



Landscapes for life

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Endangered orchid gets survival boost from Bush Heritage Australia

AN endangered orchid's long-term chances of survival has increased after it was found growing on a Victorian reserve owned by leading conservation group Bush Heritage Australia.

The largest known population of the northern golden moths orchid in Australia – approximately 400 plants – has been found at the Nardoo Hills reserves, 100km northwest of Bendigo.

The northern golden moths orchid is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 2007* and is classified as Endangered in Victoria.

Bush Heritage Australia CEO Doug Humann said the discovery of the rare orchid at the Nardoo Hills reserves was an exciting find.

“We believe this is a very significant find due to the size of the population and because it is on secured land,” he said. “It shows that our strategy to protect Australia’s threatened fauna and flora through land acquisition and partnerships with land owners is working.

“Bush Heritage Australia is committed to protecting and conserving these rare flowers and we will be closely monitoring their progress throughout the coming years.

Bush Heritage Australia aims to acquire, manage and conserve more than 7 million hectares of Australian land by 2025.

“Bush Heritage Australia has already conducted a series of restoration works at the Nardoo Hills reserves, including intensive feral animal and weed control, which we believe has contributed towards the good health of the northern golden moths orchid population.

“Our work here, and indeed the discovery of the orchid would not have been possible without the generous support of The R.E. Ross Trust. They were not only instrumental to the acquisition of two properties in the area but also through assisting with ongoing management of the reserves.

Bush Heritage Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to conserving Australia's most vulnerable ecosystems and wildlife species. Bush Heritage targets areas of land and waterways that are crucial for conservation, and protects these through acquisition or partnership with government, conservation organisations, private individuals and traditional owners.

The R.E. Ross Trust is a perpetual charitable trust established in Victoria in 1970 by the will of the late Roy Everard Ross. The Trust is administered by five Trustees who manage the Trust's assets and distribute its income in Victoria for charitable

purposes. The R.E. Ross Trust has been a supporter of Bush Heritage Australia since 2005. Funds donated by The R.E. Ross Trust enabled the acquisition of both the second and third properties in the Nardoo Hills reserves. More recent donations have been made to support operating costs such as feral animal management and plant control.

Media enquiries:

David Baker-Gabb
Ecologist – Bush Heritage Australia
Mobile: 03 9710 1509