

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

Paying attention to the 80% of land mass modified

In rural landscapes, it's paying attention to the cleared spaces between the remnant patches that prove life or death to native wildlife. This inversion of the dominant paradigm for 'saving landscapes' is the message of a thought-provoking, animated video on YouTube by ecologist Don Driscoll titled 'The Matrix in Ecology.' A brief 4.17 minutes, it hones in on how the condition of the matrix (the cleared spaces) is critical to native species survival. Do 'stepping stones' or resources between patches exist; or is there revegetation of any sort ameliorating edge effects or modifying pest invasions? Check it out on <http://youtube.com/JZwTZ-d1ZRE>

Humans have modified over 80 per cent of the Australian land mass. That's why we have to pay attention to how landholders are treating their matrix. Well-intentioned as it may be, we can't buy it all up and place it in reserves, build massive biolinks or regulate to reverse land clearing. That's like King Canute trying to turn back the tide. It's not going to happen.

What we can do is provide the resources, knowledge and skills to farmers and other landholders so that they can act as custodians, looking after their matrix, contributing to the health of the landscape they inhabit.

Recently my wife Gayl and I spent three months in the Top End, much of it in Arnhem Land, where we met many inspiring, dynamic and articulate people, both black and white.

In Yolgnu country in East Arnhem Land, the 'homeland' movement has grown over the past 50 years with the express purpose of keeping people on country. It not only satisfies peoples' spiritual connection to country, but also serves practical goals, such as control of feral plants and animals, fire and habitat management and aids border security.

Over on the other side, the \$1 million a year, multi-agency Western Arnhem Land Fire Abatement project has over 10 years successfully reduced greenhouse gas emissions and the severity of annual savanna burning. This has resulted in large part from recognising, for the first time, the Indigenous owners' fire knowledge as well as the employment of over 300 Aboriginal people managing the savanna burning. A book *People on Country*, edited by Jon Altman and Séan Kerins acts as a good reference to the social and environmental movement quietly gaining momentum in the Top End.

We are one of the 12 philanthropic organisations that act as key funding supporters of the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network. At their most recent conference, the theme was capacity building. All well and good, but the emphasis was on building the governance, administrative and decision-making skills of the staff of environmental advocacy groups. These, however, are the middlemen, who like the white experts and bureaucrats that run the

Intervention up north, fly in and fly out. What about the landholders, who stay on long after the experts have gone?

Just as Indigenous people in the north require policies that aid self-determination, landholders throughout Australia need to be given the skills, knowledge and resources so they can take the

next step, integrating conservation and production, truly caring for country. Only then will the matrix become a friendlier place for native species.

Gib Wettenhall
Chair
The Norman Wettenhall Foundation

On the beach at Bawaka homeland, East Arnhem Land, with traditional owner, Timmy Djawa.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Another year, another bunch of projects...

But 2013 was so much more than 'business as usual' for the Foundation. We started two new partnerships with The Ian Potter Foundation and the Yulgilbar Foundation. The Ian Potter Foundation is helping to expand our current landscape restoration program, and the Yulgilbar Foundation's funding has opened a new funding stream in northern NSW. See our **Partners and Supporters** page for a complete list of our donors.

More supporters mean we can give out more grants. When I began with the Foundation seven years ago, the annual distribution was \$156,000. This past financial year, the total distribution was close to \$312,000.

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation were the proud winners of the 2013 Victorian Landcare Award (Partnerships with Landcare) at a ceremony at Government House in August. We were nominated by the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network who we have supported for many years, and feel very humbled by their nomination. We will continue to work with Landcare groups and networks with big vision projects focussing on landscape connectivity, and research, science and monitoring of native species.

I've had a bit of a hard time fitting in everything in my life this year - work, kids, and living in a shed. Thanks to my lovely partner, Neville, I made it through and we are now living in our new rammed earth house, on our ten acres of bush just outside of Castlemaine,

recently receiving our Land for Wildlife sign.

So now that things have returned to normal for me, I can invest some new energy into the Foundation. I look forward to further expanding our funding programs - we've had such a lot of success stories that I hope they are inspirational enough to persuade other funders to invest more in biodiversity conservation. I've started making some small films about them - stay tuned to the video gallery on our website.

As part of my professional development this year, I've been working with the Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forests to produce a book on mosses of south-eastern Australia. I have been mainly working on the design and layout.

Mosses don't have common names, so trying to learn names like *Leptodontium paradoxum*, *Didymodon torquatus*, *Entosthodon subnudus*, *Hedwigidium integrifolium* has been quite challenging. My kids think they sound like spells from Harry Potter! Try them out yourselves. Look out for the moss publication next year, as funded by The Norman Wettenhall Foundation and the RE Ross Trust.

I've tried to get out and about around the state and into NSW as much as possible this year, and am looking forward to a long drive to North Queensland over Christmas.

Best wishes and see you next year.

Beth Mellick, Executive Director

Getting up close and personal with moss in the forests around Castlemaine



TRUSTEES



L to R: Gib Wettenhall, Bill Weatherly, Geoff Park, Trish Kevin, Adam Wettenhall, Peter Howie, John Bate, Jane Halliday, Rebecca Dabbs.

We regretfully farewell Trustee, Trish Kevin, who resigned due to her new work commitments. Trish was a part of the Fellowship Committee, and took over as Fellowship Chair when Digby Race left for northern Australia. Her expertise in community education will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to Rebecca Dabbs who joined the Trustees late last year and heads up our Finance Committee. She and her partner Ed have just had their first baby, Henry. We look forward to Rebecca bringing Henry to Trustee meetings!

SUPPORTER EVENING



In May this year we were fortunate to have Dr Philip Moors, AO as a guest speaker at our Special Supporter Evening. Dr Moors spoke on the role that the world's botanic gardens play in species conservation. We held the event in the Gardens House of the Royal Botanic Gardens. It was a beautiful venue and a totally enjoyable evening. Thank you to everyone who attended. I've been told that people want more of these events, so we will plan for another one next year.

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Above: Dr Philip Moors, immediate past Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Above Right: Goodenia.
Bottom: NWF Trustee, Trish Kevin, chats to supporters Euan Moore and Rob Youl.

SOME GRANTS AWARDED IN 2012/2013

Wetland Care Australia *Bringing owls back onto farms by supplementing natural old growth breeding hollows* \$8,470

This project is attempting to bring owls back to farms, specifically organic macadamia nut farms in the northern rivers area of NSW.

Many owl species are declining, particularly in agricultural areas due to habitat loss and subsequent loss of hollow bearing trees for breeding. Numbers are also declining due to secondary poisoning (birds eating rodents that have been poisoned).

The group will install nest boxes for the owls, and record the results. By increasing owl numbers on farms, it may help landholders reduce the amount of pesticides they use for rodent control. The group will carefully monitor the project and produce some educational materials to encourage landholders to participate.

University of Tasmania *Drought, disease or destiny? Identifying the cause of decline of the eastern quoll* \$5,000

The eastern quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) is extinct on the Australian mainland, with Tasmania as the last remaining refuge. Until recently, the Tasmanian population was considered abundant and secure. However, numbers are declining rapidly. Annual spotlighting surveys reveal statewide population declines of more than 60% over the past 10 years, with live trapping surveys

confirming local declines of 60-100% over the past 20-30 years. Without knowing what is causing these declines, it is currently not possible to design management programs that will mitigate key threats, halt the declines, and allow the species to recover.

PhD Candidate, Bronwyn Fancourt, aims to address this current knowledge gap through detailed monitoring of eastern quoll populations, to answer the following key ecological questions: are eastern quolls still declining; what are the demographic drivers of decline; and what extrinsic and intrinsic factors are associated with the decline?

Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group
Pasture conversion trials \$5,000

The cool, moist, upland rainforest of the Queensland Wet Tropics has been identified as one of the mega-diverse ecosystems at most risk from climate change. Improving forest health and connectivity is one of the ways to mitigate the risk of species decline in this habitat. The grant will help advance the work of this group and their partners in trialing fast methods of returning disused pasture to rainforest, using seed traps to investigate the extent to which rainforest seeds are being brought in by frugivorous birds, and the role of both artificial bird perches and self-sown shrubs in encouraging bird movements.

John Woinarski *The action plan for Australian mammals 2012* \$10,000

The Action Plan for Australian Mammals is modelled on, and complements, The Action Plan for Australian Birds. It will provide for Australian mammals the first comprehensive and definitive published review of the conservation status of all Australian native species and subspecies, detailed accounts for all mammal taxa considered threatened and near-threatened, and a robust baseline from which to measure future conservation gains and losses.

For this project, three scientists with long-standing expertise in Australian mammals (Professor John Woinarski, Dr Andrew Burbidge and Professor Peter Harrison) will compile accounts describing the conservation status and management requirements for all extinct, threatened and near-threatened Australian terrestrial and marine mammal species and subspecies (about 230 taxa); these will be reviewed by all relevant experts; and cases with contested status will be subject to virtual workshopping. Funding will support these experts.

Tablelands National Park Volunteers Association *Citizen science and the yellow-bellied glider* \$5,000

This project is about enabling community members to participate in the mapping of a threatened species. A pilot project running since 2010 has been completed with over 500 hours of volunteer help including conducting surveys, recording critical habitat, and

monitoring glider presence or absence by examining cuts on sap trees.

This grant will employ a field ecologist to analyse the data collected, interpret the field survey results, map the potential glider habitat, provide training and ID kits to volunteers, and continue to engage the community in the project.



Top: Owl box, Wetland Care Australia
Bottom: Eastern quoll, University of Tasmania (photo from Bronwyn Fancourt)

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECTS

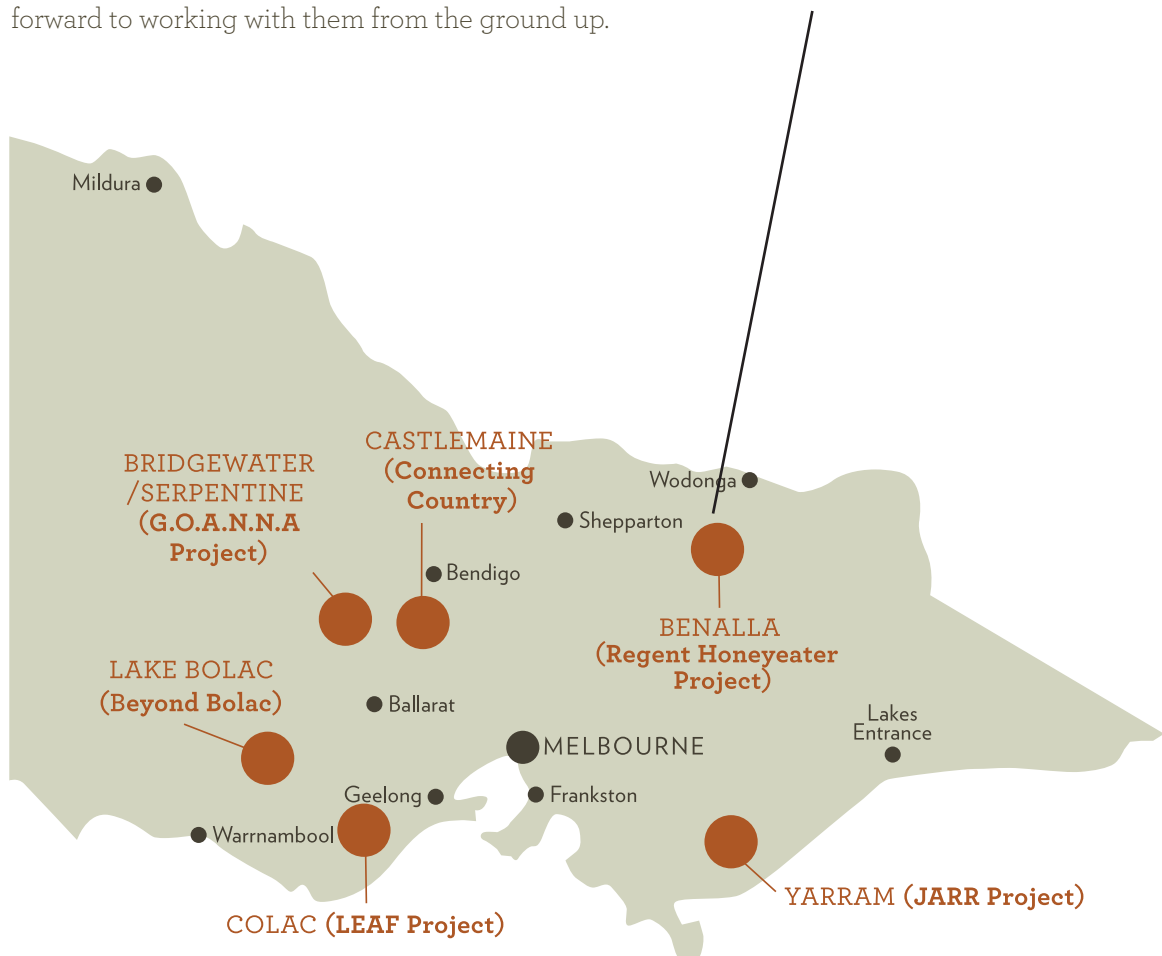
The William Buckland Foundation is a major contributor to our landscape restoration program, supporting the LEAF Project, the GOANNA Project and the JARR Project. We have been working with a consultant to help these groups develop action plans and a portfolio of fully costed projects.

A contribution from a private donor allowed us to use the same consultant to do similar work with the Beyond Bolac Project in the west.

Each of the groups now has a range of small, medium and large projects ready to roll out when the appropriate government funding for on-ground works becomes available. This makes their work highly strategic and adaptive.

A new project has been started with funds from **The Ian Potter Foundation**, who are interested in our approach to supporting community-driven landscape restoration in Victoria. Our program will now have a project in the Wangaratta region, called Swamps, Rivers and Ranges. We look forward to working with them from the ground up.

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LANDSCAPE RESTORATION FELLOWSHIPS

At our Strategic Planning Meeting, we reviewed our current Landscape Restoration Fellowship program. Our very first Fellow, Robyn Edwards, was given three grants totalling \$30,000 over three years. Our next Fellow, Andrew Stewart, is in his third and final year of the Fellowship also having received \$30,000; and our latest Fellow, Donna Mitsch, is in her second year.

We have now remodelled the Fellowship program into the Leadership Development Grants Program. The program will continue to acknowledge leaders in the field of landscape restoration and conservation biology. Grants, however, will generally be for one year, but applicants can apply again for further funding. This will allow us to have several Leaders supported each year.

Anthony Gallacher from the Loddon Plains Landcare Network has received the first Leadership Development Grant for his professional development in the field of landscape restoration, heading up the GOANNA Project (pictured below).



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

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.

We welcome some new donors to the fold this year - **The Ian Potter Foundation** is supporting a new project in the landscape restoration program, and **The Yulgilbar Foundation** is contributing funds for work in the Clarence Catchment in northern NSW.

Particular thanks to the **RE Ross Trust** who are the major supporters of the Small Environmental Grant Scheme. Last year I forgot to mention their extra \$25,000 on top of their regular \$55,000 donation. This was an incentive grant to encourage other funders to join the scheme, taken up by the **Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation**. We are enjoying our partnership with both organisations.

We would like to thank **Brian and Diana Snape** for their generous donation into the Small Environmental Grant Scheme. They also granted alongside the RE Ross Trust for a Birdlife project and we appreciate their generosity and willingness to partner with other funders.

The **Melliodora Fund** (sub-fund with the **Australian Communities Foundation**) is a

regular supporter of our work and again this year they have contributed to two projects in the Small Environmental Grant Scheme. They are most interested in biodiversity and Indigenous issues and we love discussing potential projects with them.

The **Australian Communities Foundation** also brought a workplace giving program to our door, and we found them some environmental projects to support.

Welcome to the **Harris Estate Trust** and **Rose Gilder** who jumped into the mix of partners and supporters. I hope we can interest you in some of our work again next year.

Thanks also to major donors **John Bate**, **Allan Myers** and **Margaret Ross**. Your contributions are extremely important to us, not only financially, but to honour Norman's legacy.

Donald Coventry is our first supporter to start donating monthly by direct debit - thank you Donald, we welcome this arrangement with others supporters.



DONORS

John Bate	5,000
Marian Brookes	200
Carrick Chambers	200
Donald Coventry	200
Elizabeth Cunningham	50
DS and DJ Edwards	200
Brian Fleming	500
Barbara Hamer	100
Julia Hurley	100
Margaret Kelso	150
John Landy	250
Anne Latreille	100
WGD Middleton	200
Brendan Murphy	100
Allan Myers AO QC	3,000
Carol Richardson	100
Margaret Ross AM	2,000
Jennifer Skewes	200
Diana and Brian Snape AM	10,000
Rob Southey	200
Suzy and Andrew Speirs	100
Keith Stockwell	250
Willemspruse	700
Rob Youl	100

Australian Communities Foundation (Melliodora Fund)	8,400
Australian Communities Foundation (Unico workplace giving program)	5,000
RE Ross Trust	55,000
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation	50,000
The William Buckland Foundation	105,700
The Ian Potter Foundation	50,000
Yulgilbar Foundation	35,000
The Harris Estate Trust	10,000
Rose Gilder *grant paid to project in the next financial year	5,000

SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT SCHEME (SEGS)	
University of Tasmania “Drought, disease or destiny? Identifying the cause of decline of the eastern quoll”	5,000
Kangaroo Island Community Education “Cooperation for cetacean conservation”	10,000
John Woinarski “The action plan for Australian mammals 2012”	10,000
Conservation Council SA “Reef watch intertidal monitoring program”	9,300
Ballarat Region Treegrowers “Biorich plantation film production” (supported by the Melliodora Fund, The Australian Communities Foundation)	3,000
Westonia Shire “Shire of Westonia camera trapping”	3,000
Murdoch University “A Survey of the presence of the amphibian chytrid fungus, Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (Bd), in frog populations of the Adelaide bioregion of South Australia”	5,000
Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group “Pasture conversion trials”	5,000
MangroveWatch Ltd “Mangrove click - an app for community conservation networking”	12,640
Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens “Training community volunteers in conservation techniques to save Tasmania’s threatened orchids”	9,500
Tablelands National Park Volunteers Assoc Inc “Citizen science and the yellow-bellied glider”	5,000
Dolphin Research Australia “Looking out for the dolphin mob” (supported by The Harris Estate Trust)	9,000
Jann Gilbert “Shark futures: sustainable management of the NSW whaler shark fishery”	5,000
Australian Wildlife Conservancy “Supporting AWC’s endangered mammal recovery project at Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary” (supported by Unico, sub-group of the Australian Communities Foundation)	2,250
Mammal Survey Group of Victoria “Infra-red cameras for mammal observation” (support as above)	2,250
University of Chicago “Long-term biological monitoring at Brookfield Conservation Park”	4,800
Nature Foundation South Australia “A baseline biodiversity survey of Hiltaba Nature Reserve”	8,200
Dja Dja Wurrung “Dja Dja Wurrung Indigenous landcare group” (supported by the Melliodora Fund)	5,400
J L Baker “Educational booklet on sharks, rays, skates and stingarees of south-eastern Australia” (approved last year but paid this year)	5,000

SEGS - projects supported by the RE ROSS TRUST	
Friends of the Box Ironbark Forest “Moss and fungi community education”	10,271
Upper Campaspe Landcare Network “Data to back up the passion”	4,900
Fungimap “Fungimap VII”	10,000
Merri Stationeers “Extending Merri Creek Indigenous habitat to Epping rail corridor”	3,000
Nature Glenelg Trust “Developing an effective long-term conservation strategy for an endangered iconic species: the Glenelg spiny freshwater crayfish”	10,400
Yarra Ranges Council “App development - native plants of the Yarra Valley”	5,000
BirdLife Australia “Tracking the movements of princess parrots using satellite tags”	5,000
Monash University and the Australia Plant Society “Building community knowledge for sustainability”	9,822
Victorian Indigenous Nursery Cooperative “Urban biodiversity workshops”	1,000
David Low “The on-Line sustainable weeding guide”	5,000
Conservation Ecology Centre “Monitoring wildlife change in declining woodland”	9,170
Dja Dja Wurrung “Dja Dja Wurrung Indigenous landcare group”	5,400
SEGS - projects supported by the VINCENT FAIRFAX FAMILY FOUNDATION	
Wetland Care Australia “Bringing owls back onto farms by supplementing natural old growth breeding hollows”	8,470
Central West Lachlan Landcare “Biodiversity: from sub-surface activity to tall trees, how the little can make a big impact”	6,750
Australian National University “The interacting effects of herbivory and fire on understorey vegetation and its dependent fauna”	5,000
Island Conservation “Biodiversity restoration on Norfolk Island”	5,625
Nature Conservation Council of NSW “Creating bird friendly gardens in bush fire prone areas”	7,710

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GRANTS	
Regent Honeyeater Project	30,000
Fellowship Year 2 Donna Mitsch	10,000
Fellowship Year 3 Andrew Stewart	10,000

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GRANTS - supported by The WILLIAM BUCKLAND FOUNDATION	
Loddon Plains Landcare Network - GOANNA Project	30,000
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network - JARR Project (paid last year)	(30,000)
Consultant expenses paid from operating expenses and totalled \$27,000	

TOTAL GRANTS 2012/13	\$311,858
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FINANCIAL REPORT 2013

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2013

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$340,067
Trade and other receivables	\$77,762
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$417,829

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Financial assets	\$3,510,890
Other assets- office equipment	\$4,559
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$3,515,449

TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,933,278
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CURRENT LIABILITIES

Provision for holiday pay	\$5,851
Trade and other payables	\$148,148
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$153,999

NET ASSETS	\$3,779,279
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ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Capital gifts	\$1,679,343
Capital profits	\$1,064,534
Retained earnings	\$128,963
Reserves on revaluation	\$906,439
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$3,779,279

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Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2013

REVENUE

Donations/gifts received	\$272,578
Income from investments	\$243,740
TOTAL INCOME	\$516,318

EXPENSES

General operating expenses	\$138,627
Expenses associated with landscape restoration projects	\$28,857
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$167,484

NET PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Distributions (grants)	\$311,858
TOTAL NET PROFIT	\$36,976