

THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION  
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT 2012





## THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION

**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.



## CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Any sort of landscape restoration is a fiendishly expensive exercise and the initial planting and fencing is only the beginning. At one of our annual strategic planning meetings, retired company director and Trustee Peter Howie suggested we could achieve more where we sought to partner with other philanthropic organisations, which had environmental objectives.

This process began with our partnerships with the RE Ross Trust, Australian Communities Foundation and Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, and has snowballed this year to include the William Buckland Foundation and the Ian Potter Foundation. Executive Director Beth Mellick must be given full credit for not only pursuing leveraging of our asset base, but also highlighting to potential philanthropic partners how over our 15 years in existence, the Foundation has built up extensive, in-depth knowledge in rural grant making.

Vision building is all very well, but the painful part comes when you have to prioritise and rank what environmental tasks your group will take on first. Under the guidance of research scientist and Trustee Geoff Park, the Foundation has successfully applied Buckland Foundation funding to train and employ a consultant to aid with action planning. A number of groups have, as a result, received hundreds of thousands of dollars in government grants.

On the matter of the Foundation's financial base, this is in sound shape, thanks to the expertise of NWF's Finance Committee, now led by environmental manager and accountant Rebecca Dabbs and supported by stockbroker John Bate and businessman Peter Howie. Rebecca was this year appointed as a Trustee.

Digby Race has had to resign as a Trustee. He and his family are moving to Alice Springs, where he is leading a three year research project looking at the impact of climate change on remote Aboriginal communities. An astutely strategic thinker, Digby played a pivotal role in devising our bottom up, community driven landscape restoration program and in introducing NWF's Landscape Restoration Fellowship Program. He has been pushing us to investigate ways of fostering landholder custodianship on a group basis. It's up for closer scrutiny when in 2013.

A third family member is joining the Foundation, with my sister Jane Halliday having been appointed as a Trustee. A Professor in Public Health Genetics at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, she shared with Norman a passion for medical research and birdwatching. Her skill set and experience adds to what I believe is an impressive Board of Trustees, served with great determination, enthusiasm and energy by Beth Mellick.

Gib Wettenhall  
Chair



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

During the year, we had a marked increase in applications to the Small Environmental Grant Scheme. This could be because of: a) an increase in our profile b) a decrease in other environmental funding c) ease of use of our new on-line application system. Or maybe it's a combination of all of the above. In all four granting rounds, I've had to close the round early as the maximum number of Expressions of Interest applications was reached ahead of the closing date.

We do continue to receive more applications in the small grants than we can afford to fund. So we welcome donations to help us do more. You will have received a donation form with your annual report, I urge you to please consider becoming a supporter (and receiving our utmost appreciation!). Donations are tax deductible, and you are most welcome to discuss our bequest program with us.

During a time of environmental crisis, and yes, it is a crisis, what with climate change and species decline, it is important that the large philanthropic organisations set targets for funding the environment. At least then, when weighing up the range of important areas to support, there is a set amount of distributions earmarked for environmental projects. It does, of course, disappoint me when I notice the larger groups only giving 4% of total distributions to the environment, and we encourage these groups to join our small grants program.

I have now been with The Norman Wettenhall Foundation for six years. During that time I have helped to build up the landscape restoration portfolio, and look forward to working with two new partners in this program next year. We have run a successful Landscape Restoration Fellowship program

and are now investigating new ways to support leading figures in landscape restoration and environmental stewardship. Thank you to Trustees Digby Race and Trish Kevin for leading this program.

For the last year I have been a part of the Friends of the Box Ironbark Forests working group on moss and fungi. This relationship began after a grant was awarded, and I sought out some professional development in an area that grabbed my interest. Moss beckoned! I have been attending forays with this local group into the box ironbark forests to identify moss species and photograph them for an upcoming publication.

Other highlights this year were the Special Supporter evening at the Heide Museum of Modern Art, our Trustee field trip to Lake Bolac, and the Rural Event in Castlemaine where I was delighted to meet so many new supporters of the Foundation.

Thanks to our bookkeeper Bruce for his diligent handling of the accounts; thanks to Gib for always being there when I need help; and to the other Trustees for being the loveliest bunch of people ever to work for.

Beth Mellick  
Executive  
Director  
beth@nwf.org.au



Cactus injecting at the Castlemaine Rural Event



# TRUSTEES

## Sincere thanks to the Trustees for their commitment to the Foundation

We held our Strategic Planning Meeting in Dunkeld this year. On the way, we were shown around Lake Bolac and district by Beyond Bolac, one of the landscape restoration projects we support.

Strategic planning included a review of our landscape restoration funding program, as well as the development of a new scoring system for applications in the Small Environmental Grant Scheme.

Thank you to the Trustees who participated in this year's events, as well as giving help and advice to the Executive Director on a range of granting and environmental issues.

Thanks also to Jane Halliday and Rebecca Dabbs who have been acting as observers and advisors at meetings and events. We look forward to them joining the Trustees in 2013.

NWF Trustees are: Gib Wettenhall (Chair), Bill Weatherly, Geoff Park, Trish Kevin, Digby Race (resigned Nov 2012), Adam Wettenhall, Peter Howie, and John Bate.

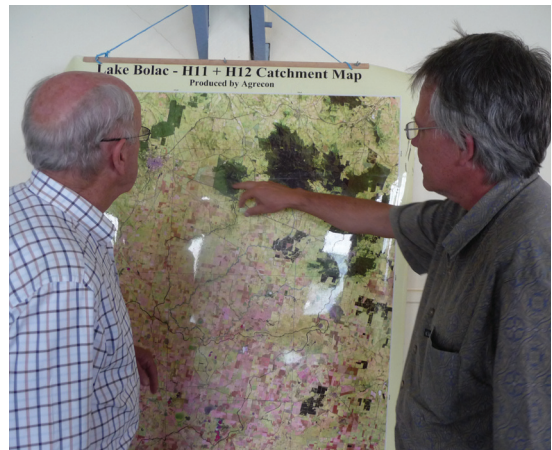
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Left: Executive Director, Trustees and families on top of Mount Sturgeon

Below left: with the Beyond Bolac team on the Fiery Creek

Below right: Beyond Bolac Facilitator, Bill Sharp poring over maps with Trustee Geoff Park



## RURAL EVENT

### Slow food, beautiful country, good walks, celebrity speakers, fun activities

The advertising flyers promised the above, and I'm pretty sure we covered all those bases.

The Rural Event in Castlemaine was an opportunity for people to participate in a range of activities - Indigenous smoking ceremony, talk by Connecting Country, wheel cactus injecting, and Eucalypt identification with Leon Costermans. There was a flora ramble, a botanical illustrating class, bird watching, more bird watching (!) and a walk and talk with author Raimond Gaita.

Around 50 people attended, most of whom stayed for two days. There was a dinner with guest speaker David Hollands whose presentation on *Sixty Years of Bird Photography* was extremely inspiring and uplifting. Chris Tzaros from BirdLife led a birding walk with help from experts Peter Menkhorst and Geoff Park. Apparently watching Chris call in a bird was something to remember.

There was more bird watching on Frogmore Swamp where *Romulus My Father* author, Raimond Gaita, read moving passages from the book that were set on the swamp.

Although the weather was against us, the two days were absolutely fantastic and the people who attended were genuinely interested, engaged, and companionable.

Many thanks to the Bjarne K Dahl Trust who partnered with The Norman Wettenhall

Foundation on this event, bringing with them their expertise on Eucalypts. We look forward to working with them again in the future. And thanks to the speakers who agreed to take part as partners and friends of the Foundation.



Top to Borrom: NWF Trustee John Bate gets stuck into some wheel cactus, Leon Costermans explains why and where Eucalypts grow, and participants look at birds on Frogmore Swamp, Maloort Plains with expert Chris Tzaros.



## SOME GRANTS AWARDED IN 2011/2012

Some of the grants awarded under the Small Environmental Grant Scheme, administered by The Norman Wettenhall Foundation. This Scheme is supported by the RE Ross Trust and The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

### **Keppel Island Conservation Community Inc** *KeppelMApp*

Great Keppel Island is in the southern Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and home to the Rusty Monitor, Water Rat and Beach Stone Curlew. The island's biodiversity is threatened by a residential development and the community has formed a protection group. As part of their work, they will produce a mobile device application (app) - a digital map of the island showing its walking tracks. The objective is to promote the island as an ecotourism destination and to protect its beaches, flora, fauna and coral reefs.

### **Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park** *Utilisation birding data*

This project will increase the availability and value of under-analysed and under-utilised birding data accumulated at sites in one of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots, the Mt Lofty Ranges near Adelaide.

The group will employ an expert to help them analyse their data, which will be published. They will then work with the community to raise awareness about local birds, increase usage to their website, and increase volunteer participation in their work.

### **Basalt to Bay Landcare Network**

#### *St Helens fauna survey*

St Helens Flora Reserve is located within the Warrnambool Plains Bioregion, 4km north of Yambuk on Barkers Road. The reserve is significant in that it contains three EVCs that have a conservation status of Endangered. Basalt to Bay Landcare Network will undertake a professional survey to determine what fauna is present and confirm existence of Eastern Brown Bandicoots. If their presence is confirmed then work can commence on developing a management plan for the reserve and the Eastern Brown Bandicoots with Parks Victoria. Wildlife corridors into private land will also be planned.

This grant has been made available through the RE Ross Trust contributions.

### **Australian National University**

#### *The contribution of community based bird banding studies to climate change*

In order to collect data on birds and how they are responding to the changing climate, researcher Dr Janet Gardner wants to enter paper data from bird groups into spreadsheets for analysis.

The data collected by bird groups doing banding work dates back to the 1970s and is the only data available over several decades. This work, therefore, is quite valuable for researchers who want to look at changes to body size.



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### **Inland Rivers Network**

#### *Community survey of endangered fish in the Upper Macquarie*

This is a community education project to highlight the importance of land use impacts on native fish habitat in rivers.

The Upper Macquarie River is in one of the earliest settled regions in Australia and has been impacted by major land use changes since the early 1800s, affecting fish habitat.

An expert will work with volunteers to conduct a rigorous fish survey, and a report will be published including information about fish habitat and improved land use management requirements.

This is one of the projects supported by the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation funds.

### **Marine Discovery Centre**

#### *Virtual diving project*

The centre has just finished producing a world-class, innovative virtual diving game with this grant. The game now lives on their website. The centre is so busy that it is booked out years in advance. So the on-line game will enable school children (and others) who can't come to the centre to participate in marine activities.

The game is about exploring the temperate marine world and will help to engage children (and adults) in marine biodiversity.

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

Top: Murray Cod captured and measured during a fish survey carried out by the Inland Rivers Network.



# 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.**

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.

## **Project News 2012**

Each of the projects that are receiving our ongoing support are participating in Stage 2 activities - ranking and prioritising projects and then producing fully costed action plans.

All have websites and are linking with their communities, be it farmers, lifestyle landholders or other residents, to share

This page: Connecting Country give a presentation on their range of projects at the 2012 Rural Event  
Right top: Community planting on the JARR Project  
Right bottom: The six projects in the program

information and learn more about biodiversity conservation.

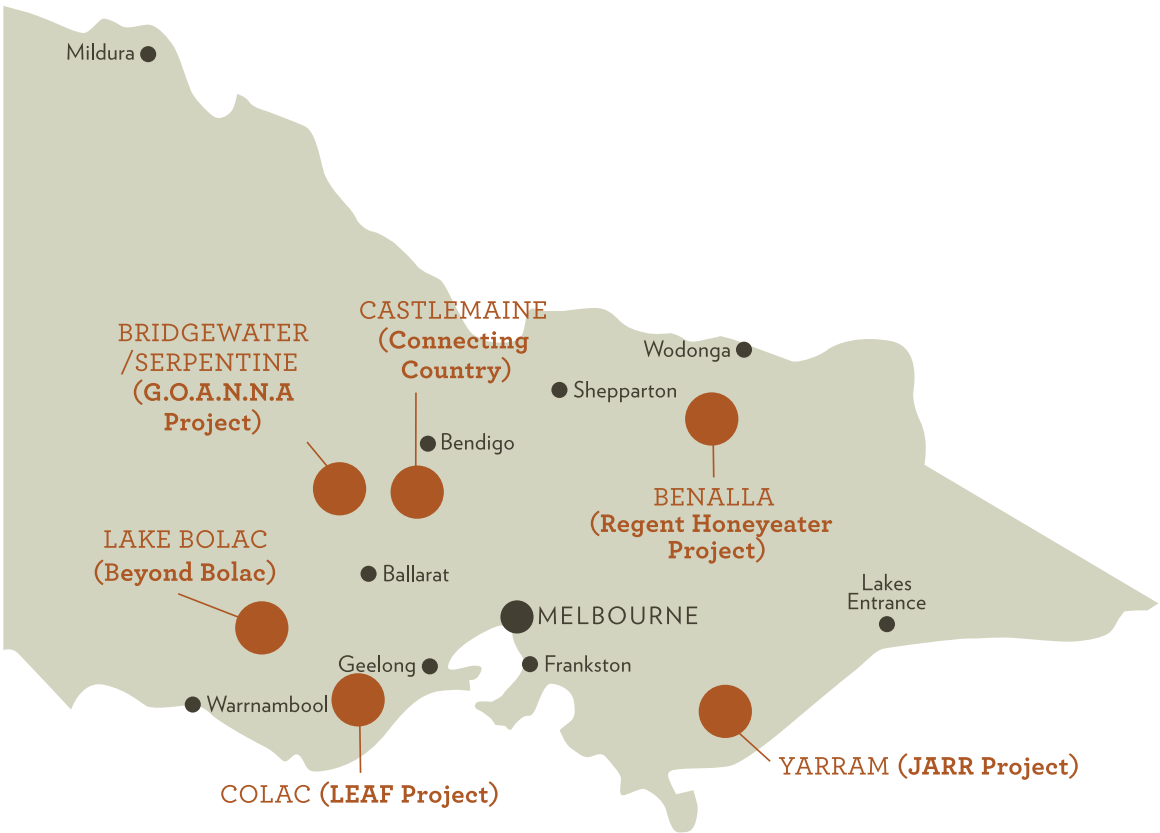
We are very pleased to welcome The William Buckland Foundation into the Foundation's Landscape Restoration Program for 2012-2103.

The William Buckland Foundation has made a grant to The Norman Wettenhall Foundation for just under \$300,000 over 3 years. The funds will enable groups to strengthen their capacity to obtain large government funding for on-grounds works. These community projects are the way forward for measurable habitat restoration in Victoria, and we look forward to our new partnership.

## **Last Minute News Flash**

...and word just in - the Ian Potter Foundation has also agreed to fund part of the landscape restoration program. This is exciting news about partnerships for 2013, and it shows confidence by the large philanthropic organisations about support for rural community groups.







# LANDSCAPE RESTORATION FELLOWSHIPS

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation Fellowship program was developed 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.

## Robyn Edwards

is a Trust for Nature employee in Gippsland and has now completed her three years as a Fellow. She finishes off the program with funds to support a thinning trial in East Gippsland.

## Andrew Stewart

is a farmer, forester and landcarer and is currently in his final year as a Fellow. Andrew's farm is used as a demonstration property for agroforestry and his Fellowship has helped keep him active in the region on forestry and conservation issues.

## Donna Mitsch

is from the Ghunda Mulla Aboriginal Women's Landcare Group in the NE. She works for DSE and her main interests are Indigenous knowledge and fire ecology, and Indigenous plants and their uses. The Fellowship allowed Donna to buy her first computer, as well as travel to North Queensland to study fire ecology from Aboriginal elders.



Top to bottom: Robyn Edwards, Andrew Stewart, Donna Mitsch

## PARTNERSHIPS

If organisations want to increase their spending to the environment and don't have the expertise on their boards, or aren't receiving the applications they need, our Foundation offers a granting service on your behalf. The RE Ross Trust, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, and the Australian Communities Foundation are continuing to participate in the Foundation's Small Environmental Grant Scheme.

This is such a valuable collaboration and we welcome other partners to jump on board. Biodiversity is our core focus area, but we can broaden that focus to accommodate your giving needs.

I am happy to talk to people further about our focus areas or how to participate in the Small Environmental Grant Scheme.

This year's events have included:

- Strategic Planning Meeting and Field Trip - thanks to Beyond Bolac for showing the Trustees around their project area.
- Special Supporter Evening, Heide Museum of Modern Art - many thanks to Heide for their support, and to artist Louise Saxton who spoke to our participants and whose exhibition we thoroughly enjoyed.
- Castlemaine Rural Event - many thanks to April Merrick and Alison Teese from the Dahl Trust for helping with this event. Thanks to those that attended, and to Connecting Country, Leon Costermans, Leon Bren, David Hollands, Raimond Gaita, Chris Tzaros, Peter Menkhorst, Richard Piesse, Ian Grenda Rhyll Plant and Peggy Shaw for their participation.

Look out for events in 2013 which will include a lecture evening in Melbourne (hopefully at the Royal Botanic Gardens in March), and another rural event somewhere in Victoria.





# REPORT ON DISTRIBUTIONS

Total Grants 2011-2012 (July 2011-June 2012)

<b>SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT SCHEME</b>	
Australian National University “The contribution of community based bird banding studies to climate change	5,000
Connecting Country “Free Family Fun Nature Day” (see also Ross grants)	1,229
James Cook University “The influence of riparian corridors on dispersal and population dynamic of non-flying mammals in tropical remnants”	5,000
The Organising Committee, 10th Invertebrate Biodiversity and Conservation Conference “National Workshop for invertebrate conservation recovery teams”	2,000
Charles Darwin University “Management and spatial ecology of the brush-tail mulgara in Central Australia”	5,000
Flinders University “Assessing the impact of wildlife tourism on the threatened great white shark”	4,950
Marine Discovery Centre “Virtual diving project”	5,000
Blackwood Basin Group “Monitoring kit education program”	7,500
Birds Australia, Southern Queensland “Pungalina-Seven Emu Wildlife Sanctuary survey” (supported by the Australian Communities Foundation subfund, the Meliodora Fund)	5,000
Dubbo Field Naturalists and Conservation Society Inc “Flora and fauna of Dubbo book”	5,000
Australian Wildlife Conservancy “Supporting AWC’s ecology and conservation internship program” (half of this grant was from the Australian Communities Foundation sub-fund, Ede Horton, partnering with the NWF)	10,000
Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park “Utilisation of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park birding data”	4,300
Keppel Island Conservation Community Inc “KeppelMApp”	7,500

<b>SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT SCHEME - projects supported by the RE ROSS TRUST</b>	
Connecting Country “Free Family Fun Nature Day”	1,271
Birds Australia “The Wing Thing - woodland birds”	7,500
ANGAIR Inc “Improving Plant Identification”	2,500
Ballarat Region Treegrowers “Biorich plantation film production”	10,000
Cardinia Environment Coalition “CEC Conservation Reserves - community engagement project”	5,210
Basalt to Bay Landcare Network “St Helens Fauna Survey”	4,450
Lexton Landcare Group Inc “Leveraging Landcare”	6,750
<b>SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT SCHEME - projects supported by the VINCENT FAIRFAX FAMILY FOUNDATION</b>	
Eurobodalla Shire Council “Smart decision on small acreages”	10,250
Inland Rivers Network “Community survey of endangered fish in the Upper Macquarie”	10,250
Primary Industries NSW “Fish Festival”	2,000
<b>TOTAL SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT SCHEME</b>	<b>\$127,660</b>



<b>LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GRANTS</b>	
Otway Agroforestry Network - LEAF Project	30,000
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network - JARR Project	30,000
Fellowship Year 1 Donna Mitsch	10,000
Fellowship Year 2 Andrew Stewart	10,000
Fellowship Year 3 Robyn Edwards	10,000
<b>Total Landscape Restoration Grants</b>	<b>90,000</b>

<b>TOTAL GRANTS 2011/2012</b>	<b>\$217,660</b>
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# FINANCIAL REPORT 2012

## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2012

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$319,767
Trade and other receivables	\$179,829
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$499,596</b>

### NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Financial assets	\$2,865,024
Other assets- office equipment	\$8,978
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,874,002</b>

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,373,598</b>
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### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Provision for holiday pay	\$11,039
Trade and other payables	\$178,941
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$189,980</b>

<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,183,618</b>
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### ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Capital gifts	\$1,701,913
Capital profits	\$1,041,964
Retained earnings	\$91,987
Reserves on revaluation	\$347,754
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$3,183,618</b>

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## Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2012

### REVENUE

Donations/gifts received	\$92,751
Income from investments	\$242,856
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$335,607</b>

### EXPENSES

<b>TOTAL GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$142,338</b>
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### NET PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Distributions (grants)	\$217,660
Undistributed loss	\$-24,391
<b>TOTAL NET PROFIT</b>	<b>\$193,269</b>



## 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 financial year, both regular and new.

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation runs a tight ship with only one staff member operating two granting schemes.

Your donation goes towards supporting the Small Environmental Grant Scheme - biodiversity conservation projects that are trying to slow down the rate of species extinction around Australia.

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RE Ross Trust	55,000
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation	50,000
Australian Communities Foundation	6,000

Brian and Diana Snape	5,000
MS Ross	2,500
Lesley Griffin	2,000
JG Bate	2,000
Dame Elisabeth Murdoch	1,000
Willemspruse Pty Ltd	800
Philip Moors	500
JB and IA Leslie	500
Lady Marigold Southey	250
Ian Sinclair	250
Beatrice McDonald	220
L and S Morgan	200
Colin Agar	200
Carrick and Margaret Chambers	200
J and D Edwards	200
Keith Stockwell	150
MH Kelso	120
Peter Turner	100
WGD Middleton	100
Patsy Patten	100
C Richardson	100

Donations up to \$100 from Donald Coventry, Sheina Nicholls, Margaret Helie and an anonymous donor.

*The Norman Wettenhall Foundation staff and Trustees wish to acknowledge the long term support that Dame Elisabeth Murdoch has given the Foundation over the years.*

*Our sympathies on her passing go out to her family. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.*

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front cover photo by Bernard Slattery, *Breutelia affinis*