



New Reedy Creek Reserve, Queensland

A gift of 452 hectares of remnant vegetation and coastal habitats in one of Queensland's prime coastal zones will be the next Bush Heritage reserve. The new Reedy Creek Reserve lies on the coast adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and on the northern edge of the Deepwater National Park.



Headlands, beach dunes, stunning wetlands and threatened vine forests, as well as loggerhead and green turtle nesting areas, will soon be under Bush Heritage management at the new Reedy Creek Reserve near Agnes Waters. The threatened Dunmall's snake and beach stone-curlew will then have a safe refuge.

Reedy Creek Reserve provides Bush Heritage with a unique opportunity to protect a remnant of quality habitat in one of the most expensive, intensely used and depleted natural environments along the eastern coastline of Australia.

The property has come to Bush Heritage under unusual circumstances. During the 1990s the Baevski family purchased around 600 hectares of land from a mining company that had bought the property for possible sand mining. As part of their purchase agreement the Baevskis persuaded the Queensland Government to 'sterilise' the mining exploration leases on this and other areas of land along a seven-kilometre stretch of coastline.

Of the area purchased, a total of 148 hectares has been set aside by the Baevskis for housing and common areas of native vegetation. They have applied strict guidelines to vegetation clearing, site

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construction and landscape management in each private lot, and in the common property areas. Water and energy conservation and reuse are a priority, and stringent rules apply to waste management, the use of endemic species in gardens, and the introduction of pets. About fifteen hectares, or around two per cent of the total land area, will be cleared for housing and infrastructure. Most of the house sites have been sold.

Clockwise from above: Green turtle. PHOTO: DUANE YATES/NATURE FOCUS
Sunrise Beach. Passionflower *Passiflora* sp. Broad-leaved paperbark *Melaleuca quinquenervia* overhanging Deepwater Creek. Littoral rainforest. PHOTOS: CARL MOLLER





The land adjoining the development has significant conservation values and has been given to Bush Heritage by Michael and Dellarose Baevski. The land is on a separate, freehold title and will be permanently owned and managed by Bush Heritage – our seventeenth reserve.

An additional parcel of land has been gifted to the Aboriginal traditional owners and an environmental education centre is planned, for use by both visitors and residents.

Each homebuyer in the new development will pay a compulsory annual environmental levy. For at least the next 25 years the levy will come to Bush Heritage to employ a reserve manager to care for the Reedy Creek Reserve and common property areas on the adjoining residential section. Bush Heritage will also manage much of the land down to the foreshore including the headland habitats, coastal dunes and turtle-breeding areas. The total cost of managing Reedy Creek Reserve will be covered by this environmental levy, so no donations will be required either to acquire or manage this new reserve.

MANAGEMENT

The control of fire, erosion, weeds and feral animals will be the main management tasks facing the new reserve manager. Currently, foxes are estimated to eat 90 per cent of the turtle clutches that are laid in the breeding areas. The reserve manager will also be involved in educating residents and visitors about the environmental values of the reserve, and in liaising with the local community. Funds will also be used to support a local voluntary group that works to protect the shoreline habitat of the turtles that use the beach and adjacent dunes.

VEGETATION

Nine vegetation communities are known at the site. Reedy Creek, and the pandanus-lined wetlands fed by freshwater springs, provide homes for an abundance of birds, frogs and freshwater fish. *Melaleuca* forests, *Corymbia* woodlands and vine forests protect a diversity of plants and provide vital wildlife habitat. The rocky headlands and the fore dune communities are breeding and foraging areas for many species including the turtles and migrant and local waders.





WILDLIFE

Fifteen species of mammals, 163 species of birds, six species of native frogs and 24 species of reptiles have been recorded at the reserve so far. These include the threatened Dunmall's snake and beach stone-curlew, and the rare grey goshawk. Greater gliders, squirrel and sugar gliders, as well as whiptail wallabies and the tiny 'delicate mouse', are protected in the new reserve.

Access to the beach for 4WD vehicles has been closed as part of the residential plan and walking trails will provide access to all the beaches. This will greatly enhance the future of those species that depend on the beaches.

While any coastal land development in this region is regrettable, Bush Heritage welcomes the opportunity to be able to protect and manage a significant area of habitat within a coastal region that is under intense pressure from housing and recreational use. The integration of new residential subdivisions and nature conservation, whereby the people who buy the blocks of land financially support the protection of an adjacent conservation

area, is a model that could well be adopted in future residential developments.

There will be many opportunities for cooperation and information-sharing between Bush Heritage, as a landowner, and the new homebuyers, the shire council, the local indigenous people, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and local voluntary conservation groups.

We look forward to taking on this wonderful new reserve and protecting all its rare animals, birds and vegetation communities for the long term.

Facing page, clockwise from top: Red Rock Beach with pandanus *Pandanus pendunculatus*. Jumping spider (Family: Salticidae). PHOTOS: CARL MOLLER Beach stone-curlew. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX Dunmall's snake. PHOTO: ROBERT JENKINS/NATURE FOCUS *Melaleuca quinquenervia* open forest. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX

This page, clockwise from top left: Banksia sp. Shield bug. Grass trees *Xanthorrhoea* sp. Eastern dwarf tree frog. Red Rock Beach. PHOTOS: CARL MOLLER Delicate mouse. PHOTO: G HOYLE/NATURE FOCUS





Impressions of Brogo

Photographer **Wayne Lawler** visited **Brogo Reserve in the Bega Valley of New South Wales in June 2003**

There is no such thing as a casual stroll at Brogo Reserve. The land makes you work to discover its secrets. Everywhere seems either straight up or straight down! The reserve spans three forested ridges topped with domed granite outcrops from which a hiker can look across deep fern gullies. The reserve then falls away through open grassy forest to the secluded Brogo River.

The intimate sandy pools and murmuring riffles of the river are bordered by towering old river oaks (*Casuarina* sp.) that dip their mossy roots into the clear water. This riparian oak forest is the only example of its type reserved for conservation. Many of the other forest types on the reserve, such as the wet shrub forest, are also among the last remnants in existence. Over 90 per cent of Australia's dry rainforest has been cleared, and Brogo protects its most southerly extent.

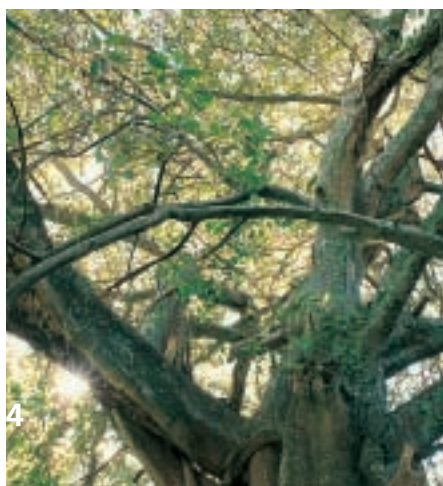
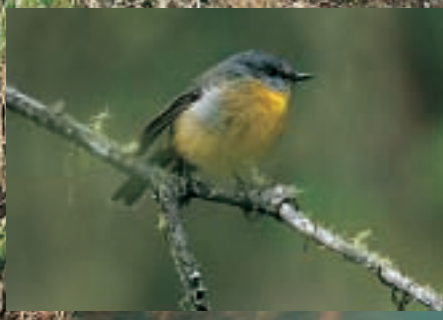
Having walked through the sunny, ridge-top, dry grass forest with its huge forest red gums, drumming cicadas and busy thornbills, I headed to a granite outcrop to catch my breath and enjoy the view. Below I could see a shady grotto under an ancient, contorted rock fig (*Ficus* sp.). Intrigued, I entered into the cloistered world of the dry rainforest through a veil

of glossy leaves and tangled vines. Small, strange plants and miniature fungi grew among the mossy rocks, deep leaf litter and coiling vines. A eastern yellow robin observed me quietly from a metre away and an unseen wallaby thumped away downhill.

I sat on a mossy log listening to a superb lyrebird and a golden whistler competing to be the best songster in the gully, and thanked Bush Heritage for preserving this diverse and beautiful part of our natural heritage.

Wayne Lawler, July 2003

Clockwise from top: Brogo River. Forest red gum *Eucalyptus tereticornus*. Dawn fog in the Brogo River valley. Rock fig *Ficus rubiginosa*. Fruit of the burrawang *Macrozamia communis*. Austral bluebell *Wahlenbergia* sp. Eastern yellow robin. PHOTOS: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX





Ethabuka – a new era

Bush Heritage ecologist Murray Haseler was the first staff member at Ethabuka Reserve

We arrived at Ethabuka Reserve on 22 February 2004 after three long, hot days of driving. I had fitted out two 4WDs and was accompanied by past colleagues, zoologists Mike Mathieson and Luke Hogan, who had eagerly offered to help drive the vehicles to the reserve and have a look around. Paul and Carol Spencer, the interim reserve managers who had arrived three days earlier, were there to meet us.

The late-afternoon temperature was still in the high 40s as we pulled up, so we retreated to the old house for some respite only to find it even hotter inside. The house had not been lived in for years. Wind-driven red sand formed dunes across the linoleum and benches. Magnesium-rich waters had seized the taps but, as it turned out, not enough to prevent us from getting the water we needed to start the mammoth cleaning job.

Our first role was to sort out the house. The generator required some coaxing to get going but it did eventually allow us to run the air cooler. However, the effort was obviously too great for it. On the fourth day it burst into flames, the ice melted, the food spoiled and tempers flared, as the house was still at 40° C at 10 p.m. Then the windmill broke down. However, thanks to the resilience of Paul and Carol, the house will be a suitable habitat when the new reserve manager arrives in June.

Most desert creatures survive the extreme desert conditions by going

underground or being nocturnal. The heat and the drought had thus rendered invisible those small mammals that first drew our attention to Ethabuka. Dr Chris Dickman and his team from Sydney University arrived five days after us and, despite the conditions, showed us the sandy inland mouse, ningau and even a mulgara. There was great enthusiasm amongst the researchers because their work had now become central, rather than peripheral, to the management of the reserve. There was much talk of opportunities for future cooperation.

It appears, notwithstanding our humble arrival, that we will start work at this new reserve with an abundance of knowledge and goodwill from researchers, neighbours and locals alike.

Clockwise from top: Ethabuka homestead gate. Flat-topped mesas. PHOTOS: WAYNE LAWLER/COPIX
Sandy inland mouse. PHOTO: JIRI LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES
Spinifex plain. Ethabuka homestead. PHOTOS: WAYNE LAWLER/COPIX
Mulgara. PHOTO: JIRI LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES
Shell midden on Hunter Island.



Interested in work for Good Cause?

Good Cause works to raise the profile of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund and to increase its funding by recruiting donors through face-to-face fundraising. Monthly donors are enrolled by highly trained Good Cause advocates who meet them at shopping centres and other public venues, and at events.

Join the Good Cause team to work in regional New South Wales, or even in Perth, and help to protect Australia's unique natural environment. You will work with passionate, committed people and receive training that may be useful for your future career. Payment is by the hour plus bonuses. Full-time and part-time positions available.

For more information call 1800 450 123 or visit www.goodcause.com.au

Volunteer rangers needed

Take some time out to help manage some of the finest reserves in Australia. Volunteer rangers are now needed for Charles Darwin Reserve, WA (from May 2004), Tarcutta Hills Reserve, NSW (from June 2004), and Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld (in 2005). Work to be done includes site-cleaning, building repairs, goat-trapping, weed control and fencing.

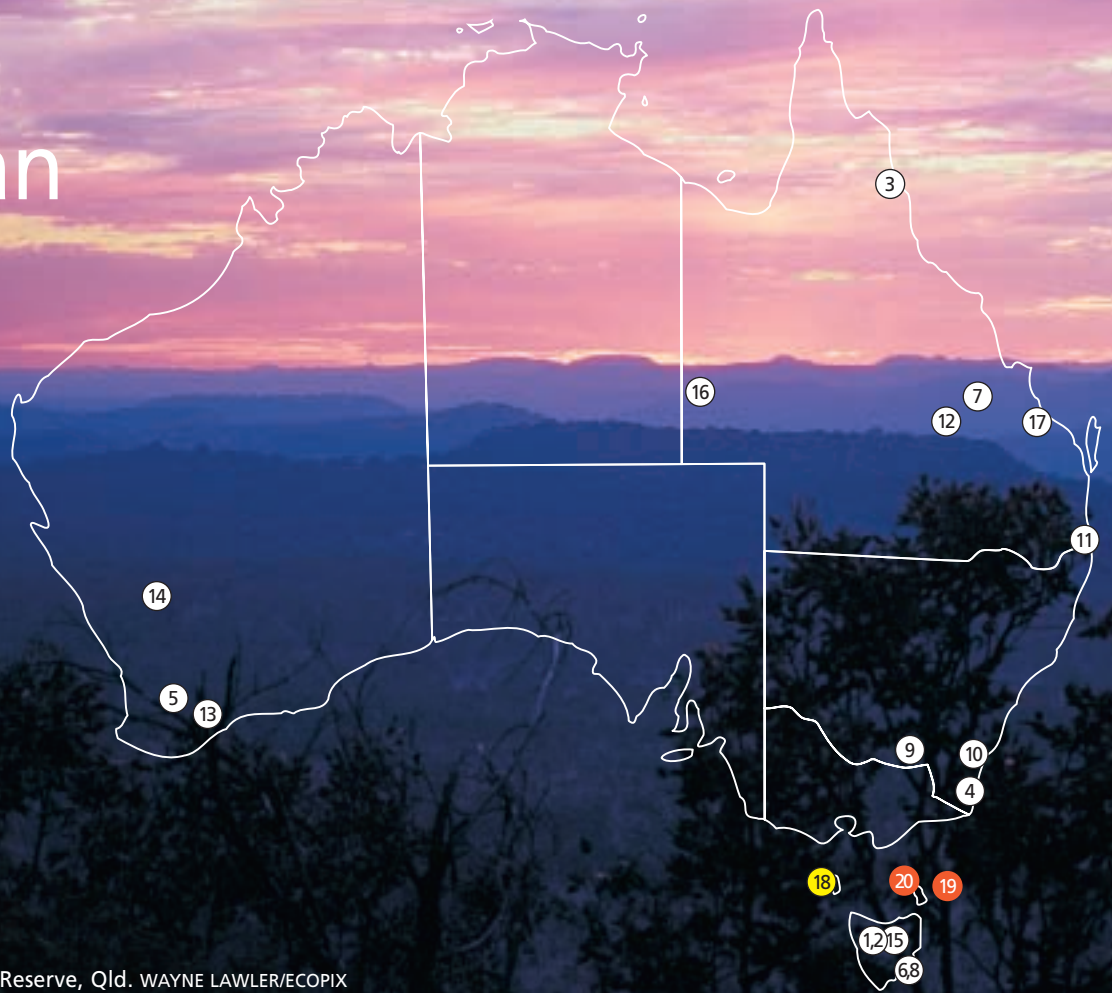
Please contact Joelle Medcalf on 03 6223 2670 or email volunteers@bushheritage.asn.au

Hunter Island update

The Tasmanian Minister for Tourism, Parks and Heritage has written stating that the Government is unable to approve the transfer of the Hunter Island lease to Bush Heritage 'at this stage'. Minister Ken Bacon has invited Bush Heritage to be involved in further consultation. Please refer to the Bush Heritage website for the Governments and Bush Heritages press releases.



Australian Bush Heritage Fund reserves



Bush Heritage Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld. WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX

Current reserves



① Liffey River Reserve, Tas — purchased 1990

This 105 ha of fern gully and rainforest lies beneath the Great Western Tiers on the edge of the World Heritage Area. The wet forest is a haven for wildlife including pygmy possums and Tasmanian devils. **Management work 2003/04:** development and maintenance of walking tracks and interpretation, weed control. **Contributes to the protection of:** one significant community and two species at risk.

② Drys Bluff Reserve, Tas — purchased 1990

This reserve consists of 136 ha of dry sclerophyll forest, typical habitat for many endemic Tasmanian species. The forest helps to support at least 60 bird species, including the threatened Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle. **Management work 2003/04:** nothing required; regular monitoring visits maintained. **Contributes to the protection of:** one significant community and two species at risk.

③ Fan Palm Reserve, Qld — purchased 1993

Lowland tropical rainforest is one of the most threatened habitats in Australia. This 8.17 ha of fan palm forest adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area was threatened by subdivision. It provides habitat for cassowaries and threatened plant species. **Management work 2003/04:** fauna surveys, feral animal and weed control. **Contributes to the protection of:** one significant community and 20 species at risk.

④ Brogo Reserve, NSW — purchased 1995

At 120 ha, Brogo is one of the largest viable remnants of bushland in the Bega Valley in south-east NSW. It is a haven for native mammals and many bird species including sugar gliders, long-nosed bandicoots and powerful owls. **Management work 2003/04:** fencing, track maintenance, weed control, bell miner monitoring. **Contributes to the protection of:** four significant communities and seven species at risk.



⑤ Kojonup Reserve, WA — purchased 1996

The 389 ha Kojonup Reserve is an important remnant of wandoo woodland in south-west WA. It protects at least 81 species of native birds and three threatened plant species. It has an intact understorey of herbs, heaths, sedges, orchids and other wildflowers. **Management work 2003/04:** salinity research and monitoring, fauna survey; rabbit control. **Contributes to the protection of:** one significant community and seven species at risk.

⑥ Friendly Beaches Reserve, Tas — purchased 1997

Fringed by Saltwater Lagoon and the sand dunes of Friendly Beaches, this reserve protects 140 ha of coastal heathland with dry sclerophyll forest, black gum and marsh-plant communities. **Management work 2003/04:** *Phytophthora* and vegetation monitoring. **Contributes to the protection of:** four significant communities and three species at risk.

⑦ Goonderoo Reserve, Qld — purchased 1998

This 593 ha reserve contains nine distinct plant communities including brigalow woodlands and native grasslands, both of which are classified as endangered. It protects 142 bird species, at least ten species of snakes and a wide variety of other wildlife including sugar gliders and koalas. **Management work 2003/04:** fencing, erosion control, maintenance of firebreaks and roads, house repairs, flora surveys, weed control. **Contributes to the protection of:** eight significant communities and seven species at risk.

⑧ South Esk Pine Reserve, Tas — purchased 1998

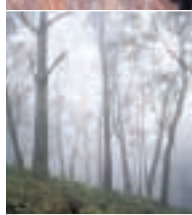
Located on the banks of the Apsley River on Tasmania's east coast, this 6.8 ha reserve protects the last large stand of the South Esk pine. A Tasmanian endemic, the pine is considered to be vulnerable, with only 10 000 trees remaining. **Management work 2003/04:** weed control, vegetation monitoring. **Contributes to the protection of:** one significant community and seven species at risk.



The state and national classifications for threatened communities and species change with time as our understanding of their true conservation status improves. Bush Heritage will always use the latest assessments of status in reporting figures for threatened communities and species on Bush Heritage reserves. Thus, reported figures may change from year to year. The terms used here are general and indicate that the species or community is listed as threatened by state and/or commonwealth authorities.



9 Tarcutta Hills Reserve, NSW — purchased 1999
Tarcutta Hills is a 432 ha reserve of national significance. It protects the largest area of grassy whitebox woodland left in Australia and enjoys an unusual richness of species. It provides habitat for the nationally threatened turquoise and swift parrots. **Management work 2003/04:** fencing maintenance, bird surveys, feral animal surveys and control, cabin improvements, weed control; solar power installed. **Contributes to the protection of:** one significant community and thirteen species at risk.



10 Burrin Burrin Reserve, NSW — donated 1999
This reserve protects 411 ha of escarpment forest in the upper reaches of the Shoalhaven River catchment. It provides habitat for sugar and squirrel gliders and brushtail and ringtail possums. **Management work 2003/04:** track maintenance. **Contributes to the protection of:** three significant communities.



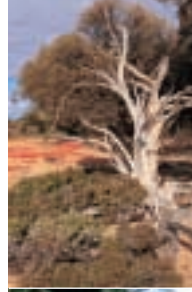
11 Currumbin Valley Reserve, Qld — donated 1999
Although only 4 ha, this regenerating rainforest reserve is highly diverse. Together with the adjoining Nicholl Scrub National Park, the reserve contributes to the protection of a significant area of habitat. **Management work 2003/04:** memorial garden maintenance. **Contributes to the protection of:** seven species at risk.



12 Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld — purchased 2001
The 59 000 ha Carnarvon Station Reserve adjoins Carnarvon Gorge National Park. It protects seventeen regional ecosystems, six of which are endangered. So far 93 bird species and seventeen native mammal species have been recorded. **Management work 2003/04:** fencing, fuel-reduction burning, vegetation mapping, fauna surveys, building repairs, infrastructure development, feral animal control, weed control. **Contributes to the protection of:** six significant communities and thirteen species at risk.



13 Chereninup Creek Reserve, WA — purchased 2002
Chereninup Creek Reserve protects 877 ha of floristically spectacular and globally important land in south-west WA. It is the most diverse of all Bush Heritage reserves. So far twelve major plant communities have been identified and the threatened malleefowl, western whipbird, tammar wallaby and western brushtail possum are protected here. **Management work 2003/04:** management plan completed, revegetation. **Contributes to the protection of:** at least four significant communities and four species at risk.



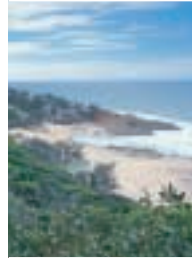
14 Charles Darwin Reserve (formerly White Wells Station), WA — purchased 2003
Protects 68 600 ha of york gum, salmon gum, gimlet, and sandplain vegetation in the WA wheat belt. Eleven regional ecosystems are represented. Rare and threatened plants are continually being discovered. The threatened malleefowl, declining woodland birds and small mammal species are safe here. **Management work 2003/04:** infrastructure improvement, site cleaning, weed and feral animal control, management planning. **Contributes to the protection of:** at least seven significant communities and fifteen species at risk.



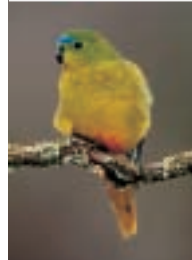
15 Coalmine Creek, Tas — donated 2003
A gift from Dr Judy Henderson, this 20 ha block lies in the Liffey Valley and adjoins the Central Plateau World Heritage Area. It protects a mix of wet sclerophyll and rainforest species and abundant ferns. The threatened Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle and the white goshawk use the forest. **Management work 2003/04:** management planning.



16 Ethabuka, Qld — purchased 2004
Ethabuka protects 213 300 ha of river flood plains, dune systems, clay pans and an ephemeral and semi-permanent wetland system of national significance. It has a remarkable diversity of mammals, birds and reptiles, including the mulgara, woma, Australian bustard, yellow chat, chestnut quail-thrush and painted honeyeater, all listed as threatened. **management work 2004:** infrastructure improvements, initial surveys. **contributes to the protection of:** at least three significant communities and seven species at risk.



17 Reedy Creek Reserve, Qld — donated 2004
Protects 452 hectares in one of the most intensely used and depleted natural environments in eastern Australia. Nine vegetation communities including pandanus-lined wetlands, *Melaleuca* forests, *Corymbia* woodlands and threatened vine forests are safeguarded. Bush Heritage will also manage loggerhead and green turtle breeding areas on the adjacent beaches. Threatened Dunmall's snake and beach stone-curlews will have a safe refuge here. **Contributes to the protection of:** at least one significant community and five species at risk.



Prospective reserves

18 Hunter Island — lease awaiting transfer
Hunter Island supports six ecological communities that are of conservation significance including the last remnants of white gum woodland in the bioregion. It is a vital staging point for the migrating, critically-endangered orange-bellied parrots and has the highest known density of breeding white-bellied sea eagles. A threatened orchid will also be protected here. **Contributes to protection of:** six significant communities and fourteen species at risk.

Past reserves

19 Deal Island, Bass Strait — lease purchased 1999, relinquished 2000
Deal Island was held briefly by Bush Heritage and was returned to the Tasmanian Government in 2000 for inclusion in the proposed Kent Group National Park.



20 Erith Island, Bass Strait — lease purchased 1997, relinquished 2002
Erith Island is rich in flora classified as rare in Tasmania. In July 2002 the Erith Island lease was returned to the Tasmanian Government to facilitate the declaration of the Kent Group National Park, which includes Erith, Dover and Deal islands.



Charles Darwin Reserve one year on

After just one year as a Bush Heritage reserve the Charles Darwin Reserve in south-west Western Australia has come a long way. Drought, baking heat, flood and tempest, as well as many notable events involving goats, have kept reserve manager Leigh Whisson and his wife Jackie Courtenay wondering what will happen next

Bush Heritage purchased this 68600 hectare property on the northern edge of the West Australian wheat belt in January 2003. It protects one of the last large remnants of the ancient woodlands, and heath and wildflower-covered sand plains, in southern Western Australia. The property is of great conservation significance and international importance, particularly for its vegetation communities and flora.



We arrived during one of the worst droughts in 100 years. Fire had burnt large areas of the reserve before Bush Heritage purchased the property, so we were well aware of the significant threat that it posed. Fire, foxes, goats, cats, weeds and rubbish were going to dominate our thinking for much of this first year. The stunning displays of wildflowers and the company of many visitors would be welcome diversions.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The infrastructure at Charles Darwin Reserve was time-wearied and badly neglected. Unlike the house, which volunteer extraordinaire Don Royal and his band of helpers had refurbished before we arrived (*Bush Heritage News*, Winter 2003), everything else broke down repeatedly, soaking up time and testing our patience. The natural disasters just added extra colour to our lives.

Now, a year later, we hope Monger's Well windmill has been conquered. The generator, the electrics and the plumbing will be next. A new solar power system, new wiring and septic tank (that is lower than the toilet) are planned. We have dried everything out after the flood which

broke the drought, replaced the pergola ripped off by a mini tornado and patched the holes that it punched in the roof on its way past.

FERAL ANIMALS

Since December 2003 nearly 200 goats have been taken off the reserve. We could tell many goat stories with a similar theme – of escape through rotting fences, reherding of runaways, dust, 40^o-plus, and sweaty, cursing reserve staff. Improved fencing, as well as catching pens and herding races with higher fences, will gradually change the flavour of the tales.

Twenty-six rabbits, twelve foxes and two feral cats have been shot. Conservation and Land Management scientists have recently conducted a fox-baiting trial to test different bait attractants. Their tally from eleven nights' work was 58 foxes. A three-monthly, broad-scale baiting program will commence in May 2004.

WEEDS

Weeds have been mapped, mostly by volunteer Annette Stewart with help from Don and Betty Woods. Annette found the weeds restricted to disturbed areas (except at two sites) and less than one per cent of the reserve affected.



Forty species were identified with only six being of major concern. Many volunteer hours have already been spent working to eradicate them.

RUBBISH

The reserve came with a double dose of detritus from many years of human use and neglect. The clean-up has begun but the rubbish is of epic proportions. Helped by dedicated volunteers we have already dispatched thirty-six 2 m x 4 m caged trailer-loads of rubbish from just around the homestead. Many tonnes will need to be removed before the job is complete, as the 'dump' extends over hectares of the bush. A detailed waste-management strategy is guiding the clean-up and the recycling of as much as possible. Only the reptiles, which value discarded tin as homes, will be disappointed to see the last of it go.

NEW SPECIES

Chance meetings with unusual wildlife and the discovery of new species for the reserve have been highlights. Detailed plant and animal surveys are not yet under way but in one week Sue Patrick of the West Australian Herbarium discovered 58 new plants for the reserve including two new 'priority' plants. She found a few species that were either atypical forms, or constituted range extensions or were possibly undescribed. The reserve is a new location for one Priority 1 species that was previously known from only two sites. Charles Darwin Reserve is now the only protected site at which it is found. Our 'reserve herbarium' is expanding rapidly.

The list of wildlife grows. We have added three bat species to the list during the past year, and two reptile and two frog species since February. The bird list has



grown to 89 species, with good sightings of threatened malleefowl. The invertebrate fauna is extremely rich and varied.

FIRE

Earlier this year, a workshop on fire management at the reserve (see Page 10) set in motion the preparation of the fire management plan, and the reserve now has fire-fighting equipment and a water unit for the vehicle. The reserve management plan, which will guide the management actions over the next five years, is also under way.

We would like to thank the 38 volunteers who have so far contributed 296 days of their time to help care for the reserve. This has meant a saving to Bush Heritage of over \$53 000 in labour costs.

Facing page, clockwise from top: Wildflowers following fire. PHOTO: LEIGH WHISSON **Many goats have been removed from the reserve.** PHOTO: JIRI AND MARIE LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES **Banded plover eggs.** **House block after the floods.** PHOTOS: LEIGH WHISSON **Lambs tail *Lachnostachys* sp.** PHOTO: JIRI AND MARIE LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES

This page, clockwise from top: Feral nanny and kids find respite from the heat in the shower shed. The storm that broke the flood. Water rushing through the house block. Yellow sun orchid *Thelymitra* sp. PHOTOS: LEIGH WHISSON





PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX

Common name: Loggerhead turtle

Scientific name: *Caretta caretta*

Conservation status:

Endangered: internationally, nationally,
– NT, Qld, NSW, Tas.
Vulnerable: SA
Rare: WA

Loggerhead turtles are found predominantly in the tropical and warm temperate waters of the world. They are among the biggest of the marine turtles. Their carnivorous lifestyle is reflected in their large heads and strong jaws. They eat molluscs, crabs, sea urchins, sponges and jellyfish. Females lay an average of 100 eggs per clutch in a shallow scrape in the sand.

The species is endangered around the world. Adult loggerheads are killed by hunters and as a result of fishing activities. Eggs and hatchlings are poached and killed by predators. Breeding is often disrupted by coastal development and human activities on beaches. Feeding habitats such as seagrass beds have been damaged or destroyed as a result of sedimentation, nutrient run-off, insensitive tourist development and destructive fishing techniques. The turtle breeding area next to Reedy Creek Reserve will now be managed by Bush Heritage.



Charles Darwin Reserve planning workshop

Bush Heritage landscape ecologist Phil Cullen reports

Bush Heritage recently brought together Western Australia's leading ecologists, natural historians and land managers, and some of our neighbours and staff, to engage in a few days' discussion and conservation planning for the Charles Darwin Reserve. Enticing these busy people was not as difficult as I expected. I made them an offer they could not refuse: a trip to the reserve at the height of the wildflower season, starlit dining with splendid Indian cuisine, and a trip every afternoon to show off the wonders of the property.

Our primary aim was to gather information and ideas for the reserve management plan but we had a couple of other important items on the agenda. We wanted our neighbours to join us, not only because of their invaluable local knowledge, but also so that we could propose a more regional approach to managing the land for conservation. We were also testing a planning program developed by The Nature Conservancy in the United States. This program gave us a framework for setting priorities and getting the best conservation outcomes with few resources. It worked brilliantly, keeping us focused on the critical issues while allowing the expertise of each delegate to build detail into the framework. We were also delighted when our neighbours to the north suggested a plan to reduce grazing on an area near the boundary of our two properties that is of special significance for plants.

Bush Heritage staff gained many insights into the workings of the semi-arid woodland and shrubland ecosystems that occur on the property. We learnt just how fragile many of these systems are. For example, a poorly sited or constructed track can cause drought stress across many thousands of hectares of bush by disrupting the surface flow of water after heavy rainfall. An artificial watering point can lead to dramatic changes in the diversity of fauna over areas of many square kilometres, which in turn can

change the grazing pressure, impact severely on seed resources and even alter fire regimes.

Our special thanks to all the participants for their invaluable contributions and time. They include mining/environmental negotiator Frank Batini; Ashley and Dru Bell, our neighbours to the north; David Blood from CALM (Conservation and Land Management); fire management consultant Klaus Braun; Doug Bright, neighbour and owner of Mt Gibson Gold; Jackie Courtenay from Charles Darwin Reserve; consultant Peter Curry; fauna specialist John Dell; local environmental expert Charlie Nicholson; Sue Patrick from the West Australian Herbarium; Hugh Pringle and Peter Waddell from the Department of Agriculture; Jim Underwood, Manager of Mt Gibson (an Australian Wildlife Conservancy reserve); and Margi Weir from Greening Australia.

From top: Wildflowers after the fire. The workshop under way. 'Botanising' in the ironstone country. PHOTOS: PHIL CULLEN



From the CEO

Bush Heritage's central purpose is to buy back threatened land and water of high conservation value and manage it for conservation. Our reserves are not islands in the surrounding terrain but a part of the broader landscape or seascape. Thus it is vitally important that we are a positive influence for the natural environment beyond our reserve boundaries.

Neighbours, locals, reserve visitors and volunteers are all part of our 'beyond the boundaries' network. Our neighbours, and the uses to which they put their land, are diverse. They include rural and residential allotment owners, the national parks services, pastoralists, agriculturalists and tourism operators, to name a few. We are working to build with them inclusive and enduring relationships that will enhance habitat and wildlife conservation in their region.

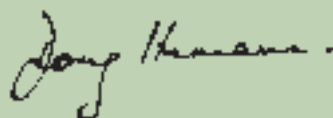
The gift of land at Agnes Waters on the Queensland coast – from Michael and Dellarose Baevski – gives us another such opportunity in the globally significant Great Barrier Reef Marine Park seascape, one of the most important and biologically diverse places on the planet. Bush Heritage will be managing its seventeenth reserve here, as well as the areas of native bush that are part of the 'common property' areas in the neighbouring residential development. We will be working closely with this new community and our role will be a positive one, will be free of conditions and will provide real conservation benefits.

We thank the Baevskis for selecting Bush Heritage to receive this generous gift of land and for their extensive planning. We hope that their innovative idea of making nature conservation an integral

part of a residential development will be adopted by others. We also thank Ian Hodgetts at Allens Arthur Robinson, our pro bono legal firm, for his exhaustive discussions to ensure that Bush Heritage's interests were protected.

On another note, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Indigenous Land Corporation last year, members of the Bidjara people from central Queensland visited Carnarvon Station Reserve. It was the first visit in over 30 years for some. With their permission we were delighted to view some of the astonishing paintings and petroglyphs at Carnarvon and to have these interpreted for us by representatives of the Bidjara people. We were subsequently invited to visit a nearby Bidjara property and hope to provide advice on the environmental management of remnant bushland there. Traditional owners have also recently visited Charles Darwin Reserve in Western Australia to assess the cultural sites on the property. We need the involvement of the indigenous communities to ensure that their cultural heritage sites on our reserves are adequately maintained and protected.

With this positive news it is unfortunate that I have to report that the Tasmanian Minister for Tourism, Parks and Heritage Ken Bacon has written stating that the Government is unable to approve the transfer of the Hunter Island lease to Bush Heritage 'at this stage'. We have a contract to buy the lease on the island and it should be a standard commercial property transaction. The contract still stands. The Government has invited us to be involved in further consultation on the island.



Thanks

Bush Heritage gratefully acknowledges **Paddy Pallin Pty Ltd** for generous support in the supply of equipment.

Bush Heritage would also like to thank framer **Luke Wagner** for his generosity and help in framing pictures.

Red Rock Beach, Agnes Waters. PHOTO: CARL MOLLER

In memory

Donations in memory of **Gay Bell** were received from Maureen Ryan, S Thomas and Nyrie Elcock. **Jean Stokes** was remembered by Joan and Robert Boyd. Family and many friends gave in memory of **James Gilmore**. Carl Martens donated for **Carel Anton Vogelsang** and Fiona Haddock in memory of her friend Sidah's father **Robert Russell**.

Sara Phillips and Phil, Ruth, Seb and kids donated for **Dave Gardener**, 'in memory of the laughter we shared with him and to celebrate his love of life'. Marilyn and Ken Zakrevsky gave for **John Robert Wilson**, 'a great bloke'.

Joan Payne remembered her 'wonderful mother **Dena Dove**' and Neville Goss his aunt **Con Jarmyn**, 'a dear aunt and a country girl'. Caroline Davis donated in memory of her sister **Diana**.

Kate and Mark Calabretta celebrated the memories of aunt **Elizabeth Ryle**, 'a gardener and lover of all things green, Irish and Australian', and aunt **Nuala O'Sullivan**, 'her fondly remembered and greatly missed sister'.

In celebration

Bush Heritage received many donations to celebrate the 60th birthday of **Dick Smith**. Many friends and family celebrated the combined 50th birthdays and 25th wedding anniversary of **Ian and Jacqui Ralph**. Judith Ambler donated as 'birthday wishes for **Jenny Hill** 12 Feb'. Roger and Anne Barsony remembered the 50th birthdays of **Terry Mawer** and **Barry Paff**.

The Lane Cove Bush Regeneration Cooperative sent a gift to honour **Sheila Walherden** on her retirement after years of service to the bush.

Jean Edgecombe donated 'as a special tribute to **Colin Watson** in recognition and appreciation of almost 50 years dedicated to the conservation and care of outstanding natural areas'. **Jean Edgecombe** has herself been honoured by Christine and Craig Austin to celebrate her 90th birthday and as someone who has 'dedicated her life to conservation and the service of others'. Happy birthday, Jean, from all at Bush Heritage.



Getting involved

VISIT THE RESERVES

You can experience for yourself the wonderful diversity of landscapes and ecosystems that you have helped to protect.

At Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld, you can spend up to a week camping and exploring. The Charles Darwin Reserve, WA, should be open to campers in April 2005 and Ethabuka Reserve, Qld, in mid-2005. At all reserves we ask that you 'leave only footprints and take only photos'.

To camp or go on unguided visits please contact Karen Harrland with any enquiries or to book for the reserves.

Please phone 1800 677 101 or email to kharrland@bushheritage.asn.au

FIELD DAYS 2004

Come on guided visits to some of our reserves and learn about these special areas. Places are limited so please register your interest soon.

August: Charles Darwin Reserve, WA, field weekend, Saturday 28 to Sunday 29.
September: Tarcutta Hills Reserve, NSW, field weekend, Saturday 11 to Sunday 12; Chereninup Creek Reserve, WA, field weekend, Saturday 18 to Sunday 19; Charles Darwin Reserve, WA, field weekend, Saturday 25 to Sunday 26;
November: Liffey River Reserve, Tas, field weekend, Saturday 20 to Sunday 21.

For information on attending field trips, or to RSVP, please contact Kalina Koloff on 02 9264 3377, fax 02 9264 0811 or email kkoloff@bushheritage.asn.au



Annapurna. PHOTO: RICHARD SMALL

Book now for Nepal and Tibet

World Expeditions is offering two great adventures exclusively to Bush Heritage supporters and at a sizeable discount. Bush Heritage will receive a generous donation for every participant.

Trekking in Nepal

Departs 13 November 2004, returns 1 December. Includes a nine-day trek with stunning mountains, traditional villages and famous rhododendron forests, plus Kathmandu and a three-day wildlife safari with elephant-back excursions. Cost is \$3870*, a saving of \$865. This includes \$700 to Bush Heritage.

Tibet - the high road to Lhasa

(non-trekking)
 Departs 18 September 2004, returns 4 October. A special seventeen-day journey including two days in Kathmandu, three days in Lhasa, then an eight-day road journey across the dramatic Tibetan Plateau and through the snow-capped peaks of the Himalaya. Visit the Potala Palace and the Rongphu Monastery at the north face of Mt Everest, sights you will never forget. Cost is \$5295*, a saving of \$500. This includes \$600 to Bush Heritage.

For full details, enquiries and bookings contact World Expeditions, Melbourne. Ph: 03 8631 3300 or email travel@worldexpeditions.com.au

* Includes airfares and most meals. Air taxes, visa and insurance costs not included. Price assumes departure from Sydney or Melbourne.

Printed on combination 50% recycled and 50% plantation fibre.

Reserve	State	Camping available	Unaccompanied access	Field trips for 2004
Liffey River	Tas	X	✓	Nov 20-21
South Esk Pine	Tas	X	✓	X
Friendly Beaches	Tas	X	Restricted to lagoon area	X
Coalmine Creek	Tas	X	X	X
Drys Bluff	Tas	X	X	X
Carnarvon Station	Qld	Booking required	✓	X
Currumbin Valley	Qld	X	✓	X
Ethabuka	Qld	Planned for 2005	Planned for 2005	X
Fan Palm	Qld	X	✓	X
Goonderoo	Qld	X	X	X
Brogo	NSW	X	✓	X
Burrin Burrin	NSW	X	X	X
Tarcutta Hills	NSW	X	X	Sept 11-12
Charles Darwin	WA	Planned for April 2005 Booking required	Planned for April 2005	Aug 28-29 Sept 25-26
Chereninup Creek	WA	X	✓	Sept 18-19
Kojonup	WA	X	✓	X
Reedy Creek	Qld	X	X	X



buying back
the bush

Return to: **Australian Bush Heritage Fund, Reply Paid 101, Hobart TAS 7001**

Freecall: 1800 677 101 Fax: 03 6223 2680 Email: info@bushheritage.asn.au Website: www.bushheritage.org

Office address: 2 Kelly Street Battery Point TAS 7004 Phone: 03 6223 2670

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I wish to join the Friends of the Bush and give a tax-deductible monthly donation.

Please deduct monthly donations of \$ _____ from the credit card below until further notice

Please deduct monthly donations of \$ _____ from my bank account by Direct Debit. (ABHF will forward an authority form)

I would rather give a single, tax-deductible donation of: \$50 \$100 \$360 \$500 Other \$ _____

I am paying by: Cheque/Money Order Bankcard Mastercard Visa Diners Club American Express

Card number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Card holder's name: _____ Card holder's signature: _____

I have pledged \$30 or more per month or enclosed a gift of \$360 or more. Please put my name on the commemorative plaque at the new Ethabuka Reserve.

Name (Please print) Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Phone (h) _____ Phone (w) _____ Email _____

12 Office use only _____