



**The  
Norman  
Wettenhall  
Foundation**



**Tenth Annual Report  
2006**

[www.nwf.org.au](http://www.nwf.org.au)

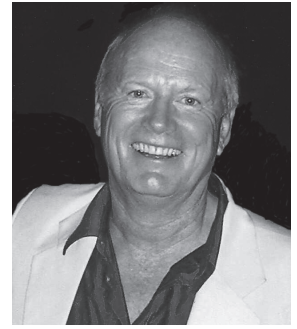
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Front Cover Photo: *Muscaria Waratah*, see Monitoring a potentially weedy fungal hitch-hiker  
project by the Royal Botanic Gardens under our Report on Distributions.

# Chairperson's Report

## Chairperson's Report

### 2006



After 10 years of operation, the Norman Wettenhall Foundation has reached a crossroad. We have, for the first time employed an Executive Officer, Beth Mellick, and moved out of the Potter Foundation office. With extensive organisational skills and environmental experience, Beth will begin work for the Foundation in February 2007.

As foreshadowed in my report last year, the Foundation held two strategic planning workshops in 2006, facilitated by NRM researcher Digby Race and with philanthropic sector input from Steve Mathews, Trudy Wyse and Brian Snape. From these workshops, the trustees have developed a Work Plan that identifies a preferred investment area, which is to focus on the restoration, rehabilitation and retention of agricultural landscapes in south-east Australia. We want to look beyond the allocation of physical resources for optimising biodiversity (such as treeplanting and fencing) to promoting a cultural shift in values so that rural people work and live in the long term within an ecosystem in a manner that is not only environmentally friendly, but also economically and socially beneficial. The Foundation is not talking about removing people from the landscape, but about developing ecosystem partnerships so that what communities do becomes sustainable, and (at the very least) maintains or (at best) enhances the natural living environment.

Besides the Work Plan for 2007, the Foundation has drafted a paper outlining what we regard as the *Key performance indicators of a model landscape restoration project*. Also, NWF trustee Geoff Park has co-authored a paper (with Dr. Jim Radford from Deakin University and Dr. Jann Williams from University of Tasmania) looking at moving beyond 'treeplanting and three veg' landscape repair to full scale 'ecological restoration.' These documents could act as a guide in developing projects for consideration, initially, by Beth Mellick. All three documents are available under a new Work Plan menu button on our website: [www.nwf.org.au](http://www.nwf.org.au)

Traditional grantmaking processes will continue in parallel with our new proactive approach. Grants are made quarterly and posted on the NWF website. In the 2005/2006 financial year, the Foundation responded to a wide range of projects that sought funds for either research, education, recording or community capacity building to aid some aspect of Australia's natural environment. We dispersed a record total of \$170,000 in grants. Examples of funded projects that applied under our grantmaking guidelines follow in this report, along with a report outlining all distributions and a financial statement.

The Norman Wettenhall Memorial Lecture series continued at the Museum in 2006 with three speakers canvassing the timely topic of how best "to prevent disaster fires in one of the most fire-prone landscapes in the world." Their presentations are posted on the website.

This promises to be the start of an exciting new phase for the Foundation – and to finish as I always do, with a reminder that donations to the Norman Wettenhall Foundation are tax deductible and always gratefully received.

Gib Wettenhall  
Chairperson  
Norman Wettenhall Foundation

# In the Office In the Office

Beth Mellick has worked in the environment movement for over 10 years, both in Australia and in the UK, including Friends of the Earth, The Philippines Resource Centre (UK), and the Environment Defenders Office.



Her work has involved campaign and project management, project development, fundraising, administration, and activism, on issues as broad as transport, climate change, international gender and trade, sustainable aquaculture, and sustainable development .

Beth lives in Central Victoria with her partner, their 3 young children, and a menagerie of animals.

## Annual Lecture Annual Lecture 2006

### Can we prevent disaster fires in Victoria's fire-prone landscape?

The first speaker, Assoc Prof Mike Clarke, argued that there is currently insufficient knowledge for an ecologist to confidently state whether major fires are an ecological disaster or a boon to fire dependent flora and fauna. While at La Trobe University, Mike has conducted research on the evolution of co-operative breeding, the relationship between noisy miners and eucalypt dieback, and on the conservation biology of the endangered black-eared miner. He is leading a \$1.3 million dollar study on the impact of fire upon fauna in the Murray Mallee region of Vic, NSW and SA.

The second speaker Athol Hodgson has more than 50 years fire experience in fire management and forest fire research in Australia, USA, Canada, France and Spain. He was formerly Commissioner of Forests, Forests Commission Vic.; Chief Fire Officer, Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands; and a Board member of Country Fire Authority. He is President of Forest Fire Victoria Inc., and presented a critique of the Wilsons Promontory 2005 fuel reduction 'escape' wildfire and the 2006 Grampians 'big burn'. He believes the failure to control these fires is symptomatic of political and policy shortcomings at the highest level.

The third speaker was University of Tasmania research fellow Jon Marsden-Smedley, who pointed out that wildfires have been part of the Australian landscape for thousands of years and we need to develop an integrated fire management strategy. After working as a fire researcher with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, Jon undertook a PhD developing a fire history for south west Tasmania along with a fire management system for button grass moorlands. At the other extreme, he has developed a fire regime model for central Australia.

Transcripts of the lectures can be downloaded from the website: [www.nwf.org.au](http://www.nwf.org.au)

# Financial Report 2006

## Financial Report 2006

### **BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2006**

INVESTMENTS	\$
Shares and notes quote on prescribed stock exchange (Cost \$1,757,525)	2,779,970
<i>Market Value as per Australian International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS)</i>	
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>2,779,970</b>

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	526,782
Trade and Other Receivables	192,197
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>718,979</b>

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,498,949</b>
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### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Unearned Income	1,246
Trade and Other Payables	1,850
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,096</b>

<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,495,853</b>
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### ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Capital Gifts	1,542,835
Capital Profits	719,336
Retained Earnings	211,237
Reserves on Revaluation	1,022,445
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b>3,495,853</b>

### **INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006**

#### REVENUE

Donations/Gifts Received	15,270
Income from Investments	372,829
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>388,099</b>

<b>TOTAL GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>28,150</b>
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<b>NET PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>359,949</b>
Distributions (Grants to Individuals and Institutions)	170,522
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED INCOME</b>	<b>189,427</b>

# Report Report on Distributions on Distributions

*Report on Distributions made by The Norman Wettenhall Foundation for the year ended June 30, 2006*

## Grow West Program

First step in restoring badly degraded land in gorge country near Bacchus Marsh

The Grow West program is one of the most extensive land restoration programs in Victoria. It aims to revegetate 10,000 hectares of badly degraded land in the upper Werribee River catchment, west of Melbourne, to combat erosion and weed threats, and to provide biolinks.

The \$22,500 provided by The Norman Wettenhall Foundation has funded the planting of 4,000 indigenous plants on 5 ha of steep land in the Pentland Hills on the Lidgett family property, with follow up plantings on 23 ha to protect remnant vegetation in the Myrning Creek, and future works along the creek adjacent to the Werribee Gorge State Park.

Grow West has formed valuable partnerships and links with landholders, community groups, schools, government agencies and business, and is working in the long-term towards creating wildlife corridors between remnant vegetation and state parks. The Myrning Link funded by the Foundation is one of five projected biolinks.



*Eastern end of project site from the air; 15/07/2006, rip lines show extent of planting*



*Volunteers planting, looking East to the Werribee Gorge*



*Planting on Lidgett's property, July 2006 (Photo: Bob Reid)*

# Report Report on Distributions on Distributions

## Butterfly Conservation SA Inc

Website to aid bringing back the butterflies

A volunteer organisation, the Butterfly Conservation SA Inc works closely with the South Australian Museum on projects to save and protect butterfly habitats. The group also provides information and advice to local Bushcare/Landcare groups, identifies food plants and their sites, and promotes awareness of their conservation.

The Foundation's \$16,000 grant was used to develop a website on plants and butterflies in the Adelaide region. The 'Bring back the butterflies' website will contain a list of all indigenous butterfly food and nectar plants for approximately 40 species of butterfly, including maps of food plants.

*Above Right: Vanessa kershawi, 'Painted Lady' (Photo: RH Fisher)*  
*Right: Nacaduba biocellata, 'Double-spotted Line-blue' (Photo: LF Hunt)*



## Knox City Council

Setting aside an area in the garden for local wildlife

Gardens for Wildlife 13 was designed by the council to encourage owners and occupiers of suburban blocks to set aside an area in the garden for local wildlife. The aim of the program is to improve the habitat of the Knox municipality and to encourage residents to think about their garden in the larger concept of the landscape. A grant of \$4,800 was awarded to assist with administration costs, the promotion of the program, and educational materials.



# Report Report on Distributions on Distributions

## Kangaroo Island Community Education

### Establishing a photo identification catalogue of dolphins on Kangaroo Island

Dolphin Watch is a dolphin monitoring program for students from the Kangaroo Island Community School and volunteers living on Kangaroo Island. The program aims to establish a photo identification catalogue of dolphins on Kangaroo Island to allow collection of data and monitoring of dolphins by students, fishers, swimmers and others. The Foundation grant of \$10,000 funded the purchase of two SLR cameras, and a digital video camera; 20 dolphin monitoring trips; as well as supported administration costs and incidentals.



Because of this project, Dolphin Watch has become official partners with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, and will continue monitoring work as an integral component of marine and environmental education on Kangaroo Island.



*Students doing their first Dolphin Watch, April 2006*



# Report Report on Distributions on Distributions

## Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest

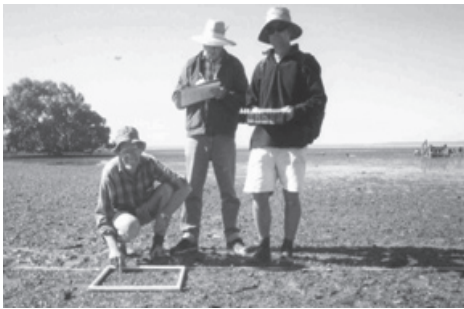
Bird book published about an extraordinary ecological 'island'

The Foundation provided \$5,000 towards the publication of *Birds of the Long Forest 1889-2005*, produced by a local 'friends' group. The book reported on a 24 year study of the birds of the Long Forest area between Melton and Bacchus Marsh. A unique area, Long Forest represents an ecological island with a number of bird species normally found only in drier, mallee country.



*Official book launch of Birds of the Long Forest 1889-2005, October 2006. Author Marilyn Hewish, members of Friends of the Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee and members of bird watching organisations (photo: Kirsty Reid).*

*Birds of the Long Forest 1889-2005* contains an historic study and an annotated list of the 174 species of birds reported for the Long Forest area, along with related historic records. Copies have been distributed to school libraries, regional, state and national libraries, government departments, conservation groups and landcare groups, as well as to households in the Long Forest area.



## Queensland Conservation Council

Monitoring the health of seagrass in Moreton Bay

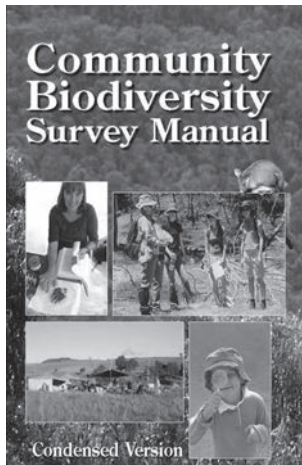
This organisation has over 70 member groups across Queensland and works towards building an environmentally healthy and sustainable Queensland. The Seagrass Watch project involved monitoring variation in the water temperature at a number of seagrass monitoring sites in Moreton Bay.

Seagrass is essential to the survival of key marine species such as the dugong. The \$1,695 contributed by the Foundation helped to purchase 35 temperature loggers. The loggers gather environmental data that assist in tracking changes in seagrass health, density and distribution in the bay.

# Report Report on Distributions on Distributions

## National Parks Association of NSW Inc

Aiding communities to undertake biodiversity surveys of the local plant and animal life



Funds were provided to the National Parks Association of NSW Inc towards printing a condensed version of their *Community Biodiversity Survey Manual*. The manual offers a user-friendly research tool for communities to conduct biodiversity surveys of plants and animals.

Biodiversity surveys study the plant and animal life of an area and describe the environment in which they live. Local biodiversity surveys are a fantastic way to promote community education and engagement, and to collect much needed biodiversity data. Based on a collaborative approach to biodiversity conservation, surveys encourage cooperation between community groups, government, land managers, research institutions, and schools.

[www.npansw.org.au/biodiversity](http://www.npansw.org.au/biodiversity)

## Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Monitoring a potentially weedy fungal hitch hiker



*Muscaria Waratah*

The project aims to research the impact of *Amanita muscaria*, the striking red and white-spotted introduced mushroom. The research will be used to gain a better understanding of some of the basic biology of the fungus, in order to determine some preliminary management strategies for the species.

The \$8,600 provided by the Foundation to the Royal Botanic Gardens was used for materials and stores, plus travel and accommodation.

# Report Report on Distributions on Distributions

## Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation

### Recording of traditional knowledge about Cape York's environment

Balkanu was established in 1996 and is owned by the Cape York Aboriginal Charitable Trust, on behalf of the Indigenous people of Cape York. Their project aimed to develop a website to record traditional knowledge relating to ceremonies and uses of plants by Indigenous people for health, food, medicine and biodiversity protection. Their work looked at strengthening an understanding of traditional knowledge and encouraging partnerships between traditional owners, scientists and natural resource managers.

A grant of \$6,000 was made to Balkanu, which helped the organisation create its website; to develop greater awareness of traditional knowledge; and to embody environmental, social and economic aspects of managing sensitive ecosystems.

[www.tkrp.com.au](http://www.tkrp.com.au)



*Dr Tommy George (Kuku Thaypan Elder; Laura) and Stanley Kalkayoorta (Wik, Aurukun) during mentorship of the project from Kuku Thaypan to Wik peoples*

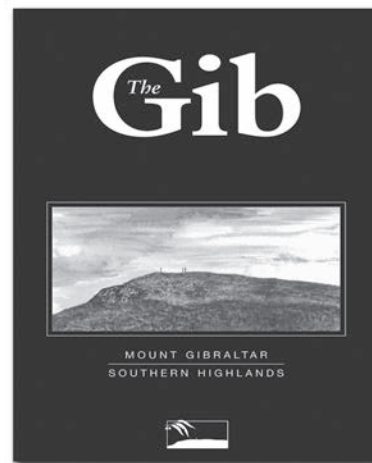
## Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare

### A book to inspire the restoration of Mount Gibraltar

Funding of \$9,000 was awarded to the Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare group towards the publication of *Mount Gibraltar, a Southern Highlands Study*, a book aimed at inspiring interest in and ongoing care of the natural environment within the community.

A volunteer community Landcare and Bushcare group, it has worked under the auspices of the local Wingecarribee Shire Council Bushcare Program to restore and care for the Mount Gibraltar Reserve since 1993.

The book is still under production and due for release in June 2007.



# Report on Distributions on Distributions

## Total Grants 2005-2006

Australian Animals Care and Education Inc – Project Kial	\$3,500
Australian National University - The response of birds to the fire regimes of mulga woodland in Central Australia	\$5,000
Balkanu Cape York Development Corporate – Traditional knowledge recording project	\$6,000
Bird Observers Club of Australia – Birds of the Mornington Peninsula	\$5,000
Butterfly Conservation SA Inc – Bring back the butterflies	\$16,000
Corangamite Arts Inc. - Corangamite volcanic landscape	\$991
Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest - Birds of the Long Forest 1889-2004	\$5,000
Grow West Program - Myrniong link project	\$22,500
Hilary Kuhn - From rainforests to Savannah: caring for the Mitchell River	\$8,920
Kangaroo Island Community Education - KI dolphin watch	\$10,000
Knox City Council - Gardens for wildlife 13	\$4,800
Lions Club of Mt Eliza - Plastic bag reduction project	\$1,000
Mount Gibraltar Landcare & Bushcare - Mount Gibraltar, a Southern Highlands study	\$9,000
Museum of Victoria - Nudibranchs and relatives of SouthEastern Australia - Dr Mark Norman & Dr Robin Wilson	\$13,528
National Parks Association of NSW Inc. – Condensed version community biodiversity survey manual	\$3,800
North Central Catchment Management Authority – Loddon Murray community leadership program	\$2,000
Queensland Conservation Council – Seagrass watch Moreton Bay	\$1,695
Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union – The state of Australia’s birds report	\$25,000
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne – Monitoring a potentially weedy fungal hitch hiker	\$8,600
South East Queensland Western Catchments Group – Survey of water birds	\$5,000
The West Moreton Landcare Group – Esk Shire and greening Lockyer environmental community group	\$1,388
University of Adelaide – Managing genetic diversity in captive bred red-tailed phascogales	\$4,970
University of Melbourne – Phylogeography of Australian musk ducks	\$1,430
University of Queensland – Using population genetics to measure the effects of recent subtropical rainforest fragmentation on rainforest fauna	\$5,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$170,522</b>

# Guidelines

# Guidelines

## Mission

The objectives of the Foundation are:

- i. to support and encourage research, education and recording of all aspects of Australia's natural environment; and
- ii. to build capacity in local communities to effect long-term beneficial change in the natural environment.

## Principles

- Innovative projects are to be encouraged and preferably act as a model for other developments in the future.
- The result should have a long-term effect.
- Publication of funded studies is regarded as important and will be supported.
- Encouragement of individuals, as well as organisations, is possible provided the project is well planned
- Dissemination of information which will benefit the natural living environment.

## Exclusions

- Projects concerned with advocacy, buildings, art, general education, social welfare and medical research or health matters.
- Capital or endowment funds established to provide a corpus for institutions.
- Domestic or international travel, unless critical to the application.
- Projects concerned with the rehabilitation or rescue of animals.

## Procedure

1. In no more than three pages, applicants are asked to provide a brief description of the proposed project, including:
  - i. project rationale
  - ii. project objectives
  - iii. strategies
  - iv. budget breakdown of project costs
  - v. level of funding sought
  - vi. measures of success

# Guidelines

## Guidelines

Supporting documents, of no more than 10 pages, may also be provided to support an application.

2. Where appropriate, the submission should indicate the project's relevance to the local community and provide evidence of local support. Where the project involves a publication, details should be provided on the quantities concerned and intended modes of distribution.
3. Graduate students seeking funding should include a curriculum vitae and a recommendation from their Supervisor or Head of Department.

The Foundation meets quarterly and advice on each application is issued promptly thereafter.

### **Subsequent to Funding**

Funded projects are required to provide regular reports, as specified by the Foundation at the time of an offer being made.

Funded projects are required to publicly acknowledge the Foundation's support by, for example, displaying the Foundation's logo on published material or signage.

Where a project's commencement is conditional on other sources of funding, the Foundation's grant will not be released until written confirmation is received of a grantee's success in gaining additional funding.

Grantees who do not proceed within 12 months of receiving grant approval will be required to re-submit.



