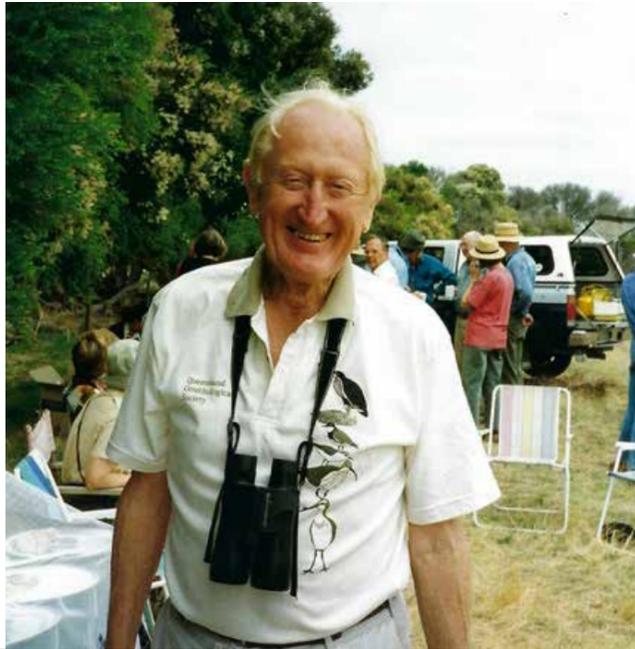




WETTENHALL ENVIRONMENT TRUST  
TWENTY-NINTH **ANNUAL REPORT** — 2025



## WETTENHALL ENVIRONMENT TRUST

An environment organisation and perpetual charitable trust, the Wettenhall Environment Trust's objective is to support projects that enhance or maintain the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment.

In November 2000, 25 years ago, Norman Wettenhall died. This year, we open our Annual Report with family reflections from his funeral, which captured his lifelong love for the Australian landscape and his deep connection to its birds and plants.

These reflections drew upon bird metaphors to portray Norman's character. He was an eagle — far-sighted, wide-ranging and visionary — seeing opportunities others might miss. Joan, his wife, preferred to think of him as a bright and sociable parrot, compassionate and generous rather than predatory. Others saw in him the bowerbird, a meticulous collector of art, books, and used stamps for the Red Cross; the owl, wise, always seeking knowledge; and the willie wagtail, energetic, curious and constantly engaged.

Norman's influence reached far beyond his personal passions. He played a major role in shaping many of Melbourne's key cultural and environmental institutions. He served on the inaugural Council of the Australian Conservation Foundation and chaired the Victorian Conservation Trust (now Trust for Nature) through its early years. He was founding chairman of Heide Park and Art Gallery, helping transform it into a leading space for Australian modern art. He was also a founding member and deputy president of the Museum of Victoria and spent two decades with the National Trust of Victoria, where he served as vice-president and chaired its Landscape Preservation Council.

For over half a century, Norman was devoted to ornithology and conservation.

Following his naval service in 1945, he joined the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union. In 1997, he sold his remarkable natural history library to establish the Norman Wettenhall Foundation — now the Wettenhall Environment Trust — dedicated to the protection of birds and their habitats.

A quarter century later, we again acknowledge Norman for shaping a collaborative, enduring approach to environmental care. His legacy lives on through the many successful projects the Trust continues to fund, sustained by wise investment and generous donations.



## CHAIRPERSON REPORT



Nwani, the African Fish Eagle (Photo: Jane Halliday)

*“The lesson of the wise fish eagle, Nwani, was learned by all: the key to survival in a world with limited resources is to cherish and conserve them each day”*

This quote is from a story I read while in the Chobe National Park area of Botswana. It was heartening to be in this beautiful environment, so carefully and proudly managed, across all 11,700 square kilometres.

As I travelled along dusty, corrugated roads for hours on end, traversing Namibia and the tip of Botswana, I often thought about what

we have in Australia with our remarkable wilderness areas and wildlife.

Although they are different in many ways, and we don't have the 'big five' animals to find and photograph, we have our linked Gondwanan ancient history, and an equally spectacular, unique environment.

Thank goodness we have organisations like the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), which alone protects over 64,000 square kilometres. We support AWC on a small scale by funding an intern each year.

We also support many other organisations and people to manage, monitor, protect and/or restore our Australian landscapes, and their flora and fauna — not just for the sake of people wanting to experience our natural wonders, but for the sake of the planet, maintaining biodiversity, essential to survival and evolution.

In this annual report there are summaries of our granting activities compiled for our strategic planning meeting by Beth Mellick, our indomitable Executive Director.

We are consistently pleased with the variety, source, quality and outcomes of projects that we so carefully consider and choose to fund.

Unfortunately, we can only fund less than half of the applications we receive but are now increasing the amount distributed, in line with our strategic planning.

A selection of Small Environmental Grants is included on pages 10-15.

We believe this is a very important part of our Annual Report as it provides details about our grant recipients.

These are examples of some of the many that have scored very high in their final report assessment. This assessment is undertaken by the Trustees, often several years after the original application, when the project has been completed.

We have funded many other projects including guidebooks; trail signs with QR codes; websites and associated databases; eDNA testing and other associated laboratory costs; administration on projects such as postage for a PhD student to contact research participants; equipment like sound recorders, image capture devices, various testing kits; travel, food and accommodation costs, especially related to academic research; costs associated with surveys, training or workshops (usually wages) and wages for project managers and for ecologists and specialists.

As noted on the page about the Trustees, for the 3rd time we have welcomed Professor Digby Race back to the Board. With his ongoing commitment to WET, we once again look forward to his contributions.

Another welcome is to Dr Roland (Roly) Wettenhall in the role of Acting Chair of the Finance committee, benefiting from his expertise as an accountant.

In this annual report Roly has provided a summary of our finances and provided data on our Net Assets and Grant Distributions since June 2023.

Thankfully, we have been in a strong financial position and able to increase the amount of money distributed to grant applicants, this being our fundamental goal in terms of running this Trust.

We thank Accru again for their time and expertise in making good decisions about our investment portfolio.

We also want to acknowledge Susan Morgan, our first Nature Ambassador. She responded to our initiative to establish this program and in this report has written the backstory leading up to her generous donation, encompassing her history with the family and her love of nature.

We plan to encourage existing and new donors to match

an amount from the Nature Ambassador program in the next financial year, knowing that the more we receive, the more we can give.

Thank you to the Trustees for their hard work assessing grant applications, contributing to strategic planning and participating in our events.

Their concern for and knowledge of our environment, and their altruism, ensure that WET is in good hands, especially with Beth beside and often in front to direct them.

It is now 25 years since Norman Wettenhall died and I would like to end my report

by citing some words written about him for his funeral by his eldest son, Gib, a Trustee and long-time Chairperson of WET.

He described him as “an eagle, far-sighted, wide-ranging and omniscient, a giant among his peers.” He imagined him “soaring way above, his eyes ranging the horizon, seizing opportunities which most of us, earthbound, can only partly see.”

A more detailed account of how his family remembered him is in the special introduction to this Annual Report.

**Professor Jane Halliday, AM  
Chair**



Australian White-bellied Sea Eagle (Photo: Geoff Park)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meet and make decisions about awarding grants, they review grantee final reports, they make decisions about our investments, and stay abreast of news in the sector. The team goes away every year for strategic planning and a field trip. Many thanks to our committed and knowledgeable Trustees, who spend a considerable amount of time assessing and scoring applications and final reports.

Each Trustee brings with them skills and knowledge in particular areas. If you would like to read more about their expertise, you can visit <https://wettenhall.org.au/about/the-team/>

This year we welcome back Professor Digby Race. Digby was a board member from 2008-2012, resigning when he moved to Alice Springs. He re-joined the board from 2018-2021 before moving to Fiji. Now he's back in Australia and back on the board with even more knowledge and experience than before, and we are very lucky to have him.



Photos: left to right are Jane Halliday (Chair), Gib Wettenhall, Geoff Park, Adam Wettenhall, Libby Rumpff, Trudy Wyse, Cecilia Myers and Digby Race

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Thanks to our trustees and supporters who came to our event at the Wollert Community Farm. We went there to see the results of a small grant we gave the farm for a native seed production area, *Nugal Biik Seeds*. They have an impressive native nursery set-up on reclaimed Yarra Valley Water land. They are running a social enterprise with funding from government, and our small funds were able to fill a gap in their project.

We will continue to have small supporter events. Keep an eye out for the next one in May 2026 where we will have a close look at fungi, fungi projects, and eDNA lab work. We will meet at the Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne. Again, we will feature some of the grants we have provided. Date to be confirmed.

At the end of the financial year and our 2024/2025 grantmaking, the board of trustees met for strategic planning. I provided them data on the last two years of grantmaking, as well as grants made over the last ten years. We noted that the average small environmental grant has risen from around \$7,000 to around \$10,000.

The board agreed to maintain our current giving, and to continue with our large grant giving - one large grant a year to complement the range of smaller biodiversity grants.

We looked at who we were funding, noting that the most money has gone to large NGOs and peak bodies in the environment space, but that the most number of grants have gone to Friends of, and grassroots environment and community groups.

At this strategic meeting we also looked at the best projects funded over the last few years, to see whether our grantmaking is on track. The trustees are responsible



for assessing the final reports of grantees. They use assessment criteria and each report is given a score. If a project receives a good score then the organisation is invited to apply for another project. You will see in our review of the small grants that many of the organisations have received grants from us before.

I'm sure you'll find our grantmaking rather interesting; projects that are sometimes innovative, and mostly projects that are striving to protect native species through on-ground action.

**Beth Mellick**  
Executive Director

## GRANT MAKING ACTIVITIES 2024/2025

Wettenhall Environment Trust has three grants programs - the Small Environmental Grant Scheme (SEGS), the landscape restoration program, and the Leadership Development Grants program.

After grants are awarded, they are recorded in a database, and coded by the 'issue' and the 'category' so we can keep a track of what kinds of things we are supporting. Some grants, of course, can cover more than one issue, or more than one category, but they have been coded as best represents the outcomes of the grant.

TOTAL GRANTS for 2024/2025 = 32

TOTAL AMOUNT for 2024/2025 = \$368,113

### ISSUES



Fauna \$196,082  
(53%)



Flora \$55,414  
(15%)



Flora & Fauna \$30,112  
(8%)



Landscape restoration \$61,719  
(17%)



Marine \$24,786  
(7%)

### CATEGORIES



Research & Science \$283,984  
(77%)



Community capacity \$61,992  
(17%)



Community education \$22,137  
(6%)

## SUPPORT FOR LEADERS IN CONSERVATION

WELA (Women's Environmental Leadership Australia)  
Wettenhall Environment Trust Scholarship

WELA is a national leadership program for women working or volunteering in the environment sector. The training they receive gives participants skills, knowledge and confidence to lead environmental projects.

WET has set up a WELA scholarship. We want to support women who are working in the field of nature conservation. If applicants, or the organisation they work for, don't have the capacity to pay for their participation in the program, we can help them with our scholarship.

This year we supported Kay Wertz from the Conservation Ecology Centre in the Otways. This scholarship ties in with a small grant we also gave for Kay to run a marine project (see featured grants).

<https://wela.org.au/programs/wela-national-program/scholarships/>



Photo: WELA recipient, Kay Wertz

Wettenhall Environment Trust  
Leadership Development Grant Program

This grants program supports people playing a key role in conservation projects.

Grants are awarded to individuals for professional development in their field, particularly those involved in grassroots landscape restoration or other nature conservation projects.

Grants are used for professional development - training, courses, equipment.

This year the grant went to Diana Robledo Ruiz, a researcher at Monash University. Diana used the grant to attend Homeward Bound - a program aimed at supporting women in STEMM become leaders in their field.

<https://homewardboundprojects.com.au>

<https://wettenhall.org.au/leadership-development-grants/>



Photo: LDG recipient, Diana Robledo Ruiz

## GRANTS AWARDED 2024/2025

### Small Environment Grant Scheme (SEGS)

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	
Arid Recovery	Spotting Quolls: AI-powered population estimation for conservation	\$5,000
University of Western Australia	Frogs on fire: Rapid assessment of wildfire impacts on an endangered peatland endemic to inform prescribed burn practices	\$4,962
Mycommunity - Applied Mycology and Learning Lab Inc.	Response of soil fungi to a severe storm damage event in Wombat State Forest	\$10,027
Wombat Forestcare	Faunal research project	\$4,867
Little White Whale Project	Drone insights: Tracking Southern Right Whale habitats on Australia's south coast	\$9,140
Nature Glenelg Trust	Preventing extinction of the Endangered Yarra Pygmy Perch in the Limestone Coast	\$30,000
Macquarie University	Is increasing urbanisation and climate change causing the Powerful Owl, an apex predator, to change its diet and its behaviour?	\$2,000
University of New South Wales	Revealing the relatedness and provenance of the captive Little Penguin population in Australia	\$5,000
South Gippsland Landcare Network	Biodiversity hotspots and actions along the Great Southern Rail Trail	\$12,650
Conservation Ecology Centre	Establishing ecological baselines for vulnerable marine ecosystems along the iconic Otways Coast	\$13,873
Fungi4Land	Fungi for Land guide	\$15,350
Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld	Building a baseline: Echnida conservation through community engagement	\$9,292
Mooloola River Landcare	Returning to nature: transforming a mining site into a biodiversity rich community space	\$12,500
Explore the Mallee	Lidar monitoring of Malleefowl across varied land tenures	\$28,900
Newlands Arms Landcare	Community appreciation	\$6,787
University of NSW	Enhancing <i>Posidonia australis</i> restoration in NSW: understanding reproduction strategies and flowering events	\$5,000
Save Parsley Bay	Marine biodiversity of southern Sydney harbour	\$4,640

Heartsapes	Melbourne pollinator corridor: community training sessions	\$18,250
Nature Foundation SA Inc.	Heatwave refugia for native birds	\$12,500
Friends of Burra Park	Plains Wanderer searches	\$5,000
Friends of the Grey-crowned Babbler	A 30-year re-assessment of population trends for the threatened Grey-crowned Babbler	\$14,300
University of Melbourne	Using experimental burns to examine the effect of fire on Greater Bilbies within a predator-exclusion fenced reserve in the semi-arid mallee	\$5,000
Science for Wildlife	Building knowledge and capacity for recovery of critical weight range mammals in Wollemi/ Hawkesbury after fire	\$14,400
Ginninderra Catchment Group	Turtlewatch ACT	\$8,000
Avon Plains Banyena Landcare Group	Measuring abundance, distribution and reproductive status of Striped Legless Lizards at Creswick's Swamp Wildlife Reserve	\$13,133
West Hume Landcare	Burrumbuttock Squirrel Glider Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) nestbox maintenance 2025	\$9,950
Taronga Conservation Society Australia	Deterring arboreal mammalian predators at nesting threatened bird sites.	\$14,600

### Leadership Development Grants

Kay Weltz	WELA	\$6,273
Diana Robledo Ruiz	WET	\$5,000

### Landscape Restoration Grants

Beyond Bolac	Keep it in the paddock: protecting wetlands in a cropping landscpae	\$29,250
Wetland Revival	Employment of a First Nations Field Officer	\$30,000
Landscape restoration program related expenses		\$2,469

### TOTAL GRANTS 2024/2025

\$368,113

DONOR contributions: Biophilia Foundation, Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group (Geoff Armstrong Bequest), and Wettenhall Environment Trust donors, see Donor Page for full list of donations.

## SMALL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

### Arid Recovery

#### “Spotting Quolls: AI-powered population estimation for conservation”

Arid Recovery is a not-for-profit organisation that manages a feral predator-proof fenced reserve of 123km<sup>2</sup> in South Australia. The Arid Recovery Reserve is a safe haven for various reintroduced native species.

In this innovative project the group will develop and implement an AI-powered identification system, to better identify individual quolls and more accurately estimate populations.

Quolls have distinctive spot patterns that can be photographed and assessed. After capture and micro-chipping, quolls on the reserve are released into a pen where their image is captured by a remote motion-triggered camera system. Using these camera trap images, AI programmers will build a system for more accurate spot identification. This program can then be used by other land managers when monitoring quoll populations.

This is the second grant to Arid Recovery, as we were pleased with the results of a previous project on the reintroduction of Western Quolls.

With just a very small grant, we can help Arid Recovery, paying for associated costs of bringing this project to light, and it has been supported with funds donated from the Biophilia Foundation.



### Mycommunity Applied Mycology “Response of soil fungi to a severe damage event in Wombat State Forest”

This is the second project we have supported for this interesting group. The study will investigate storm damage and tree loss on soil fungi, and will be carried out in the Wombat State Forest in Victoria.

Fungi plays essential roles in forest ecosystems including as decomposers, plant partners and pathogens of plants and animals. Following a storm, the removal of trees affects decomposition. Understanding how fungi communities are affected will also indicate possible impacts on other organisms.

Volunteers and avid fungi citizen scientists have collected soil samples at 12 study sites, generating a baseline of fungi present in the Wombat Forest. Sequencing will look at differences in soil fungal communities, and different responses to storm damage. In the long term they will know which fungi is most vulnerable to disturbance. Understanding this could lead to better ways to manage forests.



Photo: Field work in the Wombat (Emily McIntyre)

### Wombat Forestcare “Wombat Forest research project”

Also in the Wombat State Forest - Wombat Forestcare is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural ecosystems of the Wombat Forest and surrounding areas. The Wombat Forest is located between Woodend and Daylesford, 50km to the west of Melbourne.

The group has been undertaking survey work at over 30 sites. Community members have been engaging in tracking, spotlighting, collecting and recording data, and contributing information to state and national databases.

The main aim of their efforts is to promote conservation of flora and fauna in this Victorian forest, where forestry operations have recently been removed.

This small grant was used to replace some of their cameras that they use for monitoring fauna. This will allow them to continue long term monitoring and collecting longer term data.



Photo: monitoring with wildlife cameras

## SMALL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

### Conservation Ecology Centre

“Establishing ecological baselines for vulnerable marine ecosystems among the iconic Otways coast”

Wettenhall has supported the CEC for many years and this is the fifth grant we've made, but the first for their work with marine conservation.

This pilot study aims to assess the health of intertidal and subtidal zones along the Otways coast, focusing on high-visitor areas that are not currently monitored.

The immediate aims are to establish a baseline of ecological data, to identify threats, integrate local and Indigenous Knowledge, and to engage and collaborate with others working in the area. Data will be collected through year-round surveys. The long term aim is to improve the health and resilience of marine ecosystems along the Otway coast.

Lead ecologist, Kay Welz is also the recipient of the WELA scholarship.



Photo: Marine monitoring (CEC)

### Nature Foundation SA

“Heatwave refugia for native birds”

This is the fourth project we have funded for this group, on the Witchelina Nature Reserve in far-north South Australia.

We know that most bird species suffer during heatwaves in arid zones. With heatwaves being predicted to increase, birds will be trying to find somewhere to shelter. During a heatwave in 2019 over 1000 small birds sheltered at a motel in Roxby Downs.

With this project, the group will look at the importance of rocky habitats as heatwave refugia for native birds. They will examine the possibility of creating artificial thermal refuges at Witchelina.

Results of this work can provide critical information on future conservation management at Witchelina, but also more widely inform others on the importance of artificial rocky refuges.



Photo: Pink cockatoo using artificial watering station

### Heartscapes

“Melbourne pollinator corridor — community training”

This is an urban biodiversity conservation project. The group aims to increase native bee and butterfly species and overall insect diversity by re-introducing Indigenous plants to areas of Melbourne that have little planting, especially understorey. They aim to create an 8km wildlife corridor.

In an effort to connect city dwellers to the land, Heartscapes help the community with regenerating degraded land and nature strips. They want to increase participation and create 200 patches of the Melbourne Pollinator Corridor.

Wettenhall funds are being used to support wages to give the group the capacity to continue to engage with the community.



Photo: Volunteer planting

### Save Parsley Bay

“Marine biodiversity of Southern Sydney Harbour”

This group of community citizen scientists have been monitoring Parsley Bay in the southern part of the Sydney Harbour for two years. Funds have been sought to complete the 3rd year of surveys and complete a decent baseline dataset.

The project aims to fill a biological knowledge gap at the historical and recreational site of Parsley Bay via underwater photographs, and eDNA seawater sampling. The Southern part of the bay does not receive as much attention as the northern part. Photographs are added to the iNaturalist platform. Wettenhall is pleased to support the cost of sequencing the eDNA aquatic monitoring minikits.



Photo: Wilderlab testing (Nicole McMahon, SPB)

## SMALL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

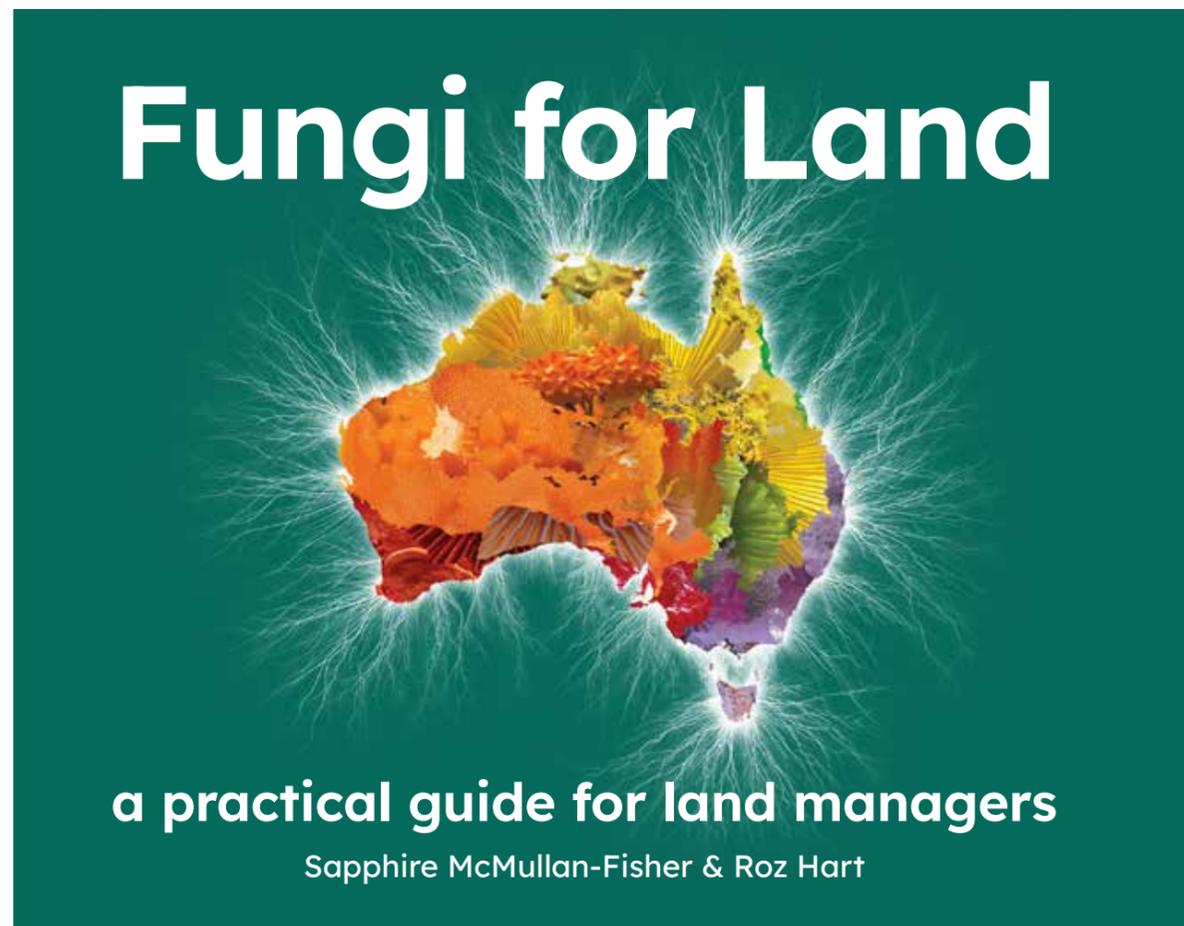
Fungi4Land

“Fungi for Land Guide restoration”

Without fungi, healthy ecosystems cannot be maintained. According to the authors of this guide, this incredibly diverse and interwoven kingdom is rarely included in conservation planning, land management, climate change mediation, species protection etc.

Fungi for Land will contain full colour, easy-to-use illustrations and key points to build the capacity of land managers, conservationists, farmers, foresters, gardeners and many others. The aim is to incorporate fungi in their operations when carrying out land management or biodiversity conservation.

Other philanthropic organisations have contributed to this guide, and I can't wait to get my copy. There will be a link on the Wettenhall website so you can find out where you can purchase a copy.



## LARGE ENVIRONMENT GRANT

Nature Glenelg Trust

“Preventing extinction of the endangered Yarra Pygmy Perch in the Limestone Coast”

The Yarra Pygmy Perch (YPP) is in decline and there's a risk of extinction in SE South Australia. One of the reasons for the decline is the availability of suitable freshwater habitat.

One of Nature Glenelg Trust's properties in SA called Mt Burr Swamp has been identified as a suitable refuge site. It is an area where the biological risks can be managed by the group. Protected sites like this are crucial in helping to build populations of threatened species.

The Yarra Pygmy Perch will be bred in captivity and released into Mt Burr Swamp to supplement wild populations. They are hoping to build the population to 500 after two years, and 2,000 by the end of five years. Once a robust population has been established, it can be used to support other re-introduction programs.

Photo: Graduate ecologist, Lauren Cresey, carrying out survey (Melissa Herpich)



## MALLEEFOWL GRANTS

Wettenhall Environment Trust is working with the Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group (VMRG) to distribute the Geoff Armstrong Bequest. Grants are available for projects that will make a positive difference to malleefowl conservation and preservation in Victoria or to promote the enhancement of the natural environment for Malleefowl in Victoria.

Applications for projects in other states will be considered but Victoria must benefit in some way. In accordance with the policies and aims of the VMRG this may include research projects or activities that include on-ground monitoring, raising awareness of Malleefowl issues or undertaking field research.

It may also include research and/or education into known or emerging Malleefowl threats (both human and natural) such as predators, competition, land management or climatic impacts on Malleefowl numbers or breeding activities.

The citizen science model of science, research and education is strongly supported by the VMRG as is community education and training that leads to Malleefowl conservation and preservation.

If you know anyone who is eager to work on Malleefowl conservation, please get them to get in touch with Wettenhall.

## Explore the Mallee

### “Lidar monitoring of Malleefowl across varied land tenures”

Malleefowl are very important to the local community in the Mallee (north west Victoria), and this project will hopefully engage the community and further harness their affection for this iconic species.

Explore the Mallee have identified four key sites across different land tenures that indicate Malleefowl presence. They will send up a fixed-wing aircraft to carry out Lidar surveys to detect Malleefowl mounds. Aircraft is needed in this instance because the area covered is so large. Aircraft will be more accurate than drone monitoring.

The exciting part of the project will be ground-truthing the surveys and finding the mounds where possible Malleefowl activity is occurring. On-going monitoring will then be set up with various groups, and possibly involve the VMRG.

If you would like to volunteer with the VMRG and help with their survey work, please get in touch as all citizen scientists are appreciated.



## LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GRANTS 2024/2025

Outside of the Small Environmental Grants Scheme is our Landscape Restoration Program. We work over a long period to support groups who are meeting certain criteria in the program.

Organisation	Grant Awarded	Amount
Beyond Bolac	Keep it in the paddock	\$29,250
Wetland Revival	First Nations field officer	\$30,000

### Beyond Bolac “Keep it in the paddock”

The Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group began in 2007 and since that time has been working to improve the health of the catchment in the west of Victoria, particularly in the farming areas around Lake Bolac.

We have helped to fund facilitators over the years, as well as some small conservation projects, to help the group link with farmers and roll out restoration programs, often involving wetlands.

The Keep it in the Paddock project is working with farmers to protect wetlands on their properties.

Nutrient levels in cropping paddocks will be compared to adjacent wetlands. Wetlands will be assessed - using water and soil sampling, waterbird and frog surveys, and vegetation assessments.

The ultimate outcome may result in different land management; eg establishment of vegetation buffer zones around wetlands, or nutrient management in cropping landscapes.

### Wetland Revival Trust “First Nations Field Officer”

Wettenhall has been supporting the development of this new, and very successful group, being driven by experienced wetland ecologist Damien Cook.

We provided initial funding to the group so they could develop a Blueprint for Action. Since developing this plan, Wetland Revival has secured over \$1.5 million in state and federal environment grants for conserving wetlands. The projects involve improving the connectivity and ecological condition of over 110 hectares of wetlands in northern Victoria (above Kerang and Cohuna).

This latest grant is for the employment and training of a young Barapa Barapa/Yorta Yorta man as a First Nations Field Officer and ranger to work at the Wirra-Lo Wetlands Conservation Reserve, as well as other projects. The Reserve was purchased with assistance from philanthropy and the government in 2023. Wirra-Lo Wetlands supports threatened flora and fauna including the Growling Grass Frog, Sloan’s Froglet, Australasian Bittern and Stiff Groundsel.

WET Executive Director has been to the Reserve a couple of times, attending events like field days and Bio-Blitzes. It is a project worth supporting as the conservation values are considerable. If you would like to work with us, and help fund their workers, please reach out.

Photo: Trudging through the Wirra-Lo Wetlands doing bird surveys



## DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Wettenhall Environment Trust is a charitable trust with tax deductible status. Donations that extend the Trust's ability to augment the wellbeing of the Australian natural living environment are gratefully received.

"My association with the Wettenhall family goes back to my grandparents who lived close by in Washington Street and since then the men in the families have been associated in many different activities. Norman and Joan came to our wedding and my husband Lynton and I always enjoyed seeing them from time to time.

Norman and my father Henry Somerset were interested in the natural world. Both were long time members of the RAOU and avid bird watchers, which included monitoring the Peregrine falcon nest in the cliffs above the Anglesea beach. With all the devastating storms this winter that section of cliff completely collapsed quite recently. Such sad news, with the current resident falcons having to find a new and hopefully safer areas to nest.

Most of my childhood was spent in NW Tasmania after the APPM mill opened in Burnie. On many weekends we went on family day trips just 'exploring' - the bush, the beach, or wherever there

was something of interest to look at or collect - shells, minerals, fossils etc. During WW2 this involved towing the gas-producer behind us, often a challenge on the unsealed roads especially in the bush! My father had a wonderful collection of minerals and shells, my mother was the botanist and they both became enthusiastic members of the Burnie Field Naturalists.

Over the years I came to appreciate the diversity in nature then later on the importance of conservation in maintaining the health of our environment and ultimately our own health and wellbeing. When our children were young we bought a property south of Keith in SA. It was mostly uncleared and when we discovered a malleefowl mound we fenced off an area of scrub which we marked on the title before we sold, and which I hope has survived untouched.

I have always had a special love of trees which began when I planted an acorn in a pot when my sister was born in 1937. This tiny tree has

grown into a very large oak which I have visited in our old garden in Burnie, and also one of its offspring planted when my daughter was born - it's growing at the APPM hardboard plant at Wesley Vale.

Over time we planted so many trees, in several gardens when we were farming, for windbreaks and shelter, while always trying to maintain the diversity of the endemic species where possible."

**Susan Morgan**  
Wettenhall Environment Trust  
Nature Ambassador

## DONORS 2024/2025

DONORS A-Z up to \$250
Anonymous
Anna Carrucan
Peter and Christine Forster
Ian Fraser
Ann Gillespie
Julia Hurley
Christopher Lamb
Elizabeth Loughnan
Jennifer Skewes
Rob Southey
Suzie Speirs
Ray Thomas
Peter and Rosemary Turner
Rob Youl

DONORS A-Z up to \$500
Susan Duras
Rachel Faggetter
Louise Gourlay
Margaret Kelso
Valerie Lang
Philip Moors
Jenny Rowland and Euan Moore
Keith Stockwell
Wood Park Wines

DONORS A-Z up to \$1,500
Margaret Chambers
Peter Cope
Ruth McKenzie
Cecilia Myers
Michele Velik and Derek Lord
Peter Wettenhall
Martin Wettenhall

DONORS A-Z up to \$2,500
Joanna Baevski
Myer Foundation
Michael Martin

DONORS A-Z up to \$5,000
Lesley Griffin
Lady Marigold Southey
Lindsay Adams

DONORS A-Z up to \$10,000
Vera Moore Foundation
David Wettenhall
Williams Fund (sub-fund of the Australian Community Foundation)

NATURE AMBASSADOR \$50,000
Susan Morgan

## FINANCE CHAIR REPORT

The financial year to 30 June 2025 has been one of consolidation and achievement. The Trustees, supported by the finance committee, have continued the primary focus of growing the corpus of the Trust at the same time as increasing grants. The ability to continually increase grants and distributions to the many worthy applicants in the conservation space relies on the growth in the corpus of the Trust. In financial terms this means growth of net assets in the annual balance sheet.

It is wonderful to reflect on the growth in net assets over the recent years, remembering that the Trust commenced in 1997 with the Founder's gift of \$1,000,000. By 30 June 2022, this amount had grown to \$4,263,520 due to the ongoing generosity of donors and the professional skills of the investment advisors.

In respect of the Trust's three programs - Small Environmental Grants, Land Restoration, and Leadership Development - they have continued to be the focus of attention. Reviewing these two important financial matters, the results in recent years have been:

	Net assets	Grant distributions
30 June 2023	\$4,457,559	\$261,429
30 June 2024	\$4,696,021	\$349,469
30 June 2025	\$5,070,406	\$368,113

The challenge, in these times of increased volatility in financial markets and the increasing costs faced by the applicants for grants, is to continue this growth in the Trust's corpus and grant activities. The participation of our long-term donors and partners will continue to ensure the ongoing success of the Trust in conservation terms as will the generous expert investment guidance of Accru Wealth Management.

This support, along with the Trust's collaboration with community groups and private landholders, provides a strong and viable platform to make an enormous difference in the battle to conserve the biodiversity of Australia and to support the people out in the field every day of the year.

Roland Wettenhall  
Wettenhall Environment Trust  
Acting Finance Chair

To see a copy of the Wettenhall Environment Trust full audited financial report with auditor's notes, find us on the ACNC website  
<https://www.acnc.gov.au>



## FINANCIAL REPORT 2025

### Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2025

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	394,512
Trade and other receivables	28,578
Investments, at market value	4,680,252
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>5,103,342</b>

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	\$
Provisions	21,403
Trade and other payables	11,533
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>32,936</b>

<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,070,406</b>
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<b>EQUITY</b>	\$
Founder's gift	1,000,000
Retained earnings	2,859,751
Investments revaluation to market	1,210,655
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>\$5,070,406</b>

### Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2025

<b>REVENUE</b>	\$
Donations	115,750
Dividends and capital profits	358,063
Interest	9,953
Grants and fees earned	45,290
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>529,056</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	\$
Operating expenses (incl publication, events, support for the landscape restoration program, staff costs etc)	124,291
Grants paid	368,113
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>492,404</b>

<b>TOTAL NET PROFIT</b>	<b>\$36,652</b>
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**Wettenhall**  
ENVIRONMENT TRUST

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Front cover photo:  
Planting crew for Wetland Revival  
on the Wirra-Lo Wetlands

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