



THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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.

Joan Wettenhall



Gib with film sponsor, Australian Forest Grower National President David Fiskin



CHAIRPERSON REPORT

We celebrate a major landmark this year in the 20th anniversary of the Regent Honeyeater project. The Foundation has funded this program since our outset in 1997. Its longevity and success as a landholder-driven, community-wide landscape restoration project continues to inspire us. Over the past 20 years, under the leadership of Ray Thomas, the Regent Honeyeater project has added over 1,500ha of habitat in wide corridors across farmland connecting isolated remnants in the Lurg hills, near Benalla, north-east Victoria. The Regent Honeyeater project is the subject of the second of our rural events, in partnership with the Dahl Trust and Regent Honeyeater project members themselves. We'll report on this on our website and in next year's annual report.

It's a wise person who never says never. In 2010, we brought down the curtain on the NWF's Lecture series at the Melbourne Museum. A number of our supporters expressed disappointment with this decision, so we needed little excuse to reintroduce this tradition when launching a film, sponsored by NWF and associated philanthropists. The professionally made 33 minute film looks at community-collaborative landscape restoration on farmland in south-east Australia, and more ambitiously, the integration of biodiversity and food production in restoring the devastated natural forests of Sri Lanka. In all these projects, connecting people across landscapes and restoring the original forest structure act as the cornerstones for achieving landscape restoration success.

This is why the film is titled *Rediscovering the Country*. Some 150 people came to the launch of the film, which was accompanied by a lecture by Ray Thomas, who is featured in the film. In a sign of the times, the film is available as a free internet download via www.rediscoveringthecountry.org

Our thinking is to now annually alternate lectures/supporter events in Melbourne (not necessarily at the Museum) with rural events hosted by a landscape restoration project with which we are associated. We are conscious that the opportunities are decreasing over time for the 85% of people who live in cities to gain insights into the reality of rural life, the environmental issues out there and what can be done. Films, lectures, social media, field trips can fill the void - whatever it takes. Increasingly, we receive requests for funding of phone apps and digital media, as well hard copy field guides, under our community education stream. While the platforms for delivering messages are multiplying, so is the potential for fragmentation: the challenge is to assess what best cuts through to the target audience.

The end of one era has arrived at the Foundation. Norman's wife, my mother and the foundation's matriarch, Joan, died peacefully at the age of 91 years old in June. Warm and witty, her generous, spirited approach to life represent character traits I would hope carry over into the next era.

Gib Wettenhall

Chair, Norman Wettenhall Foundation

Beth undertaking blackberry removal with her local Landcare group

6



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

We had another terrific year of grantmaking and other activities.

Firstly, we would like to acknowledge the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network who nominated us for a State Landcare Award. We took out this award in 2013, enabling us to go on to compete in the National Awards this year. We are delighted to have been given a 'highly commended' in a ceremony at the Exhibition Building in Melbourne as part of the 25 years of Landcare celebrations. We have been supporting the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network and their JARR Project since 2007 and have enjoyed our relationship with them immensely.

We are very proud of the relationships we have made, and the grants we have given, to many Landcare groups and Networks around Australia. Funding is mainly for capacity building, community education, research and monitoring, and planning.

Within our small grants program we are able to see that applicants are becoming very savvy at 'best practice' flora and fauna conservation. Groups are collecting data, and conducting research on particular species and habitat before they begin to plan for action – a much more strategic approach.

We are supporting some very innovative projects that you'll see next year including things like: drones for monitoring wader birds; the development of 3D movement data logger for animal tracking; and an animated series of biodiversity films.

In order to gain a better understanding of what educational resources on the environment to fund, we have just recently supported a pilot study at RMIT. The researchers will look at the contribution of environmental education programs and citizen science to nature conservation – an issue that should be quite important for philanthropists who are funding community projects. I'll hopefully have something to report next year on this matter.

Should anyone like to contribute funds to our small grants program, I am happy to discuss your areas of interest.

I am very interested in the use of crowd source funding for nature conservation and am conducting some research in order to produce a paper for the philanthropic movement. I am doing a couple of things – I have put together a project in conjunction with a group, specifically for this research, and I am working with several projects who are currently crowd source funding. The research will seek to answer some questions in Australia around: who gives to nature conservation; what causes or projects will people most willingly give to; how much will they typically give online; and will philanthropists conduct their grantmaking using these resources? The paper will be available early next year.

Beth Mellick
Executive Director
Norman Wettenhall Foundation

TRUSTEES

Thanks go to the Trustees of the Foundation for their help and support. They have worked very hard at adapting to our new grant scoring system – aimed at making grant making decisions more strategic, and the process more streamlined.

After 18 years, we still have our meetings in the boardroom at the Ian Potter Foundation. We extend a big, warm thank you to them for continuing to accommodate us there, a central point as many of us have to travel in from country areas. It's lovely to keep that connection with the Ian Potter Foundation going.

Unfortunately for us, Trustee John Bate thought it was time he should retire. At 88 years of age, he did a cracking job at using the online application system and iPad. He will be sorely missed, particularly for information and advice on the share market. We thank him for bringing new Trustee, Neil Tonkin to our attention. Neil will be joining our board this year to replace John and help out with our investments.

We also welcome Alastair Macleod, who is providing invaluable help and support to the Finance Committee.

8



Trustee Meeting at the Ian Potter Foundation. Trustees are: Jane Halliday, Rebecca Dabbs, Adam Wettenhall, John Bate, Geoff Park, Gib Wettenhall, Peter Howie, Bill Weatherly

LECTURE AND FILM LAUNCH

In June this year we returned to the Melbourne Museum, after a break of a few years, for a lecture and film launch. We stopped having the annual memorial lectures in 2009 because we wanted to focus our efforts in holding events in rural communities outside of Melbourne - where the majority of our work is done. But the chance to help out the Australian Forest Growers launch their film, *Reconnecting the Country*, was too great to pass up.

We were very lucky to have many of the film's participants available to be at the launch, and to answer questions from those present. Many thanks to Victoria Mack, Kami Melvani, and Geoff Park. And many thanks to Ray Thomas

from the Regent Honeyeater Project as our special guest lecturer for this year.

The film seems to be attracting rave reviews from a whole host of groups and individuals, so good luck to the Ballarat Region Treegrowers with their continuing dissemination of the film.

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the Regent Honeyeater Project, up near Benalla. It is with great pleasure that the Norman Wettenhall Foundation supports the celebrations for this milestone. We are proud to say we have been supporting Ray and this project since 1997, and look forward to the Rural Event 2014 in December.



Guests gather in the foyer at the Museum before attending the Lecture and film launch

SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS AWARDED IN 2013/2014

Fraser Island Defenders Organisation
Scientific study of Fraser Island fens \$4,100

Mandubarra Land and Sea Inc **Looking for dolphins and dugongs in Mandubarra sea country** \$9,700

Mackay Conservation Group **Protect the Eungella Honeyeater** \$6,000

Bunya Bunya Aboriginal Corporation
Mapping water mouse mounds \$9,608

RiverSmart Australia **Macquarie River and wetlands biodiversity trail** \$9,250

Whian Whian Landcare **Monitoring frog populations in upper catchments of Whian Whian, NSW** \$5,000

Australian National University **Leveraging landscapes for biodiversity restoration** \$5,000
Projectbiod QuestaBird \$9,400

Griffith University **Road-barrier effects associated with minor forested roads** \$4,460

The University of Melbourne **Alpine insects of Australia: developing a field guide for Australia's high country insects** \$5,000

University of Ballarat **Assessing native invertebrate return to revegetated sites on Hindmarsh Island** \$3,170

Federation University **Linking riparian zone condition and arthropod food resources for birds and bats in highly modified agricultural landscapes** \$4,908

10

Kerry Jones monitoring and recording water mouse nesting mound,
Bunya Bunya Aboriginal Corporation



RE Ross Trust - flora and fauna conservation in Victoria

Friends of Organ Pipes National Park
Melbourne bat-box research \$8,452

Phillip Island Nature Parks **Phillip Island biodiversity – wild island early childhood education project** \$8,200

Princetown Landcare Group **Princetown Landcare, a voice for the Gelli** \$3,250

BirdLife **Monitoring and conservation reporting for Australian Important Bird Areas** \$5,000

Woody Yaloak Catchment Group
Benchmarking birdlife in the Woody Yaloak catchment \$5,000

Wimmera Groups of Australian Plants
Birds and Plants of the Little Desert – a photographic guide \$7,000

Victorian Landcare Council **Mobilising Landcare’s community leaders for planning and review** \$7,875

Moolort Landcare Group **Mapping Moolort** \$4,500

Macedon Ranges Shire Council **Macedon Ranges nestbox program** \$3,424

The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation - sustainable land management in NSW

The University of Sydney **Foraging theory in practice** \$5,000

Ricegrowers’ Association Environmental Champions Program **Australasian Bitterns’ utilisation of Riverina rice fields as breeding habitat** \$11,000

Holbrook Landcare Network **Biodiversity gateway** \$9,000

Bush Heritage **Naree Station: baseline data of flora and fauna** \$8,945

The Yulgilbar Foundation - flora and fauna conservation around the Clarence River catchment, NSW

Clarence Landcare Inc **Educating the community about the endangered Eastern Fresh Water Cod and its Clarence River habitat** \$11,525

Valley Watch Inc **Coastal Emu conservation in the Clarence catchment** \$10,000

Clarence Valley Conservation in Action
Monitoring the Indian Myna \$9,975

The Harris Estate Trust

Charles Darwin University **Interactions between Brolgas and Sarus Cranes** \$5,000

FEATURED SMALL GRANTS IN THE SMALL ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Friends of the Organ Pipes National Park

Bat box research

This bat-box project builds on long-term monitoring of four field sites in the greater Melbourne region: Organ Pipes National Park, Calder Park; Wilson Reserve, Ivanhoe; Gresswell Nature Conservation Reserve, Bundoora; La Trobe University Wildlife Sanctuary, Bundoora. Funds are being used to continue monitoring the boxes in the program, which incorporates research, data collection, community education, and volunteer participation.

Moolort Landcare Group

Mapping Moolort

The Moolort Plains is an area of prime agricultural land on the Victorian Volcanic Plains in central Victoria. The group is going to work with experts to digitally map 25 years of their on-ground works, as well as to train landholders in how to enter spatial data online. The mapping exercise will provide a record of past conservation works and a basis for planning activities in the future. The project will hopefully engage the majority of their landholders, and raise awareness about landscape connectivity and sustainable land management.

12

Volunteers record bat data as part of the Friends of the Organ Pipes National Park bat box research project



Ricegrowers' Association Environmental Champions Program

Australasian Bitterns' utilisation of Riverina rice fields as breeding habitat

Some research has already been carried out on the Australasian Bittern and its use of rice fields for breeding habitat. Partnerships currently exist between BirdLife, Murray Irrigation and the rice growers group with ecologist Matt Herring being employed to carrying out monitoring. The project to date has engaged both naturalists and farmers as interested parties.

This grant will further extend this valuable work to now look at whether the Australasian Bittern is actually breeding in the rice fields, by monitoring nest sites. Rice farmers will be instrumental in helping to conserve this species by their engagement in the project, and the use of sensitive farming practices.

Charles Darwin University

Interactions between Brolgas and Sarus Cranes

Researcher, Tim Nevard, is pursuing his passion for cranes and working with quite a number of interested parties in this research. He will investigate how Brolgas and Sarus Cranes are interacting in agricultural landscapes in North Queensland, as well as the degree of hybridisation between them.

Information about how these birds interact will be important for future conservation of both species. Tim will work with CSIRO and use solar powered trackers to detect movement and behaviour.

Valley Watch Inc *Coastal Emu conservation in the Clarence Catchment*

The Coastal Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) is listed as an endangered population in the NSW North Coast Bioregion. The Clarence River Catchment is a key area where the coastal emu's habitat has been drastically reduced through increasing agricultural and coastal development, inappropriate fire regimes, feral predation, and highway developments.

The aim of this project is to monitor and collect information on endangered coastal emu populations. Data will be used to develop a monitoring baseline with a focus on: emu hotspots, movement patterns, numbers, habitat preferences, limitations, access issues and threats.

“...allow me to give you some unsolicited feedback on the process you guys use, which I find refreshingly efficient, especially compared with government grant programs. The EoI process is quick and simple and it means you don't waste precious time doing detailed project submissions when you may be barking up the wrong tree! I wish more funding programs would adopt your approach. Thanks for being so mindful of how time-poor organisations like ours are.”

Dr Bill Phillips, CEO

RiverSmart Australia and Macquarie River Trails



The LEAF Project and Connecting Country mark out their project boundaries at this year's workshop

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECTS

We receive landscape restoration donations from some of our supporters including The William Buckland Foundation and The Ian Potter Foundation.

We have just completed Year 2 funding from The William Buckland Foundation. This included community capacity support for three of the projects in our program - the JARR Project in Gippsland, the LEAF Project in the Otways, and the GOANNA Project north of Bendigo. The Year 2 contribution also included funding for a research and monitoring project for each of the three groups. All groups are focussing on birds as indicators of habitat health.

The Ian Potter Foundation contribution has been to support a new project within our current program of community-driven landscape restoration projects.

As we speak, the very new Swamps, Rivers and Ranges project up near Wangaratta are about to publish their Biodiversity Blueprint document. This document offers a snapshot of the current state of the habitat in their area, what on-ground achievements have been made, and what species are in the landscape. It will help the group decide what linkages to make and for what purpose, hopefully making them a strategic investment in the future.

During the year all of the seven projects in the program came together for a landscape restoration workshop in Castlemaine. This enables groups to share information, as well as for us to plan for the future of the program.

Landscape restoration program grants awarded in 2013/2014

Loddon Plains Landcare Network Community capacity building for GOANNA Project	30,000
Loddon Plains Landcare Network Research and monitoring for GOANNA Project	10,000
Swamps Rivers and Ranges Community capacity building	30,000
Otway Agroforestry Network and Upper Barwon Landcare Network Community capacity building for LEAF project	30,000
Otway Agroforestry Network and Upper Barwon Landcare Network research and monitoring for LEAF project	10,000
Connecting Country Website and on-line resources	12,000
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network Community capacity building for JARR Project	30,000
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network research and monitoring for JARR Project	10,000
Anthony Gallacher Leadership Development Grant	5,000
Naomi Edwards Leadership Development Grant	5,000



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Grant Recipient, Naomi Edwards reports

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation Leadership Development Grant has already transformed my ability to act as a leader for coastal sustainability.

It meant I could attend Australia's Coastal Council Conference, gain tuition to attend the Landmark Forum, act as a 'young' leader at the Coast to Coast Conference, and most significantly and life-changing, study Leadership for Sustainability at the United Nations University in Tokyo.

I presented a paper on a research concept called 'Beach Happiness' at the Australian Coastal Conference. The positive responses received have led to undertaking an Honours Degree at Griffith University to develop the concept further. I was awarded a highly commended award on behalf of the younger Australia Coastal Society for innovative ways to engage young professionals in coastal management.

I attended the Landmark Forum to access new knowledge about ways of thinking, seeing and acting, and more importantly, develop possibilities for implementing what I believe in - healthy beaches and happy communities. One possibility I am exploring is to launch the beach happiness concept on World Happiness Day in March 2015 - happybeaches.org

Leadership for Sustainability involved attending the United Nations University for two weeks in October. I had to participate in

workshops, present assignments and prepare a leadership development plan. A series of lectures were delivered by world leaders in leadership, sustainability, negotiation, research, business ethics and climate change. I developed relationships with 16 other leaders, who represented 14 countries.

Due to my passion for coastal management I was granted a golden hat to wear (literally) throughout the 'Coast to Coast' conference, which was held in Mandurah during the last week of October. I provided reflections throughout, co-MCed the dinner and was part of a plenary panel discussion sharing our thoughts and ideas. This was extremely empowering as it provided the opportunity to connect with international, national and community delegates to imagine and discuss action-based solutions for coastal issues.

More significantly, due to my attendance at the various conferences, I feel empowered and skilled to act on my passion to enhance the health and resilience of Australia's coast. One final example: launching, for instance, a think tank to develop the beach happiness concept - called Happy Beaches.

Two Leadership Development Grants are available each year. Guidelines are on the website. Donors to support this program are very welcome.



18

“We like the work of the Norman Wettenhall Foundation because they support local groups who seek help to tackle local and regional environmental projects.” Brian and Diana Snape, donors.



DONORS, 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.

Our major donors into the Small Environment Grants Program are:

The RE Ross Trust	55,000
The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation	50,000
The Yulgilbar Foundation	35,000
The Harris Estate Trust	15,000

Our major donors into the Landscape Restoration Program:

The William Buckland Foundation	137,000
The Ian Potter Foundation	50,000

These donations relate to income that was received at some point during the 2013/2014 financial year, but the total amounts don't equal the donations made during the financial year, as per the financial statements.

Donations from our supporters 1st July 2013 - 30 June 2014

Brian Snape	10,000
John Bate	5,000
Anonymous	3,000
Margaret Ross	3,000
Susan and Lynton Morgan	2,000
The Williams Fund	2,000
Lesley Griffin	1,000
Willemspruse Pty Ltd	700
Lady Southey	500
Martin Wettenhall	400
Donald Coventry	310
Keith Stockwell	300
James Warren	300
Colin Agar	250
Bill Middleton	250
Professor Carrick Chambers	200
Jean and David Edwards	200
John Langmore	200
Beatrice MacDonald	155
Margaret Kelso	150
Cowie Beach, Anne Latreille, Carol Richardson, Suzy and Andrew Speirs, Wendy Kennon	100
donations under \$100:	
Julia Hurley, Barbara Hamer	



Sugar gliders in nest box. Photo: Eileen Collins, Friends of Chiltern Forest, part of the Swamps, Rivers and Ranges Project

FINANCIAL REPORT 2014

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2014

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$426,396
Trade and other receivables	\$96,502
Investments	\$3,786,253
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$4,309,151

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Other assets- office equipment	\$2,659
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	\$2,659

TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,311,810
---------------------	--------------------

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Provisions	\$191,976
Trade and other payables	\$7,031
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$199,007

NET ASSETS	\$4,112,803
-------------------	--------------------

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Capital gifts	\$1,679,343
Capital profits	\$1,064,534
Retained profits	\$176,921
Asset revaluation reserve	\$1,192,005
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$4,112,803

21

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2014

REVENUE

Income - donations	\$339,367
Income - investments	\$245,397
Income - interest	\$23,649
Other income	\$(-2,868)
TOTAL INCOME	\$605,545

EXPENSES

General operating expenses	\$143,101
Expenses associated with landscape restoration projects	\$26,688
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$169,789

NET PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Distributions (grants)	\$387,798
TOTAL NET PROFIT	\$47,958

THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION
PO BOX 669
CASTLEMAINE VIC 3450
03 5472 1316
0431 219 980
beth@nwf.org.au
www.nwf.org.au

Front cover photo: the sweet smell of chocolate lilies

Printed on recycled paper using non toxic inks and solar power in
production - preserving our forests, water and climate by
www.blackrainbow.com.au