



Winter 2007

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Reconnecting native habitats – putting the jigsaw puzzle back together

Bush Heritage CEO **Doug Humann** and *Beyond the Boundaries* Coordinator **Stuart Cowell** have contributed to this article

Can you imagine Australia as a giant jigsaw puzzle made up of millions of pieces? Two hundred years ago, if you had been looking down at the puzzle from above, the picture would have been quite spectacular. You would have seen majestic forests fringing the edges with green and great rivers spilling into the sea. In the far north, deeply etched escarpments would have plunged down into vast woodlands and wetlands

teeming with life. Across the red centre you would have seen rolling sand dunes laced with the tracks of myriad small, busy animals, and arid shrublands and rocky plains carved by ancient rivers. Golden grasslands and woodlands brimming with wildlife would have spanned the eastern side of the continent from north to south.

Over the past two hundred years we have effectively been taking the pieces out of this great landscape puzzle. Habitats have disappeared piece by piece and with them the animals and plants they supported. Wetlands have vanished as

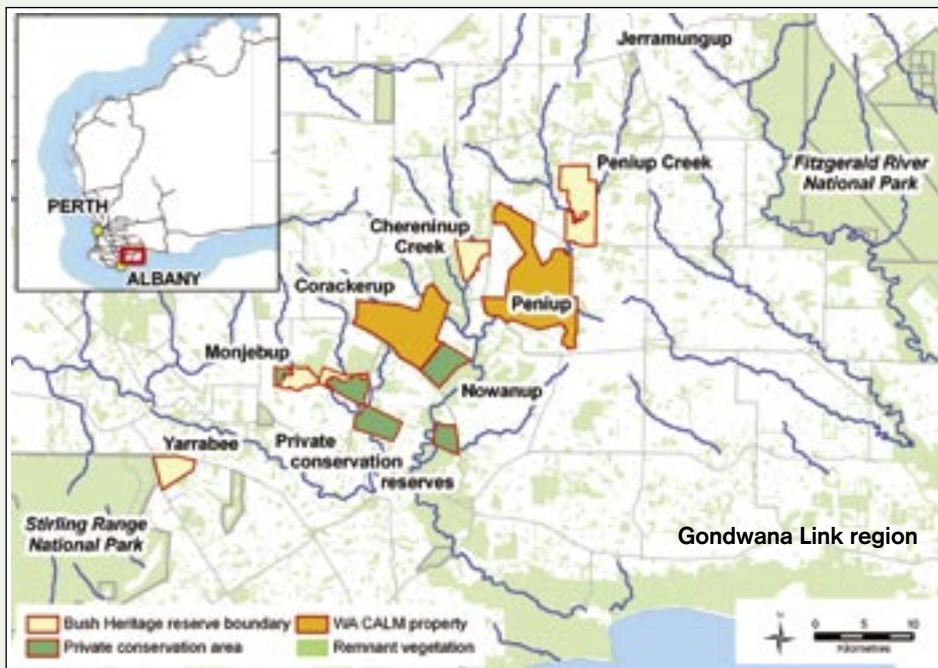
they have been drained, and rivers have been choked by dams and excessive water extraction.

Now 70 per cent of the pieces of this magnificent jigsaw are either missing or damaged. In the worst affected regions, just a scattering of small isolated pieces remain. A look at the map of the Gondwana Link region (see Page 2) illustrates the point graphically.

Putting key pieces back into this jigsaw is now a priority if we are to avert the massive extinction of species that is predicted to occur as the effects of climate change intensify.



Clockwise from top: Scottsdale Reserve, another piece of the jigsaw puzzle restored. PHOTO: JIRI LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES Yellow daisies at Chereninup Creek Reserve, WA. PHOTO: BARBARA MADDEN Hooded robin, a key species at Nardoo Hills reserves, Vic. PHOTO: GRAEME CHAPMAN Native hibiscus *Alyogyne huegelii* at Chereninup Creek Reserve, WA. PHOTO: BARBARA MADDEN



It has been estimated that the effect on a habitat of every one-degree rise in temperature caused by global warming will be equivalent to its having moved 100 kilometres north. With less rainfall and more frequent and intense fires predicted for much of the south of the continent, and an increased risk of intense cyclones and extreme rainfall over the north, animals and plants will be forced to move to find new habitats and the food and shelter that they need.

Many animals, trapped in habitat 'islands' surrounded by seas of cleared land, will have nowhere to go. Both regional and national extinction rates are set to soar.

Rebuilding the connections between these islands of habitat is probably the most important action we can take, and ensuring that these habitat pathways

extend through different altitudes and across latitudes is vital.

Beyond the Boundaries

The Bush Heritage Beyond the Boundaries program is working on many fronts to do just that. This is a program of partnerships and of building up and working on regional conservation strategies with other groups, agencies and individuals to achieve what none of us could alone. The Australian Government's very successful National Reserve System Programme will probably play a part by assisting with the acquisition of key properties, as it has with the recent purchase of Scottsdale Reserve south of Canberra (see *Bush Heritage News*, Summer 2007).

The acquisition of Scottsdale Reserve is the start of another major landscape

restoration program, Kosciusko to Coast. This will become a partnership of massive proportions as we work with hundreds of individual land-owners and local and regional authorities to reconnect habitats from the Australian Alps to the east coast, a distance of over 100 kilometres.

Gondwana Link in Western Australia is the most advanced of the Beyond the Boundaries programs. Several of the property acquisitions here have also received support from the Australian Government's National Reserve System Programme. Our key partners are Greening Australia (WA), The Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park and the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group. Progress is steady and we are already seeing real benefits for many species (see Pages 4 to 5).

New reserve in Western Australia

The most recent piece to go back into the Gondwana Link part of our puzzle is Peniup Creek Reserve. Bush Heritage supporters who responded so generously to the Thomas Challenge (*Bush Heritage News*, Autumn 2007) have made a major contribution to the protection of this vital property. It has been purchased jointly with Greening Australia (WA).

Peniup Creek Reserve covers 2409 hectares and protects the largest area of intact bushland (890 hectares) that remains at the eastern end of the Stirling Range to Fitzgerald River section of Gondwana Link. It now safeguards intact woodland, mallee-heath and stream-side vegetation and a section of Peniup Creek



From left: Grey kangaroo at Nardoo Hills Reserve, Vic. PHOTO: JAMES COWIE Flowering heathland, Monjebup Reserve, WA. PHOTO: JIRI LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES Brown treecreeper. PHOTO: GRAEME CHAPMAN

that is in excellent condition. This new reserve establishes a direct connection with Peniup Nature Reserve.

Significantly, at least five key species or communities targeted for special attention in the Gondwana Link Functional Landscape Plan occur here. These include yate and mallet/moort woodlands, Tammar and black-gloved wallabies, creeks and freshwater systems. The threatened red-tailed phascogale has been recorded in the past and probably hangs on in the she-oak thickets. There is also habitat suitable for eighteen threatened species, including the elusive dibbler.

Much of the recently cleared land is regenerating naturally. The extent of the area needing active replanting is currently being assessed. Once restored, this new bushland will strengthen and expand the developing habitat corridor.

New reserve in Victoria

While projects such as Gondwana Link and Kosciuszko to Coast make headlines and generate national interest, other Bush Heritage projects quietly continue to reinstate other pieces in our jigsaw.

In the past few weeks, another piece, the third, has been added in the Nardoo Hills in Victoria. Our thanks to the R E Ross Trust and Bush Heritage supporters who have funded the acquisition of this strategically placed 216 hectare property. It connects the southern end of the current Bush Heritage Nardoo Hills reserves to the otherwise isolated Woosang block of the Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserve. With this latest



purchase, the chain of linked reserves now extends for more than eight kilometres along the Nardoo Hills.

The gently undulating and dissected hills of the new block add significantly to the area of mallee and endangered plains grassy woodland that is protected. The healthy woodlands and box-ironbark forests contain numerous old hollow-bearing trees, essential nesting and resting sites for many native animals and birds. The threatened hooded robin, diamond firetail, brown tree creeper, black-chinned honeyeater and tree goanna have already been recorded.

In this region Bush Heritage is working closely with the local Wedderburn Conservation Management Network. It provides strong community-based support for conservation initiatives in the area.

Throughout Australia, Bush Heritage is teaming up with conservation and research organisations, government

Kosciuszko to Coast has the support of the New South Wales Government, which used the launch of Scottsdale Reserve to announce a bigger plan, Alps to Atherton. This ambitious project aims to create a wildlife corridor over a distance of 2800 kilometres to allow species to move in response to changes in climate. The state government has committed \$7 million for Stage 1 to support private landholders to undertake land-care works and sign up to voluntary conservation agreements. Changes to planning laws will also ensure that existing habitat connections are not broken by any new developments.

Scottsdale Reserve was purchased with support from The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, private donors honouring the lives of Dr Peter Barrer and Helen Rickards, and the Australian Government's National Reserve System Programme.

agencies, Indigenous groups, regional authorities and individuals to meet the challenges that our native plants and animals will face as a result of global warming. Working principally in our five anchor regions, we are helping to put the pieces back into the fragmented jigsaw that is Australia, and to restore pathways of native habitats for animals and plants to move through as they need to. Our progress is steady but the task is immense. The support provided by people such as you is critical to what we can achieve.



From left: Threatened Corackerup moort *Eucalyptus vesiculosa* at Monjebup Reserve, WA. Monjebup Reserve, WA. PHOTOS: JIRI LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES



Rebuilding the bush in south-west Western Australia

Bush Heritage Beyond the Boundaries Coordinator **Stuart Cowell** provides an update on the land restoration work under way as part of Gondwana Link

'You could get lost in the revegetation at Chereninup Creek Reserve now. It is looking fantastic!'

This excited exclamation from Amanda Keesing, who works at the Gondwana Link Coordination Unit, gives you an idea of just how well our burgeoning bushland is doing.

Chereninup Creek Reserve, the first property to be acquired for Gondwana Link, was purchased by Bush Heritage in 2002. This ambitious project is helping to restore the environmental health

of this region by protecting and reconnecting native habitats across the South-West. A detailed description of the project appeared in *Bush Heritage News*, Spring 2006.

Planted in 2003, the 60 hectares of revegetation at Chereninup Creek Reserve was the first biodiversity planting to reconnect fragmented patches of bush. Now, just four years later, the she-oaks are about three metres tall and much of the rest is near head-height. There is bright-green, lush new foliage on many of the trees despite the drought.

This new bushland is already starting to perform its function as an ecosystem, which includes storing atmospheric

carbon dioxide. Many of the young plants – melaleucas, eucalypts, feather flowers and wattles – are flowering. This is bringing back the insects and nectar-feeding species. Birds are using the young trees as nest sites. Quail, echidnas and snakes are back, and fungi are again colonising the ground. Native ants and spiders are also recolonising the area, and small tunnels, perhaps dug by reptiles or small mammals, are starting to appear in the sandy soil. Birds of prey are on the wing overhead.

But perhaps the most exciting development is that black-gloved wallabies are back. The black-gloved wallaby is one of the species of special conservation significance that is a



Clockwise from top: Yarrabee Wesfarmers Reserve with the Stirling Range behind. The revegetation at Chereninup Creek Reserve is thriving. PHOTOS: AMANDA KEESING Black-gloved wallaby. PHOTO: JIRI LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES Flowering eucalypt at Yarrabee Wesfarmers Reserve. PHOTO: KEITH TUFFLEY

target for action in the document that underpins our activities, the Gondwana Link Functional Landscape Plan. The presence of this species, and also of western grey kangaroos, shows that even after such a short time the habitats have linked sufficiently to allow the movement of animals through the landscape.

There is also further encouraging news. Kunzeas, velleas, wattles and a number of other wildflower species not present in the original seed mix are starting to emerge. Perhaps, with more favourable conditions, seed that has remained in the soil is now germinating after many years, or has been deposited more recently by the animals starting to live in and move through the plantings. Some of the emerging plants are likely to have come in from seed blown on the wind. As the complexity and health of this growing bushland increases, so will its importance as a refuge for the wildlife and as a sink for carbon.

The success of this revegetation work has been a precursor for, and is now dwarfed by, the next revegetation program at Yarrabee Wesfarmers Reserve, a property jointly acquired by Bush Heritage and Greening Australia (WA) in 2006 (See *Bush Heritage News*, Summer 2006).

About 600 hectares of Yarrabee needed to be replanted and the sheer size of this new task gave revegetation expert Jack Mercer the opportunity to test different methods of preparing the ground and spreading the seed. The aim was to produce bushland that as far as possible mirrored the original, a varied



and diverse habitat with between 400 and 500 plant species.

Jack began by analysing the nearby bush. He matched the vegetation types and their plant species to the soil type. Back on Yarrabee Wesfarmers Reserve he looked at the soils and remnant vegetation and then set about creating different seed mixes that would best suit the various soil types. He wanted the right species growing in the right conditions.

To date, about 420 hectares of the total of 600 hectares has been sown. About 600 kilograms of seed and 80 000 seedlings have been planted. Another 70 hectares has been prepared for planting. With only half the expected rain having fallen in 2006, the remaining 110 hectares will not be prepared

until after a good downpour. This remaining work should take only two to four weeks to complete.

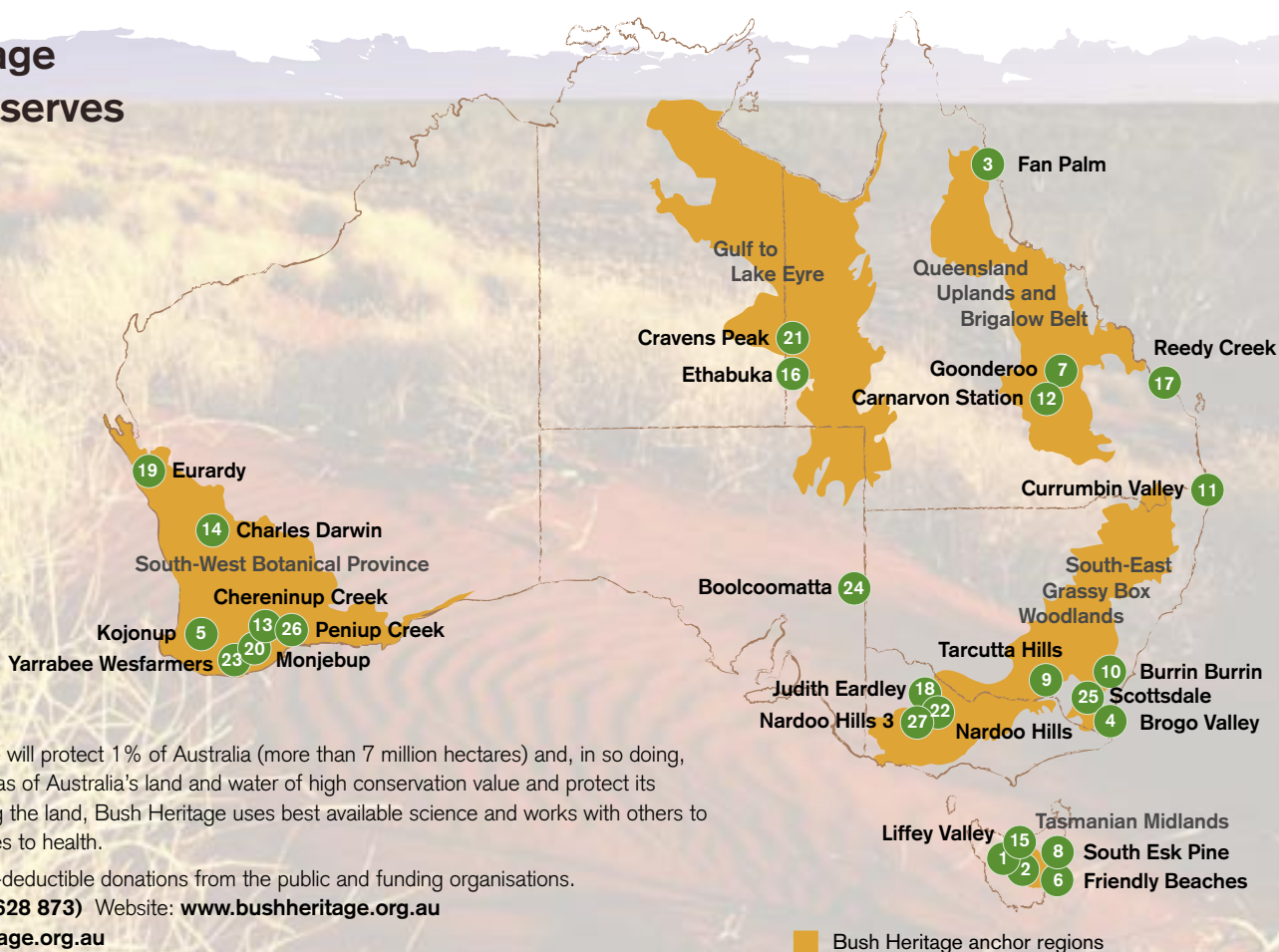
Some resilient species have germinated and a second flush is expected once rain falls. We will keep you up to date with the progress of this exciting landscape recovery program.

The revegetation work at Chereninup Creek Reserve was supported by the Australian Government's Envirofund. The work at Yarrabee Wesfarmers Reserve was funded by the South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team (SCRIPT) with the support of the Western Australian and Australian governments through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust.



Clockwise from top: The first plants emerge in the revegetation at Yarrabee Wesfarmers Reserve. PHOTO: KEITH TUFFLEY
Volunteers putting in seedlings at Yarrabee Wesfarmers Reserve. The ground prepared for planting. Tractors preparing the ground. PHOTOS: AMANDA KEESING

Bush Heritage Australia reserves



By 2025 Bush Heritage will protect 1% of Australia (more than 7 million hectares) and, in so doing, conserve significant areas of Australia's land and water of high conservation value and protect its biodiversity. In managing the land, Bush Heritage uses best available science and works with others to restore whole landscapes to health.

Funds are raised by tax-deductible donations from the public and funding organisations.

1300 NATURE (1300 628 873) Website: www.bushheritage.org.au

Email: info@bushheritage.org.au

Current reserves

South-West Botanical Province



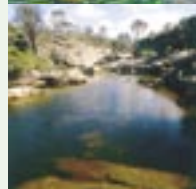
26 Peniup Creek Reserve, WA – purchased jointly with Greening Australia (WA) 2007

This new 2409 ha reserve will protect intact riparian, woodland, mallee and heath vegetation. The property includes a section of the upper Peniup Creek, which is in excellent condition. Some of the reserve is currently regenerating and a significant area will be actively replanted. It protects habitats for the Tammar and black-gloved wallabies and the endangered red-tailed phascogale has been recorded in the past.



23 Yarrabee Wesfarmers Reserve, WA – purchased jointly with Greening Australia (WA) 2006

This 923 ha reserve is a key acquisition for the Gondwana Link pathway in WA. It lies on the eastern boundary of the Stirling Range National Park and boasts a varied topography from tall marri/jarrah woodlands to low mallee and banksia-rich heathlands. About 600 ha is being revegetated.



20 Monjebup Reserve, WA – purchase completed 2007

This reserve protects 956 ha of highly diverse remnant bushland in south-west WA. Its diverse landforms, ecosystems and natural waterways remain largely untouched. It is a key property for the Gondwana Link project.



19 Eurardy Reserve, WA – purchased 2005

This 30 066 ha reserve helps to build a protected habitat corridor between the Kalbarri National Park and the Toolong Nature Reserve on the central coast of WA. Together these reserves protect one of the most diverse endemic plant communities on the planet. Over 600 plant species have been recorded at Eurardy, including 38 declared rare plants.



14 Charles Darwin Reserve, WA – purchased 2003

This reserve protects 68600 ha of york gum, salmon gum, gimlet, and sandplain vegetation in the wheat belt of WA. It is part of a growing area of protected land where fire and feral animal control are being managed on a regional basis. The reserve protects twelve regional ecosystems, and rare and threatened plants continue to be discovered.



13 Chereninup Creek Reserve, WA – purchased 2002

This 877 ha reserve protects some of the most floristically spectacular and globally important land in south-west WA. It is critical to creating the Gondwana Link corridor of protected and restored habitats, and safeguards at least twelve major plant communities and threatened species such as the western whiplbird and Tammar wallaby.



5 Kojonup Reserve, WA – purchased 1996

This 389 ha 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.

South-East Grassy Box Woodlands



27 Nardoo Hills Reserve 3, Vic – purchased 2007

This 216 ha of undulating grassy woodland links the southern end of the existing Nardoo Hills reserves to a previously isolated 200 ha block of the Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserve. Its addition will create a chain of linked reserves extending more than eight kilometres along the Nardoo Hills. It contains complex woodlands with numerous old hollow-bearing trees and is regionally important for the hooded robin, diamond firetail, brown treecreeper, black-chinned honeyeater and tree goanna.



25 Scottsdale Reserve, NSW – acquired 2006

At 1328 ha, this new reserve on an untouched stretch of the Murrumbidgee River is a prized purchase. This region has been adversely affected by over-clearing, overgrazing and irrigation, and Scottsdale will protect some of its most threatened ecosystems. Scottsdale's fertile lowlands will need active rehabilitation, but the threatened grassland plateaus, woodlands and springs will recover naturally following rain.



22 & 18 Nardoo Hills reserves, Vic, incorporating Judith Eardley Reserve – purchased 2005 and 2006
At 572 ha, these properties contribute to the protection of some of the most threatened ecosystems in southern Australia. They protect five vegetation communities of conservation significance, including grey-box grassy woodland, herb-rich woodland and mallee. The high-quality habitats have good populations of declining woodland birds including the hooded robin, brown treecreeper and diamond firetail. The reserves abut the Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserve.



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.

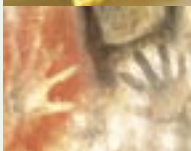


9 Tarcutta Hills Reserve, NSW – purchased 1999
Tarcutta Hills is a 432 ha reserve of national significance. It protects the largest area of high-quality grassy white box woodland left in Australia and boasts an unusual richness of species. It provides habitat for the nationally threatened turquoise and swift parrots.

Queensland Uplands and Brigalow Belt



17 Reedy Creek Reserve, Qld – donated 2004
This 452 ha reserve abuts the Deepwater National Park in one of the most intensely used and depleted natural environments in eastern Australia. Nine vegetation communities including pandanus-lined wetlands and threatened vine forests are safeguarded. Bush Heritage also assists in the management of loggerhead and green turtle breeding areas on the adjacent beaches.



12 Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld – purchased 2001
This 59000 ha reserve adjoins Carnarvon Gorge National Park. It protects seventeen regional ecosystems, including six that are endangered, in a region that has seen broadscale land clearing. Species diversity is increasing as the habitats recover.



7 Goonderoo Reserve, Qld – purchased 1998
This 593 ha reserve lies in a region that has been heavily cleared. It protects nine plant communities including brigalow woodlands and native grasslands, both of which are classified as endangered. Over 140 bird species, many snakes and a wide variety of other wildlife are protected here.

The Gulf of Carpentaria to Lake Eyre



21 Cravens Peak Reserve, Qld – purchased 2005
This huge property of 233000 ha lies north of Ethabuka Reserve and the Simpson Desert National Park. It encompasses the transition from the Simpson Desert dune fields through the rocky Toko and Toomba Ranges to the broad grasslands of the Mulligan River headwaters. Its nine ecosystems are home to an abundant and diverse fauna including threatened species such as the mulgara and ampurta.



16 Ethabuka Reserve, Qld – purchased 2004
This vast reserve of 213300 ha abuts the Simpson Desert National Park and protects river flood plains, dune systems, clay pans and ephemeral and semipermanent wetland systems of national significance. Most of these ecosystems are not protected in the adjoining park. Ethabuka has a remarkable diversity of mammals, birds and reptiles.

Tasmanian Midlands



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 10000 trees remaining.



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. It retains some of the last examples of natural dune systems in Tasmania.

Reserves outside the Bush Heritage anchor regions



24 Boolcoomatta Reserve, SA – acquired 2006
This unique 63000 ha reserve was purchased with funds provided by the Nature Foundation SA and the Australian Government's National Reserve System Programme. Bush Heritage will own and manage the reserve for the long term. Its ten vegetation communities were either poorly protected or not protected because the vast saltbush plains and grasslands have been selected for grazing. The threatened plains-wanderer and thick-billed grass wren will be safeguarded here and the yellow-footed rock wallaby should return once goats and foxes are controlled.



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 an area of significant habitat.



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 including the sugar glider and long-nosed bandicoot, and many bird species including the powerful owl.



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 the cassowary and threatened plant species.



1, 2 & 15 Liffey Valley reserves, Tas – acquired 1990 and 2003
Combined, the Liffey River, Dries Bluff and Coalmine Creek reserves protect 261 ha of fern gully, rainforest and wet and dry sclerophyll forest. The reserves lie beneath the Great Western Tiers on the edge of the World Heritage Area and are a haven for wildlife, including the pygmy possum and Tasmanian devil. They support the threatened Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle and white goshawk.



BUSH HERITAGE
AUSTRALIA



Restoring grasslands and grassy woodlands at Carnarvon Station Reserve

Bush Heritage Ecologist Murray Haseler reports on the recovery of the grasslands at Carnarvon Station Reserve

The renaissance of the grasslands at Carnarvon Station Reserve in central Queensland has been very exciting. Before Bush Heritage purchased Carnarvon Station in 2001, the native bluegrass downs had been heavily grazed. Once Carnarvon had been acquired, the stock were removed and we began a regime of ecological burning. Over the past five years we have watched with delight as these threatened grasslands have returned to being functioning, healthy ecosystems to which scurrying, slithering and soaring beasts have returned.

Nature reserves and national parks have traditionally been declared on land that has little or no productive value for agriculture. Thus grasslands and grassy woodlands have largely been excluded from the national reserve system. Consequently, at Carnarvon Station Reserve, the fertile bluegrass downs, poplar box grassy woodlands and grassy woodlands of coolabahs and cycads are among its most important ecosystems.

This region receives moderate but very seasonal rainfall. Following the spring rain, the grass grows fast and prolifically and then dies off in winter. With no stock to eat it, the grass now dumps a plentiful supply of nutritious seed into the food chain. Fires encourage a flush of new green shoots and highly nutritious small herbs to grow in the grasslands, and

cause the regeneration of a diversity of shrubs and trees in the grassy woodlands. It's a finely balanced but resilient cycle.

Many years ago the local Aboriginal people worked with the rain and fire to create a mosaic in the vegetation of cover and exposed ground. This provided shelter and food for the native fauna they hunted. A hundred years later, the reserve managers at Carnarvon Station Reserve have again adopted this strategy. They are re-creating one of very few examples of a productive Australian grassland that is again supporting only native animals and plants.

The return of wildlife

The return of the wildlife to the grasslands has been spectacular.



Clockwise from top: Recovering bluegrass downs. PHOTO: JOSS BENTLEY Narrow-nosed planigale. PHOTO: MURRAY HASELER Euro. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX Black-headed python. PHOTO: MURRAY HASELER



The large grass-eaters reappeared first. Mobs of grey kangaroos and red-necked wallabies came in to feed on the grassy flats, and euros and whip-tailed wallabies used the slopes. Herbert's rock wallabies could be seen near the rocky outcrops, and swamp wallabies near the shrubby areas. These species are wide-ranging and come and go with the seasons but they are clearly increasing in number with the absence of stock. Their natural predators, dingoes and birds of prey, have also increased. Dingo kills are now reported regularly.

Three years ago staff and volunteers started trapping to find out what small species were present and where they occurred. We also hoped to monitor changes in their abundance. Each year new species have been recorded and we are beginning to understand the habitat needs of each. The delicate,

Forrest's and chestnut mice feed mostly on seeds at the edges of the grasslands. Common and narrow-nosed planigales hunt in the cracking clays under the grasslands and regenerating poplar box, where there are now plenty of invertebrates. The tiny common and stripe-faced dunnarts and more robust yellow-footed antechinus work the wooded fringes. Nine species have been recorded so far and we expect to find up to seven additional species.

The birds are returning too. Numbers of seed-eaters such as the plum-headed finch and turquoise parrot have increased, the latter recently recorded for the first time. Brown quail, button-quail and the threatened squatter pigeon are in large numbers and now feeding a diverse group of resident birds of prey and large reptiles, including the black-headed python.

Our experience at Carnarvon Station Reserve shows that when stock are removed from our native grasslands and where there is effective management of fire and feral animals, the response from the landscape and its species is spectacular.

The obvious visual changes we are seeing and the efforts of staff and volunteers are giving us an exciting picture of the renaissance of this grassland. We have only just begun to explore and document the ecology of the reserve and to attract more students and volunteers to help. Knowing and understanding what is being re-created out there will take time and effort. Our observations, however, are telling us that we not only have a living example of original Australia, but a reserve that will function as a refuge for species that are being severely threatened elsewhere.





Launch of Scottsdale Reserve – a happy event!

High up on Scottsdale Reserve’s sunny plateau in New South Wales, a crowd gathered on 27 March 2007 to celebrate the protection of this outstanding area. The event heralded the beginning of an ambitious new collaborative project, ‘Kosciuszko to Coast’. This project will link habitats from the Australian Alps to the east-coast ranges and re-establish a corridor of habitats through this highly fragmented landscape to once again allow the movement of species.

Scottsdale lies near the small town of Bredbo on the Monaro Highway and from its highest point it is easy to visualise the habitat pathway that the project hopes to restore. To the west are the forested hills of the Namadgi National Park and to the east the distant hills of the Tinderry Nature Reserve.

At the launch, Traditional Owner Matilda House, whose great-grandfather was a custodian of this country, gave a warm and heartfelt ‘Welcome to Country’. Other speakers highlighted the significance of

the collaboration between the community and governments in protecting the environment for future generations.

Our guests included members of the local community, government representatives, research partners and Bush Heritage supporters, many of whom had contributed financially to the purchase of Scottsdale.

Scottsdale was purchased with support from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, private donors commemorating the lives of Helen Lilian Manning Rickards and Dr Peter Barrer, and the Australian Government’s National Reserve System Programme.



From the CEO

It has been a thrill for me to participate in the launches of two new Bush Heritage properties in recent weeks, one in the South-West and one in eastern Australia. You have assisted us to buy both these properties, and also to provide for their long-term management. Thank you.

We are focusing our efforts in five key anchor regions around Australia and building enduring relationships with people living in those landscapes. Up until now, acquiring land of high conservation value has been the main platform of our success. In the Gondwana Link project in the South-West and Kosciuszko to Coast project near Canberra, where the two recent land acquisitions are located, we are now using a new tool in our work to protect ecosystems and species at the landscape scale. We are involved in active broad-scale landscape restoration. I have been greatly encouraged by the success and growing momentum of these regional projects. They demonstrate just what is possible through collaboration and commitment.



Clockwise from top: The launch at Scottsdale Reserve. PHOTO: EDDIE MISIC Noongar people at the Gondwana Link launch casting native seed to aid the revegetation. PHOTO: DEBORAH BADGER The Murrumbidgee River at Scottsdale Reserve. PHOTO: EDDIE MISIC

On the smaller scale we continue to have great success in restoring ecosystems on individual reserves. The grassland restoration project at Carnarvon Station Reserve in central Queensland is a great example (see Pages 8 to 9).

New projects are developing across Australia, particularly with Indigenous Australians, and wonderful progress is being made to conserve and protect landscapes and the species that reside in them.

These are indeed exciting times for Bush Heritage. The commitment and loyalty of our Bush Heritage supporters show that they understand the importance, not just of buying land, but also of managing and restoring the land over the long term. They are also supporting us to build enduring partnerships with the community.

We have much to achieve and the runs on the board to prove it is possible.



Doug Humann

Thanks

Austral Lock, a company that designs and manufactures security hardware for doors and windows, is proud to announce that it has become a corporate sponsor of Bush Heritage Australia.



Managing Director Russell Watts says, 'When we learned that Bush Heritage Australia bought land to create plant and wildlife corridors, [our] decision was easy. Our employees get pleasure from knowing they work for a company that is taking action to help address environmental problems'.

In memory

Bush Heritage staff mourn the loss of **Con Krokos**, designer of the Bush Heritage publications, supporter and friend. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with his family.

Bronwyn Bentley donated for her husband **Michael**, Kerri Robinson for her husband **Gordon** and Barbara Yuncken for her husband **Thomas (Tom)**. Robin Westcott honoured her parents **Peggie and Colin Humphrey**, and Mr and Mrs Catchpole remembered their son **Andrew**, who was lost in the bush in October 2006.

Family and friends donated for **Os Gooden**. Joss Haiblen and Trish Macdonald gave for **Salvatore Gambale**, Carl Martens for 'the inspirational life of **Roger Christmas**', George and Rae Price for **Douglas Crawford**, Linda Rogan for **Rod Franklin**, and Carol Warren for her friend **Ian Medcalf**. The Bloustein family donated in memory of baby **Will Arlen Tropman Sheedy**.

In celebration

Diane Allen and friends celebrated the first birthday of **Ollie Lambert**, and Nick Hansen and Meg Collyer the first birthday of their daughter **Emmy**. Janet Mayer gave for the second birthday of her grandson **Harry Jessop**, and Jeanette Sinclair and Phillip Ridgeway for the second birthday of **Tess Burroughs**.

Many weddings were celebrated with gifts to Bush Heritage. Gillian Black and Bryan Coxall gave for **Heather Hammer and Bruce Ballantine-Jones**, Anne and Reg Brearley for **Taree Brearley and Andy Black**, family and friends for **Fiona Darroch and Jeff Green**, Bec Gibb and Ian Humphries for **Lish Hogge and Nick Fejer** and **Patricia Vagg and Michael Butcherine**, Chris Mummery and Mary-Lou Catalano for **Peter and Lynette Cook**, Tony Payne for **Paul Baulch and Judy Smith**, Daniel Price for **Kris and**

Andrea, and Chris Timewell for **Kevin Labib and Tiffanie Gee**.

Family and friends celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of **David and Barbara Thomas**, and Peter Thomas the wedding anniversary of his parents **Greg and Robyn Thomas**.

Robin Tennant-Wood honoured the 50th birthday of **Nada Travica**. Lynette Clayton and Joe Gladman celebrated the 60th birthday of **Libby Lloyd**, family and friends the 70th birthday of **Joan Lambert**, Faye and David Downing the 60th birthdays of **Heather and Nick Safstrom**, and Garth Wimbush the 70th birthday of his **Uncle Pierre**. **Jane (70) and Jack Purkiss (90)** donated for their respective birthdays.

Other birthdays were also celebrated. Louise Holt gave for her mother **Denise Walker**, Tony Manea for his sister **Christine Cowie**, Colleen and Richard Morris for **Warwick Mayne-Wilson**, Lucrecia Watts for **Shelley**, and Steven and Jane Gye for **Peter Wood**.

Michele Druery gave for **Mark Wagstaff and Kate Kannegiesser** in honour of their home purchase.

Kaye and Alistair Millar gave for Scottsdale Reserve, NSW, on behalf of their four grandsons **Marlin and Oliver Millar** and **Andrew and Marco Riascos Millar**. Lisa Minchin donated to celebrate the birth of **Darcy Alexandria Richards Wilkes**.



