



BUSH HERITAGE

AUSTRALIA



365 Days Annual Conservation Report 2010–2011



Our heart & soul 



Lake Pulohera at Ethabuka Reserve, in Queensland's Simpson Desert, protected thanks to thousands of Bush Heritage supporters just like you. Photograph by Peter Morris.



**Thank you for
the difference
you've made to
the Australian
bush this year.**

Bush Heritage: a community of like-minded folk from all walks of life – united in our passion to protect and conserve the extraordinary natural wonders of the Australian bush.

CEO's report

“Today, in my last annual report, I stand witness to fourteen years of achievements that you, our growing Bush Heritage community, have made.”



Photograph by Bec Walton

In June 2011, I was in the remote northern Kimberley watching the still, blue Kimberley sky meeting the savanna and red soil – the heartland of Wunambal Gaambera country. The custodians of that incredible land were about to cast a memory, one of many memories, that will remain in my mind forever from fourteen years as CEO of Bush Heritage Australia.

On that day, the Wunambal Gaambera people were acknowledged as the rightful owners of their traditional lands: native title was awarded, the area was given formal protection as an Indigenous Protected Area and a ten-year partnership was signed between the Wunambal Gaambera people and Bush Heritage.

Men and women, who would later tell stories about the land from generations before them, took their seats to listen as a judge of the Federal Court spoke about the struggle these people had to finally arrive at that day. Sylvester Mangolomara, a Wunambal elder, infected the air with his larger-than-life personality, sharing his knowledge of the land, its people and its creatures. It was inspiring to think that Bush Heritage supporters could play a part in helping the Wunambal Gaambera people to protect their land.

The role of Bush Heritage's CEO has taken me to many places I might not have otherwise found myself – in the remote Kimberley, in swags under desert skies and in homes where I have shared cups of tea with supporters. Another, which caught me by surprise for a very different reason fourteen years ago, was the Bush Heritage office.

I had first read about Bush Heritage in March 1997 and it was, I thought, an idea whose time had come. The role of national parks as a means of protecting new land for conservation seemed to be running its course in Australia and here was new hope, a new direction for conservation. I seized the opportunity to lead the organisation and moved with my young family to Tasmania.

On my first day, I brought my family to the tiny place where the three part-time staff that made up Bush Heritage worked in Hobart. It would be generous to call it an office. I turned to my wife Jill, who had uprooted her whole life to support this venture, and smiled. I saw on her face, a look I will never forget. Her expression asked the question “what on earth have we done?”

Standing with Wunambal Gaambera people fourteen years later, the answer to that question was clear. We had joined an organisation that had wonderful things in store for it, an organisation that would grow to be a leading voice in Australian conservation and the home for a community of passionate people who believe that protecting the Australian bush is an achievable and essential goal.

Since those days in the early 1990s, Bush Heritage has developed something I consider a key strength: its ability to adapt, change and innovate in the face of challenges and to find new opportunities to meet our conservation mission. It is, I believe, one of the key reasons we are celebrating our 20th anniversary with you, our steadfast supporters, in October 2011.



Wunambal Gaambera country, in the remote Kimberley region. Photograph by Annette Ruzicka



Wunambal Gaambera country provides habitat for the nationally vulnerable red goshawk
Photograph by David Baker-Gabb

In 2010–2011 our partnerships with other landowners demonstrates that strength beautifully. Partnerships like Gondwana Link in south-west Western Australia and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy in the Tasmanian Midlands allow us to achieve conservation on land when buying the land is either not an option, or is not the best option. Each is a novel arrangement to meet a unique circumstance and each marks a shift in Bush Heritage's growth, from being the owner of small but significant parcels of land, to having influence at a large landscape scale. Such influence is critical if we are to meet the challenges of biodiversity conservation in Australia, which are exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

Of course, owning land remains at the heart of what Bush Heritage does. In 2011, 20 years after its founding, Bush Heritage owns nearly one million hectares of land. This year, we have added two beautiful and important properties to the list of special places that are now protected, where Australian plants and animals can find a safe haven to flourish.

But saving the land in itself is not enough – it's what we do on that land that counts. This year has seen the second of our Ecological Outcomes Performance reports, which help us assess what conservation achievements we are actually making on that land over a period of five to six years. The Eurardy six-year report also shows improvements in the condition of the land that as a supporter, you can feel immensely proud of (see page 10).

Our 20th anniversary is an appropriate time to ask ourselves, what have we achieved so far? Bush Heritage's 20th anniversary publication *Their future in our hands* is the perfect answer to that. It demonstrates the critical contribution of our community-based partnerships to our success over the last 20 years, but also envisages the future.

Today, in my last annual report, I stand witness to fourteen years of achievements that you, our growing Bush Heritage community, have made. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with so many committed and inspiring people. I pay tribute to and thank all those that contribute to building the communities that support our work: supporters, donors, partners, board members, staff and volunteers. I know that with your help, Bush Heritage will continue to play a critical role in protecting our bush, the bush that you as Australians hold dear.

It's been a wonderful ride at Bush Heritage these last fourteen years. There are literally thousands I could thank. And just like that June day in the Kimberley, there is a memory to go with every one of them. I thank you, one and all, and wish Bush Heritage well as its journey continues to unfold.

Doug Humann
CEO



**Their future
in our hands**

Download a copy of
this report on 20 years
of Bush Heritage
achievements from:
**[www.bushheritage.org.
au/their-future.html](http://www.bushheritage.org.au/their-future.html)**

President's report

"I often feel like I am standing at the intersection of many communities that together, form the much larger Bush Heritage family."



Photograph by Steve Lovegrove

Twenty years ago, my late husband Richard Sylvan and I witnessed the birth of a fledgling conservation organisation known then as the Australian Bush Heritage Fund.

Having bought two properties for the express purpose of protecting the plants and animals that lived there, we had high hopes for what an organisation of committed people could achieve with time and support. It made sense to donate those two properties to Bush Heritage. Today, they form part of the growing number of special places that, thanks to you, Bush Heritage now protects.

So the decision this year by our founder Bob Brown to also gift to us his property – the place where Bush Heritage was born – is significant. It feels right to be able to protect an important part of our own history in this, our 20th year.

While a celebratory milestone for the organisation, the year has been a difficult one economically. Concern over the state of the global economy has overshadowed other important issues with many people naturally worried about their future financial security.

Thus the Board has chosen to proceed with caution – looking for opportunities to meet our conservation goals while valuing even more highly every dollar our supporters entrust to us. Innovation forms an important part of our strategy.

For instance, recruitment of new supporters on city streets is an initiative that we invested in more heavily this financial year, after early investment in 2009–2010 showed great potential. It is helping to grow our supporter base and to engage younger Australians in Bush Heritage's important tasks.

As President of Bush Heritage, I often feel like I am standing at the intersection of many communities that together, form the much larger Bush Heritage family: our incredible staff, both in the field and in vital support roles; our wonderful growing family of volunteers and supporters (there are thousands of you now, all doing your bit to help protect Australia's bush); the exceptional and talented people in our partner organisations; and our Board of Directors, for being so able and committed to their role.

These are the people who inspire us every day and I want to thank them for their work and their commitment. They are the reason that Bush Heritage has come so far in 20 years.

I would also like to pay tribute to the leadership that Doug Humann has brought to Bush Heritage during his time as Chief Executive Officer. Much of what we have achieved is due to his remarkable passion and commitment to making our vision a reality and encouraging others to make that journey with us.

While Doug is leaving us as CEO, he will not be far away and will remain involved in a number of Bush Heritage projects. I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead to work with him and with all of you as Bush Heritage moves into its next 20 years and beyond.

Louise Sylvan
President



Left: Oura Oura Reserve

Below: Bob Brown at Oura Oura

Photographs by Peter Morris



Back to where our 20 years began: the gift of Oura Oura

While leading the effort to protect Tasmania's wilderness in the early 1980s, Bush Heritage founder Bob Brown says he learnt two important lessons.

The first was to never give up on something you believe in. The second was to never underestimate the willingness of everyday Australians to protect our precious environment.

Bob Brown found that people from all walks of life were prepared to act when given the opportunity to make a difference. He was convinced that even more could be done to save the Australian bush by getting people together to buy it.

His decision to protect two lush temperate rainforest blocks from potential wood chipping in Tasmania's Liffey Valley, left him seriously in debt. But as it turned out, not for long.

"It was out of the generosity of everyday Australians that the future of the Liffey blocks was secured and Bush Heritage, the fledgling conservation group, was born."

Australians rallied behind this call to action with cash donations and pledges of support. It was out of this generosity that the future of both blocks was secured and Bush Heritage, the fledgling conservation group, was born.

Twenty years later, the native plants and animals that inhabit those two reserves (Liffey reserves as they are now known) are flourishing under our care.

Many of the people who financially supported the purchase of the Liffey blocks still support Bush Heritage today. They've now been joined by thousands of other supporters who have since enabled the purchase and management of over 30 spectacular reserves across Australia.

Bob Brown's generous gift in 2011 to Bush Heritage of Oura Oura – the 14-hectare Liffey Valley property that he has called home since 1973 – has secured its future.

"Why give Oura Oura to Bush Heritage? Because it's logical. It was at Oura Oura that I thought about starting Bush Heritage back in 1990 after purchasing two blocks of land on either side," he says.

"Bush Heritage has become such a strong, national organisation for the protection of ecosystems and habitats. And here's prime habitat for a range of rare and endangered animals – as well as for the human spirit."

"I felt inspired and very proud when Bob Brown donated his property to Bush Heritage. I know many people who heard about this felt it was a very special thing that he and his partner did."

M Holding

Western Australia

The Bush Heritage community

Our people give in different ways



Sue Connolly
Volunteer

A passionate gardener and bush regenerator, Sue has been volunteering at our Scottsdale Reserve in southern New South Wales for around five years. Her passion for growing native grasses from seed and helping to regenerate some of the more degraded parts of the reserve makes her an invaluable member of our team. She also likes to share her knowledge by teaching visiting schoolchildren how to sow seeds and look after native plants.

“I used to have my own property and spent a lot of time regenerating native grasses and trees there. It’s sold now and I wonder what will happen to those trees. It seemed logical to help out at Scottsdale. It’s much better to be restoring the land where you know that after you, other people will be there to look after it.”

Volunteers like Sue are vital to Bush Heritage’s conservation vision.

In 2010–2011, 181 volunteers were involved across 18 reserves and our Melbourne office over 230 separate assignments in support of 89 different projects. The amount of time contributed by these volunteers in total is equivalent to seven full-time staff.



Lydia Teychenne
Friend of the Bush

Lydia first supported Bush Heritage as a regular giver, or Friend of the Bush, about a year ago. She says it was “perfect timing”. Her parents had lost their Gippsland home in a fire just days before Victoria’s Black Saturday, and Lydia was becoming increasingly concerned about the need to do more to help protect the Australian bush. When she was approached by one of our representatives in the street, and heard about the work of Bush Heritage, she knew she had found a way to give something back.

Photograph by John Deer

“When I was a child, the bush around my family’s home was my whole world ... If you look after the land, the land will look after you. Joining Bush Heritage has given me an opportunity to do just that.”



Peter Ashton
Reserve Manager

Peter and his wife Emma have been caring for our Boolcoomatta Reserve in South Australia for nearly four years. Peter says there’s never a dull moment at Boolcoomatta. An ordinary day on the reserve might include fox, goat and rabbit control, and monitoring of wildlife such as kangaroos. Peter’s also responsible for managing the reserve’s annual conservation budget, working with contractors involved in track maintenance and rabbit warren mapping, heading up our enthusiastic volunteer team and welcoming a steady stream of visiting supporters.

Photograph by Bron Willis

“I love having the ability to see things that need doing and then having the resources to go out and get them done – like designing our fox control program. When we see a new animal on the reserve for the first time it gives us an enormous sense of purpose. It’s why we’re doing what we do.”



In July 2011, we asked our supporters to share their thoughts about Bush Heritage and the Australian bush in our **20th anniversary supporter survey**.

Our thanks go to Elizabeth and all the supporters who shared their stories. The survey has also raised \$98 384 to date. See more quotes at: www.bushheritage.org.au/supporter-survey.html

"The bush to me is peace and purpose: the beautiful calming peace of nature uninterrupted, with every creature and plant purposefully going about their business."

Elizabeth

Emerald, Vic.



Simon McKeon
Supporter

Ten years ago, 2011 Australian of the Year Simon McKeon had never heard of Bush Heritage. A chance meeting with our CEO Doug Humann on a flight to Western Australia prompted him to ask Doug what he did. Doug's answer struck a chord with Simon as he explained Bush Heritage's vision of gathering like-minded Australians together to protect our precious bush. Several years later they bumped into each other again, and Simon was amazed by how much Bush Heritage had achieved since his first meeting with Doug. He was impressed by the quality of the people Doug had attracted to the organisation and the vast number of hectares under its management. Simon has been a passionate and vocal supporter of Bush Heritage for five years.

Photograph by Bec Walton

"I have a very broad definition of poverty. If we don't have a certain proportion of our land, which is wild, which is dominated by nature, as opposed to dominated by us, we're impoverished. It's that simple. We can be impoverished in all sorts of ways other than not having a big bank balance."



Sandy Gilmore
Ecologist

If you came across Sandy Gilmore among the Olary Ranges at Boolcoomatta Reserve, it's likely you'd find a pair of binoculars in front of his eyes, following the flight of a wedge-tailed eagle soaring high above. Sandy's work regularly takes him to the subtle landscape of Boolcoomatta and the rolling hills of Scottsdale as well as our other Bush Heritage reserves in south-eastern Australia, where he is responsible for assessing conservation values and potential threats. Sandy's mapping and surveying work gives us access to important information, like the populations of bird species on our reserves. Sandy is responsible for feeding the information he collects into the management planning process, which helps us give the plants and animals on our reserves the best chance to flourish.

Photograph by Bron Willis

"I get a great feeling knowing that I contribute to the conservation values of our reserves, and helping to reduce the threats. The knowledge that my work can make a difference to conservation efforts in the communities around our reserves makes my work worthwhile."



Alison and Rob Wright
Partners

Alison and Rob own a spectacular bush property in the Fitz-Stirling region of south-west Western Australia – an area identified as one of the world's top 34 biodiversity "hotspots". Together with Bush Heritage, they're part of a group of passionate property owners doing their bit to preserve native plants and animals in an important bush corridor linking the Stirling Ranges National Park and Fitzgerald River National Park – part of the larger Gondwana Link project. They are also involved in vital work to help protect local native plant species from phytophthora dieback – a water mould that is particularly harmful to plants like banksia.

Photograph by Simon Smale

"Knowing that we have neighbours, like Bush Heritage, sharing a common goal to protect the biodiversity of this amazing region helps us feel like we are not alone. We're working towards a common goal and that is very comforting."



Left: Northern bottlebrush at Eurardy Reserve, WA. Photograph by Marie Lochman / Lochman Transparencies. Right: Photograph by Julian Fennessy

Thanks to you Eurardy Reserve is blossoming back to life

“What an idea!
No longer whinge at
government inaction.
Here’s a practical way
to go about fixing the
environment ourselves.”
Michael
Coogee, NSW

“A riot of colour” is the phrase that best describes Bush Heritage’s Eurardy Reserve in south-west Western Australia during springtime.

Native shrubs like feather-flowers, claw-flowers, grevilleas, acacias and ground-hugging everlastings burst into masses of red, yellow, pink, white and purple blooms – a display that’s so spectacular throughout the region it draws wildflower fans from around the world.

Eurardy Reserve is located about an hour’s drive north of Geraldton in the South-West Botanical Province – one of only 34 areas recognised globally as a “biodiversity hotspot”. While the area covers only 0.23 per cent of the earth’s land surface, it contains 12.6 per cent of the world’s rare and threatened flora, including the small-petalled beyaria, which was believed extinct until its rediscovery in 2005.

Eurardy Reserve protects over 500 plant species, including five that are listed nationally as endangered or vulnerable. Its vast heathlands and woodlands provide a haven for ground-dwelling mammals, reptiles and birds, including the nationally vulnerable malleefowl and several species of dunnart.

The reserve also provides continuous habitat for wildlife between Kalbarri National Park and Toolong Nature Reserve to the north.

Much of what makes Eurardy so special was under threat when Bush Heritage supporters rallied together to fund the purchase of the property in 2005. Run previously as a sheep station and tourist operation, parts of the reserve had become seriously degraded, and a number of significant ecosystems and habitats were under threat. Protecting its heathlands and rehabilitating its ecosystems have so far been our priority.

“Eurardy Reserve protects over 500 plant species, including five that are listed nationally as endangered or vulnerable.”

In 2011, we delivered our first Ecological Outcomes Performance Report for Eurardy, which gives us a way of measuring how well we are caring for the land.

The good news is that overall, since you helped us buy Eurardy, the condition of its ecosystems and their native plants and animals has improved. While a number of our goals will take many more years to achieve, this report shows how far your support has allowed us to come in our first six years of management.



Red-tailed black cockatoos at Eurardy Reserve. Photograph by Leanne and Paul Hales

Key achievements funded by Bush Heritage supporters

York Gum woodlands and tall shrublands on red clay soils

- Feral goat and rabbit numbers have declined.
- Perennial ground cover has increased moderately.
- Occupancy rates of key hollow-nesting bird species, like red-tailed black cockatoos and parrots, have increased.
- Activity and species richness of insect and nectar-feeding birds has increased.

Vulnerable fauna (mammals, birds and reptiles)

- An active malleefowl mound has been discovered, containing eggshell and chick feathers, indicating a successful hatching.
- Eleven small native mammal species and 19 reptile species have been recorded at Eurardy for the first time.
- Most populations of ground- or shrub-foraging bird species are increasing or have recovered from previous climate-induced decreases.

Heathlands

- Plants in an area burnt by wildfire in 2010 have recovered strongly.
- Activity and species richness of insect and nectar-feeding birds has increased.

Threatened spider orchids

- New populations of threatened spider orchids have been discovered.
- Known populations remain steady in size.
- Damage from grazing (feral goats and rabbits) is minimal.

Bungabandi Creek system

- Feral goat and rabbit numbers have declined.
- Perennial ground cover has increased.
- Activity and species richness of insect and nectar-feeding birds has increased.
- Erosion control works have slowed water and collected debris/sediment.
- No wildfires have burnt since 1989, producing a more desirable range of vegetation ages.

Eurardy Reserve was acquired in 2005 with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy.



Thanks to you
**We buy and manage
precious land**

John Colahan Griffin Nature Reserve: our newest property



*The reserve protects habitat for the nationally endangered swift parrot
Photograph by Chris Tzaros*

In 2011, a unique property in the centre of Victoria's agricultural heartland was protected forever, thanks to a generous gift left by a passionate supporter of the Australian bush.

Before he died, John Griffin specified in his Will that a portion of his wealth should be used to protect habitat for wildlife. His dream was shared by Bush Heritage. We worked closely with John's family to identify a property that fulfilled both our needs and his wishes.

That property is now the John Colahan Griffin Nature Reserve. When you stand in the centre of this special place, you feel like you're miles from anywhere, even though the reserve is only 97 hectares in size, and only two hours' drive from Melbourne.

Entering the property, you follow a winding track down through grassy and heathy woodlands until you arrive at a quiet sheltered gully. Here, amongst the dappled light, you can hear the calls of woodland birds and the swaying of the giant river red gums that line the narrow creek.

John Griffin's generous bequest has enabled Bush Heritage to make our first purchase in the Carapooee area of Victoria – an area we have identified as a priority for protection. With its vegetation 100 per cent intact, the property needs little rehabilitation but offers native plants and animals an important connection with surrounding bushland.

The property's large old box-tree stands and red stringybarks provide a welcome sanctuary for woodland birds, such as the diamond firetail and brown tree creeper. It is also an important resting point for the nationally endangered swift parrot during its annual migration from Tasmania to Queensland.

Jen Grindrod, Bush Heritage's Conservation Projects Officer, was part of the team that worked on the purchase of the John Colahan Griffin Nature Reserve. She's excited by how untouched the property is.

"There's a huge amount of leaf litter covering the ground which you don't see very often. The fact there's so little disturbance means this is an ideal habitat for several rare endemic spider orchids we've found. There's also a really impressive old stand of the grass tree *xanthorrhoea*, which are harder and harder to find.

"We know that the plants and animals that rely on this place as habitat, can continue to do that for generations to come."

"Now that this reserve is protected, we know it can't be carved up by developers or turned into lifestyle blocks. We know that the plants and animals that rely on this place as habitat, can continue to do that for generations to come."

Before (2003)

If you had visited Ethabuka Reserve in 2003, this is the view that would have greeted you at the homestead gate.



After (2011)

Bush Heritage supporters have helped to make this extraordinary difference at Ethabuka over eight years.

Photographs by Murray Haseler

Ethabuka Reserve: a land reborn

When Bush Heritage ecologist Murray Haseler first visited Ethabuka Reserve, in western Queensland's Simpson Desert in 2003, he photographed a damaged landscape, where years of grazing had left its mark.

The former pastoral property, covering some 213 300 hectares, falls within the Gulf of Carpentaria to Lake Eyre region – one of Bush Heritage's five "anchor regions" identified as a priority for our conservation efforts. It's an area of incredible diversity, ranging from Central Australia's arid heartland, to the tropical savannas, dramatic gorges and unspoiled beaches of the Gulf country.

Murray and the Bush Heritage team of ecologists have returned to Ethabuka after a period of eight years, working with reserve managers to assess the best way to protect the creatures that depend on its seasonal wetlands and remote river systems, its red sand dunes and arid plains, and its Coolabah and bloodwood woodlands.

In 2011, Murray got out his camera again. The photograph he took recorded the extraordinary difference Bush Heritage supporters have made at Ethabuka. Thanks to you, Ethabuka is now a haven for desert wildlife, with a vast array of river floodplains, dune systems, clay pans and ephemeral wetlands.

So far, 26 native mammal species have been recorded on the reserve and its dune fields are particularly rich in small mammals, like the nationally vulnerable mulgara and the desert short-tailed mouse.

Our conservation focus on Ethabuka is to maintain, and where possible, improve the quality of habitat for threatened species by removing livestock (including camels), and controlling weeds and predatory animals like foxes and cats. Our fire management program aims to break up the landscape into different fire-ages by undertaking strategic burning.

With above-average rainfall over the last three years producing a 'thrice in a lifetime boom' that has seen dry water courses spring to life and native plants and animals flourish, our management activities have allowed an unbridled response to the wet season, and will be especially critical during the impending "bust" as the desert returns to dry.

Even allowing for fluctuating rainfall, there are now more food resources available to native animals through the removal of stock, better fire management and feral animal control.

In 2011, we have witnessed an extraordinary peak in small mammal abundance. Recent results from our monitoring surveys also indicate that while the good times are getting better, recent lows are not as low – confirming that our management practices, which you help to support, are making a real difference.



The nationally vulnerable mulgara

Photograph by Jiri Lochman / Lochman Transparencies

"Thank heaven Bush Heritage is preserving special places."

Peggy
Plympton, SA

Ethabuka Reserve was acquired in 2004 with the assistance of the Australian Government's National Reserve System program, The Nature Conservancy and Diversicon Environmental Foundation.

Thanks to you

A year of achievements

In our 20th year, we would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to you, our steadfast supporters, who are making these achievements possible.

Protecting our bush by preventing wildfire

Thanks to a generous response by supporters to our autumn 2011 fire control appeal, we have been able to complete and maintain approximately 650 kilometres of firebreaks around our reserves. Planned burns also took place across 20 000 hectares and we invested 2700 hours of staff time into planning and implementing fire management. Managing fire – particularly preventing destructive wildfires – is key to preserving the biodiversity of our reserves.

Charles Darwin Reserve: new species

In September 2010, Charles Darwin Reserve hosted an Earthwatch Survey Group comprising Bush Heritage and Earthwatch staff, volunteers from BHP Billiton Iron Ore and scientists from Edith Cowan University. In one week, the group laid 144 pitfall traps, capturing and releasing 182 animals. Ten of the animals (nine reptiles and a mammal) are first sightings on the reserve, including the extremely rare Mitchell's hopping mouse.



Photograph by Catherine Hunt

Bush Heritage anchor regions



Bush Heritage partnerships



Bush Heritage reserves



Boolcoommatta Reserve: yellow-footed rock wallaby spotted



Last November, Boolcoommatta Reserve Manager Peter Ashton was out collecting seed at a rocky outcrop behind the homestead when he spotted a yellow-footed rock wallaby. The last reported sighting on Boolcoommatta was in 1924, and the nearest known population is more than 20 kilometres away. Thanks to Bush Heritage supporters and work by Bush Heritage volunteers, our ongoing predator and goat control programs are helping to nurture the wallaby's habitat back to health.

Photograph by Jiri Lochman / Lochman Transparencies



Warddeken partnership

Bush Heritage has been partnering with the Warddeken traditional owners of the Western Arnhem Plateau in the Northern Territory for three years. Warddeken lands border the Kakadu National Park and are of enormous significance to biodiversity conservation, and to the Warddeken people. In 2010–2011, we've been assisting Warddeken rangers and their neighbours to conduct fire management work, set up a wildlife monitoring program, and combat weeds and feral animals.

Ethabuka and Cravens Peak Reserves: monitoring by camel

Bush Heritage Ecologist Max Tischler has long pondered the best way to access our vast Ethabuka and Cravens Peak Reserves. Most of their combined 430 000 hectares are inaccessible, so in mid 2010 Max used camels to reach the reserves, on treks with Australian Desert Expeditions and scientists from the University of Sydney. Highlights of the trek included capturing the first desert short-tailed mouse after an absence of 18 years, discovering a small cave used by echidna and increasing the plant species known on the reserve by nearly 50 per cent from 375 to over 550.



Photograph by Andrew Harper

Tarcutta Hills Reserve: rare sightings

Bush Heritage Ecologist Sandy Gilmore made two rare bird sightings on a visit to Tarcutta in October 2010. The superb parrot and painted honeyeater are listed as nationally vulnerable and this is the first sighting of both species on the reserve. Sandy says, "The wetter weather has contributed to a resource boom in native trees, shrubs and grasses. With Tarcutta in such excellent condition, we're also seeing an increased abundance of crown-feeding birds like the rufous whistler and ground foragers like the buff-rumped thornbill. This is great news considering the general decline in bird populations across Australia."



Photograph by Rob Drummond

Nardoo Hills Reserves: extinct orchid rediscovered



Back in 2009, a field trip by Jeroen van Veen, Bush Heritage's Field Officer, and Ian Higgins, a botanist with the North Central Catchment Management Authority, turned up something very special. Ian showed an image of a delicate green orchid that he was struggling to identify to an orchid expert from the Department of Sustainability and Environment, who suspected the orchid was the robust greenhood, thought to be extinct for over 70 years. The orchid was identified the following season when Jeroen re-traced his steps to search for the orchid in flower. "When we find rare species like the robust greenhood, it means our land management is worthwhile. It confirms everything that Bush Heritage is doing."

Photograph by Jeroen van Veen



Thanks to you We're protecting more bush through partnerships

As well as owning and managing nearly one million hectares of land, Bush Heritage works with other like-minded landowners across Australia to help protect even more of our precious bush. Here, we highlight just two of our unique partnerships and the natural assets they help to protect.

*The sun sets over Wunambal Gaambera country
Photograph by Annette Ruzicka*

Wunambal Gaambera: a first of its kind

In the heart of the Kimberley, the Wunambal Gaambera people are finally granted native title over the land that they and their ancestors have called home for more than 17 000 years.

A federal court judge, in full robes and wig, conducts the final court proceedings before officially handing native title to the traditional owners. Before doing so, he speaks about the struggle of the Wunambal Gaambera people to regain ownership of their land. Quiet tears fall among those who listen.

After the smouldering of native plants in a smoking ceremony, the traditional owners announce the formation of a 350 000-hectare Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) within their country, and a groundbreaking ten-year conservation partnership with Bush Heritage – the first of its kind in Australia.

Five years ago, when the Wunambal Gaambera people were still fighting for native title over their land, they asked Bush Heritage for help. They wanted to establish a framework for returning to their country and managing its vast natural assets, and numerous rock and burial sites, in line with their cultural and custodial responsibilities.

Thanks to the support of people like you, we were able to offer the Wunambal Gaambera people just that. Partnering with the traditional owners means we can help to ensure that this internationally significant area is managed and protected. For the Wunambal Gaambera, they can now keep their uungu (living home) healthy.

The new Uungu IPA protects at least 65 animal species and 102 plant species found nowhere else on earth. Dugongs and marine turtles swim in the seas just off the coast, while euro and rock-wallabies inhabit the woodland and escarpment areas of its interior.

The Healthy Country Plan will guide local rangers in their daily tasks that include controlling weeds and feral animals, fencing, visitor management, cultural heritage conservation and species monitoring.

Bush Heritage is the first non-government conservation organisation to form such a partnership with traditional owners. It is a unique opportunity to help protect this significant and ancient part of Australia's bush – which is only possible thanks to your ongoing support.

*Bush Heritage Australia gratefully acknowledges
The Nature Conservancy's David Thomas
Challenge and a private Foundation for their
generous support of this work.*

65

Animal species found
in the Uungu IPA

102

Plant species found
in the Uungu IPA

Zero

No known mammal
extinctions to date



Restoring the bush on Chingarrup

On their first visit to Chingarrup Sanctuary in Western Australia ten years ago, nature lovers Eddy and Donna Wajon came away with a checklist of around 150 plant species for later identification.

They were so bowled over by the property's extraordinary range of native flora that they decided they had to buy it. "I thought, wouldn't it be great to own and look after this place," says Eddy. "How great to say we own this patch of bush and are responsible for looking after it."

In 2002, their wish came true and they took ownership and responsibility for 576 hectares of native bushland regarded by Bush Heritage Ecologist, Angela Sanders, as one of the most important properties in the Gondwana Link project. The ambitious project aims to restore around 1000 kilometres of remnant bushland from Western Australia's south-west to the Nullarbor Plain.

"It's connected to large areas of Crown Land and links up really well with a lot of large bush areas, including our other Bush Heritage Reserves, Chereninup Creek and Monjebup," says Angela.

"It also contains four very important conservation targets for the area – yate woodland, proteaceous-rich heath, black-gloved wallabies and a significant creek line."

Eddy and Donna have poured their heart and soul into restoring and protecting Chingarrup. Their enormous workload includes replanting woodlands, weeding and documenting the extraordinary biodiversity of the area.

Over this time they've been working closely with Bush Heritage and in particular Angela Sanders, who has been helping them to set up species monitoring sites and visiting once a year to carry out bird and plant surveys.

In early 2011, we signed a formal agreement to recognise the value of our partnership with Eddy and Donna. Since then, we've been working with them to establish an initiative on Chingarrup called the Citizen Science Program, which is run in conjunction with the Conservation Council of Western Australia.

The Citizen Science Program enlists the help of volunteers to monitor ants and birds in revegetated areas to see what foods they are eating. The results will help to inform the future conservation work that Eddy and Donna carry out on Chingarrup, in conjunction with Bush Heritage.

Thanks to Eddy and Donna's huge efforts, Chingarrup now protects more than 150 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and insects – despite being almost completely cleared around 40 years ago.

Eddy and Donna's commitment gives Bush Heritage and our supporters confidence that this significant piece of land is in good hands. Partnerships like this also help us to make the most of our precious resources – while Eddy and Donna are protecting Chingarrup, our reserve managers and scientists can work on other land in need of protection.



Far left: Dusk in the Stirling Ranges, seen from Chingarrup Sanctuary, Western Australia

Above: Eddy and Donna Wajon at Chingarrup Sanctuary

Left: A honey possum at Chingarrup Sanctuary

Photographs by Eddy Wajon



4000

Hectares of bushland protected by the Gondwana Link partnership

2840

Hectares revegetated through the Gondwana Link partnership



Thanks to you We use science to protect the land

Bush Heritage strikes a healthy balance between the head and the heart in our conservation work. While the soul of Bush Heritage is a strong passion for saving the Australian bush, it's science that guides and informs our actions.

Bush Heritage Ecologist Sandy Gilmore at Boolcoommatta Reserve. Photograph by Bron Willis

Flocking to Boolcoommatta

"Thank you for ensuring there will be some great bush for our four kids."

Phil and Sara
Alice Springs, NT

Despite a trend across Australia of decreasing bird populations, there has been a staggering 300 per cent increase in ground-foraging and shrub-dependent birds in the last four years on our Boolcoommatta Reserve in South Australia.

Boolcoommatta had been run as a sheep station for nearly 150 years when Bush Heritage supporters enabled its purchase in 2006. The first thing our reserve managers did to protect its native species was to remove stock from the saltbush plains and open mulga woodlands stretching from the property's dramatic Olary Ranges.

Removing hard-hooved animals from Boolcoommatta has led to a huge resurgence in native emu bush and grasses that provide vital habitat for native birds like the rufous fieldwren.

Regular bird surveys by Bush Heritage ecologist Sandy Gilmore provide us with a benchmark on how well the land is responding, and they also reveal some astounding results.

After five bird surveys, several ground and shrub-feeding species have had explosive population increases in the first three years, with the first sighting recently of the brown songlark and several other rare native bird species.

Our survey work on Boolcoommatta and on our other reserves forms a vital part of our management decision-making process, informing us of not just the health of our land, but also the success of specific management programs that are tailored to each reserve.

Boolcoommatta Reserve was acquired in 2006 with the assistance of the Australian Government's National Reserve System program and the Nature Foundation South Australia.

*Left to right:
White-winged fairy-wren
Photograph by Lochman
Transparencies*

*Redthroat. Photograph
by Graeme Chapman*

*Rufous fieldwren
Photograph by
Graeme Chapman*



**Increase in
abundance from
2006 to 2010**

235%

White-winged fairy-wren

655%

Redthroat

395%

Rufous fieldwren



The artesian springs of Edgbaston Reserve. Photograph by Wayne Lawler

Saving Australia's smallest freshwater fish

In 2010, Bush Heritage supporters rallied together to help save a tiny freshwater fish from extinction.

The red-finned blue-eye, Australia's smallest freshwater fish, is found only in one place on earth: a series of shallow artesian springs on Bush Heritage's Edgbaston Reserve in Central Queensland.

And in 2010 those springs were in serious danger of diminishing. Since 1990, the number of springs with red-finned blue-eye in them had declined from seven to just four. But thanks to the overwhelming support of Bush Heritage supporters, three more populations have now been established – bringing the total number in 2011 back up to seven.

Listed as endangered under state and national legislation and critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the red-finned blue-eye has been under threat from the highly invasive gambusia (mosquito fish), which was introduced to Australian waterways in the 1930s.

Together with our science partners, Bush Heritage Ecologist Adam Kerezsy devised a plan to save the red-finned blue-eye and restore population numbers to viable levels, blending the best of good-old outback ingenuity with hard-edged scientific rigour.



“The red-finned blue-eye is found only in one place on earth.”

The physical removal of gambusia and the establishment of barriers has proved successful in Edgbaston's smaller artesian springs. Now an innovative strategy using a fish poison called Rotenone is approved to eradicate gambusia from the larger ponds. This requires months of painstaking laboratory trials to ensure the safety of the precious red-finned blue-eye and other native residents of the ponds.

Achievements like this are only possible because of the generosity of Bush Heritage supporters. Thanks to you, a native species on the brink of extinction now has a real chance at survival.

Bush Heritage Australia gratefully acknowledges The Nature Conservancy's David Thomas Challenge and Desert Channels Queensland, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program, for their generous support of this work.

“Bush Heritage is one of the greatest contributions to private land conservation in the world. I am passionate about this work and applaud your efforts. Doug Humann is a wonderful leader.”

Rod

South Perth, WA

“The bush is a magical place. I love to go camping. It is so beautiful to see the blue sky, the green trees, the silver bark; to hear the cockatoos and other birds, the sound of running water, the frogs, the cicadas; to feel the sun and the breeze on my skin, to wake to a dawn chorus – this is how I heal my body, mind and spirit.”
Martin, Dulwich Hill, NSW



Board of Directors



Louise Sylvan President

Louise has worked for the ACCC and served as a Commissioner of the Productivity Commission. In September 2011 Louise was appointed CEO of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency. She is also involved with the Diplomacy Training Program at UNSW.



Andrew Myer Vice President

Currently Chair of the AV Myer Group of Companies, Andrew has extensive experience in investment, property development and management, film production and philanthropy. He is also Deputy Chair of the Melbourne International Film Festival.



David Rickards Treasurer

Executive Director and Global Head of Research at Macquarie Securities, David coordinates a team based in Australia, Asia, New Zealand and the UK. He is an authority on the equities market, with particular expertise in strategic analysis.



Dr Steve Morton

With 26 years' experience as a research scientist for CSIRO, Steve has worked to integrate biodiversity conservation and land use for grazing and agriculture. He is one of Australia's most respected ecologists.



Dr Sue McIntyre

Sue is Senior Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences. She has extensive research experience in biodiversity and natural resource management in the agricultural landscapes. She advises land managers and policy makers on these issues.



Hutch Ranck

Hutch Ranck is a recently appointed Board member of the CSIRO, Director of Elders Ltd and recently retired MD of Dupont ANZ and ASEAN.



Keith Tuffley

As Head of Investment Banking at Goldman Sachs in Australia, Keith has provided strategic and financial advice to domestic and offshore companies for over 17 years. He retired in 2008 to offer his expertise to the environmental sector.



Leanne Liddle

Leanne is a passionate scientist and lawyer who has worked and lectured internationally, with a particular focus on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands in South Australia. Leanne currently works with the Department of Premier and Cabinet.



Mike Chuk

Mike has devoted his career to the Australian rangelands, working in agriculture, conservation and natural resources. He is a consultant with the Desert Channels Group and supports postgraduate students studying with Rangelands Australia.



Chris Grubb

Chris advises the investment management industry on business strategies and was a Director of the investment bank Jardine Fleming for 22 years. Chris is a non-executive Director of several fund management companies and a Trustee of The Australian Museum Foundation.



Doug Humann Chief Executive Officer

Doug is a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas; also advising several governments on private protected areas. He was recipient of the Wild Environmentalist of the Year award in 1997 and a finalist in the CEO of the Year awards in 2005.

Treasurer's Report

"I'm extremely proud of our generous donors who are making a real difference for conservation and for the environment that our grandchildren and their children will inherit."

I want to thank Bush Heritage's supporters for your steadfast support over the past year. You should be very proud of the conservation work that you have funded during the 2010–11 financial year.

And all Bush Heritage's supporters should feel honoured by the very real difference for conservation that you have made over the last 20 years. Future generations will appreciate the foresight of those that have contributed to the protection of our vulnerable species and their habitat.

I reported to you last year that the effects of Global Financial Crisis continue to impact the charity sector including Bush Heritage. Unfortunately, this has remained the case during the 2010–11 financial year and we have seen some continued volatility in our income.

Bush Heritage's total income for the year was \$11 million and expenses \$11.3 million. Last year income was \$12 million and expenses \$11.1 million.

The loyalty and generosity of Bush Heritage supporters resulted in funds raised being up 13 per cent (\$1 million), with the largest increases in Friends of the Bush regular donations, fundraising appeals and from philanthropic foundations. The reduction in total income is a result of bequest income being \$2.26 million lower this year – down 71 per cent from \$3.2 million last year to \$944k this year – this reflects a return to more normal levels after an unusually high year.

The final result for 2010–11 is an operating deficit of \$263k compared to a surplus of \$948k last year.

Last year's surplus helped to cover the "tied funds" that Bush Heritage needs to put aside for projects that we have received funds for but are not completed by the end of the year. This year's deficit means that our cash flow will be very tight and we will be relying, even more than usual, on the loyalty and generosity of our supporters.

The combination of the ongoing effect of broad economic uncertainty and the tightness of our cash flow means that Bush Heritage's management team and Finance Committee will be keeping a close watch on financial performance throughout the coming year. In order to enable more accurate budgeting and cash flow planning in the future, Bush Heritage Board plans to move the start of the organisation's financial year forward to 1 April from next year.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that two additions were made to your conservation reserves this year. The first, Bob Brown's generous gift of his refuge, and the birthplace of Bush Heritage, Oura Oura, in Tasmania's Liffey Valley. And the second – the 96-hectare John Colahan Griffin Nature Reserve in Victoria's grassy woodlands – a generous contribution from the Estate of John Colahan Griffin.

I'm extremely proud of our generous donors who are making a real difference for conservation and for the environment that our grandchildren and their children will inherit. Thank you!

Yours faithfully,



David Rickards

Treasurer

This Annual Conservation Report together with the Annual Financial Report 2010–11 form Bush Heritage's Concise Annual Report for the financial year 2010–11.

The Annual Financial Report can be found on our website www.bushheritage.org.au/finances or by calling (03) 8610 9100 or 1300 628 873.

\$11m

Received in supporter donations and bequests in 2010–11

\$263k

Overall operating deficit for 2010–2011

2

New conservation reserves this year

947 493

Hectares protected by Bush Heritage at 30 June 2011



*Left: Hairy-footed dunnart,
Cravens Peak Reserve
Photograph by Doug Humann*

*Below: The western pygmy
possum, Chereninup Reserve
Photograph by Jiri Lochman
/ Lochman Transparencies*



The year in review

Key changes to income against 2009–10

- Individual supporter donations are 8 per cent higher (\$372k) reflecting income from new Friends of the Bush, increases in donations to fundraising appeals, and via our website. Large gifts represent 36 per cent of gifts from individuals but are just 3 per cent higher this year with volatility in the size and number of gifts.
- Donations from trusts and foundations are 20 per cent higher (\$567k).
- Bequest income is 71 per cent lower (–\$2.26 million), a return to a more normal level after an unusually high year.
- While overall corporate income was down just slightly (4 per cent), workplace giving donations increased while other forms of support from the corporate sector decreased.

Key changes to expenditure against 2009–10

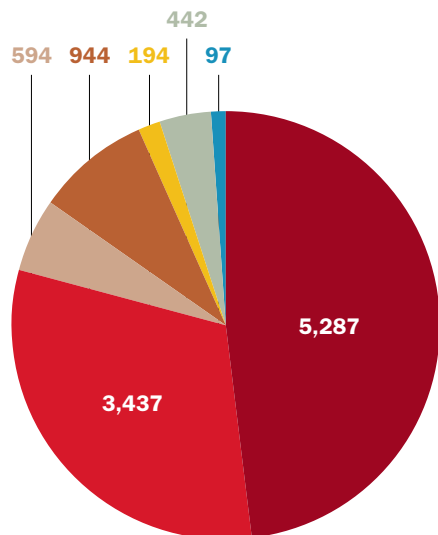
- Bush Heritage's conservation work includes the management of our conservation reserves, our science program and the communication of these activities to key decision-makers, the public and to supporters. Expenditure on our reserves and science programs was maintained at the same level as last year, while communication expenses are 27 per cent (\$200k) lower this year.
- Fundraising expenses are split into two parts: ongoing programs and investment in acquiring new supporters. Expenditure on ongoing programs is 11 per cent (\$216k) higher, reflecting increased effort resulting in an increase in fundraising income, excluding bequests, of over \$1 million. As well as covering the direct cost of running fundraising programs, this expenditure includes the cost of Bush Heritage's reception, supporter services and database. We were able to increase our investment in acquiring new Friends of the Bush (from \$300k to \$733k) and while this is an increased cost in the year of expenditure, it will deliver ongoing, long-term donation income.
- Administrative expenditure is down 14 per cent (\$274k), reflecting a reduction in one-off capacity building expenditure, generously provided by the Myer Foundation over the past three years. This funding enabled Bush Heritage to upgrade IT infrastructure, improve our volunteer systems, and provide skills training for staff. Administration costs include the provision of our volunteer program with a direct benefit for our conservation reserves. 180 volunteers worked more than 1,800 days during the course of the year, with almost 1,700 of these days being worked on our conservation reserves.

"I'm proud to support Bush Heritage which is doing the same thing as local environmental groups but on a much larger national basis – reassuring to know there are people and not for profit organisations wanting to maintain and nourish our beautiful country."

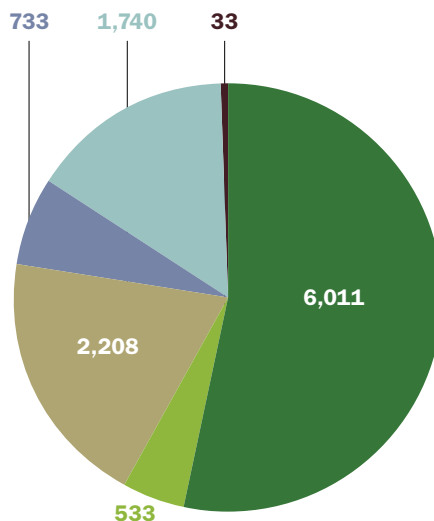
Anna
Earlwood, NSW

The year in review

Income (\$000k)



Expenditure (\$000k)



Total Income

\$10 995 000

Total Expenditure

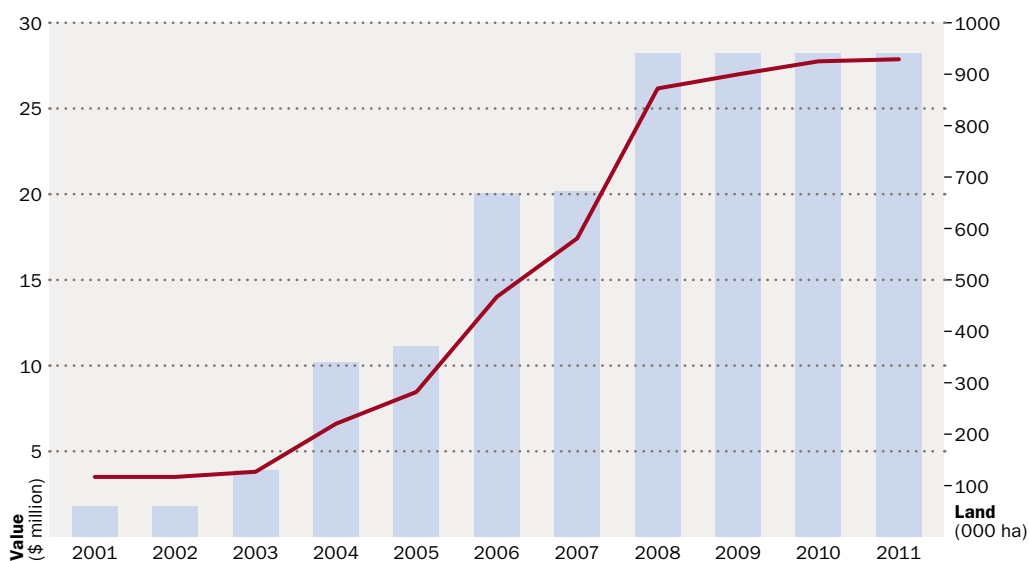
\$11 258 000

- Individuals
- Trusts/foundations
- Corporations
- Bequests
- Government Grants
- Investments
- Other

- Conservation activities
- Conservation communications
- Fundraising activities
- Investment in new supporters
- Administrative expenses
- Loss on impairment of shares

Bush Heritage Reserves

- Reserves (hectares)
- Investment in reserves and associated infrastructure



Two properties were added to Bush Heritage's reserves in 2011, Oura Oura in Tasmania and the John Colahan Griffin Reserve in Victoria.

"I donate each month and would like to leave as much as I can in my will to Bush Heritage. I hope that future Australians can benefit from these reserved places where animals are free to live from humans and the ecology evolves as naturally as possible."

Diedre
Maleny, Qld



A sustainability strategy

Bush Heritage grew very rapidly in a short period from about 2005 to 2009, almost tripling the area protected in conservation reserves in this time.

Since then, we have focussed additional effort on strengthening the conservation management, as well as the assessment and reporting of conservation outcomes on our reserves. See our five-year Ecological Outcomes Monitoring Report for Eurardy, featured on pages 10 and 11, which outlines the very real improvements that have been achieved in this relatively short time.

“We need to strengthen the community we engage with in our conservation activities.”

We have also developed strong partnerships with universities that help to strengthen our planning and maximise the conservation outcomes on our reserves with limited funds.

Bush Heritage’s Board has also recognised we need to strengthen the community we engage with in our conservation activities. This includes our science, indigenous and conservation partners. Our neighbours and volunteers that support our reserves are very important to the effectiveness of our work on the ground.

Importantly, the Board recognises that we need to strengthen our supporter base to provide greater long-term stability and financial sustainability for our conservation reserves. To this end we have, over the past two years, invested some funds into attracting new Friends of the Bush supporters (increasing the numbers of regular donors by 38 per cent in the last year).

While we recognise this investment increases our costs in the short-term, Friends of the Bush donate monthly and provide long-term, stable funds for reserve management.



*Top: Thorny devil
Photograph by A J Emmott*

*Above: Knob-tailed gecko
Photograph by Wayne Lawler
/ Ecopix*

**“Our favourite animal?
The little thorny devil.
They don’t make them
much cuter!”**

Shelley and Graeme
Noosaville, Qld

**Bush Heritage
reserves protect:**

50%

of Australian
bird species

37%

of Australian land
mammal species

25%

of Australian
plant species

When the going gets tough



Floods damaged the only access road to Carnarvon Station Reserve in December 2010. Photographs by Steve Heggie

The Australian bush is nothing if not resilient. After fire, the first green shoots sprout from blackened trees within days. During drought, native animals adjust their breeding cycles and patterns, producing less young from less frequent litters in response to reduced food and water.

And in floods, arid landscapes burst into life, teeming with nomadic water birds that have sometimes travelled thousands of miles.

The resilience that we see in the Australian bush is also embedded in the culture of Bush Heritage. Just like our native plants and animals, we find ways of dealing with the good and the bad.

Over December 2010 and January 2011, the notoriously fickle La Niña weather system visited Australia, bringing extreme weather and a Category 5 Tropical Cyclone to the east coast of Australia.

Some of our reserves, like Carnarvon Station and Yourka, suffered significant damage to infrastructure including access roads, trails and fences.

Despite years of hard work on both reserves being literally washed away, we have taken stock of the damage, regrouped and begun the necessary work to ensure we can effectively manage and protect these special places.

Sometimes, too, we have to accept that hindsight is a gift that is often received too late. If our forefathers had realised what destruction they were unleashing on Australia's native wildlife by introducing feral predators like foxes and cats, they may well have acted differently.

While we will never eradicate all feral animals, we can do much to control their numbers. In the last year, numbers of feral predators have declined on several of our reserves, such as Scottsdale and Boolcoommatta. We are also exploring new ways to target the highly destructive feral cat, which remains a threat to wildlife on reserves like Boolcoommatta in South Australia.

This year, while we rejoiced at our success in purchasing the John Colahan Griffin Nature Reserve in Victoria, we also suffered the bitter disappointment of not securing another property with outstanding conservation values. In this case, the vendor would not move on a price we judged to be well above the market value. Unfortunately, market forces, budget constraints and sometimes sheer bad luck mean that occasionally we miss out.

However, just like the Australian bush, we are resilient. We are keeping our eyes on the bigger prize: to protect 7 million hectares – 1 per cent of Australia – by 2025.

Despite the challenges we face from time to time, our determination – and the extraordinary generosity of our wonderful supporters – will help us achieve our goal.

“My childhood was rich in experience and I’m very grateful for that. My mother was an active conservationist who believed we should give back to protect the places we love and value. I try and carry on that ethos.”

Ann

Allens Rivulet, Tas.

274 mm

The amount of rain that fell at Carnarvon Reserve on 27 December 2010

6 hours

Drive time to the nearest town of Injune (usually 2 hours)

\$70 000

Cost of repairing the main 4WD access road to Carnarvon Station Reserve

Thank you

Thanks to your steadfast support, we can continue protecting our wonderful bush for future generations. Thank you to all our supporters, and thank you to the supporters listed below, who have made exceptional contributions in 2010–2011.

Supporters

Australian Academy of Science, Australian Desert Expeditions, Australian Government: Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Mrs Betty G Amey, Andyinc Foundation, Australian Community Foundation-Coronella Fund, Vernon & Estelle Bailey, Staff & management of Biosis Research Pty Ltd, BlueScope Steel and Staff, James Andrew Christopher, S C Carlton, Craig and Cora Carter, John Clarke in memory of Marie Clarke, Annie Danks Trust, Desert Channels Queensland Inc, Eclipse Resources Pty Ltd, The First Eddystone Foundation, Peter Edwards, Endeavour Energy staff, Henry Foster, Alexander Gosling & Wirat Sukprem, Cleve & Jenny Hassell, Hill Family Conservation Foundation, Hunter Hall, Hutchinson Foundation, Institute of Wildlife Research: University of Sydney, Andrew Keayes and Vanessa Lansdown, The Karen and John Kightley Foundation, David and Megan Laidlaw, David Leece & Frances Murrell, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Melbourne, Stella Monger-Hay, Ian Munro, Native Vegetation Council: South Australia, New South Wales Government: Office of Environment and Heritage, North Queensland Dry Tropics, Brian O'Farrell, Washington H Soul Pattinson & Co Ltd, Perpetual Ltd and staff, Qld Government: Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority, Reece Australia Ltd, Michael Rose & Jo D'Antonio, Estate Robin Vincent Udny Rothwell Account Wildlife Preservation Trust, managed by Perpetual, RPS Environment, Brian & Diana Snape, South Australia Arid lands NRM Board, South Australian Government: Department of Environment & Heritage, South-west NRM: Queensland, Michael Tichbon, Jim & Sylvia Warner, In memory of Judy Wheeler, Lyle Wheeler and Harry Wheeler, Garry White Foundation, Olga White

Leading Benefactors

Allens Arthur Robinson, Bob Brown and Paul Thomas, Sidney Myer Fund 2009 Commemorative Grants Program, The Nature Conservancy & The Nature Conservancy's David Thomas Challenge, private foundation, John T Reid Charitable Trusts

Key Supporters

Flight Centre, Geoff Giles, Chris & Gina Grubb, JB Hi-Fi and Staff, Maxwell Family Foundation, The Miller Foundation, The Myer Foundation, Various trusts managed by Perpetual Philanthropic Services, David Rickards in memory of Helen Rickards, Royal Automobile Club of WA, Graham & Judith Turner

Major Supporters

Terry & Caroline Bellair, Besen Family Foundation, William Buckland Foundation managed by ANZ Trustees, The Carleton Family Charitable Trust managed by Perpetual, Egon Zehnder International, The Holmes family, Stan & Irene Johanson, Estate Late James Simpson Love managed by Perpetual, Macquarie Group Foundation, Margaret S Ross AM, Elizabeth Xipell

Bequests

Bush Heritage gratefully received bequests from the estates of the following supporters:
John Lawrence Barnett, Jennifer Mary Barnett, Lawrence Joseph Myer Barzel, James Edward Alexander Bond, Ralph Barclay Braun, Christopher George Clark, Gweneth Benson Cunningham, Rupert Gerald Featherstone, John Colahan Griffin, Judith Catherine Iltis, Janet Peta Linnell, Philippa Mary O'Neil, Thomas Rosauer, Mollie Vindin Rowell, Marjory Augusta West

This publication uses 100 per cent post-consumer waste recycled fibre, made with a carbon neutral manufacturing process, using vegetable-based inks.



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*Front cover: Wunambal Gaambara country, in Western Australia's remote Kimberley region, now protected by a ten-year partnership between the Wunambal Gaambara people and Bush Heritage
Photograph by Peter Morris*



BUSH HERITAGE
AUSTRALIA

Our heart & soul



Bush Heritage Australia

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Bush Heritage Australia is a national, independent non-profit organisation. It is committed to protecting Australia's plants and animals and their habitats. It acquires – by purchase, gift or bequest – and manages, land of outstanding ecological importance for protecting Australia's biodiversity and ecological systems. Bush Heritage also builds partnerships with other organisations and individuals to protect the long-term conservation values of land that others own. Funds are raised by tax-deductible donations from the public and funding organisations.