



Our wildflower haven, Eurardy, soon to be protected

Once again your outstanding generosity will save a special part of Australia. The transfer of Eurardy Station to Bush Heritage should be approved by the time this reaches you. This 30 000-hectare property, featured in the previous newsletter (*Bush Heritage News*, Autumn 2005), is in Australia's Global Biodiversity Hotspot in south-west Western Australia and will be our twentieth reserve.

In enabling us to purchase Eurardy you have helped to protect some of Australia's most spectacular wildflower displays and over 600 plant species, including endangered, vulnerable and priority species.

You have also helped to build a corridor of reserved land in the

region, which includes the Kalbarri National Park to the south-west and the Toolonga Nature Reserve to the north-east. Only an area of unallotted crown land remains unprotected across this extensive area.

Our knowledge of Eurardy's importance for plants is largely the result of the survey work undertaken by the Wildflower Society of Western Australia for the West Australian Herbarium.

We are grateful to the society and its members for their efforts and for providing us with a copy of their survey results and a digital photographic record of many of the plants. These will be invaluable resources for our future management of the reserve.

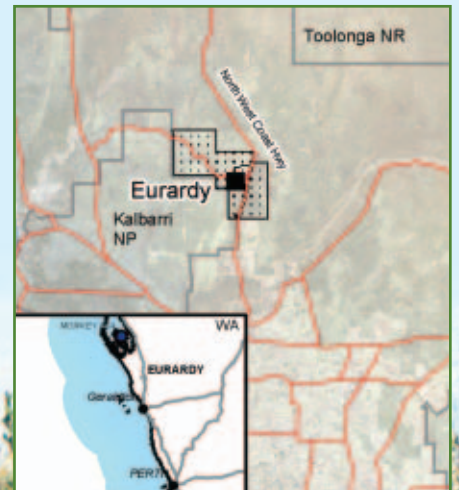
With more than half of the property still to be explored and no formal wildlife surveys yet undertaken, we anticipate that there will be many more exciting discoveries to share with you.

In this issue

- Eurardy, a new reserve
- Ethabuka update
- Volunteer rangers
- Map of Bush Heritage reserves
- Burrin Burrin Reserve
- Weeding blitz

Thank you for your contribution. Without your support, the protection of this stunning natural 'garden' would not have been possible.

Diverse shrubland with blue *Dampiera* and yellow *Glischrocaryon*. PHOTO: MARGARET QUICKE Insets from top: *Grevillea petrophiloides* and *Cheiranthra filifolia* subs *simplicifolia*. PHOTOS: FROM THE IMAGE LIBRARY SUPPLIED BY THE WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



PROTEACEAE
Grevillea petrophiloides



PITCOPODACEAE
Cheiranthra filifolia subs *simplicifolia*



As the dust settles...

Reserve managers **Alastair Dermer** and **Karen Harrland** report on their first summer at Ethabuka Reserve, Queensland

It's been a little over seven months since our arrival at Ethabuka and we are proud to be still standing as the long summer draws to a close. As the first permanent Bush Heritage management team we have been busy establishing the property as a reserve and learning about life in this harsh yet rich environment.

Looking back over the past summer we realise how we have evolved from cold-tolerant Tasmanians to heat-tolerant desert dwellers. Now we get goose bumps in the 21 °C mornings and think of 37 °C as a cool day! During this transition we have gathered fond memories and a new perspective on many things. We think with delight of the evenings spent sitting on top of the dunes as the last of the sunset colours and flies disappeared, of the stars gradually filling the sky and of the realisation that, for many kilometres in any direction, we were the only people.

A similar feeling of unreality came from doing the fencing on the southern boundary of Ethabuka, the reserve's boundary with Kamaran Downs. We were welding star pickets on to the top of star pickets in an attempt to maintain a fence above the relentless waves of sand that were trying to reclaim the land.

Camels, once just curious beasts of the desert or circus, are now our companions and a source of both amusement and annoyance. For a while through the heat of summer they would gather around the homestead after sunset, seeking a drink from our tank overflow. Their lack of social graces disrupted our evenings as they broke wind, belched, bit each other and stamped their feet. Our attempts to get them to keep the noise down were met with indifference. Thankfully they will soon be mustered and removed.

While on the topic of drinking and water, the installation of a reverse osmosis water filter has dramatically improved the quality of the drinking water. The bore water, which was once undrinkable, is now delicious. We have wondered, however, if perhaps the high mineral load in the water has magical properties.

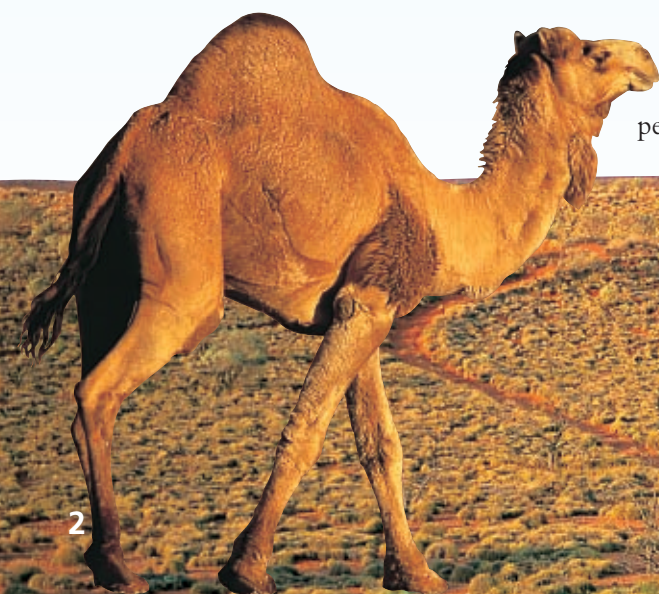
Ten women in our local community of only 120 people are pregnant and we are

among them; in just a couple of months there will be three of us.

Much of our time has been consumed by renovating the house, constructing volunteer quarters for the impending influx of volunteer rangers, and developing a workshop. Throughout the heat of summer the working day started between 4.00 and 5.00 am in an attempt to beat the heat and the flies. By 10.30 to 11.00 am, with the temperature over 40 °C and a strong, dust-laden wind often blowing, we would turn our attention to tasks protected by the house and its struggling air coolers.



Some of the early land management tasks have included removing cattle that had wandered in from neighbouring properties, repairing kilometres of fencing, establishing a management strategy for camels, identifying and mapping introduced plants, and researching the complexities of the arid-zone landscape.



Developing networks with our neighbours, the local community, regional land management authorities and traditional owners has been an important activity.

During March we were fortunate to be visited by traditional owners Barbara Dunn and Jean Jacks, elders of the Pitta Pitta people. They came with Shaaron Stevenson, the Desert Channels Catchment Coordinator from Longreach. Their visit enabled us to explain the aims of Bush Heritage and initiate a working relationship with the traditional owners. We visited some of the many significant cultural sites and artefacts on Ethabuka and discussed the fencing work needed to rehabilitate Ethabuka Spring.



Now, as the weather cools and the dust settles, we are enjoying the arrival of visitors from the local community and volunteers, all of whom are proving to be an invaluable source of knowledge and expertise. And we are exceedingly grateful for the extra pairs of hands!

Others have arrived to undertake research. Alice-Springs-based scientist Joe Benshemesh and his team have

been digging trenches in dunes on the western edge of the property in their search for marsupial moles. In such 'perfect mole habitat' they were surprised at the absence of mole tunnels. Their next step is to determine whether a geographical barrier has prevented the moles from moving east from their known locations in the western Simpson Desert.

From 19 to 21 April we held our first management planning workshop. Researchers from the University of Sydney, David Akers from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, representatives from amongst our neighbours, and Bush Heritage staff helped us to confirm and structure the management priorities for the reserve. We would like to thank all these people for their support.

Your generous donations and support from the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust's National Reserve System program have protected this property. We now have the privilege of guiding its future as a conservation reserve of international significance. This is an exciting prospect. Perhaps you will be able to visit us before too long and see for yourself how you are helping to save one of the most remarkable areas of Australia.

Facing page, clockwise from top: Dawn over the dunes. Ethabuka 'homestead'. View over the spinifex *Triodia* dunefields. Inset: Feral camel. PHOTOS: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX

This page, clockwise from top: Spiny-cheeked honeyeater. Central military dragon. Varied sittella feeding chicks. Drainage line through the ironstone hills. Rocky ranges rise above the expansive shrublands. PHOTOS: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX
From left, traditional owners Jean Jacks and Barbara Dunn with Shaaron Stevenson and Karen Harrland. PHOTO: ALASTAIR DERMER



The secret life of a volunteer ranger

Joelle Metcalf and Julian Fennessy, the Bush Heritage Conservation Partners team, talk about the vital importance to the organisation of volunteer rangers

Volunteer rangers? Who are they and what is their role in Bush Heritage's management of Australia's natural environment?

Put simply, volunteer rangers are people like you and me and they are essential to the management of the large Bush Heritage reserves. At Bush Heritage we depend on volunteers to assist with the multitude of tasks required to help manage the huge areas of conservation land in our care.

Veteran volunteer rangers John and Lyla Hansen, who have worked at both Carnarvon Station and Ethabuka reserves, put it this way: 'There is a lot to be done on [the reserves] and no volunteer with a spirit for adventure will be disappointed. You will love it as much as we did.'

To be a volunteer ranger you do not need to have any specific skills or knowledge or come from a conservation background. What you need is a sense of adventure, a sense of humour, a natural love of the outdoors and a desire to help conserve Australia's natural environment for generations to

come. You will also need a current first aid certificate, but if you don't have one Bush Heritage can help you to obtain it. For those of you who *do* have special skills – in trades, in anything mechanical or practical, or in ecology – we certainly have a job for you.

Your work as a volunteer ranger may vary from day to day. You might be painting, hammering, sawing, fencing, pulling weeds, catching feral animals, digging, spraying, surveying plants or animals, recording data, mapping, monitoring or even bulldozing. All these activities are on the agenda at some time as part of the management work needed on the larger reserves.



At the end of the day you can relax with a cold beer or a glass of wine in your hand and watch the sun go down in one of the most spectacular landscapes in Australia. A good meal amongst friends, sharing the events of the day, and a comfortable bed make the experience complete. One couple remarked, 'We took advantage of the situation and had breakfast and dinner outside on the verandah every day. We [also] decided to sleep under the stars... The air was deliciously cool!'





Being a volunteer ranger is not just relentless work. Usually on weekends you are free to explore the property you are working on, which gives you an opportunity to discover a beautiful environment and glimpse the rarely observed world of the local wildlife. And there is always the anticipation of seeing something 'new'.

The regular feedback we receive from volunteer rangers is always glowing about their experience and the management of the reserves. Dedicated volunteers Len and Valerie Warren wrote, 'We thoroughly enjoyed the three weeks we spent at Charles Darwin Reserve. We learnt a great deal about the day-to-day running of the reserve and what it is like to live in a situation where your work is also your home.'

Our reserve managers are amazed at the dedication of the volunteers, and regard them as 'indispensable'. They comment that the volunteers provide support and assistance in a whole range of tasks that would take much longer to complete without them. Lifelong friendships are also forged. Barry Leithhead and Robin McIntyre commented on the rewards of their work at Tarcutta Hills Reserve:

'This short, rewarding and enjoyable volunteer ranger activity brought us closer to Bush Heritage's mission and reserve management program. It also demonstrated how worthwhile our support is for Bush Heritage. We certainly hope that we will be able to return to Tarcutta Hills Reserve in the future for more volunteer ranger activities.'

So why not consider becoming a volunteer ranger! Those of you with a month to spare and a sense of adventure can volunteer on any of Carnarvon Station Reserve and Ethabuka Reserve, Qld, Charles Darwin Reserve, WA, and Tarcutta Hills Reserve, NSW. We also encourage you to work at the Mareeba Tropical Savannah and Wetlands Reserve in far-north Queensland, a unique area managed by the Mareeba Wetlands Foundation. We, and they, would love to have your help.

For more information or to book, please contact Joelle Metcalf on 03 8610 9102 or send an email to volunteers@bushheritage.asn.au We look forward to hearing from you.

Facing page, clockwise from left: Tom Kerwick and family exploring at Carnarvon Station Reserve. Peter and Margaret Calder relax at the end of the day. PHOTOS: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX John Hansen and Bob Gleeson sorting timber at Ethabuka. PHOTO: ALASTAIR DERMER Putting up signs at Carnarvon. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX

This page, clockwise from top left: Black-striped wallabies are easy to see at Carnarvon. Kookaburra overseeing the work. The Blue Spring sign goes in. PHOTOS: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX John Pass revegetating the spring at Carnarvon. John still in the mud. PHOTOS: JENNI PASS Building the verandah at Ethabuka. PHOTO: ALASTAIR DERMER

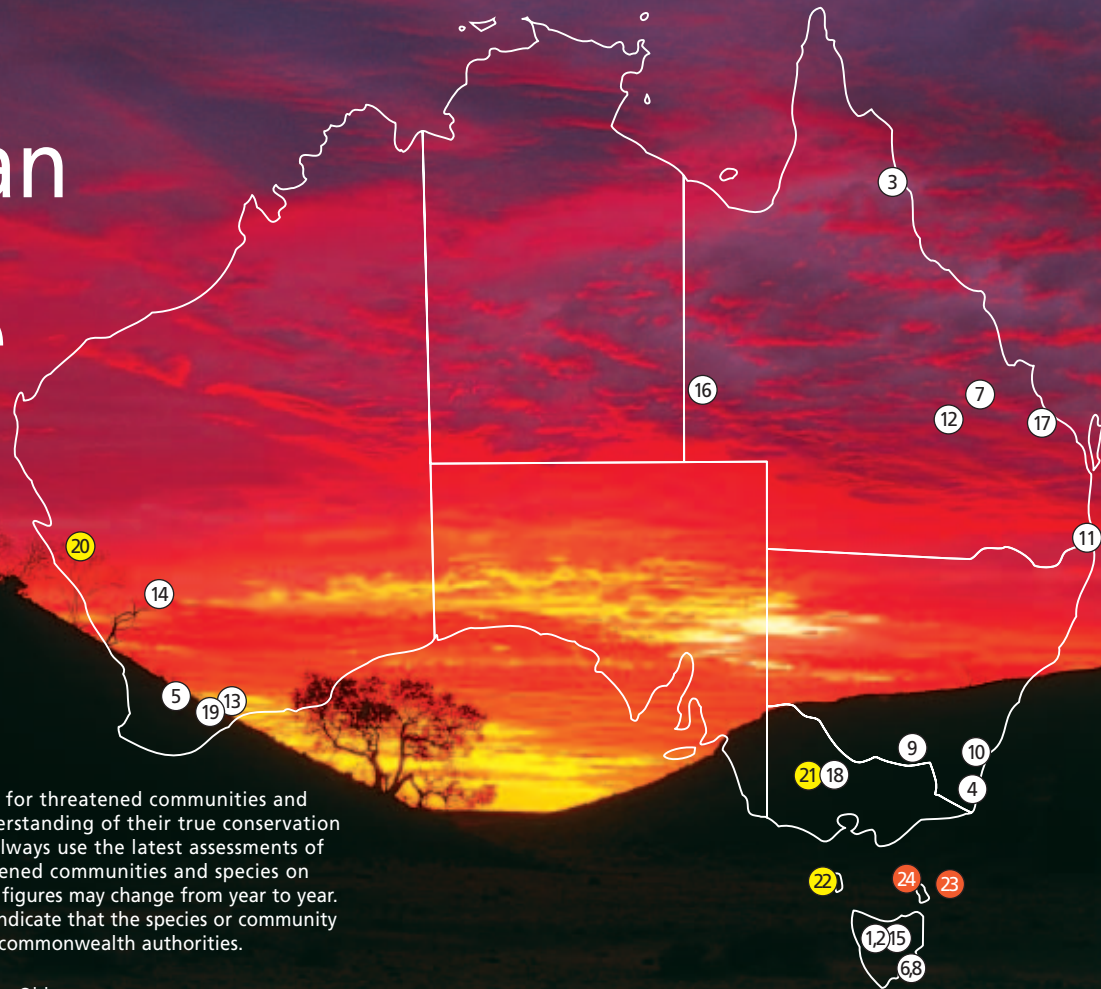


Australian Bush Heritage Fund reserves



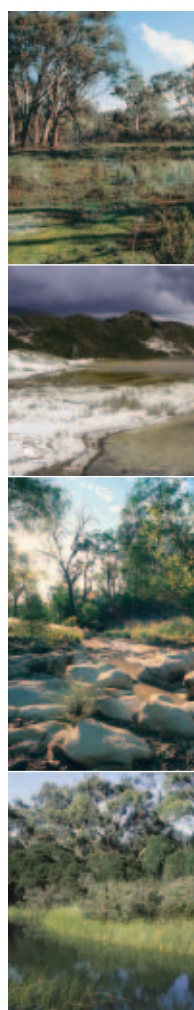
The state and national classifications for threatened communities and species change with time as our understanding of their true conservation status improves. Bush Heritage will always use the latest assessments of status in reporting figures for threatened communities and species on Bush Heritage reserves. 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.

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



Current reserves

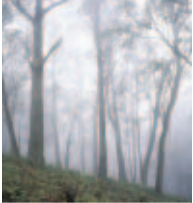
- ① **Liffey River Reserve, Tas — purchased 1990**
This 105 ha of fern gully and rainforest lies beneath the Great Western Tiers on the edge of the World Heritage Area. The wet forest is a haven for wildlife including pygmy possums and Tasmanian devils. **Management work 2003/04:** development and maintenance of walking tracks and interpretation, weed control. **Contributes to the protection of:** one significant community and two species at risk.
- ② **Dry 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.



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 and chestnut quail-thrush, 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 ha 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 Dummall'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.



⑱ **Judith Eardley Reserve, Vic — purchased 2005**
This reserve (formerly listed as Wychitella) protects 344 ha and five vegetation communities of conservation significance including grey-box grassy woodland, herb-rich woodland and mallee. It is a high quality habitat with good populations of declining woodland birds including hooded robins, brown treecreepers and diamond firetails. **Management work 2005:** mammal and bird surveys; grazing exclusion plots and fences currently being erected. **Contributes to the protection of:** five significant communities and six species at risk.

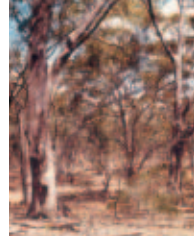


⑲ **Gondwana Link properties, WA — purchased 2005**
The two properties protect 956 ha of highly diverse remnant bushland in south-west WA. They safeguard a diversity of landforms, natural waterways and many species. They are key properties for the Gondwana Link project that is restoring an extensive corridor of native vegetation throughout the region. **Contribute to the protection of:** at least five species at risk.



Prospective reserves

⑳ **Eurardy, WA**
At 30 066 ha, Eurardy is a wildflower and plant haven. Over 600 species of plants have so far been recorded including five endangered or threatened species. Another 29 are a priority for protection. Eurardy abuts the Kalbarri National Park. **Will contribute to the protection of:** at least 34 species at risk.



㉑ **Nardoo Hills, Vic**
Lying close to the Judith Eardley Reserve, this 260 ha property is of great importance for threatened woodland birds. It retains intact examples of grassy woodland and herb-rich woodland communities that are threatened in south-eastern Australia. **Will contribute to the protection of:** four significant communities and five species at risk.



㉒ **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. **Will contribute to the protection of:** six significant communities and fourteen species at risk.



Past reserves

㉓ **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.



㉔ **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.

Impressions of Burrin Burrin Reserve

In June 2003 photographer **Wayne Lawler** spent several days at Burrin Burrin Reserve

Burrin Burrin is mountain country. Its tall mist-shrouded vaults of ribbon gum and brown barrel resonate with the lilting calls of the superb lyrebird by day. At night, when the greater gliders leap between the straight pillars of this monastic forest, the accompaniment changes to the haunting 'woo-w-woo' of the powerful owl.

This bird must be the terror of the forest. Even to me, sitting ten metres from its roost tree, binoculars to my eyes, its yellow-eyed stare and massive talons are intimidating. It must be the living nightmare of every possum.

Yet the gliding possums of Burrin Burrin are abundant. The large greater glider hits the tree trunk with such a slap at the end of its glide that the impact sends shock waves through the forest. The little sugar glider is more discreet but its dog-like yelps carry, warning all that an owl is about.

Burrin Burrin drops from the high Gourak Range to wild, steeply gullied

foothills in the east. Here, the tall forests change to sunnier open forests of silver-top ash and woodlands of brittle gum with an understorey of *Banksia*, wattle and heath.

I sat quietly in the sun in the open forest one morning and was treated to the mimicry and dance of a lyrebird just a couple of metres away. I counted eighteen different bird calls in its repertoire, including those of summer migrants not then present. The lyrebird was providing a more complete bird list than my own!

At times, just after dark, a lyrebird gives a sweet, tentative last song in combination with the powerful owl's first evocative base notes. It is a surreal mixture of sounds that I will always associate with the deep forests of Burrin Burrin.

Wayne Lawler, June 2003

Clockwise from below: Sunny brittle gum *Eucalyptus mannifera* forests. Fungi growing amongst the leaf litter. Sugar glider. Trigger plant *Stylidium* sp. Powerful owl.

PHOTOS: WAYNE LAWLER/ECCOPIX



Making a good thing even better – weeding blitz at Charles Darwin Reserve

Leigh Whisson and Jackie Courtenay need your help with the weed control program at Charles Darwin Reserve

Surveys in the spring months of 2003 and 2004 at Charles Darwin Reserve in south-west Western Australia showed that less than two per cent of the reserve was affected by weeds. Considering the prolific spread of weeds throughout the country, this was an excellent result. Why then are we planning a weeding blitz this August?

The weed infestations at Charles Darwin Reserve, which we believed to be stable, have proved not to be. In March 2004 severe weather dumped about 100 mm of rain in a couple of days (*Bush Heritage News*, Winter 2004). Floodwaters, carrying topsoil and the seeds of weed species, swept through low-lying areas of the reserve that had previously been free of weeds. With the moist soil, which allowed the seeds to germinate, and no grazing stock to eat them, the weeds began to flourish. Now we must 'get' the weeds before they go any further.

A weeding blitz this coming season can limit any further infestations and help to make Charles Darwin Reserve a weed-free zone.

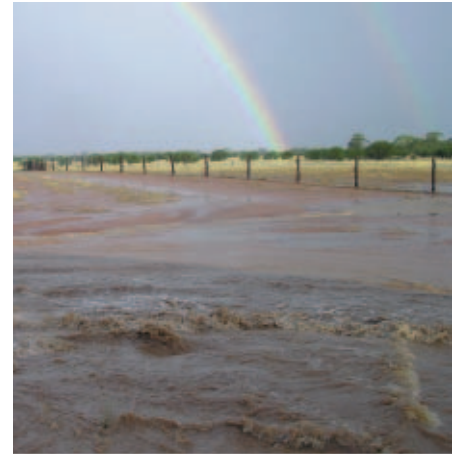
HOW YOU CAN HELP

We need all hands on deck in August 2005. Whether you are able to give one day or the whole month, the more support we get, the better the result will be. Volunteers will be involved in a range of activities from weed mapping and monitoring to weed control. For those who don't feel able to do the weed work, there is plenty of other work to do. The weeding blitz will be extremely satisfying, as well as a lot of fun. At the end we hope to see Charles Darwin Reserve on the way to being free of weeds (see Page 10 for details).

For those who will be on the reserve for extended periods, time will be set aside so that you can explore and enjoy this wonderful environment.

Clockwise from top: Floodwater carried weed seeds into low-lying areas. PHOTO: LEIGH WHISSON Green Corp volunteers resting on their bags of weeds. Cape weed and double gee at Monger's Well. PHOTOS: JACKIE COURTENAY Ninety-eight per cent of Charles Darwin Reserve is weed free.

PHOTO: JIRI LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES



Our thanks to Dr Jackie Courtenay who offers her time and expertise as a volunteer for many of the activities at Charles Darwin Reserve.



Species UPDATE



PHOTO: GRAEME CHAPMAN

Common name: Diamond firetail

Scientific name: *Stagonopleura guttata*

Conservation status:
Near threatened, nationally

Diamond firetails live in the eucalypt-dominated grassy woodlands of south-eastern Australia. Most of these habitats have been cleared or severely modified, making them unsuitable for the birds. The firetails are also disappearing from small areas of remnant grassy woodland.

One of the key factors causing the decline of the firetails is thought to be the replacement of native grasses with introduced pasture grasses. Where grazing pressure from stock is high, the grasses also fail to set seed, thus depriving the firetails of their most important food.

The Judith Eardley Reserve in Victoria and the Tarcutta Hills Reserve in New South Wales provide safe habitats for this species.



New staff

Sandy Gilmore has joined Bush Heritage as Ecologist for southern Australia. He has worked extensively on bird communities and their ecology throughout eastern Australia and has a special interest in integrating our knowledge of ecology with how we manage the land. Sandy will work on selecting properties for acquisition, and the management planning and research on reserves in temperate Australia.



Lea-Anne Bradley will be our new Donor Relations Coordinator. She comes from a corporate background and has many years of experience in administrative and project management roles in Australia and the United Kingdom. With a lifelong interest in the environment, she volunteers for a number of environmental organisations and moved from the corporate world to work with Landcare Australia Ltd before coming to Bush Heritage.



Top: Presentation sisters learn how to make compost.

PHOTO: COURTESY PRESENTATION SISTERS, WAGGA

Thanks

Bush Heritage is grateful to the Presentation Sisters, Wagga Wagga, for a generous donation.

The Presentation Sisters, Wagga, have committed themselves to the care of our planet through projects such as the Ecological Justice Resource Centre in Wagga, by facilitating workshops and by trying to live in a sustainable way. By donating to Bush Heritage the sisters believe they are continuing their commitment, both for present as well as future generations.

Join the weed blitz at Charles Darwin Reserve

When: August 2005

Where: Charles Darwin Reserve, four hours' drive north-east of Perth.

Accommodation: From camping to comfy beds and hot showers.

Food: Catering will depend on numbers. More information will be available closer to the time.

Booking: For further information or booking, please contact Joelle Metcalf by email volunteers@bushheritage.asn.au or phone 03 8610 9102, or contact the reserve manager Leigh Whisson by email lwhisson@bushheritage.asn.au or phone 08 9664 5017.

From the CEO

The tremendous enthusiasm and painstaking work of volunteers both in the office and on the reserves never ceases to amaze me. These wonderful people 'get their hands dirty' and contribute in so many ways. Many people have rallied to our call for helpers in the last newsletter and we now have an expanded team of volunteers. Thank you.

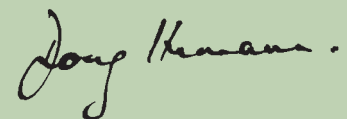
Support for our information events and field days has also been strong and we have enjoyed meeting our supporters. The new Melbourne office has hosted several events and I invite supporters to call in. This excellent office space has been made possible by a generous donation from The Thomas Foundation and a grant from Melbourne City Council for which we are very grateful. This support has enabled us to find a central location, which provides us with many ongoing benefits.

We are also supported by other local governments around Australia through rate reductions, exemptions and collaborative activities. For example, in Western Australia several shires support and encourage wildflower visits to our reserves. In addition, state governments provide us with exemptions from some taxes and duties and provide advice and biological data.

I want to acknowledge the Victorian Government and Premier Bracks for providing a grant that will assist in the preparation of a management plan for the recently acquired Judith Eardley Reserve. The purchase of the reserve was made possible by a wonderful gift from the Judith Eardley Save Wildlife Association and assistance from the Australian Government under the Natural Heritage Trust's National Reserve System program. Your donations enable us to leverage significant support from this targeted grants

program. It has enabled a number of organisations, including Bush Heritage, to achieve far more for the conservation of our natural environment than would otherwise be possible.

This collaborative effort from different organisations and individuals shows how cooperative partners so effectively advance our mission. The impending acquisition of our twentieth reserve – Eurardy in Western Australia – is also testament to this. Thank you for your support of this latest acquisition and for your ongoing help in the management of all our reserves.



In memory

Iris Nicolades donated in memory of **Jennifer Pritchard**, and many friends and family gave for **Sven Sternfeldt**. Len and Christine Riding donated in memory of **Mrs Lorrene Spurgin**, 'who loved the Australian bush and wildlife'. Pamela Hydon remembered **Robert James McKeown** on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Anne Burhop gave for her mother **Amy F Bainbridge**, who 'loved her garden and the Western Port Bay area of Victoria'. Muriel Story Edwards, Robert Edwards and Nony Edwards sent a gift for their mother **Sybil Story**, 'a tireless worker for the conservation of the Australian bush'. Rae Boyd donated in memory of her sister **Ellie Boyd**, 'who enjoyed the wildflowers of Western Australia with me'.

Sandra Rosenbrock sent a gift for **Peter Rosenbrock**, 'who was a great

lover of the bush and felt that Bush Heritage was a great organisation to give to'. Dr Ken Hughes donated in memory of **Kathy Glinsky**, 'a close friend of the family lost in the Tsunami'.

In celebration

Constance (Jenny) and Ted Whyte celebrated the 50th birthday of their son **David**. Gillian Perrinent sent a gift as a present for her mother **Jean** on her 80th birthday.

Jo Beer celebrated the birth of her godson **Bryn Campbell Jobling**, born January 2005, and Ben Clark gave to honour the births of **Nicholas Paul Jemmeson** to Paul and Debra, and **Sarah Antonia Weymouth** to Paul and Kylie.

Brian Wythes donated as a living gift for **Sylvia and Anthony Wythes**, and Aviva Cohen as a gift for **Gerald Cohen**.

Anthony and Anett Azzopardi celebrated the wedding of **Claire Nuttgens and Martin Gauci**, and Ken and Jan Ritson the wedding of **Tom and Mikala Atkinson**, 'two lovely and caring young people'. **Ian Pitt and Elizabeth Sheen** donated to celebrate their own recent wedding.

Helen Bruinier donated to mark the occasion of her 15th wedding anniversary to **Jean Jacques** who died in 2000. **Peter Canet** celebrated his and **Ivanka's** 25th wedding anniversary.

Many friends and family gave for the wedding of **Roy Leeman** (former Bush Heritage staff member) and **Deb Kinnon**. Mel Laidlaw, Paul Finn and Narelle McCallum donated for the wedding of **Sue and Justin Leigh**. Rosemary and Kieran Martin, Dorothy Edwards, Ben Curtis and Stephen Fletcher all gave to mark the wedding of **Karyn Rayner and Craig Mauer**.

Getting involved

WORKING BEES

Bush Heritage working bees are generally a weekend affair and involve camping, some hard work and a lot of fun. The tasks depend on the management priorities of the reserve but include collecting seed, restoring wetlands, maintaining tracks, removing fences, undertaking surveys and, of course, weeding. This year we are undertaking a special month-long working bee at Charles Darwin Reserve, WA, to help eradicate the weeds (see Pages 9 and 10). Please have a look at the calendar below and pitch in where you can.

At the weekend working bees your food will be provided, including a well-earned hearty barbecue on the Saturday evening.

August: Charles Darwin Reserve, WA, throughout the month

September: Brogo Reserve, NSW, Saturday 24 to Sunday 25

October: Burrin Burrin Reserve, NSW, Saturday 1 to Sunday 2

Tarcutta Hills Reserve, NSW, Saturday 22 to Sunday 23

November: Liffey River Reserve, Tas, Saturday 5 to Sunday 7

If you are interested in either the Volunteer Ranger Program, working bees or other volunteer activities, please contact Joelle Metcalf on volunteers@bushheritage.asn.au or phone 03 8610 9102.

FIELD DAYS

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

September:

Chereninup Creek Reserve, WA, field day, Saturday 10. No cost.

Charles Darwin Reserve, WA, field weekend, Saturday 24 to Sunday 25. Cost: \$60

For information on attending field trips, or to RSVP, please contact Katrina Blake on 03 8610 9124, fax 03 8610 9199 or email kblake@bushheritage.asn.au



From top: Robin McIntyre and Christine Rand working at Tarcutta Hills Reserve, NSW. Graham North at work.

PHOTOS: OWEN WHITTAKER Working bee at Tarcutta Hills Reserve, NSW.

PHOTO: JOELLE METCALF

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buying back
the bush

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 Office address: Level 5/395 Collins Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 Phone: 03 8610 9100
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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

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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 latest reserve.

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

Address _____ Postcode _____

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

12 Office use only _____