right questions. With his departure, we have taken the opportunity to shake up the way we invest.

Jane, as the incoming Chair, recommended we approach Richard Addison, Director of wealth management firm Accru Melbourne. Another impressive young person, we are pleased to add him to our bank of talented experts working pro bono. All share our commitment to our charter of seeking ways to maintain and enhance Australia's natural living environment. Their willingness to do this without payment means we can keep administration costs low, ensuring an optimal bang for our many donors' bucks.

Another trustee change brings both stability and increased rural expertise. A former trustee, Digby Race is back on board after a stint in Alice Springs. A farmer and wine grower living in north-east Victoria, Digby is the Principal Research Fellow at the University of Sunshine Coast. One other structural change relating to succession is worth mentioning. Two of the next generation of trustees are stepping up. A farmer and risk management consultant Alistair Macleod has agreed to rejoin the Finance Committee. My



daughter, Meg Wettenhall, is a psychologist and media/communications graduate with a strong interest in environmental psychology. She has volunteered to prepare podcasts for the trust bringing to light the stories of some of our grantees. She is playing a lead role in shaping our next event at Donkey Wheel House so that it has appeal to Millennials as well as Baby Boomers.

It may sound clichéd, but it has been a privilege to act as Chair of the Wettenhall Environment Trust. I have had the support of exceptional trustees and the comfort of having an extraordinarily effective and passionate Executive Director, Beth Mellick, in charge of WET's engine room.

I wish Jane all the best and pledge her my full support.

Gib Wettenhall
Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

What difference do small grants make in nature conservation? Grants to small, grassroots community organisations must surely have long lasting effects on native biodiversity – I really hope so!

There is a long history of citizen science in Australia, with botanist Ferdinand Mueller in 1847 empowering people to collect plant species for recording and cataloging. This was something he couldn't manage alone. He needed a collective of naturalists and nature lovers to help gather information.

All these years later we still have to gather information so we know how our native species are faring and what we need to do to help them survive. And we don't have a better way to collect data – we still need our collective of naturalists and nature lovers doing the gathering, especially on private land. Well actually, it seems most of our public land managers these days are crying poor and unable to do the work. So our citizen scientists are working across many land tenures, including in the ocean! But these days they are getting paid for it (or their groups are) through small grants.

The tools used to collect data are more advanced than in Mueller's time. Citizen scientists are using infra-red cameras, apps, and sound

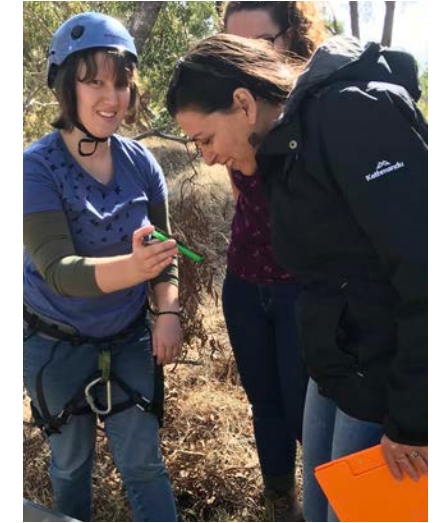
recorders. Some of the techniques have changed, and a more robust system for collecting data is now used; often research is undertaken to improve techniques and shared amongst naturalists and practitioners.

At the end of their 12 month grant period, applicants send me survey results, data analysis, consultant reports, publications and all sorts of evidence to show that the grant has helped them meet the aims of the project.

This is an area we love to fund – people in their local community, working together to help protect their local flora and fauna.

I find out that groups are submitting collected data to various state and national database. I receive evidence that reports are submitted to all levels of government when protection is needed for species whose habitat is in jeopardy. I hear from groups who are creating habitat, protecting habitat, enhancing habitat with homes for threatened species.

I believe that this grassroots bit we're getting right. This important data and information on species is being collected and collated by people who know their



local area, and shared with larger environment groups, government or universities.

One of my biggest concerns is that philanthropy and government spend money on habitat enhancement, especially for threatened species, but have few measures to ensure it's protected in the long term. There is limited capacity or precedent for prosecution – it is extremely rare for a local council to fine a landowner for removing native vegetation, and there only a small number of cases of state government fining landholders for not removing invasive weeds. MOUs with landholders are meaningless and legally inept when properties are sold and vegetation removed in the blink of an eye. I would like to see government work more closely with philanthropy and environment groups to ensure that nature conservation funding is not wasted.

Beth Mellick
Executive Director

SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS 2017/2018

The Small Environmental Grants program provides support for people undertaking projects that will make a positive difference to the natural living environment, in land, sea or air, rural or urban. Projects are about flora and fauna conservation, threatened mammal conservation, and landscape restoration and education.

Projects involve: monitoring, recording and sharing data; delivering community education; providing community capacity building (e.g. training); or research and science.

The ‘source’ column below refers to money that comes from our major donors. WBF is The William Buckland Foundation, Ross is the RE Ross Trust, Youngman is the Albert George and Nancy Youngman Trust through Equity Trustees, and Yulgilbar is the Yulgilbar Foundation. WET as a funding source contains both our major donors and smaller contributors as listed on page 17. We very much value the partnership with our major donors and the opportunity to support more projects than we could on our own.

Organisation	Project	Source	Amount
Regent Honeyeater Project	20 years of reflection and learning	WBF	\$15,000
Environmental, Sustainability & Conservation Committee	Rainbow Bee Eater	Ross	\$5,250
Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc.	Undertow Bay foreshore fauna survey	Biophilia	\$6,500
Territory Natural Resource Management	Savanna fire and the Gouldian Finch	WET	\$8,500
Terrain Ecology	Protecting the Kangaroo Island dunnart through community on ground action	Youngman	\$15,000
Australian Network for Plant Conservation	Bringing back the Banksias- Stage 2	WBF	\$8,500
Museum Victoria	Conservation, species diversity and ecological requirements of Uperoleia “toadlets” in Gippsland, Victoria	Ross	\$9,462
Scouts Australia - SA Branch	Echidna nature trail establishment	WET	\$2,750
Conservation Ecology Centre	Evaluating the impact of 1080 baiting upon foxes in the central Otways using non-invasive genetic tagging	Youngman	\$7,500
Thorsborne Trust	The Pied Imperial-Pigeon: long-term monitoring of population trends at North Brook Island, North Queensland	WET	\$2,000
Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia	Freckled Duck release and monitoring program	WET	\$10,000
Latrobe University	Using volunteer owner and pet dog teams to protect Victorian biodiversity	WET	\$5,000

Organisation	Project	Source	Amount
The University of Melbourne	Remote sensing of Greater Glider habitat-determinants for population and abundance estimations on a landscape-scale	Youngman	\$5,000
Turtles Australia	Turtles in the classroom and conservation dogs and turtles	Ross	\$6,300
Blue Mountains Conservation Society	Blue Mountains bat night	Youngman	\$600
BirdLife NQ	Conservation of the Carpentarian Grasswren in the Northern Territory	WET	\$6,000
Dolphin Research Australia	Healthy waterways – healthy dolphins: citizen scientists protecting dolphin communities	Youngman	\$9,735
Hindmarsh Landcare Network	Bird monitoring to measure revegetation success	Ross	\$7,200
Dandarrga Landcare	Dandarrga Landcare native nursery project	Yulgilbar	\$4,000
Damian Kelly	Bird Walks of Castlemaine	Ross	\$3,250
Falls Creek Environmental Interest Group	Falls Creek environmental education signage	Ross	\$4,000
Winton Wetlands	Will we hear them growl here again? Feasibility and preliminary analyses of proposed Growling Grass Frog rewilding program at Winton Wetlands	WBF	\$10,000
Arid Recovery	Using spot patterns to measure recruitment in reintroduced Western Quolls	Youngman	\$7,380
BirdLife NQ	Habitat and foods of Gouldian Finches in Queensland	WET	\$3,420
Upper Barwon Landcare Network	Monitoring Platypus and other species in the Barwon River	WBF	\$8,000
Environs Kimberley	Building conservation capacity for Night Parrots in the Kimberley	WET	\$9,979
Kangaroo Island Land for Wildlife	Protecting the KI dunnart through the KI Land for Wildlife program	Youngman	\$10,000
Friends of Warrandyte State Park	Interpreting frogland and the pollinator garden	WBF	\$4,004
University of Tasmania	Developing bird identification aural skills for enhancing participation in environment conservation	WET	\$4,679
Australian National University	The hidden costs of rising temperatures and the importance of thermal refugia to an arid-zone bird	WET	\$4,346
Yuraygir Landcare	In community hands with conservation	Yulgilbar	\$11,800
Violet Town Action Group	BirdLove	Ross	\$5,000

FEATURED SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

Latrobe University - Using volunteer owner and pet dog teams to protect Victorian biodiversity

Researchers at LaTrobe University believe that detection is the key to conservation of species and, as such, have been training volunteer dog-owner teams so they can be deployed all over Victoria in conservation programs.

The Wettenhall board of Trustees saw this project in action during a field trip this year.

Latrobe University staff came to the forest in Muckleford in central Victoria with four volunteer dog owners and their pet dogs.

These dogs were trained to detect a target odour amongst the numerous distracting smells, sights and sounds experienced in field conditions. Volunteer handlers have, likewise, undergone training to understand how environmental conditions, particularly subtle changes in weather, can affect search performance.

We saw the dogs find the scent, and alert their owner to its whereabouts - pretty impressive. The owners are similarly impressive, participating because they love their dogs, the outdoors, and want to make an active contribution to conservation.

The volunteer teams will be sent to work with Turtles Australia to detect turtle eggs in wetlands so they can be protected from fox predation. Hopefully, involvement in other conservation programs will follow.

We would like to continue supporting this work, and hope to fund the setting up of a community organisation to run the program. We welcome any funding partners in this venture.

Left: Wettenhall Trustee, Jane Halliday talks to volunteer dog handlers, while Maisie and Beth talk to the dog!



BirdLife Australia - Birds on farms

Wettenhall was keen to work with BirdLife to pilot this project - a resurrection of the Birds on Farms project from 20 years ago.

Birds on Farms aims to engage farmers and the local community to monitor woodland birds within agricultural areas across Victoria, re-visiting sites surveyed 20 years ago.

Findings will determine the ecological condition of

farms, inform management and identify priority sites for conservation. The project can compare data and look at how assemblages have changed over time, evaluating changes in the habitat, and make recommendations to farmers for future habitat management.

The pilot stage of this project was successful and Wettenhall is now funding the next stage. I hear the RE Ross Trust has committed to support the project over the next three years. More partners are welcome to join us.

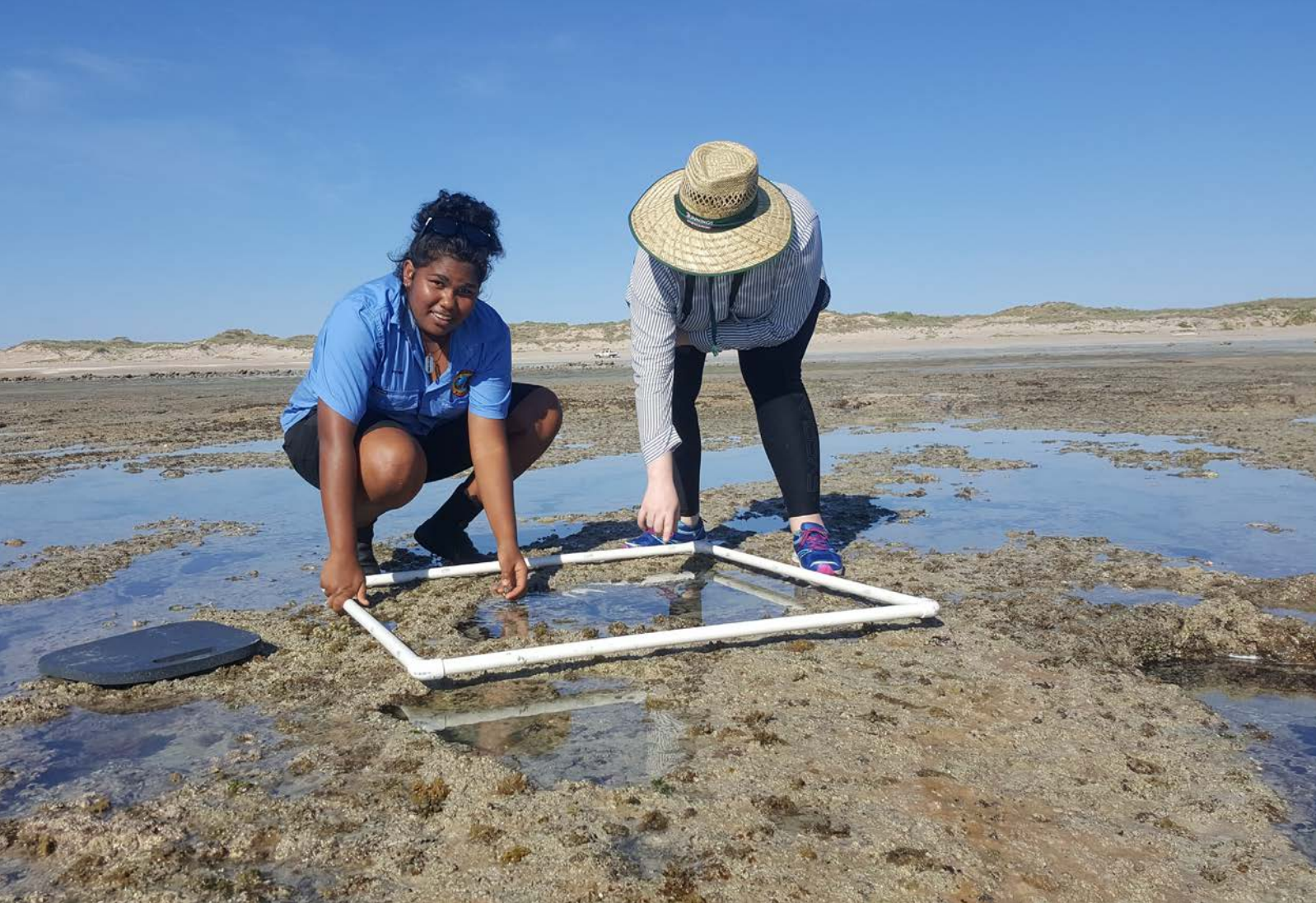
SACReD - Putting South Australia on the marine species map

This project is a unique collaboration of citizen scientists and marine professionals from a number of areas, all working towards the same goal - to improve public knowledge of marine species in South Australia.

A team of people from SACReD (South Australian Conservation Research Divers) is sorting through approximately 60,000 images of marine plants and animals,

photographed during field trips over the past decade. The best quality images are being formatted, labelled, identified and uploaded to the citizen science portal iNaturalist (linked with the Atlas of Living Australia), and all uploaded images are available for research and public use. Cataloguing the images will enable a better public understanding and appreciation of the species composition, distribution, and habitats of marine fauna and flora in South Australian waters.





Dandarrga Landcare - Dandarrga Landcare native nursery project

This volunteer-managed nursery is a not-for-profit enterprise for native and rainforest species, and functions as a community education and training venue for unemployed people to learn about restoration practices and native species propagation.

Dorrigo and its hinterland are wealthy in clean water, fertile soil, high rainfall and a diversity of ecological

environments. Situated in northern NSW, the area is poor in employment opportunities, with an ageing population. Tourists visit the Rainforest Centre in Dorrigo National Park, and for the beauty of the local waterfalls and the scenery.

This project aims to increase the group's capacity to educate and train the community in the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity of their area.



The grant was used to buy computer equipment, produce signage and run workshops to connect the local community.

Karajarri Traditional Lands Association - Reef monitoring collaborative project

The Karajarri Rangers manage and protect 30,000 square km of jurrar (coastal areas) and pirra (inland areas) in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. This project is an Indigenous community-based monitoring of intertidal invertebrates and is a collaborative research and management project undertaken by the Karajarri Rangers and The University of Western Australia.

Extensive sampling and data collection is needed to determine overall reef health and species abundance and distribution.

The aim is to inform and educate community members and tourists that visit the area of the importance of protection and preservation of the intertidal reef systems on Karajarri Country.

This citizen science project will enable the implementation of a long-term monitoring protocol and methodology, which is scientifically sound, tailored to the skills of the

rangers and considerate of the needs of the wider community.

Results found by collecting this data will enable the group to produce community awareness around the harvesting of culturally important species, as well as identifying further species that require data collection.



Arid Recovery — Using spot patterns to measure recruitment in reintroduced Western Quolls

This project will use unique spot patterns to identify individual quoll babies as they emerge from their mothers' dens.

Western Quolls were reintroduced into the Arid Recovery reserve, a 123 square km predator-proof fenced reserve in SA.

The group will now deliver a robust monitoring method to identify new individual juvenile quolls.

Data will be used to build a dossier of all quolls using their individually unique spot patterns, and then to measure breeding success.

Interns and volunteers will be trained in monitoring camera traps. The data collected on quoll population size and survivorship will form important baseline data for the UNSW research team's investigation of how prey adapt to this new predator as it becomes established in the reserve.



Winton Wetlands — Will we hear them growl here again?

Growling Grass Frogs were once present at Winton Wetlands and seem to have become locally extinct in recent years. This project will undertake preliminary assessment of habitat suitability, test for disease, analyse data of existing frog calls and set up infrastructure to allow re-introduction.

Growling Grass Frogs (GGF) were once common in wetland ecosystems but are now regarded as an endangered species in Victoria.

GGF are important species in an ecosystem as they are predators of other frogs and insects which is different from other frog species.

They are also large and would potentially be valuable prey for Australasian Bitterns, White-bellied Sea Eagles and other birds of prey, which the wetlands and adjoining wetlands are also trying to support.

Ultimately, rewilding of the species will increase biodiversity and will restore critical ecological functions and processes to Winton Wetlands and adjoining wetlands in the area.

This is the first step of a project that will lead to re-introduction of the species on-site and could be used as a source population for regional rewilding projects involving many traditional landholders in the area.

BirdLife NQ - Habitat and foods of Gouldian Finches in Queensland

The discovery of over 100 Gouldian Finches in Queensland, where the species is endangered, provides a unique opportunity to determine local foods, general and specific habitat characteristics, and breeding success of this species.

Why is this particular site in far North Queensland being utilised by so many Gouldian Finches compared with other

sites from which they have disappeared? Understanding this will help promote better local land management guidelines for the growing number of landowners and managers, including Indigenous land managers.

The project will investigate grazing and fire regimes, seasonal foods, breeding characteristics, and adjoining populations.

Right: Gouldian Finch by Ray Piece



Environmental, Sustainability & Conservation Committee - Rainbow Bee Eater

This project is aimed at saving the migratory Rainbow Bee Eater that breeds among the sandhills at a local golf club, near Shepparton.

Kialla Golf Club is situated along the Honeysuckle Creek in the Kialla farming community in Victoria.

This local residents' group is running a project to halt decline of the Rainbow Bee Eater by engaging the golf club and local community

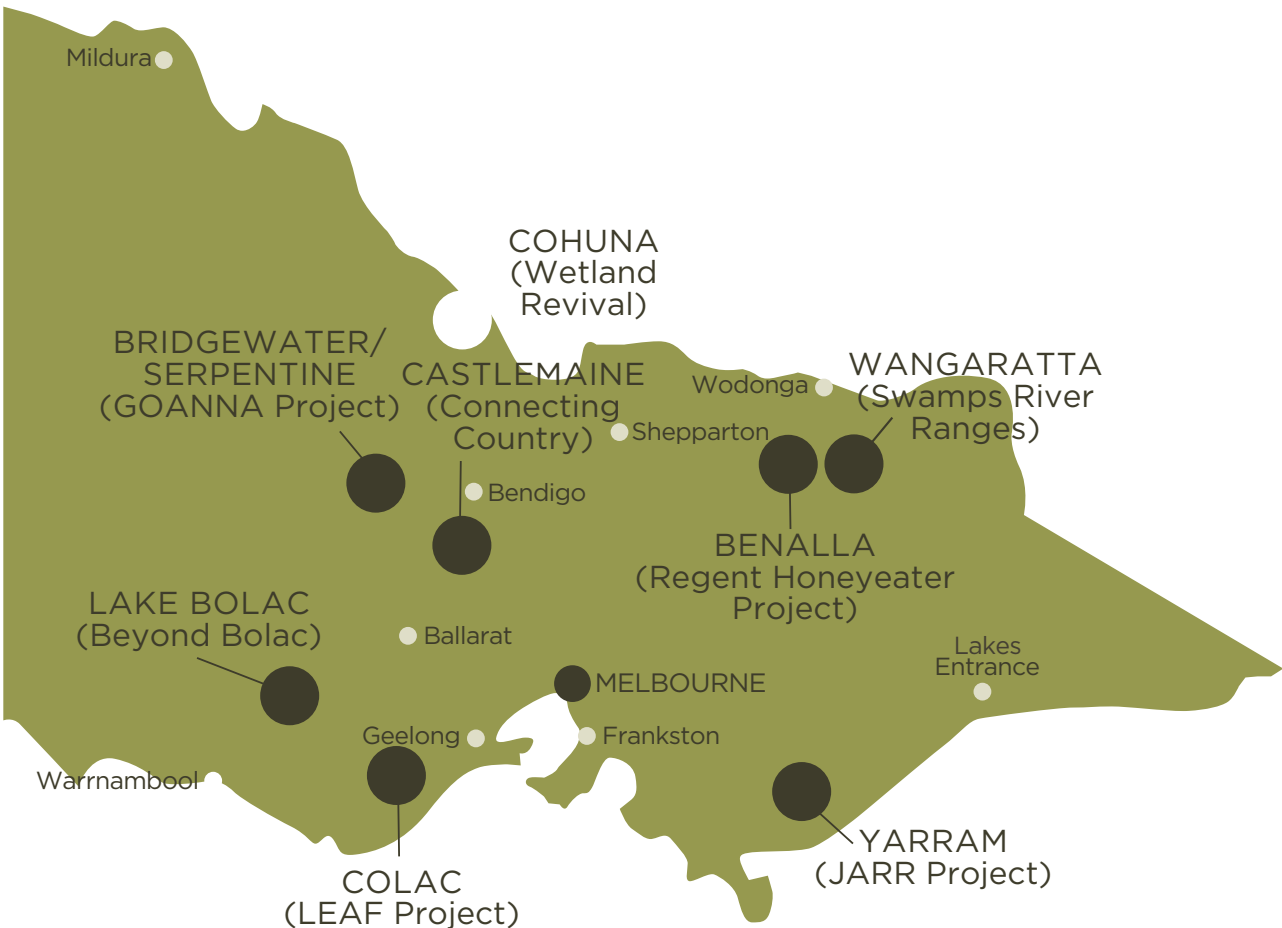
in protection of the species through hands-on activities and education.

The group constructed a sand reserve with educational signage and provided bee-attracting plants as a food source, as well as watering points. Community education will include information sessions, newsletters, and a photo of the Rainbow Bee Eater on the 10th tee!

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GRANTS 2017/2018

Landscape restoration – bottom up, grassroots, community

We have seven projects under our landscape restoration portfolio. All are being driven by the community groups whose members are living and working within a project’s particular landscape. We are wedded to each of these projects and liaise closely with them to reach targets, to share knowledge, and to provide support.



In May we held our annual strategic planning meeting. Our focus this year was a ten-year review of our landscape restoration program. We discussed what has been achieved, what we’ve learnt, and where we will go next.

The main question for our Trustees was around how to continue to allocate funding to the projects in our program. Who gets what, when do they get grants, and what do they need to do to continue getting our support?

Then in November we called the groups together and asked them these very questions - what do they need, and what do we need them to do? They need to show strong governance, and we can provide support here if needed. And each group needs to have a package of costed action plans - projects with SMART goals ready to role out when on-ground funding becomes available.

Wettenhall will continue to work with our landscape restoration projects, helping them create habitat connectivity across their landscapes. Funds allocated in the 2017/18 financial year include:

Organisation	Project	Source	Amount
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network	JARR Project	WET	\$30,000
Wetland Revival	Governance Training	WBF	\$3,195

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Leadership Development Grants 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 our website.



Mirinda out in the field
(photo: Elizabeth Sakker)

Mirinda Thorpe

Mirinda has years under her belt working and studying in the environment sector, as well as volunteering.

She volunteers for Desert Discovery undertaking research in remote areas of Australia often working in coordination with Aboriginal groups on their land.

The Leadership Development Grant supports Mirinda's attendance at the 2018 Desert Discovery expedition,

to further develop the fauna survey program, increase her knowledge of fauna monitoring techniques, and integrate fauna and habitat monitoring into current and future restoration projects.

The grant will also assist with further training and purchase of fauna survey equipment for the 2018 expedition and future surveys.



Graham Fifield

Graham works for Greening Australia in the ACT as their Business Unit Leader, managing large-scale restoration projects.

Wettenhall's Leadership Development Grant enabled Graham to attend the South East Local Leaders Program which is a rural leadership development program specifically designed to build community, industry and government leadership capacity.

Attending the conference will hopefully help Graham build networks, as well as increase his leadership and management skills.

Graham leads workshops and consults to other groups in the industry, so Wettenhall is happy to invest in his career to support his capacity to remain active and engaged in restoration programs.

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Wettenhall Environment Trust is a charitable trust with tax deductible status.

Donations that extend the Trust’s ability to augment the wellbeing of the Australian natural living environment are gratefully received.

Donors are supporting our Small Environmental Grants Program - citizen science, community education and capacity building for nature conservation projects.



To see a copy of the full audited financial report for Wettenhall Environment Trust, find us on the ACNC website <https://www.acnc.gov.au>

DONORS 2017-2018 FINANCIAL YEAR, A-Z

ACF - Fairer Futures Fund	3,000
Colin Agar	300
Albert George and Nancy Youngman Trust	80,000
JL Baker	30
Maureen Barden	100
Biophilia Foundation	15,000
Carrick and Margaret Chambers	200
Donald Coventry	250
David and Jean Edwards	500
Carole Elliott	50
Ian Endersby and family	500
Rose Gilder	10,000
Lesley Griffin	3,000
GF Hare	50
Harris Estate Trust	5,000
Margaret Henderson	3,000
Julia Hurley	100
Penelope Johns	100
Margaret Kelso	200
Christopher Lamb	100
John Landy	300
Anne Latreille	200
Rosemary Macindoe	100
Ruth McKenzie	1,000
Zoe Metherall and Peter Cope	1,000
Susan Morgan	2,000
Brendan Murphy	100
Allan Myers AC QC	3,000
Anthony Nicholas	100
B and R Pizzey	200
Horrie Poussard	50
RE Ross Trust	55,000

Graeme Saddington	50
Jennifer Skewes	200
Diana and Brian Snape AM	15,000
Suzie Speirs	200
Rob Southey	250
Keith Stockwell	400
Ray Thomas	50
Martin Wettenhall	500
The William Buckland Foundation	110,000
Williams Fund	10,000
Wood Park Wines	2,960

FEATURED DONOR

Donors can directly support our programs - citizen science, community education and capacity building for nature conservation projects and landscape restoration.



Fairer Futures Fund

“Steve and I at Fairer Futures Fund are impressed with the range of projects and work of Wettenhall.

“Wettenhall is a sound route by which to direct support to this kind of good community-driven environmental work.

“We feel quite strongly that engaging more people personally in their own local communities to care for their local environments is

wonderful, but also that, in building knowledge and networks, it also builds the potential political influence the environmental movement needs more generally.”

Jackie Yowell and Steve Rothfield

FINANCIAL REPORT 2018

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$400,895
Trade and other receivables	\$58,845
Investments	\$3,890,006
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$4,349,746
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
Other assets - office equipment	\$2,973
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$2,973
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,352,719
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Provisions	\$279,947
Trade and other payables	\$7,063
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$287,010
NET ASSETS	\$4,065,709
EQUITY	
Capital gifts	\$1,524,646
Capital profits	\$1,015,475
Retained profits	\$490,369
Asset revaluation reserve	\$1,035,219
TOTAL EQUITY	\$4,065,709

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2018

REVENUE	
Income - donations	\$293,560
Income - investments	\$210,337
Realised share trading activities	\$11,042
Income - interest	\$19,578
TOTAL INCOME	\$534,517
EXPENSES	
Operating expenses, publications, events and workshops and external expenses incurred on behalf of landscape restoration projects	\$150,557
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$150,557
NET PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	
Distributions (grants)	\$321,594
TOTAL NET PROFIT	\$62,366

TRUSTEES

Many thanks to the Trustees for another year of grantmaking and support for all the work that Wettenhall does.

Gib Wettenhall (Chair)
Bill Weatherly
Geoff Park
Adam Wettenhall
Peter Howie
Jane Halliday
Neil Tonkin (resigned August 2018)
Camilla Waterhouse (resigned May 2018)
Kirsten Hengen (appointed May 2018)
Digby Race (appointed November 2018, returning Trustee)

Thanks to the Finance Committee:

Kirsten Hengen (Chair since May)
Peter Howie
Neil Tonkin
Gib Wettenhall

Thanks to our bookkeeper, Bruce Dolphin,
and auditor Sean Denham.

The Finance Committee
(Kirsten, Peter and Gib)
have an outdoor meeting
at our recent Strategic
Planning Meeting and
field trip.





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Front cover photo:
Okenia by Leon Altoff
as part of the SACReD marine species project
visit www.inaturalist.org

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