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Summer 2009



Queensland Herbarium botanist **Jeanette Kemp** joined Ecological Monitoring Coordinator **Jim Radford** and other Bush Heritage staff in an exploration of one of Bush Heritage's newest reserves.

Thump! We felt the jolt of the Hilux shuddering to an abrupt stop before we registered the sound of the front axle ramming into the chalky roadbed as the track gave way beneath us. Opening the doors, we tumbled out into a gaping hole in the road. The deceptively solid surface was merely a thin crust over a treacherous pothole, excavated by recent rains.

Luckily we had backup, and were pulled from impending doom before navigating an alternative route to our next survey point.

The torrential rains of the last wet season that had carved deep incisions

and potholes into the tracks around Yourka Reserve had also delayed ecological surveys because much of the reserve was inaccessible until autumn. When we arrived we could see flood debris, including uprooted trees, lodged in the limbs of towering paperbarks and river she-oaks a full 20 m above the creeks.

The floodwaters had finally receded by late June when a team of botanists, zoologists and ornithologists from the Queensland Herbarium, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Bush Heritage descended upon Yourka to undertake the reserve's first 'bio-blitz'.

Above: Staff members (L-R) Jim Radford, Clair Dougherty and Paul Foreman undertaking vegetation survey in eucalypt woodlands of Yourka Reserve, Qld. **PHOTO:** JEN GRINDROD. **Inset:** Scenic landform and vegetation of Yourka Reserve, Qld. **PHOTO:** WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX.

The primary aim of the blitz was to learn more about the ecology of Yourka by gathering information from focused field surveys and investigation. An intensive mammal survey program, using infra-red motion-triggered cameras, cage traps and spotlighting, was conducted in the moist forests and woodlands in the east of the property. Although the presence of the primary target of this survey effort, the endangered northern bettong, was not confirmed, many other mammals were recorded.

Greater gliders were abundant among the tall eucalypt forests in the Cameron Creek valley; brush-tailed possums were also spotted, an encouraging

Left to right: Noisy friar-bird at Yourka Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX. Carnivorous sundew (*Drosera lanata*) at Yourka Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: JEANETTE KEMP. Greater glider at Yourka Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX. Grasstree habitat at Yourka Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: JEANETTE KEMP.

Bottom right: The black-chinned honeyeater, a rare species recorded at Yourka. PHOTO: GRAEME CHAPMAN.



sign because there is concern that this species may be declining in northern Queensland. Rufous bettongs were widespread throughout the property; the characteristic 'sneeze' of the long-nosed bandicoot betrayed its presence behind our camp on the Cameron Creek; and a brown bandicoot was captured by one of the cameras. In addition, numerous native rats were trapped and an inquisitive dunnart recorded for posterity by a remote camera. Further mammal surveys are underway as we go to press.

Yourka's variety of land formations and vegetation types makes it a great place for birding. Forty-two species were added to the Yourka bird list during the blitz, bringing the total to 116 species. This is sure to rise with spring bird surveys planned for October.

Notable observations included the near-threatened northern subspecies of the brown tree creeper and a small flock of black-chinned honeyeaters, rare in Queensland. Red-headed honeyeaters were found at the southern extremity of their range, foraging with scarlet honeyeaters among paperbarks fringing Yourka Gorge. Raucous gatherings of noisy friar-birds, scaly-breasted and rainbow lorikeets aggregated in the open woodlands. A host of seed-eaters, such as squatter pigeons, common bronze-

wings, peaceful doves and red-browed firetails were common on the river flats, feasting on grass seeds that were abundant in the wake of the summer rains. Large flocks of the comical and acrobatic apostle-bird, families of grey-crowned babbler and a dawn chorus led by bush stone curlews were sights and sounds to gladden the soul. Wet tropic species like Victoria's riflebird, bridled honeyeater and lemon-bellied flycatcher could be ticked off in the hills along the eastern margins of the property.

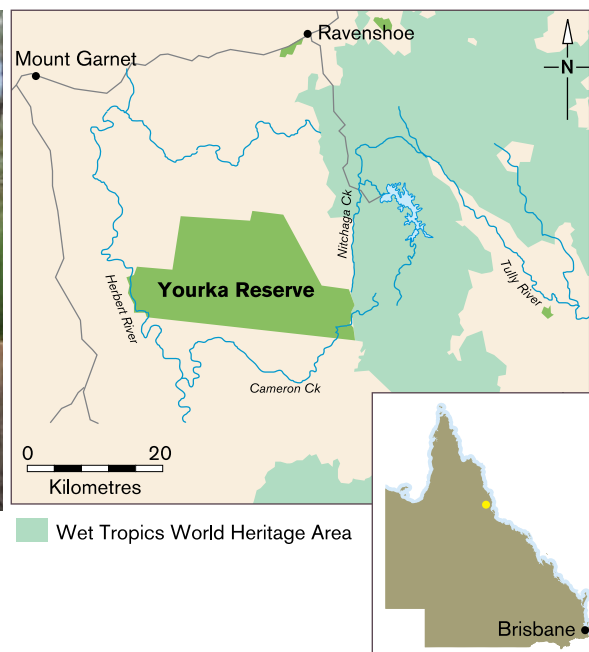
The real gems, however, were uncovered by the botanists. Yourka is proving to be a botanical wonderland, even for local experts, who had previously been unable to explore the area thoroughly. There are substantial areas of deep weathered white or red sandy soils on low rises and plains. The poor nutrient status of these soils and ephemeral nature of the rains have encouraged the development of a heath-like flora that is species rich, particularly in miniature annuals, but also in low shrubby heath plants that are otherwise uncommon in the tropical north.

The blitz gave us a tantalising sample of the array of exciting ground species to be found, including tiny delicate trigger plants (*Stylidium*) less than 1 cm tall, a stunning carnivorous sundew

(*Drosera lanata*) shaped like a many-armed starfish, and a miniaturised herb (*Mitrasacme phascoides*) known from only a handful of specimens in Cape York. Finding this plant at Yourka means that its range is extended by nearly 300 km. Many more annual species, too dry to be identified this time round, will be looked at again in the wet season.

A long-unburnt example of heathy vegetation was discovered, supporting grasstrees with complete skirts of dead foliage, as well as piles of litter on the ground. In one of these litter piles we found a poorly known orchid, later identified by the Queensland Herbarium as the green truffle orchid (*Arthrochilus dockrillii*). This is only the tenth record of this species, and it extends the known range south by 10–20 km.

The edges of incised creeks reveal a hardened layer beneath the weathered sands, and it is this habitat which is revealing several interesting shrubby heath species, including a probable undescribed boronia, the hopbush *Dodonaea uncinata* (listed as Rare under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act), and a shrub from the Rutaceae family (*Cryptandra debilis*) which has a very restricted range (200 x 70 km) – the Yourka specimen extends its previously known range by 30 km.



The blitz enabled field checking of the existing vegetation mapping done by the Queensland Herbarium and the Wet Tropics Management Authority. This provided useful data for Herbarium staff who are refining the mapping, while at the same time providing a basis for Bush Heritage staff to produce a more detailed map to use for fire planning and general management.

Herbarium staff were excited by a vegetation assemblage which could be considered as a new vegetation type. If officially recognised, its entire known distribution may be restricted to Yourka Reserve. This vegetation type occurs on pale deep-weathered soils, and is dominated by the Queensland peppermint (*E. exserta*), the restricted-range bloodwood (*Corymbia abergiana*), and two species of she-oak, including the hairy she-oak (*Allocasuarina inophloia*), which outside Yourka is rarely found in such extensive communities. A shrubby, heathy layer includes a rare hopbush (*Dodonaea uncinata*), as well as wattles, grevilleas, sedges and many interesting ephemeral herbs.

Overall the blitz has contributed to a current plant list of 308 species including four listed as threatened under the Queensland Nature Conservation Act, and an additional eleven species that are very poorly

known and/or collected. Processing of the plant specimens is not yet complete, and may still reveal more interesting finds.

While the bio-blitz revealed many of Yourka's secrets, we have just scratched the surface. Reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates were not included in the surveys and many of the regional ecosystems on Yourka are poorly surveyed. Much work remains to be done and we look forward to uncovering more exciting finds. ■

Bush Heritage would also like to thank all external participants in the blitz: Ian Sinclair (Department of Environment and Resource Management); Jeanette Kemp, Eda Addicott and Mark Newton (Queensland Herbarium); John Winter (ecologist); and Mark Parsons and Andy Baker (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service).





Edgbaston Reserve reveals its secrets

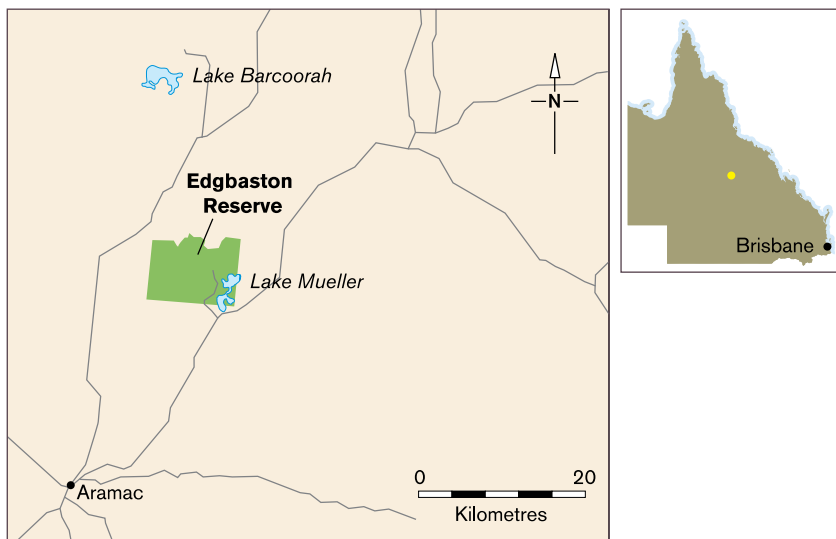


Bush Heritage ecologist Paul Foreman reveals the remarkable biodiversity of Edgbaston Reserve in Queensland.

It's easy to think that we know everything there is to know about the world. Each country has been mapped, every 'lost tribe' discovered. And yet you often hear observations like this one, from the Convention on Biological Diversity: *'Globally, around 1.75 million species have been described and formally named to date, and there are good grounds for believing that several million more species exist but remain undiscovered and undescribed.'*

While it is true that most unknown species are insects or deep-sea marine organisms, many people will be surprised to learn that a lot of terrestrial plants remain undiscovered (estimated at over 10 per cent or 30 000 species). And even though botanists have been poring over the continent since the era of Joseph Banks and Charles Darwin, it is still possible to find completely new things today – usually in remote places with unique or highly restricted environments.

The spectacular 1994 discovery of the Wollemi pine (*Wollemia nobilis*), a large prehistoric tree, only 150 km from Sydney is a memorable example. And, excitingly, Bush Heritage's newest reserve in central





Top, left to right: Artesian spring on Edgbaston Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ ECOPIX. A scrambling pigface with broad, flat leaves (*Gunniopsis* spp.). PHOTO: PAUL FOREMAN. Ecological monitoring on the escarpment country at the northern edge of Ethabuka Reserve, Qld. Paul Foreman assessing the Mitchell grass plains on Edgbaston Reserve, Qld. PHOTOS: JEN GRINDROD.

Below, top to bottom: The distinctive 'antler-like' fruits of *Atriplex* spp. (Edgbaston) first collected in June 2009 along with two other new copper burrs (*Sclerolaena* spp.) (Edgbaston). Giant pipewort, Edgbaston Reserve, Qld. PHOTOS: PAUL FOREMAN.

Queensland, Edgbaston, is also revealing new treasures.

What might be perceived by most as 'just another cow paddock' or even a 'terrible place' (as described by a local grazier in our Spring 2008 newsletter) is in fact a biological hot spot. By now many readers would be aware of Edgbaston's unique, critically endangered fish, the redfin blue-eye, which was only discovered in 1990. However, the story of Edgbaston's endemic plants is less well known and understood.

In June this year, a team from Bush Heritage collected no less than three new plants from the reserve – all saltbushes that are endemic to the saline scalds that fringe the property's natural springs. One notable example is a delicate saltbush with distinctive and bizarre 'antler-like' fruits (opposite). This plant grows only a few hundred metres from a spring on a low, saline white-sand ridge covered in porcupine spinifex (*Triodia longiceps*).

These new discoveries at Edgbaston mean there are now no less than fifteen plants that have been described only very recently or still wait for a name to be assigned. Some interesting examples include a scrambling pigface with broad, flat leaves, an apparently long-lived 'woody' species of 'beauty-heads' and a giant pipewort (up to 50 cm tall) growing in springs shaded under tea-tree thickets. All of these species are either endemic solely to

Edgbaston or found in just one or two other nearby locations with similar ecosystems. Amazingly, it is likely there are still more species to be found.

So why is Edgbaston so biologically rich? The answer lies squarely with the permanent artesian springs scattered across the Pelican Creek/ Lake Mueller complex in the reserve's east. These springs discharge from thin sandstone aquifers that recharge in the surrounding desert uplands to the north and east. These discharge points are often in the lowest parts of the landscape and can be separated by tens to hundreds of kilometres of unwatered land. It is thought that the resulting isolation for very long periods drives the evolution of new species that have adapted to specific springs environments. The surprisingly high numbers of unique organisms at Edgbaston suggests this spring complex has been relatively stable and effectively isolated for longer than most, but no one really knows for sure.

In a recent seminal paper on the redfin blue-eye, Edgbaston was called 'the most significant springs for biodiversity conservation in the entire [Great Artesian Basin]'. The more we get to know this reserve, the more we can see why! ■

A full version of this article with references can be found on our website at www.bushheritage.org.au/edgbaston_secrets.



EXTINCTION IS FOREVER

Edgbaston's riches are just one example of the threatened species and ecosystems that Bush Heritage protects. Visit www.bushheritage.org.au/savenativespecies for details of our Christmas appeal reinforcing the need for protection of all native species.

Left to right: Glen Norris (left) presents Carolle and Paul Spencer with a framed photograph of Bon Bon Station and a history of the local area. PHOTO: CRAIG NORRIS. Red mallee (*Eucalyptus socialis*), the only representation of eucalyptus found on Bon Bon Station Reserve. Unnamed salt lake, Bon Bon Station Reserve, SA. PHOTOS: GLEN NORRIS.

Below: Aerial view of Bon Bon Station Reserve homestead, SA. PHOTO: HUGH PRINGLE.



Changing of the guard at Bon Bon Station Reserve

Bush Heritage acquired Bon Bon Station Reserve in May 2008. Since September 2008, volunteer caretakers Paul and Carolle Spencer have been living and working on the reserve, putting in a huge effort to upgrade infrastructure. In early October, **Glen Norris** was appointed as Bon Bon's first full-time Reserve Manager, continuing and building on the Spencer's work.

Prior to joining Bush Heritage, I was involved in the telecommunications and civil earthmoving industries. I began as an operator of heavy plant and machinery and then moved into project management roles on various metropolitan, rural and often remote projects. You don't hear about many 'dozer-driving greenies', however this background has been useful in informing the way Bush Heritage manages conservation and infrastructure projects in the field. It

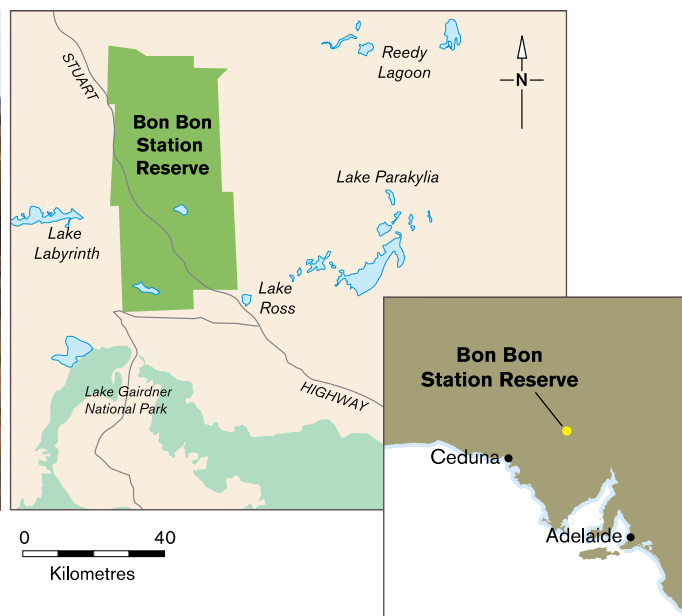
has also been extremely satisfying to be able to apply this in the context of biodiversity conservation.

In my previous role as National Operations Officer, I was directly involved in managing Bon Bon Station Reserve since its acquisition, so as you can imagine, I was excited to be appointed to the Reserve Manager position. We are currently still in the establishment phase, and I am looking to

fast-track a lot of infrastructure projects so we can focus more of our efforts on protecting the remarkable conservation values of the property.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Paul and Carolle Spencer on behalf of Bush Heritage. They have made an extraordinary commitment to Bon Bon Station Reserve and the organisation by donating more than a year of their time as on-site volunteer caretakers. ■





Bon Bon: the early days

Paul Spencer describes the ups and downs of life on Bon Bon Station Reserve

Carolle and I were delighted to be asked to be interim managers at Bon Bon Station Reserve in South Australia in mid-2008. On arrival at the reserve we were not disappointed. The country varied from beautifully sculpted western myalls and mulga to saltbush and a variety of smaller plants and grasses. Springtime also showed us that flowers and blossoms are very much a part of the picture and, to our delight, Sturt's desert peas were abundant in some areas. The landscape changes from rich red sand with low dunes to gibber plains and rocky ranges that in turn open onto watercourses and magnificent salt lakes. Throw in the roos, emus, lizards and a variety of desert birds, and Bon Bon Station Reserve is an attractive area to care for.

Although the homestead and the other accommodation buildings were in reasonable condition when we arrived, there were some problems with water pressure (taking a shower was a dry experience), lighting and air conditioning. These things became a priority with summer approaching. Even with a sealed highway running through the property, the reserve is remote, and getting tradesmen to come has been a little difficult. However, all was done in due course, and Bon Bon Station Reserve now has a very comfortable residence.

Exploring the property was at times a challenge: many tracks were either non-existent or overgrown and not discernible. Each of our early excursions was an adventure. A few

times we arrived home a lot later than was expected. On one occasion, bad map interpretation and failing light led us astray. Finally we saw lights in the distance, and were surprised and then absolutely delighted when we realised we were at Kingoonya Pub. We got home late that night!

Bon Bon Station Reserve is the third reserve that Carolle and I have served on; Ethabuka in the Simpson Desert and Eurardy in the Western Australian wildflower area were the other two. To say which is 'best' is not possible as all three are different and have their own special and unique features that have made them a delight to look after. ■



Above, left to right: Carolle and Paul Spencer pictured at Bon Bon Station Reserve. PHOTO: CRAIG NORRIS. A southern hairy-nosed wombat and joey at Bon Bon, caught on one of Bush Heritage's infra-red cameras in October 2009. PHOTO: BUSH HERITAGE. Sturt's desert pea growing at Bon Bon Station Reserve, SA. PHOTO: STEVE HEGGIE.

In memory

Family of **Hazel** and **Jack Cowell** donated in their memory. Both were keen to preserve and propagate native flora and believed strongly in bush conservation. Patricia Stenning donated in memory of **Anne Spark (nee Gubbins)**, Lynda Avery donated in memory of **Beryl Atkin**, and **Richard Millard** was remembered by Patricia Evans.

A donation was received in memory of **Kendal (Ken) Nicolls**, a long-term Bush Heritage supporter and a man who loved the Australian bush. Many friends and family donated in memory of **Clarrie Handreck**, a passionate and committed environmentalist.

Friends, family and colleagues donated in memory of **Ivars Draguns**, Bush Heritage's Direct Marketing Team Leader for almost three years. Ivars will be remembered for his enormous enthusiasm, good spirits and ready supply of jelly snakes. His commitment to his job, the Latvian community, and to his colleagues and friends at Bush Heritage was unsurpassable, and we miss him dearly. The inaugural Ivars Draguns Memorial Most Enthusiastic Staff Member Award, in Ivars' memory, will be awarded this December.



Ivars Draguns. PHOTO: PETER HOUGHTON.

In celebration

Petra Heil donated in honour of **Julian Innis**. Margaret Rice donated as a gift to **Rob** and **Pam Cheesman** on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary. Sam Dutton gave in honour of **Bruce Dutton**, and Mark Wagstaff made a donation as a gift to **Kate Wagstaff**. Lesley Ann Dalziel gave in celebration of **Rayna Patton**'s birthday. Afton Johnston celebrated the birth of **Ruby Jay Johnston** with a gift. Ruth Bentley celebrated the birthdays of **Kerrie, Bill, Liam, Riley** and **Willow Liao** with gifts in their honour, and David Hawker gave in honour of his six grandchildren.

You can help stop species loss

The famous naturalist Charles Darwin once said that his only regret in life was that he didn't do more to help his 'fellow creatures'.

According to recent studies, many mammal and bird populations across Australia – from Kakadu to Victoria's magnificent box-ironbark forests – are in serious decline. Critically, even populations of species seen as common are crashing: in northern and western Australia, the brush-tailed possum population is declining, and in Victoria the striated pardalote and the laughing kookaburra are declining as much as species listed as threatened, vulnerable or endangered.

Visit www.bushheritage.org.au/savenativespecies for more information on our latest fundraising appeal.

Enter our competition to win the ultimate wildlife experience!

This year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, and it's 150 years since the publication of *On the Origin of Species*.

To celebrate the anniversary, Bush Heritage Australia is pleased to announce a new partnership with Peregrine Adventures and LAN Airlines. This is an amazing opportunity to visit the Galapagos Islands, just as Charles Darwin did 174 years ago!

Our prize is a ten-day trip for two around the Galapagos Islands on a cruise ship. You'll be able to experience some of the world's most magnificent flora and fauna at this World Heritage sanctuary.

Support Bush Heritage in our vision of protecting over 7 million hectares of land, water and wildlife. By signing up to our e-newsletters, you'll go into the draw to win the prize. Simply go to www.darwinexperience.com.au and enter your details. It's that easy!



Peregrine's MV *San Jose* at the Galapagos Islands. PHOTO: COURTESY PEREGRINE ADVENTURES.



Left to right: Fires threatening Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: STEVE PROTHERO. Intensely burnt forest on Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: CATHY ZWICK

Fire on Bush Heritage reserves

There have been several recent wildfires on Bush Heritage reserves in Queensland, as the fire season gets underway.

Both Goonderoo Reserve and Carnarvon Station Reserve have seen fire activity over the last few months, and staff and neighbours have put in massive efforts fighting the fires.

Prescribed or controlled burns and the reinstatement of firebreaks across both properties earlier in the year helped to contain the fires, and back-burning activities during the fires reduced fire intensity and subsequent impact on vegetation and wildlife.

Thanks to our neighbours at Goonderoo Reserve

On 24 August a fire started on the highway between Emerald and Springsure, up against the reserve boundary. The reserve's volunteer caretakers were off-site, but neighbours arrived very quickly and put in a huge effort to contain the fire. We'd especially like to thank our agistor, Shannon Bodiam, neighbours Hugo Spooner and Vic Roffey, the Rural Fire Service and their volunteers, and Tony Sullivan, the local fire warden. With the help of more than twenty people, the fire was contained. Around 100 ha were burnt, but the fire-sensitive brigalow largely escaped intact.

Evaluating wildfire and fire management at Carnarvon Station Reserve

On Wednesday 23 September, under difficult fire weather conditions, a wildfire crossed the southern boundary of Carnarvon Station Reserve heading in a north-easterly direction. An all-day, all-night effort by Bush Heritage staff, pastoral neighbours and Queensland Rural Fire Service volunteers managed to limit its extent, thanks to an early decision to back-burn from existing firebreaks and maintain these containment lines.

Spring fires form part of the active management of the fire ecology of the reserve. However, we prefer them to occur in conditions where they can be managed by staff with reasonable effort and not fought in a situation of urgency and higher risk.

The 23 000 ha of country affected by this September wildfire burnt at a range of intensities. An initial post-fire assessment showed that many areas had burnt at lower intensity, more closely resembling a controlled burn. This result is again due to the back-burning operations undertaken by firefighters on the ground on the first night of the fire.

Preliminary excursions indicate the brigalow scrub has not been affected, but some areas of fire-sensitive lancewood have been burnt. In many places the fire intensity was cool enough to spare small saplings. We are yet to access the more intensely burnt areas, as there is a lot of track clearing to do before that is possible.

Once the spring fires have come to an end and the summer rains have begun, we can start to evaluate the success of landscape-scale fire management activities. The impact of wildfires will also be taken into account in our future fire management plans.

Carnarvon Station Reserve is just one of many properties affected by this wildfire in the region. A further 300 000 ha of country south of Carnarvon have also been affected, a figure that emphasises the scale and nature of fire management in this environment.

The photos of the effects of wildfire remind us of the need to continue active fire management, especially following long wet seasons, which dramatically increase the fuel loads. ■

Murray Haseler, Dave Whitelaw, Cathy Zwick and Chris Wilson contributed to this article.

From the CEO

There aren't many dull moments at Bush Heritage, and the last few months have kept pace with this trend. As the recent period of financial uncertainty has begun to ebb, a fresh sense of optimism for the future is steadily building. Our Annual Financial Report and Annual Conservation Report for 2009, both released in November, show a good outcome despite a challenging year. In choosing to batten down the hatches and curb the pace of our growth in the current financial year, we have survived the past twelve months and are immensely grateful for the loyalty of our supporters.

With a continued focus on our conservation goals for this year and beyond, Phase II of our Anchors in the Landscape Campaign – the financial platform for our strategic plan – is well

Changes on the Board

Phillip Toyne completed his Board term and almost nine years as President in November 2009, and I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution that he has made to Bush Heritage over that time. He is one of Australia's most distinguished environmentalists and has a deep personal commitment to Indigenous engagement. These two threads have underpinned Phillip's successful efforts in encouraging Bush Heritage's strategic expansion. With his characteristic mix of confidence, optimism, humour, pragmatism and realism, he has led with distinction one of the best not-for-profit boards about. It has been inspirational and exciting to work with Phillip.

underway. This campaign has a target of \$44 million to be raised by 30 June 2011. With new philanthropy staff recently joining the team, we're well placed to focus on building the support of individuals, trusts and foundations and corporate donors.

Among these positive movements, we were also reminded that conservation happens at the behest of nature when a fire on a neighbouring pastoral property escaped onto Carnarvon Station Reserve in late September. I had driven through the Carnarvon Ranges just a week before the fires at Carnarvon, and I can vouch that conditions were hot, dry and airless.

About one-third of the reserve was burnt when gusty winds drove the fire through the property. Had it not been for the dedicated efforts of our reserve staff, Cathy Zwick, Chris

We are pleased to welcome Louise Sylvan as new President of the Board. Louise is a Commissioner with the Productivity Commission. She is the former Chief Executive of the Australian Consumers Association, and is a former Deputy Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). Louise has also been an active supporter of Bush Heritage Australia for more than a decade, and I am looking forward to working with Louise in her new role as we strive to achieve Bush Heritage's goals.

For more details on Louise Sylvan and Andy Myer, see www.bushheritage.org.au/louise_sylvan.html.

Wilson and partner Alison – as well as neighbours, volunteers, contractors and the Queensland Rural Fire Service – the extent of the fire may have been considerably worse. On this note, our thanks go to all our volunteers across the country who help us in so many ways to achieve our conservation goals.

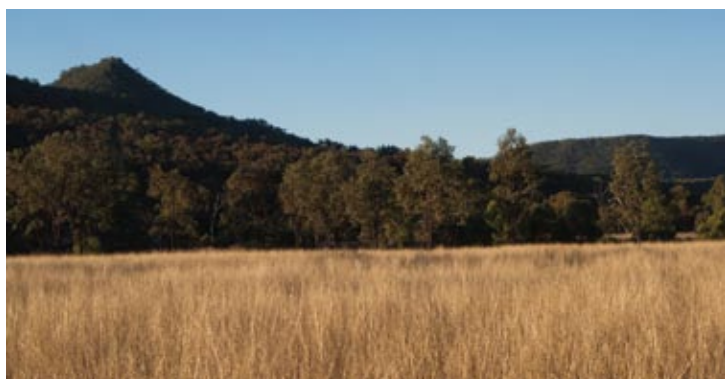
Finally, the AGM in November saw the end of an era for the organisation. After completing three highly successful terms as President of the Board, Phillip Toyne made way for Louise Sylvan to take over the chair. Louise is supported by the appointment of Andy Myer who replaced Steve Morton as Vice President. With a continuing strong and dedicated Board, Bush Heritage will move forward the legacy of Phillip's vision and his longstanding passion for and commitment to the organisation.



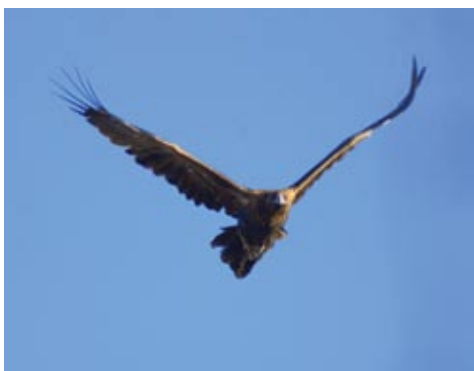
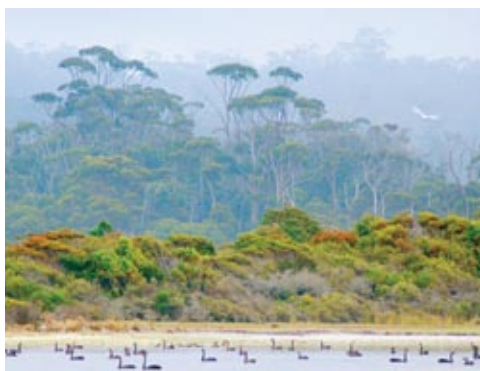
Doug Humann, CEO



Louise Sylvan, new President of the Board. PHOTO: BUSH HERITAGE



Above, left to right: Carnarvon grasslands. PHOTO: DANNY YEE. Redneck wallaby at Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER.



Getting involved

Current opportunities for getting involved with Bush Heritage, either as a visitor or a volunteer, are listed below.

Guided tours

We offer guided visits to some of our reserves, although places are limited – so please book early to avoid disappointment. Guests are expected to make their own way to the reserves. To ensure your donations are used for conservation work rather than on arranging guided tours, we charge an amount based on cost recovery, which enables us to maintain the visitor program. Fees are listed below. Please await confirmation of your booking before making payments. Upcoming trips include the following.

March 2010: *Friendly Beaches Reserve, Tas.* Saturday 13, 10am–4pm. Join our Tasmanian Reserve Manager or ecologist on a tour of one of our oldest properties, located on the Freycinet Peninsula.

Format: 2WD access to meeting point for morning tea and then 8–10 km of beach and track walking. **Requirements:** A medium level of fitness. BYO packed lunch. Own transport to reserve. **Nearest town:** Coles Bay, 18 km. **No. of places:** 20. **Cost:** \$30 supporters/\$40 non-supporters.

April 2010: *Reedy Creek Reserve, Qld.* Saturday 10, 9.30am–12.30pm. Visit the reserve and adjacent beach to hear about Bush Heritage's involvement in the community-based loggerhead and green turtle breeding program. **Format:** 2WD access and wander through reserve to beach. **Requirements:** A low level of fitness. Own transport to reserve. **Nearest town:** Agnes Water, 4 km. **No. of places:** 20. **Cost:** \$10 supporters/\$15 non-supporters.

Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld. Friday 16–Monday 19. Join the Reserve Manager on a four-day tour of the key features of this iconic reserve. **Format:** Accommodation in the reserve homestead and all meals provided. 4WD convoy tour with short walks through tracks or over rocky terrain. **Requirements:** A medium level of fitness. Strictly high-clearance 4WD to reserve. **Nearest town:** Augathella, 200 km. **No. of places:** 16. **Cost:** \$450 supporters/\$550 non-supporters.

May 2010: *Charles Darwin Reserve, WA.* Friday 21–Monday 24. Visit the property which has been conserved in the name of one of the world's most influential naturalists – Charles Darwin. **Format:** Accommodation in the reserve homestead and all meals provided. 4WD convoy tour with short walks through tracks or over rocky terrain. **Requirements:** A medium level of fitness. Strictly high-clearance 4WD to reserve. **Nearest town:** Wubin, 80 km. **No. of places:** 16. **Cost:** \$500 supporters/\$600 non-supporters.

June 2010: *Cravens Peak Reserve, Qld.* Wednesday 9–Sunday 13. Join the Reserve Manager in exploring the reserve's rippled sand dunes and gibber plains. **Format:** Accommodation in the reserve homestead on the first and last nights, camping in between. Breakfasts and dinners provided. 4WD convoy tour over high sand dunes with short walks through tracks or over rocky terrain. **Requirements:** A medium level of fitness. Strictly high-clearance 4WD to reserve. BYO lunches and camping

Above, left to right: Black swans on Salty Lagoon, Friendly Beaches Reserve, Tas. Wedge-tailed eagle at Edgbaston Reserve, Qld. PHOTOS: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX. Bird survey group at Goonderoo Reserve, Qld. PHOTO: BUSH HERITAGE.

equipment. **Nearest town:** Boulia, 124 km. **No. of places:** 13. **Cost:** \$750 supporters/\$850 non-supporters.

Please refer to our website, www.bushheritage.org.au/getting_involved_visit for a full list of visitation opportunities for 2010.

Self-guided camping

For those who are self-sufficient in their own high-clearance 4WD, camping is available at Carnarvon Station Reserve, Qld and Charles Darwin Reserve, WA from start April to end September each year. Campers need to be totally self-sufficient with their own camping, vehicle maintenance and safety equipment, food and rations, due to the remoteness of the reserve. There will be limited contact with reserve staff. Bookings are essential. Up to 8 people with maximum 4 vehicles permitted per booking. **Cost:** \$40 per vehicle for supporters/\$100 per vehicle for non-supporters per week.

Self-guided day trips

You can visit some of our smaller and less remote reserves on a self-guided day trip. Reserves include: Currumbin Valley Reserve, Qld; Liffey River Reserve, Tas; Chereninup Creek Reserve and Kojonup Reserve, WA.

Please note that bookings are essential for all visits to our reserves. For more information or to book your place on any of the tours listed above, please contact us on 1300 NATURE (1300 628 873) or email visits@bushheritage.org.au.

Volunteering opportunities

Interested in volunteering, volunteer opportunities or learning more about the experiences of Bush Heritage’s volunteers? Why not subscribe to V-News, our biannual volunteer newsletter? Phone us on 1300 NATURE (1300 628 873) or email info@bushheritage.org.au to be added to our email list for V-News.

NOVEMBER

Where: Chingarrup partnership property, south-west WA
Who: 1-3 volunteer rangers.
Project: Support the Ecological Outcomes Monitoring program. A rare opportunity to be involved in a mammal survey.
When: 23-27 November.
Requirements: Essential: happy to camp on-site; enthusiasm and self-reliance in the field; willing to start before dawn. Preferred: experience in small animal trapping or bird surveying.

DECEMBER

Where: Eurardy Reserve, WA
Who: 2 volunteer caretakers.
Project: Relieve staff; carry out basic maintenance of reserve infrastructure and handle communications and enquiries. A rare opportunity to experience remote living in a place of rugged beauty and high conservation value.
When: 2-4 weeks, dates to be confirmed.
Requirements: Essential: previous Bush Heritage volunteering or work experience (or a Bush Heritage referee); current driver’s licence; tolerance of hot conditions; demonstrated ability to follow safety guidelines and operate with limited supervision. Preferred: Senior First Aid; 4WD experience.

MAY

Where: Nardoo Hills reserves, Vic
Project: Volunteer working bee. Weed control and maintenance of plantings.
When: Weekend, dates yet to be announced.
Requirements: Moderate fitness for outdoor activities, bending, lifting, carrying and walking over uneven terrain.

JUNE

Where: Nardoo Hills reserves, Vic
Project: Volunteer working bee. Weed control and maintenance of plantings.
When: Weekend, dates yet to be announced.
Requirements: Moderate fitness for outdoor activities, bending, lifting, carrying and walking over uneven terrain.



Right, top to bottom: Stabbing wheel cactus at the Nardoo Hills reserves, Vic. PHOTO: David Baker-Gabb. Volunteers removing horehound at the Nardoo Hills reserves, Vic. PHOTO: Bush Heritage.

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Yes, I want to help Bush Heritage protect our threatened animals and ecosystems

Title Name Date of birth / / Address State Postcode Email Phone Mobile

I want to join the Friends of the Bush and give \$ each month by automatic deduction
I will give via: [] the credit card below until further notice [] bank debit (Bush Heritage will send an authority form)
I would rather give a single gift of \$ I am paying by: [] Cheque/Money order [] Visa [] MasterCard
Card No. / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / Expiry date / /
Cardholder’s name Signature
All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible

Please send me information on leaving a bequest to Bush Heritage Australia in my will
Please return to: Bush Heritage Australia, Reply Paid 329, FLINDERS LANE VIC 8009 AUSTRALIA

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