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## **Bird researcher joins Bush Heritage Australia**

BYRON Bay-based bird researcher Max Tischler has joined the ecology team of leading Australian conservation organisation Bush Heritage Australia.

Max, who has worked for the Sydney University for the past 20 years, will work on the Bush Heritage Australia reserves of Cravens Peak and Ethabuka, in the Simpson Desert on the Northern Territory and Queensland borders.

Chief conservation officer Nicola Markus said she was pleased to welcome Max, who is currently completing a PhD on the distribution and structure of bird communities in the Simpson Desert.

“Max’s research will provide us with some important and very practical information on the most effective way to manage bird populations at Ethabuka and Craven’s Peak,” she said.

“We believe Max’s passion for his research, his dedication and eye for detail will prove an asset to Bush Heritage Australia and its conservation work.”

Max said he was looking forward to working in the desert and being part of the Bush Heritage Australia team.

“Bush Heritage Australia is a leader in conservation and I am very proud to be playing a small part in protecting some of Australia’s most amazing plants and animals,” he said.

“I have been travelling and working in a range of areas completely removed from deserts over the past few years, so I look forward to returning to the red sand and the opportunities and challenges this new role will offer.”

His research would also benefit from working at Ethabuka and Cravens Park.

“This new role will allow me to observe and study, on-the-ground, the behaviour and lifestyle of arid zone birds,” Mr Tischler said. “Incredibly, only a proportionally small amount of work has been done on arid zone birds in Australia, leaving a considerable gap in the knowledge of avian biology in this country. I look forward to bridging some of this gap.”

Max brings a wealth of experience to his role. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science with Honours from the Sydney University (SU), Max joined the Arid Zone Lab at SU’s Institute of Wildlife Research School of Biological Sciences. In 1998, he took up a position as a

research assistant with Professor Chris Dickman from Sydney University on a project investigating spatial refugia of small mammals and reptiles.

Bush Heritage Australia, which was founded in 1991, is a not-for-profit organisation that protects Australia's unique and threatened animals and plants and their habitats. It owns and manages 31 reserves throughout Australia covering almost 1 million hectares and plans to own, manage and partner with indigenous groups and landowners to conserve more than 7 million hectares or one per cent of Australia's most important conservation land by 2025.

Visit [www.bushheritage.org.au](http://www.bushheritage.org.au)

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