



## Anchors in the Landscape – protecting our natural heritage

**Bush Heritage CEO Doug Humann outlines Bush Heritage's long-term goals and an ambitious new fundraising campaign already achieving results for conservation**

You and I are the guardians of one of the world's mega-diverse countries. The uniqueness of our species, their diversity and abundance have been recognised worldwide as being of immeasurable value. Also recognised have been the rate of extinctions of our species, the loss and fragmentation of habitats and the decline in Australia's environmental health. Alarm bells are ringing, not only in Australia but internationally as well.

Scientists from around the nation have determined that if we are to effectively conserve Australia's animals and plants we need to protect about another 22 million hectares of quality habitats (nearly three per cent of Australia's land surface) in a range of ecosystems.\* This is an achievable goal but we need to act immediately, and you and I have a significant role to play.

Bush Heritage and its supporters will help to reach this national target and we have already made some major gains in the past few months. However, we must step up our activities because in many regions of Australia time is running out.

Every day, properties that have potential for conservation move from one owner to the next. On some of these properties conservation will be a primary or secondary goal, but on

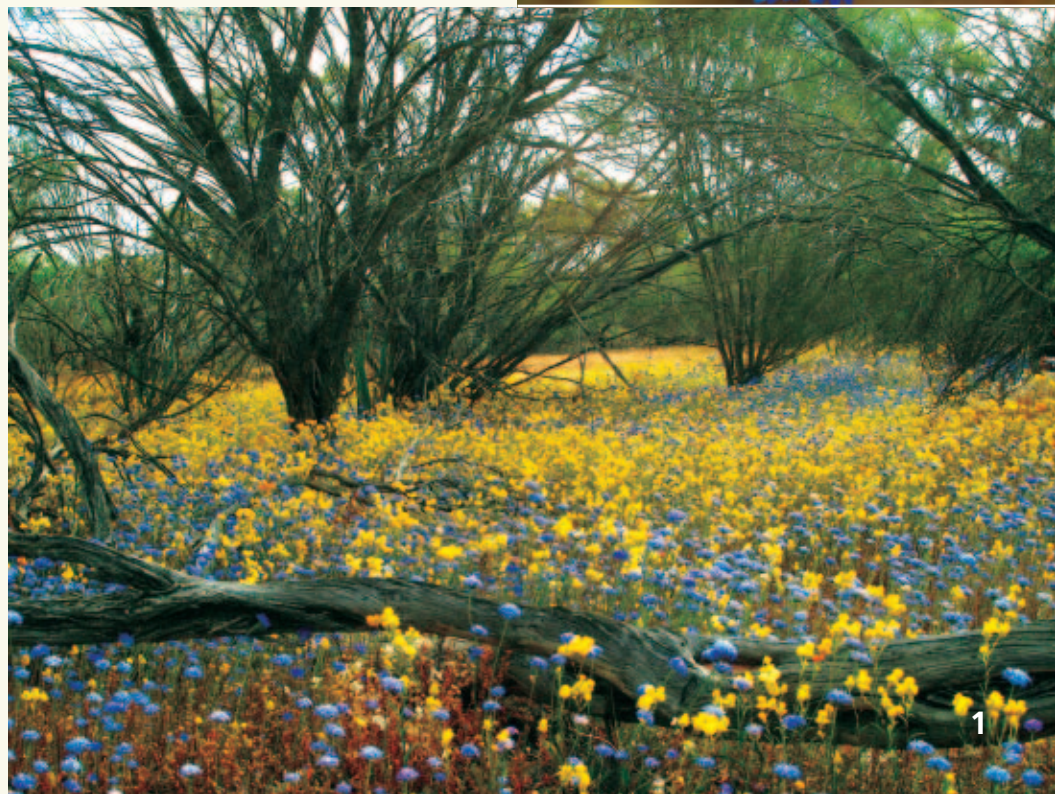
others it will not. Often, with the enthusiasm of recent ownership and significant resources to develop the business, a new owner intensifies activities on the land. This usually means increased environmental damage. It may be through residential or industrial development, or through further loss of native vegetation as land goes under cultivation or irrigation, or where the establishment of permanent water by sinking bores or building dams opens up more land for regular grazing. Every time this happens, habitats are damaged or lost and species suffer.

At present we are seeing a wave of regional extinctions throughout our agricultural lands, and species are disappearing from whole districts. If we are to halt this decline, then we must act, and we must act *now!*

\* Possingham, H. et al. 2002. *Setting Biodiversity Priorities* (background paper). See [www.dest.gov.au/sectors/science\\_innovation/publications\\_resources/profiles/setting\\_biodiversity\\_priorities.htm](http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/science_innovation/publications_resources/profiles/setting_biodiversity_priorities.htm)

### In this issue

- Anchors in the Landscape campaign
- Working bees
- Fan Palm Reserve



From top: The spider orchid *Caladenia* sp. is one of the many wildflower species protected at Eurardy Reserve, WA.

PHOTO: LIBBY SMITH Waterfowl, including wood duck, flock to the wetlands at Cravens Peak Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX Blue pincushion *Brunonia australis*. Blue pincushion among a profusion of wildflowers at Eurardy Reserve, WA.





Bush Heritage is on a mission. Our aim is to conserve, within the next twenty years, one-third of the land needed to meet the national 22 million hectare target: that is, seven million hectares, or one per cent of Australia's land area. This equates to an area the size of Tasmania.

To achieve the first stage of our twenty-year plan, we need \$20 million. Thus we have launched the Anchors in the Landscape campaign. This campaign will enable us to secure key areas of land predominantly in our 'anchor' regions (see insert), to manage this land for the long term and also, importantly, to build regional conservation initiatives with our reserve neighbours, local and indigenous communities and other key property owners and managers. No longer can we be satisfied with just working within our reserve boundaries. We must support and encourage others to instigate, or further develop, conservation management on their land.

Twenty million dollars seems like a vast sum to find but, in just over a year, through the commitment and generosity of individuals and funding organisations, we have already raised

almost two-thirds of this amount in donations and grants, and pledges that have been committed over three years. The contributions of The Nature Conservancy and the Thomas Foundation deserve special mention. The Australian Government, through the Natural Heritage Trust's National Reserve System program, has provided support for the purchase of Cravens Peak Reserve, as well as other reserves that have been acquired or are currently under negotiation.

The purchase of our two most recent properties, Cravens Peak in far-western Queensland and Eurardy on the Batavia Coast of Western Australia, has secured another 260 000 hectares of land. These new reserves protect important vegetation communities and threatened arid-zone wildlife. There are at least 900 plant species on Eurardy alone, of which at least 29 are a priority for protection.

For the next two years we have an ambitious land acquisition plan that includes buying further large reserves in the Gulf Country or Uplands of Queensland and smaller reserves in south-west Western Australia and the grassy woodlands of Victoria and New South Wales. A new partnership with the Nature Foundation of South Australia will help us to acquire our first property in that state. This acquisition in South Australia is an example of how we will continue to take up opportunities outside our 'anchor' regions when there are real benefits for biodiversity. This property is sufficiently large to be viable for the long term, is really important regionally and will help to protect many poorly

reserved ecosystems and species that urgently need secure habitats.

Through our partnership with the Indigenous Land Corporation we have been invited to support Aboriginal people in selecting, acquiring and managing land of high conservation value. The acquisition of such properties will be funded by the Indigenous Land Fund's Environmental Acquisition Program and the land will be owned by Aboriginal organisations. The first property under consideration is a 41 000 hectare property in South Australia, proposed for acquisition by the Adnyanathanha people.

## JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!

If we are to buy the land and undertake the work that we need to do, we must reach our \$20 million target. This no longer seems such a daunting task because of the enthusiasm and generosity shown by our supporters. Every gift is bringing us closer to completing Stage One of our twenty-year plan to protect the land and its wildlife.

We have vitally important work to do and we need to do it now if we are to meet the environmental challenge before us. I am asking for your help and hope that you will be inspired to assist us however you can. Together we will help to build sufficient protected habitats to secure our wonderful native species and protect our unique natural heritage. We will also pass on to those who follow us a healthier and more resilient environment. This is the legacy I want to leave for the future.





*‘Before Jacqui and I helped Bush Heritage to buy the Charles Darwin Reserve, we often felt frustrated that we could not stop the habitat destruction that is being undertaken in Australia and around the world. Now that we have helped Bush Heritage to save 68 000 hectares of land of high conservation value, we believe we have done something very special to help the animals and plants with which we share the planet.’*

*‘Often when I camp out in the huge quiet wilderness area that is the reserve, I think that if Bush Heritage didn't have the resources to save this special place, it might have all been lost and, just slightly, the world would have been a poorer place.’*

*‘I hope Bush Heritage can make you feel as proud as they have made us feel.’*

Chris Darwin, great-great-grandson  
of Charles Darwin

Facing page, clockwise from top: The Nature Conservancy Australia Country Program Director Kent Wommack (left) with Bush Heritage CEO Doug Humann. PHOTO: BUSH HERITAGE  
Mangles kangaroo paw *Anigozanthus manglesii* at Eurardy Reserve, WA. PHOTO: LIBBY SMITH  
Conservation Programs Manager Paul Foreman and Reserve Manager Jo Rule at Cravens Peak Reserve, Qld. Zebra finches are colourful residents of Cravens Peak. PHOTOS: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX

Clockwise from top: Jacqui and Chris Darwin. PHOTO: DOUG HUMANN  
Paul Foreman in a field of foxtails *Ptilotis* sp. at Cravens Peak Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX  
Protecting Aboriginal sites at Cravens Peak is a priority. PHOTO: STUART COWELL  
Paul Foreman (centre) with reserve managers Jo and Len Rule at Cravens Peak. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX



### BUSH HERITAGE PRIORITY REGIONS – ANCHORS IN THE LANDSCAPE

In *Bush Heritage News*, Summer 2005, we explained our strategy for targeting future land purchases in five key regions around Australia and our plan to work more actively with our reserve neighbours to bring a regional approach to land conservation.

Our activities will now be focused in south-west Western Australia, the grasslands and grassy woodlands of southern Australia, the midlands of Tasmania, the Channel and Gulf country of Queensland and the Northern Territory, and the brigalow belt and Uplands of Queensland. However, we will always remain open to broader opportunities.

To recap, these regions were selected because they are under immediate threat from a factor or factors that we can influence, contain many significant species, can support healthy ecosystems throughout the process of climate change, are located where the establishment of an ‘anchor’ reserve would provide significant benefits for conservation in the wider community, and build on what we have already achieved.

By concentrating our efforts around our ‘anchors’ in the landscape and helping our neighbours and other regional land managers to bring conservation management and expertise to their land, the country and its wildlife will see much greater benefits.

*‘The purchase of Cravens Peak ... will help to look after the Lake Eyre Basin in perpetuity. We’ve got a range of [assets and activities] in this region including Aboriginal culture, grazing, tourism, mining and biodiversity conservation. Bush Heritage’s conservation work will complement these and assist with the long-term sustainability of the basin.’*

Angus Emmott, pastoralist, Director of Queensland Desert Channels and Chairman of the Community Advisory Committee to the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum







## Working bees: pivotal in conservation management

The future of working bees at Bush Heritage reserves is looking exceedingly bright. We are developing a model, to be used Australia-wide, based on the month-long working bee held at Charles Darwin Reserve, WA, in 2005 (see *Bush Heritage News*, Summer 2005). Working bees bring energy and expertise to our land conservation work. The intention for 2006 and beyond is to build new opportunities for our Bush Heritage family to get involved in on-ground work at a growing number of extraordinary locations across the country.

The extended working bee at Charles Darwin Reserve was a huge success. Focusing on the weeds, volunteers took on their mission with youthful

enthusiasm and many were keen to return to their 'patch' in 2006. The event itself attracted more than 40 people over the month, and they contributed in excess of 300 people-days. The value of this sort of support is inestimable.

Using this model, we are expanding the program to more Bush Heritage reserves in 2006. Such working bees bring huge gains for on-ground conservation, are good fun, bring like-minded people together and enable Bush Heritage supporters to spend quality time on the reserves. We invite all of you to think about participating, whether for a handful of days or an entire working bee. Lending a hand is the key!

Working bee activities depend on the needs of each reserve. People with specific skills or interests are highly sought after for special tasks like plumbing, electrical work and plant and animal surveys. But everyone has a role to play. This year the newly purchased Cravens Peak Reserve, Qld, and also Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld, will be undertaking infrastructure projects as well as some on-ground management work. Goonderoo Reserve, Qld, needs a new campsite and work done on the reserve. Working bees at Charles Darwin, Judith Eardley and Liffey River reserves will focus on eradicating weeds. There is something for everybody.



Clockwise from top: Volunteers repairing the Ethabuka windmill. Time out for bird watching at Cravens Peak, Qld.

PHOTOS: JOHN AND LYLA HANSEN

Revegetation work at Tarcutta Hills Reserve, NSW.

PHOTO: JOELLE METCALF





## VOLUNTEER RANGERS ARE PURE GOLD!

As the Volunteer Ranger Program continues to move forward in leaps and bounds, Bush Heritage has been able to offer greater opportunities and more reserves for participants to visit. Ethabuka, Carnarvon Station and Goonderoo reserves in Queensland, and Charles Darwin and Eurardy reserves in Western Australia, offer expanding opportunities to volunteer rangers in three very different ecological regions. In addition, Bush Heritage continues to support the volunteer program at the Mareeba wetlands in northern Queensland (see *Bush Heritage News*, Autumn 2005).

We have long praised the support of volunteer rangers. They do the most amazing job and the views of our reserve managers are similarly glowing. At Eurardy the reserve managers commented that volunteer rangers ‘... were a breath of fresh air. Their enthusiasm was infectious and renewed us after the first couple of months of hard slog. It’s amazing what a couple of extra pairs of hands can achieve. We were able to get a number of bigger jobs done in a fraction of the time and it was a great motivation ... They were great company.’

We are looking forward to a fantastic future for the program and if you are keen to get into the great Aussie outdoors in 2006 or beyond then please contact us.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

We are seeking a dedicated volunteer or two to assist the Volunteer Ranger and Working Bee programs at the Conservation Support Centre in Melbourne. Good computer skills are essential and an understanding of environmental management would be an advantage.

If you are interested in these activities, or would like to register your name to be alerted about future working bees, please contact Joelle Metcalf, Conservation Partnerships Officer, at [volunteers@bushheritage.asn.au](mailto:volunteers@bushheritage.asn.au) or ring (03) 8610 9102.

**Clockwise from top: Weeders down on their knees at Liffey River Reserve, Tas.** PHOTO: JOELLE METCALF **The end of Ethabuka’s ageing Hill’s hoist.** PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX **The 2005 weeding blitz at Charles Darwin Reserve, WA.** PHOTO: KEN HUDSON **Eurardy Reserve homestead.** PHOTO: JIRI LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES **Ethabuka Reserve Manager Karen Harrland and baby Asha with volunteers Jocelyn Doran (left) and Jean Martin.** **Up the windmill.** PHOTOS: JOHN AND LYLIA HANSEN

Apologies to Ken Hudson for our crediting his weeding bee images in *Bush Heritage News*, Summer 2005, to Leigh Whisson.



Fully Stoked is an Australian-owned company committed to selling high-quality clothing that has not been made in a sweatshop. The company donates \$5 from every sale to conservation projects around the world, including Bush Heritage. Fully Stoked sells only online. To view and buy its fashionable range of certified organic cotton clothing, visit [www.fullystoked.com](http://www.fullystoked.com)





## Tim Fischer



We welcome, as an ambassador for Bush Heritage, the Honourable Tim Fischer, former Deputy Prime Minister, leader of the National Party and Minister for Trade.

Tim says, 'There is a diversity within Australia's bush, and in the Outback generally, of which all other countries in the world are very jealous, even the United States. I am delighted to be able to help Bush Heritage to protect this diversity.'

Tim currently holds many roles both in business and in an honorary capacity, which include the chairmanships of Tourism Australia and the Crawford Fund. He lives in the Riverina of NSW with his wife Judy and two sons.

## New staff

Alexandra de Blas has been appointed Communications Strategist at Bush Heritage. She is best known as the host of *Earthbeat* on ABC Radio National and for her stand against pollution from the Mt Lyell copper mine on Tasmania's west coast. She is a Vincent Fairfax Fellow and has won many awards for journalism.



Sarah Eccles is our Indigenous Partnerships Officer. She has experience working with Aboriginal people both within non-government organisations such as Greening Australia and in state government roles. Her position is a result of a partnership with the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC). It involves facilitating co-management agreements on Bush Heritage reserves, and greater conservation or 'Caring for Country' on ILC properties. She is of Watharung descent.



Feral pigs and weeds are the main issues faced by reserve overseer Siggy Heise-Pavlov. Her husband, pig expert Peter Heise-Pavlov, regularly traps pigs and removes them from the reserve. Siggy has also been controlling weeds, revegetating the margins of the reserve and conducting research on the impact of pigs on the rainforest.



Siggy will lead the first field trip for supporters to the Fan Palm Reserve in October 2006. If you are interested in visiting this beautiful tropical rainforest, please watch for dates in the next issue of *Bush Heritage News*.

From top: Strangler fig. Reserve overseer, Siggy Heise-Pavlov. Fan palm forest. PHOTOS: SIGGY HEISE-PAVLOV

## Fan Palm Reserve, Qld. You can visit!

In 1993 Bush Heritage purchased an outstanding 8.2 hectare block of fan palm forest in the lowland rainforests of the Daintree. Lowland rainforest is one of the most diverse habitat types on earth. It is also one of the most depleted. In the Daintree more than half of the lowland rainforest on private land has been cleared, resulting in the loss of wildlife and plant species.

Fan Palm Reserve protects rare mesophyll vine forest dominated by the spectacular fan palm *Licuala ramsayi*. At least 20 plant species of conservation significance also occur on the reserve. The nationally endangered southern cassowary uses the reserve and plays a critical role in the regeneration of the forest. Cassowaries are the only birds capable of swallowing the large seeds of some rainforest trees, such as the cassowary plum *Cerbera floribunda*. On their travels, the birds then pass these seeds in their droppings and thus disperse the rainforest species.



## From the President

For many years I have been involved in the Australian environmental movement, in policy making, advocacy, promoting corporate responsibility and, through Bush Heritage, private land conservation. I am confident that the biggest contribution that we can make as individuals is to help protect the land – for the wildlife and plants, and for the critical ecological services that healthy, intact bush provides. In this way we will be guarding our biodiversity as well as our clean air, pure water and stable soils, and giving our precious natural heritage the best chance to adapt to climate change.

The Board members of Bush Heritage and I share with you a commitment to solving one of Australia's most

pressing issues: that of environmental degradation and loss of species.

We have decided to set an ambitious goal to make faster progress in solving this. Bush Heritage has developed a simple, practical and powerful approach to protecting and caring for the bush. What we need to do now is to protect a lot more land and in key areas. We also need to help other land managers who want conservation to be a priority on their properties.

We now launch our Anchors in the Landscape campaign to raise \$20 million as the first step to achieving a huge goal: that of protecting one per cent of Australia by 2025. I urge you to take a moment from the rush of daily life to consider what you might be able to commit to help us to achieve this. Your pledged support over the next few years, whether

through a monthly gift or perhaps a larger annual contribution, will make this possible.

Together we can protect land and water that is vital for conservation before they are destroyed, and manage them for the long term so they stay safe, healthy and resilient. Through Bush Heritage we can leave a proud legacy to those who follow us. Like me, I am sure you will feel great satisfaction in doing something permanent to pass on to future Australians a country that still offers the beauty, hope and promise that we have enjoyed.



## In memory

Joy and Roger Membrey gave generously to Judith Eardley Reserve in honour of their daughter **Elisabeth Membrey**. Viv Donovan remembered her son **Paul Francis Donovan**. Shirley Pryor donated for baby grandson **Noah Domen Skaberne-Pryor**.

Bruce Bramwell honoured his grandfather **Arthur Gowing**, and Eileen Bridges her mother **Dorothy Maud Dalton** 'who loved Australia and its wildlife'.

**Amanda Leigh Carey** and **Carolyn Stuart** have been remembered by many friends and family.

Judith Cook donated in memory of 'a dear friend', **Neil de la Torre**. Leigh Fielder gave for **Elizabeth Feller**, Dr K Davies for **Peter Lightfoot**, Iris Nicolades for **Mardi Vracharas** and **John Scoutas**, and Heather O'Connor for **Kevin Wilson**. **Beth Gosden** was honoured by Andrew and Kath Gosden.

June Rivett donated for her brother-in-law **Robert (Jack) Rivett** and **Elsbeth Allen**. Richard Wilkins gave for his brother **Christopher Wilkins**. Leigh Russell honoured his parents, **Iris and Jack Trevor Russell**, and Rosemary Turner her mother

**Mary Constance Clarke**, 'who loved the birds and the flowers of the Australian Bush'.

Jenny Stokes remembered **Clea Rose**, a young woman killed by a car in 2005.

## In celebration

The weddings of **Donna and Michael Perovic**, **Charlotte Keller and Mike Dennis**, **Michael Wild and Iris Haring**, and **Anita Samuel and Ron Hassell** have been commemorated by Paul and Clare Butcher, Rebecca Gibb, Chris Mummery and Gosia Pendel, respectively. Karen Alexander celebrated the wedding of **Michael Smith and Sarah Chapman**.

Linden and Dave, Josh and Ali, Kath and Brian, and Jackson and Henry donated to commemorate the 50th wedding anniversary of **Kevin and Edna Jerrard** with the message, 'Well done, Mum and Dad. We love you.' Mark Dorney and Patricia Head honoured the first wedding anniversary of **Jan and Anna Kwak**.

John and Jeanette Carlsen celebrated the 40th birthday of **Anthony Smith**, and many friends the 40th birthday of **Michael Coleman**. Friends of **Wendy Alpers** gave for her 70th birthday, Jill and Paul Glenny for the 80th birthday of **Joan Atkinson** and

Jim and June Milne for the 80th birthday of **Harold Richards**. **Wendy Edney** was remembered on her birthday by her sister Carol Lancaster, and **Tanya Mason** by Karen Ross.

The birth of **Huon Byrn-Ockerby** was honoured by Sharron Baird and Rodney Gibbins. Janice Marshall celebrated the birth of her second grandchild **Tully** to Cress and Ali.

Christmas gifts were sent by Petrina Dare for **Pierre De Bisscop**, Elizabeth Beck for **Lesley and Lindsay Jackson** and **Sandra and Bob Jackson**, Joe Sabto for **Michele Sabto and Andrew Trevillian**, Jennifer Raper for **Mimi Colligan**, Janette and Phill Sinclair for **Tess Burroughs**, and Heather O'Connor for the **Morgan family**.

Kath and Andrew Gosden thanked their friends **Jill and Doug Searle** 'for all [their] help and kind support' and sent a Christmas gift for **Des and Wilma Chick**.

Sue Westbrook and colleagues from TAFE NSW donated for the retirement of **Rosemary Livingstone**.



