

THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT 2011



An environment organisation and philanthropic trust, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation's objective is to support projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment.

Established in 1997, the Norman Wettenhall Foundation acted as the culmination of Norman's lifelong love affair with the Australian bush and the birds and plants that inhabit it.

Funds for the Foundation were raised from the sale of Norman's treasured natural history book collection, which was widely regarded as the most complete private collection celebrating the wonder and beauty of Australia's fauna and flora.

Since Norman's death in the year 2000, the Foundation has continued his legacy to fund a wide range of conservation projects, significantly increasing distributions and building the corpus.

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation is a member of Philanthropy Australia and a Sustaining Supporter of the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network.



Last year saw a major boost to efficiency with the implementation of an online granting system and website upgrade. The combination has streamlined procedures not only for ED Beth Mellick and the Foundation, but grantees can now apply online with ease. And it has had the added environmental benefit of bringing the NWF office closer to the utopian goal of becoming 'paperless' in both grantmaking administration, as well as trustee meetings. Through the purchase of iPads for trustees, Beth now avoids the cumbersome, costly, time- and forest-consuming process of producing great piles of papers and reports. We now access everything online, both prior to and during meetings.

In the development of the online granting system, we collaborated with the Dahl Trust, which had already set off into cyberspace. As another biodiversity-focused group, the Dahl Trust are proving natural allies and we are pairing with them in 2012 to develop the first of a series of regional events, showcasing the work we are funding. These are to replace our annual lectures in the Museum, which after ten years, we thought had run their course. We hope to soon reward our loyal supporters with a social function at the modern art museum Heide, of which my father Norman was the inaugural Chairman.

While we are true believers in adaptive management, some unfortunate changes are inevitably forced upon you. One such occurrence was the resignation of Trustee and Finance Chair Brian Snape. He has been recruited to the new Board of BirdLife



(R-L) Gib Wettenhall, Steve Murphy and Neville Cooper on a tour of the Regent Honeyeater project last spring

Australia. As the new position was increasingly devouring his days, he judged it time to resign from NWF. He and Diana remain major donors to our Small Environmental Grant Scheme and we wish them and BirdLife Australia smooth flying.

Trustee Peter Howie took over as Finance Committee Chair, and has continued with the streamlining of its procedures. One of his concerns was to add accounting expertise to the committee. This he has ably achieved by recruiting Rebecca Dabbs, the Manager of Climate Change & Sustainability Services in accounting firm Ernst & Young.

Another of Peter's initiatives - leveraging NWF assets - was last year pursued with determination by ED Beth Mellick. She developed a dossier of how other environmental philanthropic organisations might take advantage of our extensive rural networks and value add to our grantmaking. To Beth's great credit, this has borne fruit - but I'll let her tell you about that.

Gib Wettenhall, Chair

2011 went so fast that I'm very determined to slow down the year 2012 to a more reasonable pace. But we have a lot of things happening this year, so buckle up!

With the production of our Investment Dossier, I was able to start making connections with other philanthropic organisations. The Dossier is not only about seeking to increase environmental spending in the sector, but about forming valuable partnerships. Partnerships in grantmaking can give you more bang for your buck, and capitalises on those already working in a specific field.

We expect our applicants to show collaboration when applying for funds, so we are doing the same. You can download a copy of the Dossier from the website, or I can post one out.

We are pleased that the RE Ross Trust has approved another three years of funding with us, bringing us into year four. The RE Ross Small Victorian Rural Grant Scheme has been rebadged into the Small Environmental Grant Scheme and has been opened up to other funders. RE Ross Trust CEO Sylvia Admans put out a 'challenge' for other groups to join them, and we are pleased to welcome the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation into the fold starting 2012. With both of these organisations donating to the scheme, we can increase granting to rural conservation projects. Organisations who contribute to the Scheme don't have to worry about finding the projects or administering the grants. It works well for everyone.

Should anyone like to make contributions to the Small Environmental Grant Scheme, I am happy to come and talk to you. The Scheme supports projects relating to biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management - issues that are still largely underfunded in Australia.

Thank you to all our supporters who sent in feedback on the survey forms. We appreciate how much people really enjoyed the Annual Memorial Lectures, both for the content and for the chance to catch up with friends and colleagues.

Please join us this year for cocktails at the Heide Museum of Modern Art in May, and for our Rural Event in Castlemaine in October. Details will follow.

Enjoy the Annual Report. I look forward to the year ahead and hope the Trustees can keep up with me!

Beth Mellick, Executive Director



Searching for Hooded Plovers on Phillip Island

TRUSTEES

An enormous thank you to our dedicated board of Trustees for another fantastic year with the Foundation.

In April 2011, Trustees and their families travelled to Nhill and camped at the Little Desert Lodge where we undertook our annual strategic planning as well as a field trip. Many thanks to the Hindmarsh Landcare Network, Bernie Fox and Sue Hayman-Fox. This year we will be convening in Dunkeld.

The Foundation has four granting rounds a year. Trustees come together with the Executive Director to review reports, discuss funding issues, and make decisions on new applications. Our Trustees are expert in

various areas of biology, zoology, ornithology, farming, forestry, finance and natural resource management.

We have several sub-groups which include the Finance Committee (Acting Chair Peter Howie), Landscape Restoration Fellowship Committee (led by Digby Race), and the newly formed Event Committee which works with the Dahl Trust.

Our Trustees are: Gib Wettenhall (Chair), Bill Weatherly, Geoff Park, Trish Kevin, Adam Wettenhall, Peter Howie, Digby Race and John Bate. Special financial assistance and advice is given by Rebecca Dabbs and we extend our appreciation to her.

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Mallefowl at Nhill.
Young Kali looks for birds.
Trustees and their families watching
the Malleefowl.

ANNUAL RURAL EVENT

After 10 successful years, we say goodbye to the Annual Memorial Lecture at the Melbourne Museum, and welcome a trip to the country

You may have noticed that we did not have the Annual Memorial Lecture at the Museum in 2011. It's time for something new.

So we have partnered (oh yes, another partnership!) with the Bjarne K Dahl Trust to bring you a special event every year in a different part of the State.

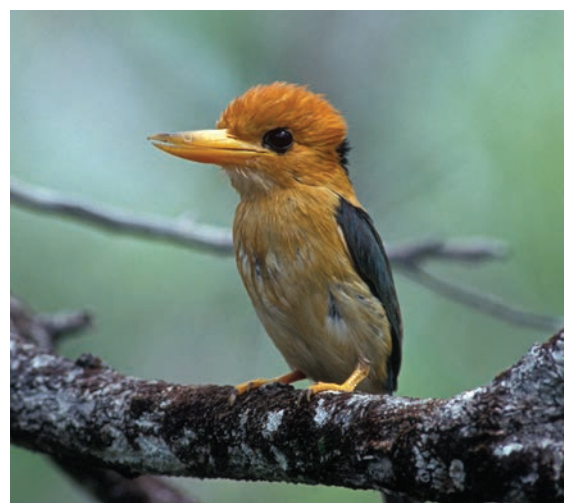
We want to show you what we are working on, and give you the opportunity to take part. The majority of our granting is in rural and regional areas, and our office is in Castlemaine.

So in our first year the event is here in Castlemaine. On Friday and take part in the Wheel Cactus injection program, talks from farmers, workshops on botanical drawing, eucalypt identification, and bird watching with local experts. Stay overnight and join us for dinner with guest speaker, author and renowned 'birdo' David Hollands who will give a presentation on 60 years of bird photography.

The program will surely have something to capture your imagination. There's the opportunity to get your hands dirty, to explore the bush and its inhabitants, to learn something new, and to enjoy beautiful Castlemaine.

We are limiting bookings, so you'll have to get in fast to secure your spot in the program. You need to make your own arrangements for accommodation in this very busy little town so the quicker you book the better. There is a small cost involved.

The dates are Friday 19th October and Saturday 20th October. Some people may also wish to stay to the Sunday. Call Beth on 5472 1316 or email beth@nwf.org.au.



Top: Ironbark by Debbie Worland

Bottom: Male Yellow Kingfisher by David Hollands

SOME GRANTS AWARDED IN 2010/2011

Here are some grants awarded under the Small Environmental Grant Scheme, administered by The Norman Wettenhall Foundation. This Scheme is supported by the RE Ross Trust.

Birds Australia North Queensland

Assessing the effectiveness of emergency feeding of Cassowaries following Cyclone Yasi

The Cassowaries between Mission Beach and Cardwell already have limited movement due to land clearing for agriculture. Now, after Cyclone Yasi, they are unable to move to find food or travel to breed. Volunteers will work with the CSIRO to monitor feeding stations, collect dung samples, and analyse dead birds. National Parks will set up automatic cameras at the feeding stations. The Melliadora Fund is a partner on this grant.

Tag for Life

Bringing sharks to life

Tag for Life track white sharks and collate data on their movement and behaviour. This particular project is a public education campaign on marine ecosystems and the great white shark. Data will be collected through tracking and a DVD produced which will be shown at Museum Victoria and other places. Diversicon Environmental Foundation is a partner on this grant.

The University of Adelaide

Returning Warru to APY Lands

The study team aim to reintroduce the endangered Warru (Black-footed rock-

wallabies) to two locations in SA. The first part of the project will determine the home range of wild and reintroduced Warru and expand current baseline data. They will examine how wild Warru use burnt patches of bush and water, and how population density impacts on habitat. Two Anangu rangers will be employed with this grant to help with the data collection.

Cape Otway Centre for Conservation

Ecology

Landscape biodiversity conservation and the community

COCCE is collaborating with a number of agencies and on-ground groups in the area to undertake biodiversity monitoring. The surveying work will ultimately help inform groups on management strategies for individual species and for landscape restoration. Surveying work will include volunteer training. The RE Ross Trust funded part of this project.



The Cape Otway Centre for Conservation Ecology worked with student groups as part of their biodiversity survey project



Eastern Curlew with geolocator, Victorian Wader Study Group

Victorian Wader Study Group

Geolocator Studies of Migratory Waders.

This project is about collecting important data on Eastern Curlews and Sanderlings down in Corner Inlet in West Gippsland. The grant will assist in purchasing geolocators (light sensitive data loggers) so the group can collect data on the birds' migration routes, stopover locations, breeding destinations, and general migration. The RE Ross Trust funded part of this project.

Mammal Survey Group of Victoria

Infra-red detection of Victoria's mammal species and their predators

The MSGV lost their trailer and all their equipment in the 2009 bushfires. These funds were used to purchase new equipment and included infra-red cameras and peripherals for

more effective monitoring and surveying. The RE Ross Trust funded this project.

Bush Heritage Australia

Ecological outcomes monitoring fauna and bat surveys in the Gondwanalink Fitzstirling region

Gondwanalink is a large landscape restoration project in WA and Bush Heritage are one of the partner groups. This project takes place on a Bush Heritage reserve in the Fitzstirling. It involves collecting baseline data on bat fauna on the Monjebup North property in order to build knowledge of bats and to share this information with partner groups.

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECTS

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation is interested in supporting and facilitating the vision-building process necessary in grassroots landscape restoration projects in Victoria. We have six projects under our portfolio.

For communities to move towards a different future, first they have to be able to imagine it. Consequently, the Foundation has been offering funds for vision-building so long as the process encompasses all the different land management interests within a landscape.

Once such a grassroots vision for landscape restoration is produced, the Foundation will provide second stage funding to support prioritising and implementing identified strategies. This process is guided by the Foundation's Landscape Restoration Checklist document.

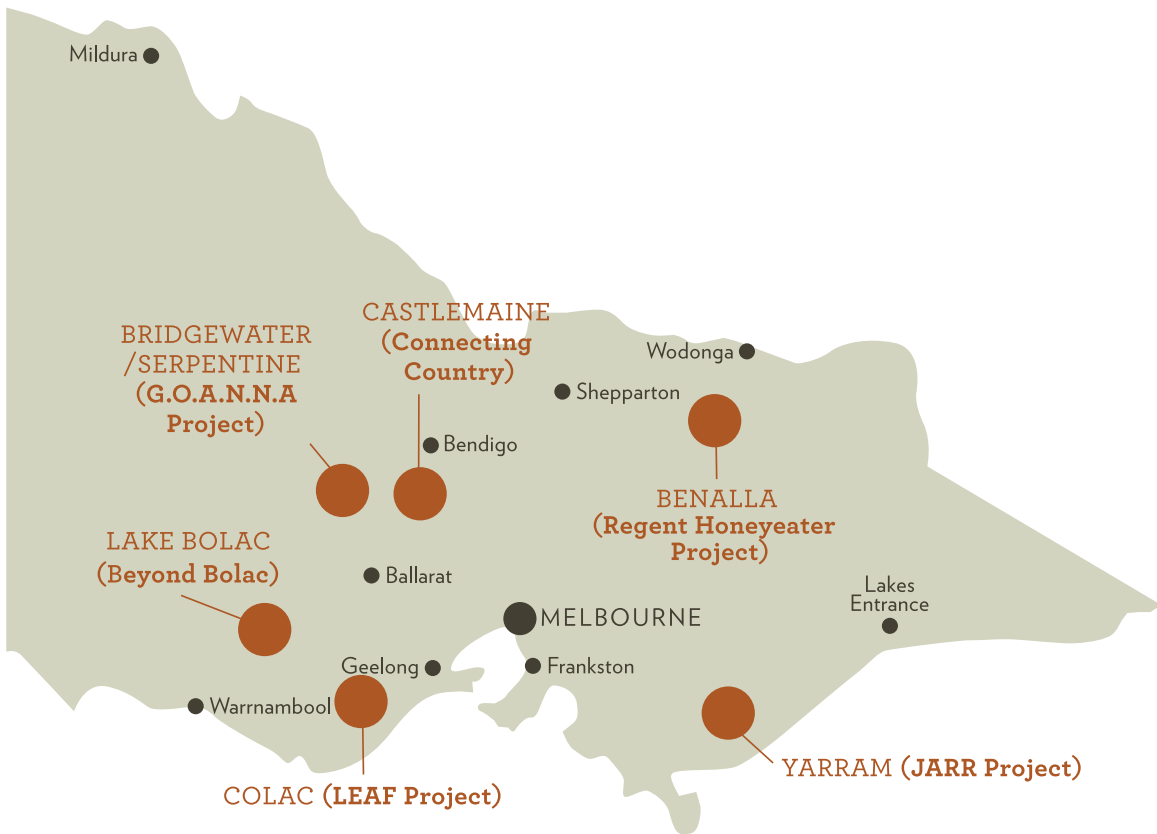
Foundation Trustees Gib Wettenhall and Trish Kevin teamed up with Executive Director

Beth Mellick to produce a 12-page Landscape Restoration Policy Paper. The purpose of the paper is to not only to detail out our position on community-driven landscape restoration, but also to provide information to other groups. The paper is available to download from our website.

During 2011 the Foundation's Executive Director made over a dozen visits to the projects all across the State, attending meetings, participating in workshops, enjoying events, and overall establishing a close working relationship between the Foundation and each project.

Recent grants have included \$30,000 to the JARR Project, \$30,000 to Beyond Bolac and \$20,000 to the Regent Honeyeater Project. Most of the projects are now starting to move from vision-building to action. The funding is to equip groups to develop fully-costed action plans with priorities and a range of projects for future funding from government.





Left: the Beyond Bolac Executive accept a cheque for their work on landscape restoration in the west of the State. Top: map of The Norman Wettenhall Foundation landscape restoration projects. Above: volunteers in the GOANNA Project in the Loddon Plains area prepare to take part in weed control activities

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION FELLOWSHIPS

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation Fellowship program was developed so as to recognise the extremely valuable contribution that certain amazing people are making with conservation projects in SE Australia.

The support offered by the Fellowship aims to make a significant difference to the capacity of a person to achieve the goals of landscape restoration projects. The grant can be spent on travel, conferences, workshops, equipment, training and professional development.

These funds are for use by the Fellow where support is not otherwise provided and, in the opinion of the NWF, are likely to make a valuable contribution to the professional development of a person who is a leading participant in efforts to create resilient landscapes in the south east of the country.

Robyn Edwards

Robyn received her final \$10,000 in the last year of her three-year fellowship. Robyn intends to implement an ecological restoration project based on her learnings from years one and two. She is working with specialist ecologists and scientists specifically targeting ecological thinning of forests.

In the past three years Robyn has purchased equipment for use in the field in her role as Regional Manager with Trust for Nature in East Gippsland, as well as attending

conferences and training courses. Robyn has been an excellent first Fellow and we wish her well.

Andrew Stewart

Farmer, forester and landcarer, Andrew is now in his second Fellowship year. With the new technology purchased in Year 1 being put to good use, Andrew now intends to make his work more professional and efficient. This year he will travel, study, and continue to increase his professional development.

Donna Mitsch

We are extremely excited to welcome Donna as our new Fellow. Donna is from the Ghunda Mulla Aboriginal Women's Landcare Group, the first of its kind in Australia. Working in the NE of the State, Donna's main interest is Indigenous knowledge relating to plants and fire ecology. We look forward to learning from Donna and sharing information.



New Landscape Restoration Fellow, Donna Mitsch

WEBSITE AND ON-LINE GRANTING

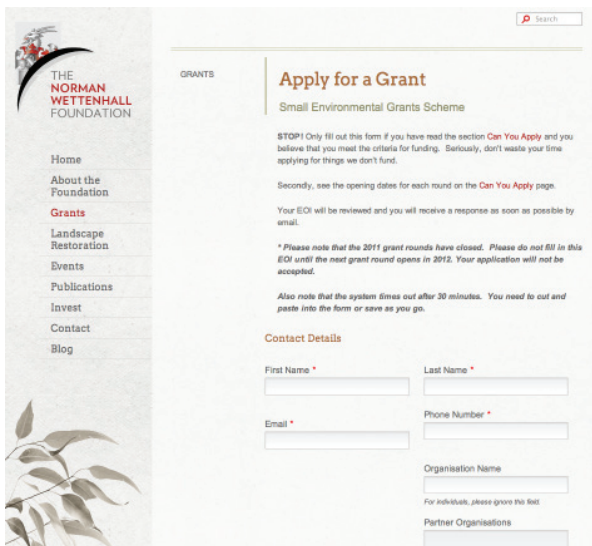
The new website, designed by Gozer Studios, incorporates a new on-line granting system.

The NWF website www.nwf.org.au typically contains information about the Foundation, our events, our projects and how to invest with us.

Applicants can see what kind of grants have been awarded in the past, and can determine

whether they want to submit an Expression of Interest via the on-line form. If approved, all further information is obtained via this on-line system, making it easier for both grant administration, and for applicants.

Website development in the future will include a list of revolving featured projects we recommend to other funders, and research papers and publications for reference.



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REPORT ON DISTRIBUTIONS

Total Grants 2010-2011 (July 2010-June 2011)

SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT SCHEME	
Project Platypus “Bandicoot revival in the Grampians region”	4,500
Hunter Wetlands Centre “Butterfly biodiversity project”	1,200
Dunedoo Area Community Group “Operation Eagle”	800
Cape Otway Centre for Conservation Ecology “Landscape biodiversity conservation and the community” (also funded by Ross Trust)	7,424
Australian Wildlife Conservancy “Ecology and conservation internship”	7,000
Tag for Life “Bringing sharks to life - research and outreach” (\$10,000 from Diversicon)	20,000
ATF Press “At the end of the river: the Coorong and lower lakes”	5,000
Greening Australia WA “Carnaby’s black cockatoo habitat offsets”	8,266
The University of Adelaide “Using dicyemid mesozoan parasites to infer the population structure of giant Australian cuttlefish (<i>Sepia apama</i>) in southern Australian waters”	5,000
Royal Botanic Gardens Board “Conservation of a botanically significant Characeae collection” (also funded by Ross Trust)	5,000
The University of Adelaide “Returning Warru to Anangu Pitantjatjara Yankunytjajara (APY) lands	5,000
Victorian Wader Study Group “Geolocator studies of migratory waders	5,000
Birds Australia North Queensland “Assessing the effectiveness of emergency feeding of Cassowaries following Cyclone Yasi” (\$5,000 from Melliodora Fund)	10,000
Bush Heritage “Ecological outcomes monitoring fauna and bat surveys in the Gondwanalink Fitzstirling region”	5,000

University of New England “Feasibility of non-invasive hair sampling to estimate the population size of bridled nailtail wallabies (<i>Onchogalea fraenata</i>) at Avocet nature Refuge”	5,000
Gundha Mulla (Fresh Water Women) Aboriginal Landcare Group “Understanding the cultural and spiritual landscape through a reconnection to traditional Women’s Lore” (Pagan Pty Ltd)	10,000

SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT SCHEME - RE ROSS TRUST	
Mammal Survey Group of Victoria “Infra-red detection of Victoria’s mammal species and their predators”	9,995
Cape Otway Centre for Conservation Ecology “Landscape biodiversity conservation and the community”	5,450
South Gippsland Conservation Society “Bunurong Environmental Education Space”	5,000
Southern Otway Landcare Network “Biodiversity protection in Aire River Valley”	5,000
Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation “Measuring fox control and biodiversity gains for endangered southern brown bandicoot”	5,000
Royal Botanic Gardens Board “Conservation of a botanically significant Characeae collection”	5,000
Enid Mayfield “Flora of the Otway plain and ranges”	4,000
Wedderburn Conservation Management Network “Malleefowl Festival 2011”	5,000
Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program	1,250
Victorian Wader Study Group “Geolocator studies of migratory waders”	5,000
Total Small Environmental Grant Scheme Total	154,888

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GRANTS	
Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group	30,000
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network JARR Project	30,000
Regent Honeyeater Project	20,000
Fellowship Year 3 Robyn Edwards	10,000
Fellowship Year 2 Andrew Stewart	10,000
Total Landscape Restoration Grants	100,000
Total Grants	\$254,885

FINANCIAL REPORT 2011

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2011

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$253,053
Trade and other receivables	\$109,041
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$362,094

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Shares and notes quoted on prescribed stock exchange (cost \$2,516,225)	\$3,221,404
Other assets- office equipment	\$5,545
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$3,226,949

TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,589,044
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CURRENT LIABILITIES

Provision for holiday pay	\$8,479
Trade and other payables	\$15,131
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$23,610

NET ASSETS	\$3,565,435
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ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Capital gifts	\$1,679,343
Capital profits	\$1,038,339
Retained earnings	\$142,573
Reserves on revaluation	\$705,180

TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$3,565,435
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Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2011

REVENUE

Donations/gifts received	\$111,735
Income from investments	\$349,878
TOTAL INCOME	\$461,613

EXPENSES

TOTAL GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$123,425
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NET PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Distributions (grants)	\$254,885
Undistributed income	\$83,304

TOTAL NET PROFIT	\$338,189
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DONATIONS

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation is a charitable trust with tax deductible status. Donations that extend the Foundation's ability to augment the wellbeing of the Australian natural living environment are gratefully received. Many thanks to our donors this year, both regular and new.

Margaret Henderson	5,000
Joan Wettenhall	2,500
Allan Myers, AO, QC	2,000
Baillieu Myer, AC	2,000
L Gordon Darling, AC, CMG	1,000
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, AC, DBE	1,000
Margaret Ross, AM	1,000
Mary-Lou Howie	900
Lady Southey	700
John and Elizabeth Bate	500
JB and A Leslie	500
Alan Henry	400
Professor Carrick Chambers	300
Rosemary Weatherly	300
AI Sinclair	250
David Wettenhall	200
Colin Agar	200
Shirley Saywell	200
Joanne Trumble	135
Elizabeth Sevier	125
SK Aitken	100
Peter and Christine Forster	100
Geoff and Helen Handbury	100
MH Kelso	100
B MacDonald	100
Carol Richardson	100
Suzy Speirs	100
Keith Stockwell	100
Ray Thomas	100
Roger West	100

Donations up to \$100 from Wallace Bruce, Peter Campbell, Elizabeth Cunningham, Rosemary Davidson, LK Hancock, Margaret Heath, Alan Henry, Julia Hurley, Chris Johnston, Robin Marshall, Eve McGlashan, Philip Moors, Lynton and Sue Morgan, Leonie Mugavin, Sheina Nicholls, Boyce Pizzezy, Arthur Samuel, Christine Simons, Les Smith, Cecile van der Burgh, Rob Youl, and Bobbie Holmes.

Ann and Bruce McGregor Melliodora Fund with the Australian Community Foundation Birds Australia NQ "Assessing the effectiveness of emergency feeding of Cassowaries following Cyclone Yasi"	5,000
Pagan Pty Ltd North East Catchment Management Authority "Gundha Mulla (Fresh Water Women) Aboriginal Landcare Group: understanding the cultural and spiritual landscape through a reconnection to traditional Women's Lore"	10,000
Diversicon Environmental Foundation Tag for Life "Bringing sharks to life: research and educational outreach"	10,000
Brian and Diana Snape Small Environmental Grant Scheme	10,000
RE Ross Trust Small Environmental Grant Scheme	50,000

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front cover photo courtesy of bruce doran