



WETTENHALL ENVIRONMENT TRUST
TWENTY-SEVENTH **ANNUAL REPORT — 2023**



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).



Wettenhall
ENVIRONMENT TRUST

CHAIRPERSON REPORT



In this report, I want to focus on two topics. First, a farewell to Bill Weatherly, a founding member of the WET Board and second, a summary of projects either initiated by Indigenous groups or partnered with Indigenous people. Both these topics are very important in totally different ways, but both warrant a place here, up front in our Annual Report.

Bill was asked in 1997 by Norman Wettenhall to join his Foundation (NWF) because of his expertise and interests in the natural world. Together, they had been on the Board of the Victorian Conservation Trust, now Trust for Nature. There were also a couple of family connections, always important to Norman. First, a long-time link to the Weatherly family as Norman was a close friend and 2nd cousin of Bill's mother.

Second, perhaps he thought it was significant that Bill had studied zoology with me at Monash University all those

years before, but I don't know that for sure!

In his Trustee role, Bill provided in-depth knowledge (often in long, hand-written explanations) when assessing small environmental grants, and led landscape restoration initiatives especially in central Victoria and the Grampians (Gariwerd), near where he has resided. His expansive expertise reached across fauna (especially birds) and flora (especially banksias), and he understood the science, showing no hesitation in pointing out flaws in applications as well as giving praise where due. His dedication, intelligence and good humour will be greatly missed by the Board.

Indigenous grants

In this Annual Report, you will see several projects addressing Indigenous interests and I want to highlight this area of our funding at a time when we are thinking about the First

Peoples of our nation more than ever. A quick search of our database on completed projects since 2002 found about 56 projects overall, 18 led by Indigenous groups, 28 involving Indigenous partners and 10 with an educational goal imparting Indigenous information. Different applications involve Traditional Owners or Indigenous groups being integral to achieve the expected outcomes. This can be through capacity building, upskilling as rangers, or restoring or caring for land owned by Indigenous people, or monitoring or increasing biodiversity using knowledge and skills provided by local individuals and communities.

Three recent examples are mentioned in this Annual Report:

- Green Heroes on page 10, a project that works in collaboration with local First Nations people to engage and connect Indigenous youth to Caring for Sea Country. The youth are trained to dive and join chartered expeditions to Jungarra Ngarriian (Cook Island Aquatic Reserve) to monitor underwater populations of flora and threatened species.

- Whittlesea Community Connections, on page 13, are producing native grass seed in partnership with Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Narrap Rangers using this

as an opportunity to extend that partnership and maintain Traditional Owner control over intellectual property. They plan to propagate dormant and endangered Indigenous species to provide both a cultural connection and a source of future stock for rehabilitation and reintroduction of those Indigenous species to the area. We are very pleased to be funding this in partnership with Cybec.

- The First Nations Partnership described on page 17, has grown from a film that we funded on the turtles in Tagalaka, Gulf Savannah country, put together by Traditional Owners, rangers and ecologists. The pivotal help from us has led to new funding from members of the AEGN who heard the story firsthand at their recent conference. It is hoped that the turtles will be protected and monitored by local rangers from here on.

Some of the projects driven by Indigenous groups have been highlighted in earlier Annual reports, such as the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust (KKT) 2019 project, monitoring the recovery of Mayh (small mammals) in the Kuwarddewardde (Stone country of the Arnhem plateau). This project created meaningful employment for Indigenous rangers on Country - 36 rangers were

involved in field work (evenly split between men and women) in 2019, and the 600,000+ monitoring photos generated were processed by the Daluk (female) ranger team.

We have also supported : Traditional fire knowledge as a tool for Landcare and increasing biodiversity in NE Victoria; local Indigenous people to address the problem of feral cats in the Tiwi Island community of Melville Island; Nywaigi Traditional Owners of Mungalla, a property in north Queensland, to measure biodiversity on the sand ridges there, and, as far back as 2002, publishing recorded stories of Manmoyi people, from a remote area 360km east of Darwin.

Many other projects involved partnerships, too many to list here, but examples include projects to which we have provided multiple grants, such as the Imperial pigeon monitoring, and Pandanus plant protection. Training or working with Indigenous rangers provides pathways to self-determination from monitoring the Cape York threatened finch to restoring the Mahogany Glider habitat and surveying dolphins in the Gumma Indigenous Protected Areas. Those with an educational goal include a guide book of indigenous flora and its usage, auspiced by the Wadawurrung, and

the production of an App about mangroves providing information to indigenous groups and others.

In summary, we recognise, and support where we can, projects that relate to our goal of increasing biodiversity and restoring landscapes. We are especially pleased to find there are more appearing that involve on-ground Indigenous workers or partners.

Please look at both Beth and Kirsten's report on our latest thoughts about grant-making as we have decided to distribute more, the need becoming more urgent as time passes.

Thank you to Beth enormously for all she does and all she initiates, and to the Board for their interest and dedication to their tasks. As Bill has said, we work together in "happy fellowship" to do what we can.

*-Professor Jane Halliday, AM
Chairperson*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meet and make decisions on grants and investments, they review grantee final reports, and 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, who spend a considerable amount of time assessing applications and final reports.

Each Trustee brings with them skills and knowledge in particular areas. If you would like to read more about their expertise, you can visit <https://wettenhall.org.au/about/the-team/>

This year we say a particularly heartfelt goodbye to long time Board member, Bill Weatherly. Bill began at the Trust with Norman Wettenhall back in 1997, and has been invaluable in making decisions on grants and projects that have a long term impact on conservation.



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



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

What's new here at WET

Starting August 2023 (first grant round of the 2023/2024 financial year), we are increasing our grantmaking. We will increase the average size of our grants, and our annual distribution, to see what difference we might be able to make. After two years of increased grantmaking, we will review the impact this increase has had on our corpus and perpetual operations.

What can you get in a bigger grant?

From what we have experienced already, the bigger the available grant, the more likely it is that organisations apply to fund workers. This makes perfect sense: as projects scale up in complexity, expecting volunteers to take on the burden is unrealistic and a recipe for burnout. A project manager becomes a necessity. Supporting workers in the conservation space is vital – yet it is an area often bypassed by government agencies and philanthropic grantmakers. We want to see organisations collecting important information about native species, so they can then make plans to protect them, or allow land managers and governments to make plans to protect them. Without this information, it's just guesswork.

The main concern is how organisations will support these paid positions for the long term, once the short term grant has been expended. Rather than getting on with saving species, organisations have to focus on securing the next grant to keep their worker employed, and that takes up a lot of time.

Perhaps the answer is to fund contract or short term workers for specific projects; or to extend the hours of the current employee/s to take on a new project.

We also want to keep supporting those organisations who don't have, and don't want to have, paid workers. Many community and



environmental organisations prefer to run projects with contractors, or with specialist ecologists being employed to help volunteers carry out the work. But equally important are the grants we make to specifically support volunteers to participate in a citizen science project, paying for equipment, travel etc.

WET supporters

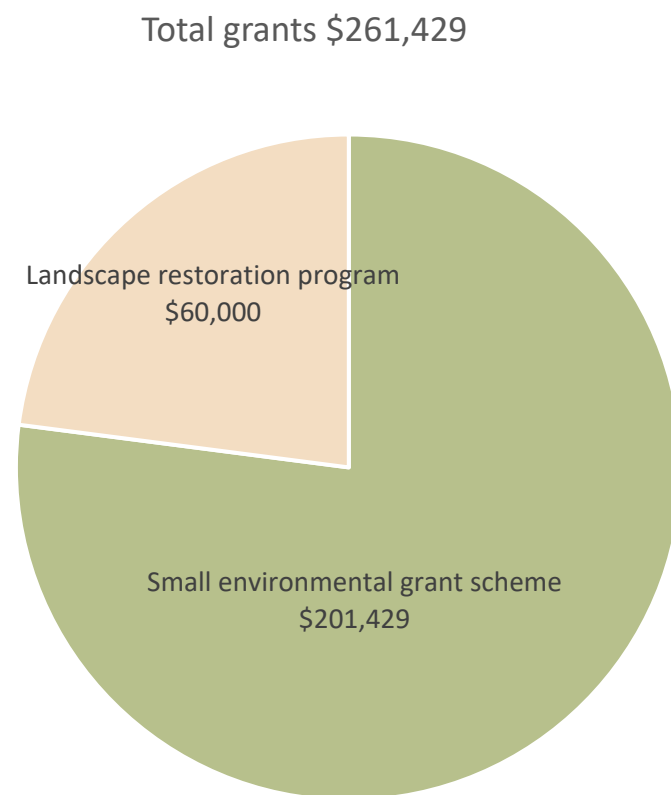
We are so very grateful for our supporters, many donors give annually, and many reach out to me to say how much they enjoy reading the annual report, and how much they value the work we are doing.

I want to assure donors that your money is being used very wisely; we run a tight ship. Our wages bill covers my salary alone, which – I hope you would agree – is at the lower end for an organisational structure as complex as that of WET. With the support of our trustees, the trust continues to lead and innovate in ways of protecting and restoring habitat for wildlife.

-Beth Mellick, Executive Director

GRANT MAKING ACTIVITIES 2022/2023

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.



SUPPORT FOR LEADERS IN CONSERVATION

As well as our own Leadership Development Grants Program, WET is supporting two other leadership programs, specifically looking at helping people achieve great things in the field of nature conservation.

WELA
Women's Environmental Leadership Australia
Scholarship
wela.org.au

WELA is a national leadership program for women working or volunteering in the environment sector. The training they receive gives participants skills, knowledge and confidence to lead projects.

WET has set up a scholarship for women who need support and who are connected with the field of nature conservation.

<https://wela.org.au/programs/wela-national-program/scholarships/>

AWC
Australian Wildlife Conservancy
Intern Program
www.australianwildlife.org

AWC is a global leader in conservation, managing sanctuaries across more than 12.9 million hectares. They implement and practice on-ground conservation to protect wildlife. The intern program offers graduates the opportunity to work on one of their properties and to learn skills in on-ground conservation.

WET is proud to partner with the Cybec Foundation to support one intern annually.

<https://www.australianwildlife.org/work-with-awc/internships/>



Photo: WELA participant Maddie Rose Braddon (on the left) back on 2017.



Photo: Oli Wardle, Wettenhall grantee, intern on an AWC property (photo by Alice Si, AWC)

SMALL GRANTS AWARDED 2022/2023

Small Environment Grant Scheme (SEGS)

Organisation	Project	Awarded
Yarra Riverkeeper Association	Partnership Broker Training	\$1,485
Brisbane Catchments Network Inc	Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count - Third Round	\$7,000
Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (NCSSA)	Updating knowledge on the threatened Southern Emu-wren (Eyre Peninsula)	\$11,983
The Moreton Bay Foundation	SEQUEST	\$9,784
Gulbali Institute, Charles Sturt University	Finding Ngabi - Empowering traditional owners to survey the endangered grey snake Hemiaspis damelii in NSW	\$5,000
UNSW Sydney	Establishing a DRAGNet long-term experiment site on Scottsdale Reserve	\$1,414
Museum Victoria	The Sounds of Recovery: Enabling communities to lead bushfire recovery wildlife monitoring with ecoacoustics	\$11,902
Friends of the Brush-Tailed Rock-Wallaby	Endangered Wildlife Kids Trail	\$5,000
Wollombi Landcare	'Hollow Homes' Study for better Glider homes	\$9,250
University of Western Australia	Robust measures of anti-predator behaviour in Western Australia's critical weight range mammals	\$5,000
Bookend Trust	Cracking the calls: building Tasmanians' capacity to monitor bat conservation status	\$9,300
Green Heroes Project	Jungarra Ngarrin Conservation Project	\$7,900
The Black-throated Finch Recovery Team	Establishing a robust monitoring program for the Endangered Black-throated Finch: Acoustic recorders and site selection	\$10,604
Boonah and District Landcare	Nest tube project-volunteer tree climbers	\$9,994
Whittlesea Community Connections	Nugal Biik Seeds	\$20,000
Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group	Using new knowledge to prioritise recovery of the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoots in the Mount Lofty Ranges	\$14,845

Small Environment Grant Scheme (SEGS) continued

Organisation	Project	Awarded
Urban Bushland Council WA Inc	Capacity building workshops for urban bushcare groups	\$10,500
Clinton Connor	Monitoring threatened fauna in the Southern Jarrah Forest to address current knowledge gaps	\$11,468
University of WA	Population demographics and colony-vegetation interactions of a Little Penguin colony on a little-known south coast island in Western Australia	\$1,500
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	Intern Program	\$10,500
Gulf Savannah NRM	Representatives to attend the AEGN conference First Nations Showcase	\$2,000
BirdLife Australia	EPBC Reform Campaign	\$25,000

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

SMALL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

Green Heroes Project “Jungarra Ngarrian Conservation Project”

Jungarra Ngarrian (Cook island Aquatic reserve, formally known as Turtle Island) is an aquatic reserve in NSW with a healthy population of marine turtles.

The turtles are the major tourist attraction to this aquatic reserve and are the reason for the most recent increase in commercial tour operators to the island. First Nations families feel that a cultural statement and in-water turtle guidelines will preserve and protect marine turtles, their habitat and other species at the reserve.

This project will create the first Australian Marine Turtle Code of Conduct for in-water interactions. The code will be both a cultural statement and a guide to all visitors and commercial operators to the aquatic reserve. The code will be a visual chart for commercial tour vessels, in local dive shops, and at the nearest boat ramps and access points to the island. The second part of the project is the collection of data using TurtleID facial profiles to build a database on the turtle population at Jungarra Ngarrian.

This group runs lots of great projects, so check them out - www.greenheroes.org.au
Instagram is [@beagreenhero](https://www.instagram.com/beagreenhero) Facebook [@greenheroes.org.au](https://www.facebook.com/greenheroes.org.au)



Photo: Nicole McLachlan @theundertow.ocean

Brisbane Catchment Network Inc “Brisbane’s Big Butterfly Count”

Everyone loves butterflies! Apart from being beautiful and wondrous, butterflies are an indicator species of environmental health. In this project they are being used to assess ecosystem function, particularly on revegetated sites around the rapidly-growing city of Brisbane.

This organisation aims to collect long term data from butterfly monitoring and compare this information to records held by the Queensland Museum. During this third count round, the community will be trained and will participate in around 30 field surveys.

brisbanecatchments.org.au/projects-2



Photo: receiving monitoring instructions by Jutta Godwin

Nature Conservation Society of SA “Updating knowledge on the threatened Southern Emu-wren (Eyre Peninsula)”

This project will collect information on the Eyre Peninsula Southern Emu-wren (EPSEW), a beautiful and geographically-restricted bird which is threatened with extinction.

There is a 20 year gap in information and these surveys will determine the presence or absence of the EPSEW at certain sites. Results from monitoring will hopefully influence land management, including fire, land clearing, grazing and weed control.

It is hoped that the Eyre Peninsula community will become engaged citizen scientists and help monitor the bird into the future.

www.ncssa.asn.au



Photo: Southern Emu-wren by Ashwin Rudder

SMALL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

Museum Victoria

“The Sounds of Recovery: Enabling communities to lead bushfire recovery wildlife monitoring with ecoacoustics”

‘The Sounds of Recovery’ project will equip and train citizen scientists in East Gippsland to monitor the post-bushfire recovery of threatened wildlife using ecoacoustic methods, working with the East Gippsland Conservation Management Network and the Victorian National Parks Association.

After the 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfires, groups began monitoring to assess impacts on local biodiversity, but were hampered by the sheer scale of the areas affected.

In this project, local community members will be engaged and trained to survey and monitor vocal wildlife using wildlife audio recorders. Acoustic recorders allow for multiple sites to be simultaneously surveyed over longer periods than is possible using traditional methods. Call recognisers will be used on targeted species, with the focus on large forest owls.

All records will be added to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas, and all the partners involved in this project will share information collected with the local community so they are engaged and knowledgeable.



Photo: Tom Crook (left), ecologist and East Gippsland Conservation Management Network manager (a partner in the project) helping volunteers in the Metung Rainforest

Boonah and District Landcare “Nest tube project”

This group is undertaking a nest tube project for endangered gliders, funded by their local council. In order to carry out this project, they need qualified and insured tree climbers to install them.

Our grant is specifically being used to pay for two Landcare members to attend a course for their qualifications, for their insurance, and for the necessary equipment. Having two qualified tree climbers in their group gives them the capacity to install the tube nests at scale, and is a much cheaper option than hiring commercial arborists.

This is a sensible grant to ensure that the group can concentrate on getting nesting hollows into habitats affected by bushfires.

boonahanddistrictlandcare.com.au



Photo: volunteer tree climbers Brad and Kirri

Whittlesea Community Connections

“Nugal Biik Seeds”

Whittlesea Community Connections has established Wollert Community Farm, using recycled water and working together with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Rangers. One of the farm’s projects is a native grassland seed production area. WET is partnering with the Cybec Foundation to support this.

There are inadequate quantities of grassland seeds available in the remnant grasslands in Melbourne to support the large-scale revegetation occurring currently, and projected for the future. Seed production at Wollert Community Farm aims to supply seeds for revegetation projects, support regional grassland research projects, increase local seed supply, and share resources and collaborate with the Aboriginal community.

This project will engage the local community in environmental issues, on-ground conservation, and provide volunteering opportunities.

www.whittleseacommunityconnections.org.au



Photo: revegetation projects in full swing

SMALL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

The Black-throated Finch Recovery Team

“Establishing a robust monitoring program for the Endangered Black-throated Finch: Acoustic recorders and site selection”

The Southern Black-throated Finch formerly occurred from north-eastern New South Wales to north-eastern Queensland, but has suffered a massive decline of over 80%. It is now presumed extinct in NSW, and is listed as Endangered both nationally and in Queensland.

The two largest populations are threatened by coal mining operations, urban development, and agriculture. The Black-throated Finch Recovery Team has recently updated the National Recovery Plan, which identifies the necessary strategies and outlines actions required to prevent extinction. One priority action includes a robust monitoring program to look for population and distribution data.

The team will set up a monitoring program using acoustic recorders, capitalising on the recent development of an acoustic recogniser. Acoustic recorders can be easily and quickly deployed, allowing multiple sites to be surveyed at once with minimal effort, thereby greatly reducing the labour cost.

As most BTF populations occur on private properties, this project will also be about building relationships with landholders to gain access to their land.

www.blackthroatedfinch.org



Photo: Black-throated Finch by Stephanie Todd

The Moreton Bay Foundation “SEQUEST”

SEQUEST (South East Queensland Underwater Ecological Survey Team) is a collaborative project, bringing together undergraduate marine science students from different South East Queensland universities with citizen scientists and local Coastcare groups to collect data, learn skills and share knowledge.

There are more than 1,000 native species in Moreton Bay - the aim of this project is to monitor marine organisms not currently being monitored including oyster reefs, beche de mer, algal blooms - benthic organisms. Long term monitoring will provide data sets that will help many organisations and agencies understand how to manage and protect Moreton Bay.

moretonbayfoundation.org



Wollombi Landcare “Study for better Glider homes”

This group in the Wollombi Valley wants to create hollows for two vulnerable species - the Greater glider and the Yellow-bellied glider, following the 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfires. They will make hollows in live trees where traditional nest boxes have had little success, using HollowHog.

The newly-created hollows will be monitored using motion sensor cameras. The cameras will be installed facing hollow entrances to capture information on species using the hollows. This information is essential to inform future projects involving artificial hollows, and using the ‘hollow hog’ tool in particular.

We are very much interested in the use of the HollowHog carving tool. It is surmised that this type of artificial home may more adequately mimic natural hollows used by the two species and provide a suitable alternative to nest boxes. It has been found that chainsaw hollows provide more stable microclimates than artificial nest boxes and hollow log boxes.

www.wollombilandcare.org.au



Photos: On the left students working on the SEQUEST project (Katie Walters), and above is the Wollombi Landcare group out in the field.

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.



FIRST NATIONS PARTNERSHIP

In 2021 we awarded a grant to the Gulf Savannah NRM for their project with the Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation called Turtles in Trouble. We showcased this project at the Australian Environmental Grantmakers (AEGN) Conference in Sydney this year, and are extremely pleased with the support that AEGN members have given for the next stage of this work.

Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation member, Alfred Owens, travelled from far north Queensland to attend the AEGN Sydney conference and tell attendees about the turtle project. In stage 1, ecologists and rangers got together and mapped out turtle habitat across agricultural properties around Croydon, a vastly under-invested area north of Cairns. They made a short educational film about the turtle story, and are using this film to engage people in the next stage, which will include control activities for feral pigs that are preying on the turtle eggs.

We are incredibly pleased that 12 members of the AEGN came forward to support this work, with donations ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000, giving the project over \$100,000.

WET is also supporting an application from Tagalaka to the state government for a Traditional Owner ranger program to help carry out this project.



LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GRANTS AWARDED 2022/2023

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. After being in this space for over 15 years, we are conducting a review of the program, with external experts. We want to ensure that we are working at a scale that makes a difference for biodiversity, and also in areas that need our attention.

Organisation	Grant Awarded	Amount
Swamps Rivers and Ranges	Post bushfire monitoring project	\$30,000
Wetland Revival	Project worker	\$30,000

Wetland Revival

Drought resilience project

Over the year Wetland Revival Trust has focused on our Future Drought Fund project 'Increasing drought resilience in the Lower Loddon landscape'. This project is working with nine landholders to improve the natural capital on their farms, protecting and restoring native vegetation through revegetation and fencing, increasing carbon capture, improving soil health, delivering environmental water to wetlands, and creating drought refuges for threatened plant and animal species.

The Trust has employed 15 local Barapa Barapa Traditional Owners to deliver on-ground restoration works at the nine sites, forming stepping stones of wetland habitat across the Lower Loddon River floodplain landscape. Threatened species benefitting from the project include Growling Grass Frog and Grey-crowned Babbler. At one wetland where environmental water was delivered to support the regeneration of native wetland vegetation, a chorus of hundreds of Growling Grass Frogs was heard just two weeks after the delivery of water began.

WRTs other major project for 2022 to 2023 was finalising the purchase of our first

conservation property "Wirra-lo" at Benjeroop, with generous support from the Victorian Government's Nature Fund, philanthropists and people who supported our crowd funding campaign. Flooding at Wirra-lo last spring has generated a huge burst of ecological productivity, leaving the deeper wetlands brimming with water and fuelling vibrant growth of vegetation that is supporting abundant insect life. Over 80 species of birds were observed at Wirra-lo over one weekend in September 2023, including a nationally threatened Australasian Bittern, 12 Freckled Ducks who have been at Wirra-lo since they hatched there last summer and a Magpie Goose, more than justifying the hard work that has gone into the purchase and restoration efforts.

-Damien Cook, wetland ecologist



Swamps Rivers and Ranges

Bushfire recovery mammal monitoring

The 2019-20 bushfires impacted the areas of Carboor, east to Buffalo and south to Abbeyard. These areas were extensively burnt with many being severely burnt to a bare and baked earth extent. Whilst we acknowledge the hardship these fires caused for residents, our focus was on how faunal communities would recover following this significant event.

This initial round of surveys showed a promising return of larger mammals, including wombat, wallaby and kangaroo, arboreal mammals and bird communities to the burnt forest. Unfortunately there was a heavy pest species burden with large numbers of deer, foxes, and cats, but surprisingly they were mainly in the unburnt forest (contrary to expectations). The environments underwent a significant weed and epicormic growth flush which made the vegetation in these areas very dense.

Moving forward to 2023 it was important to see how these communities had continued to recover and to target the smaller mammals with the use of attractant baited cameras. These survey efforts were supported by WET and have to date shown promising results. The vegetation has developed with weed and epicormic growth dropping out and a native vegetation mix more dominant with Dogwood



Photos above: Bandicoot caught on SRR wildlife cameras (Sophie Enders) and to the left is a Wetland Revival restoration site showing ground-layer restoration in a Red gum-dominated wetland on the Lower Loddon River Floodplain.

replacing Fleabane. We've seen wattles germinate and grow quickly, and grass growth develop. Cameras have picked up antechinus, bush rats and, excitingly, Long-nosed Bandicoots at more than one site. Whilst still present we have seen fewer deer although foxes and cats remain a concern.

This information will be shared with land managers, such as Parks and HVP, to assist in developing fire management strategies, protection programs for valuable areas of bush, or pest control programs. The study shows that many native fauna species are capable of surviving severe bushfires in burnt or unburnt parts of the forest landscape, though more work is needed to identify those which may be less resilient. The next steps for this project are to complete a more detailed analysis of the data and to share these with land managers and the wider public.

-Sophie Enders, Coordinator

Wettenhall Environment Trust encourage funding partners to contact us about supporting this work next year.



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.

The 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.



DONORS 2022/2023

DONORS A-Z up to \$500
Colin Agar
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Roger West
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Dorothy Edwards
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In memory of Suzie Speirs
Peter Wettenhall

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Lindsay Adams
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Allan Myers, AC, KC
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Martin Wettenhall
Robert Porter

DONORS A-Z up to \$10,000
The Charles Allen Charitable Trust
Brian Snape, AM

DONORS A-Z up to \$15,000
Biophilia Foundation

Photo: Murray Crayfish (Nick Whiterod, Nature Glenelg Trust)

FINANCE CHAIR REPORT



Kirsten (on left) and a friend attend an event at the Museum as WET representative

The global biodiversity and climate crisis continues to underscore the urgency of our mission and highlights the critical importance of our work in preserving and protecting Australia's unique natural environment. This purpose resonates deeply with me and it is a privilege to be able to lend my time and accounting skills to the Trust and the Finance Committee.

Thanks to the ongoing support of our generous donors and the steadfast investment advice from Accru Wealth Management, we are pleased to report that we have increased our grant-giving for a third consecutive year. Despite achieving a financial loss, we maintain a robust cash position and monitor regularly to ensure the longevity of our operations.

Looking ahead, our commitment to making a lasting impact on Australia's flora and fauna remains resolute.

We aim to further increase our grant giving, continue our collaboration with strategic partners, and develop new relationships with donors and grantees alike.

-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 2023

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	243,716
Trade and other receivables	34,245
Investments	4,240,704
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,518,665

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Provisions	-
Trade and other payables	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-

NET ASSETS

\$4,518,665

EQUITY

Capital gifts	1,679,343
Capital profits	1,064,534
Retained profits	391,693
Asset revaluation reserve	1,321,989
TOTAL EQUITY	\$4,457,559

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023

REVENUE

Income - donations	87,020
Income - investments	268,212
Income - interest	5,782
Income - other	7,660
TOTAL INCOME	\$368,674

EXPENSES

Operating expenses, and support for the landscape restoration program	124,596
Supporter events and publications	18,116
Distributions (grants)	261,429
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$404,141

TOTAL NET LOSS

(\$35,467)



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Front cover photo: Caper White Butterfly

by Sylvia Alexander from Brisbane's Big Butterfly Count project

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