



WETTENHALL ENVIRONMENT TRUST
TWENTY-SIXTH **ANNUAL REPORT — 2022**



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) was the culmination of founder Norman Wettenhall's lifelong love of 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 Trust 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



This has been an important year for Wettenhall Environment Trust, a chance to reflect on the last 25 years since it was established as The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

We held an event at Museum Victoria to celebrate this anniversary, joined by about 200 supporters on a wet and wintry night. Tim Flannery kindly agreed to be a central part of this, as did Anne Jones and a panel of experts.

The idea was to address the travesty of species extinction in Australia and tell stories

of how we have tackled this and any hope we hold for the future, discuss the history of the disconnect between the issues of nature and climate change and how to intertwine them better; as well as how to work better with the majority of landholders, who are private owners, to protect habitat and native species.

It was an evening enjoyed by all and we look to those who were there and to all our other supporters to take us forward for another 25 years.

In my introductory speech that evening, I began with

a proverb underpinning a Maori (and other First Nations' peoples) belief in Mother Earth and which refers to burying the afterbirth in a place with ancestral connections: "What is given by the land should return to the land". Taken literally, we are clearly not giving enough back. We need to protect places and species and restore what is degraded or even lost. We must try and balance what people want or need from the land with what is sustainable, preserving nature.

And that's what WET is about. There are ways forward and thank goodness there have been individuals like Norman Wettenhall, who recognised these needs and found a way.

I hope that we have lived up to his expectations in the 25 years since he sold his library to set up his Foundation.

Dad only lived for three years after it was established but he had found five friends to become the Trustees, all very influential people, and who shared and understood his passion.

Under the leadership of Gib Wettenhall until 2019, the passage of time has seen some Trustees come and go and others remain - they are all friends and experts in their own fields.

At this 25-year event I pointed out that our invited speaker, Tim Flannery, was also the invited speaker at our 1st annual event in 2001. At that time, he said that an essential feature of WET was that we have tried a "new kind of environmentalism, with our roots in working regional Australia. We have taken a grassroots/bottom up approach, (we call it community-driven these days) with landowners on private land."

He was right and we continue to take this approach whenever possible; as 70% of land is privately owned, we have forged many working relationships with individuals and groups to restore landscapes, some of this taking many years.

The Landscape Restoration Project program began in 2007 and we have been committed to this program from its outset, prepared for the long haul. The current status of the eight projects, of which we are very proud, is outlined on page 18 of this report.

Special thanks to Beth for her involvement, often hands on, in several key projects, such as Connecting Country where she is a keen nest box monitor for brush tailed phascogales. Nearly fifteen years on from

its inception, we think it is time to review outcomes and determine whether the focus of the projects is in keeping with WET's overarching objectives about habitat restoration and creation. This will be done in early 2023 as part of our strategic planning.

In this Annual Report we also provide examples of the support we provide to traditional more short-term approaches to increasing biodiversity, environmental habitat restoration and protection of endangered species. We appreciate the efforts of many to collect data on a range of creatures great and small, monitoring them and evaluating their outcomes. On pages 12-17 see some examples of the small environmental grants, 24 of which were awarded this year.

Beth Mellick has been ED since 2007 and, aside from her routine duties, she has developed the latest WET website (wettenhall.org.au) and encouraged the use of social media to share our interests and raise the profile of WET. She is a hands-on expert, ably filtering grant applications for the Board to then review and score; she has strong connections in the country and with the environmental philanthropy network, is a fount of

knowledge and supremely dedicated. Thankyou Beth.

Thank you also to the Board, the long-term members and two new trustees, Libby Rumpff and Trudy Wyse - see their profiles on our website.

We are committed to making a positive difference to the environment and derive great pleasure in being able to give funds to those who can undertake novel research, engage volunteers in citizen-science activities, and/or drive on ground projects that transform a habitat, and perhaps preserve a species.

Thank you to our band of donors who help us make this possible and we urge anyone else who wants to contribute to go ahead and do so - we will give back to the land, paying close heed to the inspirational proverb.

Jane Halliday
Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The board of Trustees get together to make decisions on grants and investments, to review grantee final reports, and to stay abreast of news in the sector. We also go away every year for strategic planning and a field trip.

Many thanks to our committed and knowledgeable Trustees. We say goodbye to Peter Howie and Digby Race, and thank them for their contributions over the years. And we say hello to new Trustees Libby Rumpff and Trudy Wyse who bring experience in biodiversity conservation and the grantmaking sector respectively. We also welcome Paul Howie onto the Finance Sub-committee where he will be helping with investment and other financial decisions.

Trustees left to right below: Jane Halliday (Chair), Kirsten Hengen (Finance Chair) Gib Wettenhall, Bill Weatherly, Geoff Park, Adam Wettenhall, Libby Rumpff and Trudy Wyse.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

It was with great pleasure that during my 15th year here at Wettenhall, I could help celebrate the 25th birthday of the Trust.

Our thanks go to Tim Flannery for his tribute to Wettenhall Environment Trust and its Founder, Norman Wettenhall. Thanks also to moderator Ann Jones, and guest panellists: Bill Weatherly and Libby Rumpff (Wettenhall Trustees), Alana Johnson (farmer and The Regent Honeyeater Project), Karin Traegar (one of the Leadership Development Grant recipients), and Michael Hobson (JARR project, funded under the landscape restoration program). Thanks also to Nioka Mellick-Cooper for taking the photos, see overleaf.



Professor Tim Flannery and Beth Mellick at the 25th anniversary event

I would like to thank the Trustees for their help and support. This year we held four grant rounds, four finance sub-committee meetings, four staff support sub-committee meetings, the special event, a landscape restoration workshop, and a strategic planning meeting.

This organisation may be small, but it remains doggedly faithful to grantmaking in the grassroots conservation space and each grant round is a knowledge-sharing and learning experience for us all. We can offer our expertise to other funders or to donors new to this area, and look forward to many fruitful collaborations.

Beth Mellick
Executive Director





GRANT MAKING ACTIVITIES 2021/2022

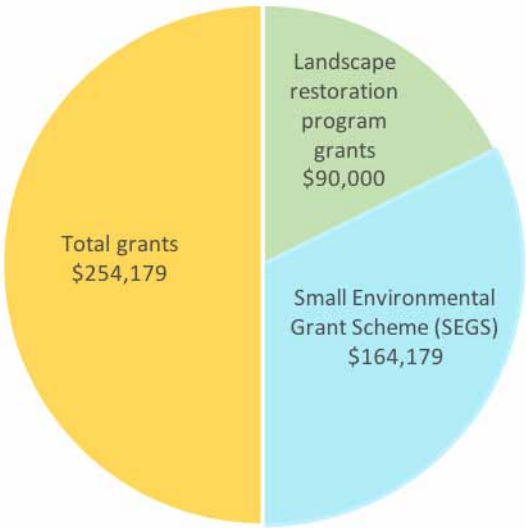
Wettenhall Environment Trust has three grants programs - the Small Environmental Grant Scheme (SEGS), the community-driven landscape restoration program, and the Leadership Development Grants program.

The objectives of the Trust are:

- to build capacity in local communities to effect long-term beneficial change in the natural environment
- to support and encourage research into, and monitoring of, all aspects of Australia's natural environment
- to support education relating to our natural environment

Wherever possible, funded projects will:

- result in long term improvement of the natural environment
- be innovative and serve as a model for future projects
- show collaboration with other groups, particularly grassroots groups
- indicate clearly, and thoughtfully, how advice of the project's outcomes will be shared



Wettenhall is big enough to make grants that matter, and small enough to care about the people, places and projects we fund. We listen to our grantees to understand their needs on the ground.

Our small grants can be just as important as the larger ones, especially for many locally-based groups. We keep our application and reporting system as simple as possible so groups can get on with their work and not be overburdened with red tape.

We try and help groups leverage larger funds. When needed, they can reach out to us about their future needs and we can bring collaborators and co-funders on board. Sometimes one small grant is enough to achieve what they want; and at other times we help groups develop and realise their visions into plans and action for further work.

Testimonials:

“For us, this grant was an ideal size for this newly established volunteer group to obtain equipment to start collecting data...”

“This small grant has been an incredibly important catalyst for further research. It had a snowball effect for applying for further funding for more in-depth assessment...”

“...your funding contributions have led to peer-reviewed publications and informed on-ground action at improving biodiversity outcomes in rapidly changing environments.”

“The small grant made the difference between whether volunteers could participate or not...”

Photo below: volunteers monitoring as part of the Desert Discovery project



SMALL GRANTS AWARDED 2021/2022

Small Environment Grant Scheme (SEGS)

Organisation	Project	Awarded
University of Western Australia	Assisted colonisation of the western swamp turtle (<i>Pseudemydura umbrina</i>)	\$5,000
Ecosystem Management and Biosecurity Solutions	Protecting and regenerating battered rhreatened Pandanus populations of the Agnes Water/ 1770 Region	\$9,300
Turtles Albury Wodonga (Wodonga Urban Landcare Network)	Saving our endangered turtles	\$4,574
Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (NGRMG)	Turtles in trouble: protecting freshwater habitats in the remote Gulf region	\$10,000
Stephen Platt	Discovering Victoria's Ecosystems - learning how to see and interpret nature	\$10,000
Friends of the Box Ironbark Forests	Walks guide	\$1,000
Thorsborne Trust	Pied imperial pigeon long term monitoring	\$2,000
wood4good	Comparitive biodiversity monitoring around Crosbie Forest	\$7,000
The Karrkad Kanjdji Trust	Density and activity analysis of budjiked (feral cats) around northern quoll populations in the Warddeken IPA	\$8,000
Griffith University	Multi-species restoration: a comparison of shellfish reef development when single and multiple foundation species are used in restoration	\$5,000
Deakin University	The effects of cool temperate rainforest gradients on bryophyte ecological functions	\$4,800
Kentlyn Bushcare	Hairy Geebung recovery project	\$2,605
Mudgegonga Landcare	Wetland regeneration through cool burning management	\$5,500
Conservation Ecology Centre	Improving the adoption of innovative drone-based monitoring techniques for mammal conservation in the face of a flammable future	\$7,849

Small Environment Grant Scheme (SEGS) continued

Organisation	Project	Awarded
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	Intern program 2022	\$10,500
Connecting Country	Nest box replacement	\$2,000
University of Adelaide	Red-tailed phascogale (<i>Phascogale calura</i>) reintroduction to South Australia: history, diet, habitat use and genetics	\$5,000
Nature Glenelg Trust	Recently described, highly threatened but unknown: addressing basic knowledge gaps for the Cudgegong giant spiny crayfish	\$9,560
Blackwood Basin Group	Engaging farmers to protect threatened species in the Boyup Brook and West Arthur Shires	\$13,659
University of Newcastle	Movement ecology and site use of shorebirds in NSW estuaries	\$4,950
Desert Discovery Inc	2022 Desert Discovery expedition to Yeo Lake Nature Reserve WA	\$7,382
Mt Rothwell Landcare Volunteers Inc.	Monitoring endangered marsupials	\$6,000
The Trustee for National Parks Conservation Trust	Anangu caring for Tjakura on country	\$7,500
Friends of Alberton West Forest	Helping hands for biodiversity	\$15,000

DONOR SOURCE: Biophilia (The Biophilia Foundation), WET (Wettenhall Environment Trust donors on page 21), VMRG (Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group, Geoff Armstrong Bequest, see pages 14 and 15 for details).

SMALL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

University of Newcastle “Movement ecology and site use of shorebirds in NSW estuaries”

Louise Williams and Mattea Taylor are PhD candidates leading research projects examining shorebird ecology in NSW estuaries, with the aim of quantifying habitat selection, movement within and between estuaries, and measuring threats at the sites used by the birds.

This funding will allow them to travel to Victoria to obtain their R-class banding licences, which they can't receive in NSW. Then they can continue their work in catching and banding threatened shorebirds to study local movement and site use in two NSW estuaries. This project is important to fill the shorebird banding gap that exists in the Hunter region, and NSW more broadly.

It is also important for Wettenhall that funding is available to help students and conservation leaders improve their skills, experience and knowledge in the conservation field.

Photo: Mattea and Louise surveying shorebirds (Andrea Griffin)



Blackwood Basin Group “Engaging farmers to protect threatened species in the Boyup Brook and West Arthur Shires”

The project will engage local farmers and landholders in a project about the conservation of threatened species. It aims to greatly improve knowledge of the current distribution of threatened species across the shires of Boyup Brook and West Arthur in WA.

The group will undertake flora and fauna surveys in reserves across two shires to determine the current distribution of threatened species, and the vegetation types and health of the reserves they are persisting in. This information can then be used to engage surrounding landholders to work towards protecting and enhancing the habitat on their own land through revegetation and remnant vegetation protection.

This work fills an important knowledge gap, and this valuable information is best used by sharing with a variety of landowners and land managers for long term conservation of habitat.



Photo: Volunteer Mavis Sowry conducting a flora survey (Clint Connor).

Desert Discovery Inc. “2022 Desert Discovery expedition to Yeo Lake Nature Reserve WA”

Desert Discovery is a volunteer group that gets out to remote areas of Australia to do field work, providing practice experience to students and to collect information about biodiversity.

This project has funded remote area flora and fauna surveys at Yeo Lake Nature Reserve in Western Australia. Citizen scientist volunteers undertook surveys in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Traditional Owners.

Surveying included flora, birds, mammals, reptiles and invertebrates in a variety of habitat types. Data obtained will be provided to relevant groups and departments to improve everyone's understanding of certain species distribution and support future land management actions.



Photo: Bevan Buirchell and Tegan Payne carrying out entomological surveys (Libby Sakker).

SMALL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

Nature Glenelg Trust

“Addressing basic knowledge gaps for the Cudgegong giant spiny crayfish”

The Australian endemic freshwater crayfish genus *Euastacus* is considered the most threatened genus of freshwater crayfish in the world. This project will involve field surveys to define the range of Cudgegong giant spiny crayfish, investigate population demographics, and identify threats. The project will provide the basis for the sustained conservation for a species in great need.

As with all solid monitoring projects, the group will engage with stakeholders like local natural resource managers and landowners to: share information, offer management recommendations, and engage them in potential conservation measures.

For more information on this project, other projects managed by the Nature Glenelg Trust, as well as information on the swamps and wetland reserves they protect, please have a look at their website natureglenelg.org.au



Photo: Cudgegong giant spiny crayfish (Rob McCormack)

Friends of Alberton West Forest “Helping hands for biodiversity”

This group of landowners and farmers in Gippsland formed in a response to the urgent need to protect the Alberton West State Forest and its biodiversity.

The project aims to monitor the forest for a whole host of species, but specifically the greater glider. They used thermal technology to confirm species presence, and after the collection of data they will then install nest boxes. These actions are planned to sustain populations of greater glider, and all data will be shared with the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas and the Atlas of Living Australia.



Photos: Greater glider above (Kailas Wild) and Warddeken Rangers to the right sorting photos (Cara Penton)

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust “Density and activity analysis of budjiked (feral cats) around northern quoll populations in the Warddeken IPA”

The KKT is an umbrella group helping Indigenous rangers care for country. This is the second project we have funded, this time involving the Warddeken Rangers.

The project involves working out the density and activity of feral cats around endangered northern quoll populations in the Warddeken Indigenous Protected Area. The Warddeken rangers will be trained to identify individual animals captured on a remote camera density grid survey. The data will inform interventions aimed at supporting quoll populations eg fire management and trapping.

This research will provide meaningful engagement and employment for Aboriginal rangers at each stage, and processing the data from the density grid survey is an opportunity to further the ecological skills of rangers in individual animal ID.



SMALL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (NGRMG)
“Turtles in trouble: protecting freshwater habitats in the remote Gulf region”

Freshwater turtle numbers in the Gulf Savannah have significantly declined due to predation from feral pigs. The NGRMG will work with Tagalaka and Ewamian Traditional Owners of the remote Croydon and Etheridge Shires in north Queensland to raise awareness of the issue, and to get an understanding of the extent of the damage.

The group sought funds for the first stage of the project which is about engaging all stakeholders and producing a microdocumentary.

After the initial engagement, high priority sites will be identified through surveys and mapping. The final stage of the project will then involve remedial work to restore turtle habitat, including fencing and aerial pig shooting.

The NGRMG has informed us that Wettenhall’s initial funding has enabled them to leverage further funding for the turtle surveys with the Tagalaka people. We look forward to seeing the results of this project, and you can find out more by visiting their website <https://gulfsavannahnrm.org>

Photo: Mark Owens, Senior Ranger, Tagalaka Traditional Owner in front of a wetland in Littleton National Park. (Wayne Dirkson)



MALLEEFOWL GRANTS

Wettenhall Environment Trust is working with the Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group (VMRG) to distribute the Geoff Armstrong Bequest. Grants are available for projects that will make a positive difference to malleefowl conservation and preservation in Victoria or to promote the enhancement of the natural environment for malleefowl in Victoria.

Applications for projects in other States will be considered but Victoria must benefit in some way. In accordance with the policies and aims of the VMRG this may include research projects or activities that include on-ground monitoring, raising awareness of malleefowl issues or undertaking field research.

It may also include research and/or education into known or emerging malleefowl threats (both human and natural) such as predators, competition, land management or climatic impacts on malleefowl numbers or breeding activities.

The citizen science model of science, research and education is strongly supported by the VMRG as is community education and training that leads to malleefowl conservation and preservation.



LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GRANTS AWARDED 2021/2022

Landscape Restoration Program Grants		
Organisation	Grant Awarded	Amount
Wetland Revival	Worker	30,000
Friends of the Barwon	Worker	30,000
TOTAL LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GRANTS		\$60,000

There are eight projects under the landscape restoration portfolio. All are being driven by the community groups whose members are living and working in that landscape. We remain committed to this fundng program and liaise closely with projects to reach targets, to share knowledge, and to provide support.

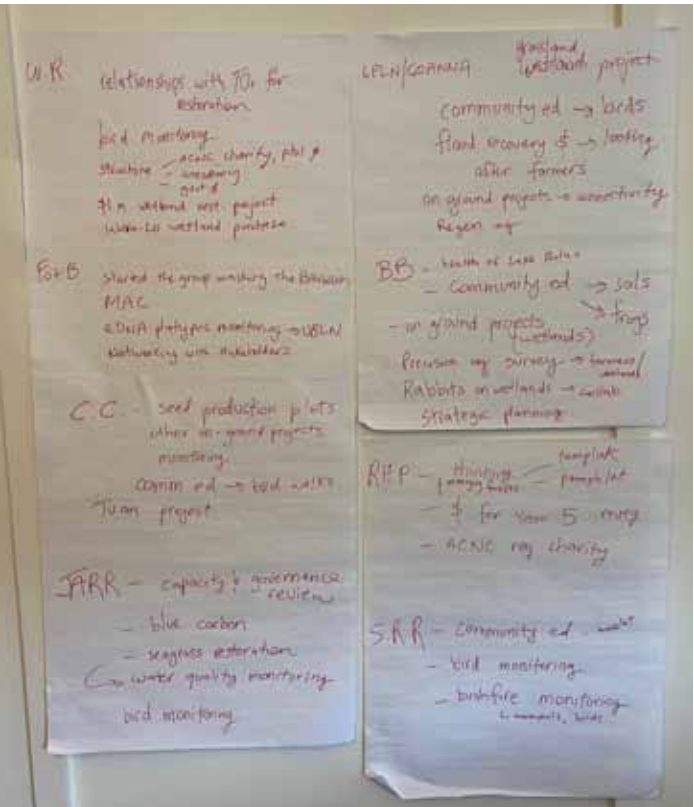


Each year we get together for a workshop with the organisations that we have been supporting under the landscape restoration funding stream.

Getting together allows groups to share knowledge and resources, and allows the Wottenhall trustees to stay updated with group activities and needs.

To expect significant changes in the environment requires being there for the long haul, and we aren't afraid to offer recurrent funding. Many organisations will only fund pilot projects, or short term projects, and expect groups to then fend for themselves. We think this is extraordinarily unrealistic given that most environmental problems are neither bounded by time nor space.

Our funds ensure that these organisations always have staff employed so they can access wider (and often bigger) funding for a range of projects, both on the ground, for research and monitoring, and for community education.



Photos: Above, Trustee Geoff Park talks to the landscape restoration workshop about the woodland bird assessment tool, under Accounting for Nature. Below are some participants in the workshop



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.

Being a donor to Wettenhall Environment Trust means you are supporting our three grants programs: Small Environment Grants Scheme, Leadership Development Grants, and Community-driven Landscape Restoration.

Opportunities for co-funding are available. If you like the grants you read about in this report, then get in touch with us and become a program donor.

Wettenhall Environment Trust has credit card facilities for accepting donations, or donors are able to donate via direct transfer into the bank account. You can easily donate by clicking on the 'donate' button on our website <https://wettenhall.org.au>

We thank our donors, many of whom tell us about their particular interests like habitat connectivity, endangered birds, and supporting local and grassroots community groups. We appreciate your contribution, and value your support.

Photo is from the Mount Rothwell Landcare Volunteers monitoring endangered marsupials



DONORS 2021/2022

DONORS A-Z
Up to \$500
Colin Agar
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Carrick and Margaret Chambers
Peter Elliott
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David and Jean Edwards
Rachel Faggetter
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DONORS A-Z
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Joanna Baevski
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Michael Martin
Susan Morgan
Allan Myers, AC, QC
Vera Moore Foundation

DONORS A-Z
Up to \$10,000
Charles Allen, AO
Williams Fund (ACF subfund)

DONORS A-Z
Up to \$20,000
Biophilia Foundation

DONORS A-Z
\$20,000 and over
Brian Snape, AM

FINANCE CHAIR REPORT



The past 24 months have led to uncertainty for many balance sheets and ours is no exception.

We fund the Wettenhall operations and the grants we give through individual donations and the income from our trust, invested over 25 years ago.

While we have seen a decrease in donations in recent years, we are incredibly grateful for our relationship with Accru Wealth Advisers, who manage our trust with careful consideration and an understanding of our core values. With Accru, we have seen an increase in our investment income to offset donations and also ensure our longevity as a trust.

Our priority is and always has been maintaining our commitment to the natural environment through our grant giving and despite experiencing a financial loss, we have increased our distributions in the past two years. We have also made an effort to decrease our operational expenses to ensure we maximize our grant giving capacity. The years ahead are forecasted to remain turbulent and we know we need to maintain our support of the increasingly urgent biodiversity crisis in Australia.

Going forward, our aim is to identify long term donors who share our values and who can further amplify our impact on conservating Australia's biodiversity.

Kirsten Hengen
Finance Chair

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



FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2022

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	319,481
Trade and other receivables	50,076
Investments	3,926,567
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,296,124
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Provisions	26,253
Trade and other payables	6,351
TOTAL LIABILITIES	32,604
NET ASSETS	\$4,263,520
EQUITY	
Capital gifts	1,679,343
Capital profits	1,064,534
Retained profits	427,160
Asset revaluation reserve	1,092,483
TOTAL EQUITY	\$4,263,520

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2022

REVENUE	
Income - donations (inc unspent from previous year)	97,299
Income - investments	262,578
Income - interest	1,007
Income - other	336
TOTAL INCOME	\$361,220
EXPENSES	
Operating expenses, and support for the landscape restoration program	115,027
Supporter events and publications	9,586
Distributions (grants)	254,179
TOTAL EXPENSES	378,792
TOTAL NET LOSS	(17,572)



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Front cover photo: Desert Discovery Project 2022

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