

BUSH HERITAGE NEWS

Winter 2011

www.bushheritage.org.au

The gift of Oura Oura

Twenty years ago, Bob Brown took a leap of faith which rested on the shoulders of passionate Australians. In April 2011, he expressed his ongoing belief in Bush Heritage supporters with a gift unlike any other, writes Bron Willis.

It's quiet in the Liffey Valley. The platypus in the river is keeping the morning to itself and the shadows are still long on the ground. Up the hill is nestled a tiny, white cottage, neat and charming below the dramatic, towering columns of Drys Bluff. This is Oura Oura, a little piece of bush just 50 km from Launceston, Tasmania. It's also the place where Australia's most formidable environmental advocate, Bob Brown, found a place to call home in 1973, where he first conceived of Bush Heritage Australia 20 years ago, and where he now hopes Bush Heritage supporters will find a

symbol of hope and courage not just 20 years from now, but two hundred.

Two white ponies grazing further up the hill prick their ears with passing curiosity. By the end of the day they will be featured on the front page of two national newspapers – today is a momentous day for the Australian environmental movement. Today, Bob Brown hands over the keys to the house and ownership of the 14-hectare property to Bush Heritage, in a remarkable act of generosity and faith, reminiscent of

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“When you think it through, there's nothing better you could do than to protect the places we are essentially born from.”

Above: Some of Bush Heritage's early meetings were held under the walnut tree at Oura Oura.

Photograph by Peter Morris / petermorrisphoto.com



Our heart & soul

the courage with which he founded the organisation.

But the first problem is ... where are those keys exactly? At nine o'clock, when Bob is due to regale me with stories I can bundle up and take home to the extraordinary swathe of Australians that support Bush Heritage, he is half way up a tree, searching in vain for the front door keys to the cottage he has called home for nearly 40 years. "I know they're up here somewhere," he says.

Bob climbs down and settles into the couch in the front room of the cottage. The couch has been there for years and its comfortable, old-style homeliness, matched by the second-hand crockery and mismatched glasses in the kitchen cupboard, says something about the man who sits so easily in its midst.

This may be Senator Bob Brown, the man that led the campaign to protect the Franklin River, founder of the Tasmanian and Australian Greens parties as well as The Wilderness Society and Bush Heritage Australia, an Australian national treasure and inspiration to many. But this is also Bob, who sits comfortably on a patchy couch in a woollen cardigan and who yesterday bounded down the paddock to greet visitors personally, hand extended in greeting, smiling and saying "Hi, I'm Bob."

It's easy to see why Bob fell in love with Oura Oura. "The place is just so scenically beautiful, it's quiet but it's got a continual rustle of the river in the background."

"It's full of the sounds of nature. Each morning at the moment, the currawongs are flocking. There're thrushes here in spring, calling and setting up their territories. The white cockies come and go, and the black cockies sit in the wattle tree just outside the window here."

Oura Oura is not the only Bush Heritage reserve in the Liffey Valley that holds a special place in Bob Brown's heart. Bob was first inspired to "go into hock" for a beautiful piece of land down the road which was destined for woodchips. He could think of no better way to spend the \$49,000 cheque he'd just received as a recipient of the first Goldman Environmental Prize, than as a deposit for what is now Liffey River Reserve. The campaign to raise the remaining \$200,000 was the birth of Bush Heritage Australia.

Now, 20 years later, Bob's faith – and that of his supporters – has been rewarded as he marks the success of that fledgling organisation and its followers, with a new gift.

"I've always thought that, while I've loved Oura Oura and it's been an anchor to me, it's never been mine in the sense of property. I've always welcomed people walking through here, the school groups and the trout fishers coming up the river. I love the idea that this is a public place

which is going to bring joy to people forever, and so does Paul."

Bob and his partner of fifteen years, Paul Thomas, could have done many wonderful things with such a special place. So why leave it to Bush Heritage?

"Because it's logical," says Bob. "It was in this very room and at this very table that I thought about Bush Heritage back in 1990. What a wonderful thing – that Bush Heritage has become such a strong, national organisation for the protection of ecosystems and habitats, and that they can take ownership of Oura Oura with such capable hands. I'm very, very, very happy that they are now custodians... It seems a perfect fit."

Like the gift of Liffey River Reserve in 1991, Bob and Paul's gift is a great act of generosity. It's also a milestone for how far philanthropy in Australia has come.

"People thought it wouldn't work, that it was too early for philanthropy in Australia culturally, but I thought it would. I'd met a lot of people on the Franklin River campaign, who said 'I couldn't come down to the blockade but I really want to help' – and they just wrote a cheque. It seemed to me that the time was right for Australia."

As his political career made ever greater demands on Bob's time, Oura Oura became a place of respite, where he often slept out under the stars, in the company of the boobook owls.

"It's very relaxing to listen to the sounds of this place. This is the music of millions of years playing here... that's what human ears have heard since the cradle of humanity."

Outside, guests are beginning to arrive and I leave Bob to get ready before he goes outside to greet them. There is John Dean, the former owner who built the Drys Bluff walking track in the 1950s; Karen Alexander, a former Bush Heritage president and Louise Sylvan, the current president; long-term supporters; and many neighbours.

Then there is a little girl called Billy. She bounds up to Bob and gives him a hug. Billy lives across the road with her parents. Her joy at being in the bush reminds me of the message Bob left me, for the supporters of Bush Heritage, people he describes as "good-hearted people who really care".

I asked him why someone should ever dream of supporting Bush Heritage.

"Because it's a gift to your own spirit as a human being," he said. "It's not only your own spirit you're nurturing, it's the spirit of your children and your grandchildren, and people five hundred years from now just like us. When you think it through, there's nothing better you could do than to protect the places we are essentially born from."



Top: CEO Doug Humann thanks Bob Brown with a symbolic gift: a Mother shield fern, grown from a young plant collected at Oura Oura months earlier.

*Above: Like Bob Brown, Bush Heritage welcomes visitors to Oura Oura
Photographs by Peter Morris /
petermorrisphoto.com*

What kind of gift could you leave behind?

By gifting Oura Oura to Bush Heritage, Bob Brown has made a lasting impact. You too can make a difference, by leaving a gift to Bush Heritage in your Will. Every gift, however large or small, helps us to protect Australia's bush and its creatures. To find out more about leaving a gift to Bush Heritage in your Will, call Merrilyn Julian and the Planned Giving team on (03) 8610 9120.



Flocking to Boolcoommatta

In the four years since Bush Heritage acquired Boolcoommatta Reserve at the edge of South Australia's dramatic Olary Ranges, there has been a staggering increase in native birds. Lucy Ashley explains why removing stock and controlling feral predators has made such a big difference.

*Above: Zebra finches
Photograph by
Linda Rogan*

The brown songlark is one of those aptly named birds. The male and female have a dusky brown back, pale brownish-white underparts and a dark brown centre belly. While they may lose out big-time to more garish parrots and lorikeets in the colourful plumage stakes, when they take to the sky there is nothing to rival them.

The male brown songlark is one of the true masters of 'song flight', continuously singing as he flies and swoops high above his territory. His sound is musical and metallic, ending in a sharp whip crack as he flutters showily towards the ground.

The sound of joyous song flight in the sky over Boolcoommatta Reserve is cause for celebration for Bush Heritage donors. For the first time in the four years since Bush Heritage acquired Boolcoommatta Reserve, and thanks largely to your wonderful and unwavering support, brown songlarks and several other native bird species have been recorded on the property.

And the news gets even better. Despite a general trend of decreasing bird populations across Australia, at Boolcoommatta there was a staggering 300% increase in ground-foraging and shrub-dependent native birds between 2006 and 2008. Even after the slight drought-induced decrease in 2009, abundance remained well above 2006 levels.

Reserve Managers, Peter and Emma Ashton, who live in one of Boolcoommatta's historic stone homesteads with their children Jarrah and Indigo, don't have to go far to get up close and personal with some of their feathery charges.

"Around the homestead we're seeing lots of eastern ringnecks, yellow-throated miners, spiny cheeked honeyeaters and zebra finches. They're a noisy bunch," says Peter.

"We even have a pair of striated pardalotes coming and going from a nest they've built

in the wall cavity of one of the other houses. Now you can bird watch without even leaving home!"

"There are plenty of emus too. They come in close and like to take a good look at us and the kids. They're very curious about what we're up to, especially the young ones."

The reason why Bush Heritage has been able to buck the nationwide trend in declining bird numbers on our Boolcoommatta Reserve is simple, says Peter.

"It's down to good land management. And not forgetting the amazing support we get from our donors and tireless volunteers."

"Boolcoommatta was run as a sheep station for nearly 150 years before Bush Heritage acquired it. When we buy a property, we generally remove any hard-hooved, introduced animals like cattle and sheep to allow the land to recover, and this is exactly what happened at Boolcoommatta."

"This has led to a huge resurgence in emu bush and native grasses that provide vital habitat for native birds like the Rufous fieldwren."

Bush Heritage ecologist, Sandy Gilmore, is excited by what he's found.

"After five bird surveys, several ground and shrub-feeding species such as the chirruping wedgebill, white-winged fairy wren, and cinnamon quail thrush have had what I can only describe as explosive population increases.

"The encouraging thing is that these increases occurred before the rains of 2010. Since then we've seen similar increases in grassland birds."

"Since we de-stocked, many species have also colonised on Boolcoommatta or been recorded for the first time such as the red-capped robin, brown songlark and grey fantail.



Top: Boolcoommatta Reserve's Olary Hills
Photograph by Wayne Lawler

Above: Cinnamon quail-thrush
Photograph by Jiri Lochman / Lochman Transparencies

"This is really exciting because bird abundance and diversity is a great indicator of the health of ecosystems. It shows we're heading in the right direction."

Future surveys will reveal the results of recent efforts to control feral animals. Responsibility for these programs lies in the more than capable hands of Peter and Emma.

"On Boolcoommatta our main feral animal problems are rabbits, goats, foxes and cats," says Peter.

"We've been working on the rabbit problem since 2006, with the first couple of years spent mapping and surveying the massive network of over 7,000 warrens. Recently, with the help of Bush Heritage volunteers, we've begun breaking down the warrens and fumigating in order to suppress rabbit numbers.

"We need to control them because they eat seeds and seedlings. Left unchecked, they can denude land and leave it open to erosion."

Of equal importance is the control of feral predators and Peter says their efforts, particularly with foxes, are paying off.

"Boolcoommatta is largely treeless, so most of the birds live on or close to the ground. This makes them and their nests particularly vulnerable to feral predators.

"When we first came here, it wasn't hard to spot a fox. But after several years of spotlighting and baiting, they're much rarer. I did a 30 km spotlight run with a friend a few nights ago, and we didn't see one. Our neighbours who also went spotlighting on their property at about the same time got 29 foxes over 30 kilometres. We do need to stay vigilant though, because foxes are so mobile. The program has to be ongoing, in order to keep their numbers at bay."

As well as the feral animal control programs Bush Heritage undertakes on its own reserves, it also participates in larger-scale programs with partners, some on a regional basis.

"We're neighbours with Bimbowrie, a South Australian government-managed reserve," says Peter. "We're running a joint fox and goat control program with them which is benefiting both reserves."

It's now down to ecologist Sandy Gilmore and his ongoing bird surveys at Boolcoommatta to determine what further effect feral animal control is having on bird species abundance.

As Sandy says, only time will tell but with your help, Emma and Peter can look forward to hearing even more birdsong from eastern ringnecks, spiny cheeked honeyeaters and chirruping wegdebbills at Boolcoommatta.

Boolcoommatta Reserve was acquired in 2006 with the assistance of the Australian Government under the Natural Heritage Trust's National Reserve System Programme and the Nature Foundation SA. Thanks also to the Native Vegetation Council of South Australia for its support of rabbit control and other crucial activities on Boolcoommatta.

You can help control feral animals

Did you know it was in large part your support that helped to attract bird species back to Boolcoommatta? Sandy, Peter and Emma need your help to continue this vital work at Boolcoommatta, as the 'boom' cycle reaches its peak following the bountiful rains of 2010. To continue your support and help our urgent feral animal control programs, go to **www.bushheritage.org.au/appeal** and donate before 30 June to claim your tax deduction for this financial year.



Carnarvon after the floods

The Wilson family are looking forward to when the waters reside and they can get back home to Carnarvon Station, where Bush Heritage supporters are already helping to get conservation work back on track. Anna McAlister reports.

At the Wilsons' house on Carnarvon Station Reserve, the best view is from the home made spa out the front. It was built out of an old cement trough and some decking and from it you can see across to Mt Lambert (a favourite hiking destination for Bush Heritage volunteers) and the main access road down the hill. At least, you used to be able to see the road. But last summer, flash floods demolished it and made the house inaccessible.

Chris Wilson is Reserve Manager at the remote 59,000-hectare Bush Heritage property in central Queensland. He moved there in 2009 with his wife, Alison, and daughters, Jessica, six, Katie, five, and Charlotte, three. They're isolated: it's three hours' drive to Augathella, the nearest town, and 45 minutes to their next-door neighbour.

The girls do distance education, which is virtually home schooling, and love to travel around the property with their dad. On top of their curriculum, they're learning plant and animal names and a few land management skills. "We often go out and get the mail and as we're driving we're counting emus," says Alison. "We're saying,

'There are five emus and one's run away so how many are left?'"

Last Christmas the Wilsons were expecting a big wet season so they left early for their holidays – on 11 December – to make sure they weren't flooded in. It had been raining since August, the moisture drenching the air with pungent eucalyptus and the rattle and croak of frogs. But the deluge of 27 December was beyond the Wilsons' imagination. In less than twelve hours, 273 mm fell; at least that's what the rain gauge recorded before it overflowed.

The seasonal creek scaled its ten-metre banks and water cascaded down the hills, submerging the river flats by 1.5 metres. The native vegetation, including many mature casuarinas, was uprooted and swept from the creek bed. The Wilsons' house is safe but the access road is gone and the bores, which supply domestic water, were destroyed.

Thanks to people like you who have helped to give Bush Heritage a solid foundation, Chris has already bought new bore motors and will organise road repairs once the ground hardens enough to drive on. Meanwhile, the Wilsons are living with Chris's mother in Bundaberg.

“All the native plant species are seeding and booming, the fauna species too.”

Chris and Bush Heritage Regional Manager Steve Heggie flew over Carnarvon six weeks after the flood. "The country is so wet, there's water just oozing out of it," says Chris. "There are soaks and springs opening up everywhere."

Steve Heggie says flooding can be a disaster for humans but, in many ways, the ecosystem benefits. "All the native plant species are seeding and booming,

the fauna species too. We expect to see boom-and-bust populations of native rodents and marsupials as well as the macropods breeding on all the food that's now available."

In Bundaberg, Jessica and Katie are enrolled in school for the first time, they have made new friends, and they're learning to dance and swim – a little more difficult at Carnarvon. But Alison isn't worried about going home. "Even though the girls are really enjoying school and loving their new friends, they still talk about wanting to get back to Carnarvon."

Carnarvon Station Reserve was acquired in 2001 with the assistance of the Australian Government under the Natural Heritage Trust's National Reserve System Programme.

Above Left: Although the floods of early 2011 devastated infrastructure, including this, the only access road, the news is not all bad for Carnarvon Station.

Above Right: Carnarvon Reserve Manager Chris Wilson with family Alison (from left) Jessica, Charlotte and Katie.

Bush Heritage tours France

Some Bush Heritage supporters will go to incredible lengths to spread the Bush Heritage word. Keith Tuffley, who loves bikes almost as much as he loves the Australian bush, is riding 3,471 km over 21 days on the same course and on the same day as the elite 2011 Tour de France riders, raising money for Bush Heritage along the way. You can help make Keith's weary muscles worthwhile, by donating to his Go Fundraise site: www.bushheritage.org.au/KeithTuffley.

Around your reserves in 90 days

Your support makes a difference in so many ways. Lucy Ashley takes a look into the daily successes at your reserves around Australia – successes that are all possible because of the generosity of our supporters.

No ordinary falcon

Sightings by bird-lovers of the elusive grey falcon are always cause for celebration. Imagine how ornithologist Andrew Black felt when he spotted a young female while caretaking recently with wife Margie at Bon Bon Reserve. “This is Australia’s rarest falcon and second rarest raptor – it’s the bird that every birdwatcher wants to see,” said Andrew. “I was following a spotted harrier and then noticed the falcon trailing behind, waiting for it to flush something out.” Andrew was just as excited after spotting two adult chestnut-breasted whiteface feeding two young. “The fact that it was an autumn breeding is particularly important.”



Photograph by David Simpson



Happy 20th birthday Bush Heritage!

From Boolcoommatta to Bon Bon, Nardoo Hills to Cravens Peak, the month of April put reserve managers in a celebratory mood as they marked the beginning of our 20th anniversary celebrations. At Boolcoommatta, neighbours and locals gave the tick of approval to the newly beautified singleman’s quarters and got first-hand experience of Emma and Peter’s frontline combat with the feral rabbit population at a barbeque. At Monjebup, guests lingered til the sun went down after mixing slow cooking with conversation about revegetation. And at Scottsdale, locals cooked snags while bird-lovers from Birds Australia got out their swags and camped under the stars in recognition of how far we’ve come together in 20 years. As a Bush Heritage supporter, you can also celebrate the tremendous role you’ve played in Bush Heritage’s 20 years of protecting our land and wildlife.



Dale Fuller, Bob Ruscoe and Greg Melvin celebrating at Charles Darwin Reserve

Camel-free zone

When Bush Heritage and our wonderful supporters took over management of Ethabuka in 2004, we also inherited the historically and ecologically significant Ethabuka Spring. “Feral camels were drinking there and trashing it,” says Reserve Manager Mark Lithgow. “So we built an 800 m fence from steel posts and cabling to keep them out, but still let wildlife in.” The before and after shots speak for themselves.



Before: Ethabuka Springs in 2005



After: and ... in 2010. What a difference!

Photograph by David Akers



AOK AT K2C!

There’s nothing quite like positive feedback to spur you on. And that’s what landholders involved in conservation work in the Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C) project area received following the third Canberra Ornithological Group’s K2C bird survey in April. The survey aims to monitor birds in woodlands and grasslands where conservation work is happening. Across 25 properties, 89 species were recorded including 46 woodland-dependent species, eight waterbird species, and seven threatened species. Nine of the species have not been recorded previously in the K2C surveys. Says Peter Saunders, Regional Reserves Manager for Bush Heritage, “Landholders involved in this community partnership should be very proud of their efforts, and so too should all our supporters.”

War on Weeds (continued...)

Thanks to your marvellous generosity, our autumn ‘War on Weeds’ campaign exceeded its target, raising a total of \$200,455, meaning we’ve been able to continue our vital work at Nardoo Hills and our other reserves. Our Regional Reserve Manager, Peter Saunders, reports that weed control is now full steam ahead. “At Nardoo Hills we got stuck into the horehound and wheel cactus,” says Peter. “At Brogo, we’ve been hitting moth vine, tree of heaven and blackberry, which thrived after the recent rains. At Scottsdale, with the help of Bush Heritage volunteers and Conservation Volunteers Australia, we’ve been managing sweet briar and African lovegrass.”

Bush Heritage anchor regions



Bush Heritage partnerships



Bush Heritage reserves





How to spot wallabies

Peanut butter, sticky tubes, fur, footprints, cameras and spotlights were all part of the survey action at Bush Heritage reserves in Western Australia, where your support is helping ecologists to find out more about wallabies, writes Charlotte Francis.

It's just after dark and West Australia-based fauna ecologist Sandra Gilfillan and a team of volunteers are driving through a mix of scrub, mallee heath and woodland at a slow 20 kms per hour. Braving the cold night air, they are shining a spotlight out of the window and anticipation is mounting as to what they might see.

"That's what makes spotlighting so exciting – especially for first-time volunteers – you never know what you're going to find," says Sandra. And they get to see all sorts of creatures, ranging from owls and other nocturnal birds to brush-tailed possums. "First, you see a pair of eyes shining out at you. You can tell which animal they belong to by the colour of the eye shine. Foxes, for example, have a bright white shine, but we're looking for the red eye shine of the wallaby."

Sandra and the team are in Western Australia between the Fitzgerald River and the Stirling Range National Parks, part of the Gondwana Link project, and their aim is to establish the whereabouts and numbers of the tamar and black-gloved wallabies. The good news for Bush Heritage

supporters is that survey results indicate that there are twelve tamar wallaby populations, which is more than previously thought.

Finding the best way to monitor the wallabies took quite a bit of initial detective work. "Spotlighting is a good way to see black-gloved wallabies. They tend to sit down and look at you or carry on feeding," says Sandra describing them as Australia's prettiest wallaby with their gun metal grey coats, white cheek stripes, black gloves and black ear tips. "But the tammers stay closer to the bush and are harder to see."

Remote camera monitoring works well for both species but when the project started in 2007 there were just four cameras – not nearly enough to cover all the dense-canopied moort woodlands favoured by the tammers. So after the first season, there were plenty of shots of photogenic black-gloved wallabies, or spotlight sightings at various sites including Bush Heritage's Peniup Creek and Chereninup Creek reserves, but none of the tammers.

Undeterred, Sandra came up with other more cunning ways of tracking the tamar wallabies. She looked in their favourite habitats for droppings and also compared the footprints of the two species, but both methods left her none the wiser.

Her next plan was to collect hair samples. One method involved setting up specially designed sticky-sided plastic tubes and arches. Lured in by tasty peanut butter and apple baits, the wallabies poke their heads in and leave hair behind on the sticky-sided tape. "You can tell the two wallabies apart by looking at the hairs under a microscope," explains Sandra.

The project has had most success with remote camera monitoring, thanks

to the Perpetual Foundation, whose generous funding allowed us to purchase more cameras and survey a wider area.

"Now we know more about where the wallabies live and what their numbers are," explains Sandra, "we can monitor in the long term whether activities such as fox control and habitat creation through restoration are helping to boost their populations."

Discovering tamar populations at new sites has been a highlight for Sandra. "It's a real thrill discovering a previously unknown population. And the tammers are quite elusive so when you see one it's very special."

Thanks to Perpetual Foundation for its support of ecological monitoring in WA this year.

Above: Black-gloved wallabies at Gondwana Link Photograph by Anne Storrie

Below: Sandra Gilfillan has spent the past 12 years working as an ecologist in the south coast of Western Australian, specialising in mammals. Photograph by Grant Westthorp



Possum magic

When friends and family think of Catherine Arnold, they remember a young woman devoted to saving Australia's wildlife. Bush Heritage was lucky enough to call Catherine one of our most inspiring supporters.

At the age of 20, Catherine Arnold told her mother she had set herself a goal for her life. "'Mum,' she said. 'I want to be responsible for saving an endangered species.'"

Catherine hadn't decided which species that would be, but she was getting good practice with possums. From the back row of her biology class at Melbourne University, Catherine hid sick possums in her woollen beanie, nursing them to health while she grappled with her veterinary studies. At uni and in every facet of her life, Catherine spoke passionately about the place that native animals have in our world, leaving a trail of new believers behind her.

But in November 2010, at the age of 28, Catherine left her dreams in the hands of those believers when she lost a year-long fight with cancer. Catherine's mother Sharyn is intensely proud of her daughter's life and what she achieved. "She often told me, 'I want to make a difference, Mum. It's not enough just to live in this world – we all need to leave it in better shape than we found it.'"

"It started off as three girls looking for a way to remember their friend. And it just grew and grew and now, it's turned into the most special thing – it is exactly the kind of thing Catherine would do herself."
Bek Liffman

"We always had a backyard full of cages for injured wildlife," says Sharyn. "She was very big on trying to educate young people. She volunteered regularly at numerous wildlife shelters. And she inspired others – she would just draw people in with her enthusiasm."

Catherine's dreams for the world were such a strong part of who she was, that after her death, a group of her closest friends – Kylie,



was identified growing just a couple of hours' drive from where Catherine shared her last bushwalk with Bek and her friends. The robust greenhood made front page news in Victoria: after being on the extinction list for 40 years, there it was, alive and well on a Bush Heritage reserve, protected because of people like Catherine.

Thanks to people like you, who share Catherine's dreams, her spirit remains very much alive. It can be found where the brush-tailed possums huddle together on Kojonup Reserve; where the endangered red goshawk flies at Yourka reserve; and where the robust greenhood orchid now continues its fight for survival at Nardoo Hills.

Photo courtesy of the Arnold family

If you'd like to support Catherine's dream, go to www.gofundraise.com.au/CatherineArnold

Or, if you'd like to find out how start your own fundraising page, go to www.bushheritage.org.au/fund-raise-for-us.

In celebration

Many friends and family of **Noel Warren** donated in celebration of his birthday. Dr Roslyn Brooks celebrated the birth of **Emily Rolfe**, daughter of Ben and Sara, with a donation. Ms Judy Fenton donated in celebration of a friend's 70th birthday. Dr Christobel R Mattingley donated for **Rebecca Wetherall's** 30th birthday. Port Macquarie Hastings Council donated on behalf of **Bill Peel**.

In memory

Miss Barbara K Graham made a donation in memory of her dear friend **Greta Ridler-Dutton**. The Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society donated in memory of **Harry Maitland Whaite**, a champion of the environment. Ms Jenny Stokes donated in memory of her dear friend, **Janet Smith**, of Bywong and Canberra. Mr and Mrs Milne donated to Bush Heritage in memory of their dear friend **Nancy Gamble**.

Kirsty, Vera, Ruth and Bek – were compelled to keep them alive in Catherine's name. "We were thinking of donating a few dollars each to her favourite charity, Bush Heritage," says Bek Liffman. "But then we extended the invitation to vet students at our uni and from there it just gained momentum."

The result was a perfect reflection of Catherine: a 'Go Fundraise' online fundraising campaign that has so far raised \$8100 for Bush Heritage to protect the places and wildlife that meant so much to her. "People seem inspired by Catherine's hopes for the future," says Bek. "It seemed to comfort all of us a little, knowing her ideas would live on."

Catherine's parents, Chris and Sharyn, would have loved to see their daughter live to realise her dream – the protection of an endangered species. But perhaps, as a Bush Heritage supporter, Catherine had already achieved more than she realised. Just months after she died, a little orchid

Your own bush holiday

As a Bush Heritage supporter, you've helped us to achieve so much. Come and celebrate with us, by visiting any of these reserves in 2011.



Edgbaston Reserve, Qld

Friday 8 – Sunday 10 July 2011

Come and see for yourself why Edgbaston Reserve is such an exceptional place. Explore its freshwater springs, which are home to dozens of species not found anywhere else on the planet!

Transport Make your own way to the reserve, where you'll meet up with your guide. You'll need a 4WD/AWD vehicle for travel around the reserve.

Facilities Bush camping. BYO camping gear. No bathroom or toilet facilities.

Food Evening meals provided. BYO breakfasts, lunches and snacks.

Nearest town Aramac (30 km)

Cost \$450 for supporters / \$520 for non-supporters

Photograph by Wayne Lawler

Plumed whistling ducks at Edgbaston Reserve

Nardoo Hills Reserves, VIC

Saturday 22 October 2011 (10am – 4pm)

Panoramic views and walks through grassy box woodlands and wildflowers.

Transport Make your own way to the reserve (2WD access on a dirt road), then you'll be on foot. You'll need a reasonable level of fitness to join this trip.

Facilities There is a composting toilet on site.

Food Morning tea provided. BYO picnic lunch.

Nearest town Wedderburn (12 km)

Cost \$30 for supporters / \$40 for non-supporters



Eurardy Reserve, WA

3 September, 24 September, 1 October 2011

Visit Eurardy, one of Western Australia's top wildflower destinations at its springtime best, and learn about how your support is helping protect it.

Transport Make your own way to the reserve, where you'll meet up with your guide. You'll need a 4WD for convoy around the reserve.

Facilities Toilets at the homestead precinct

Food Coffee/tea provided for morning tea. BYO picnic lunch.

Nearest town Northampton (97 km)

Cost \$30 for supporters / \$40 for non-supporters

Photograph by Erica Siegel

Bright podolepis at Eurardy Reserve

Burrin Burrin Reserve, NSW

Saturday 15 October 2011

Spend an afternoon and evening with the woodland species in this picturesque reserve in the upper reaches of the Shoalhaven River.

Transport Make your own way to the reserve (2WD access on a dirt road), then you'll be on foot. You'll need a reasonable level of fitness to join this trip.

Facilities Toilet on neighbouring property

Food Tea and coffee on arrival. BYO picnic dinner. (BBQ facilities available).

Nearest town Braidwood (32 km)

Cost \$50 for supporters / \$70 for non-supporters



Bon Bon Station Reserve, SA

Friday 5 – Monday 8 August 2011

Explore the extraordinarily diverse habitats protected on this sprawling outback SA reserve.

Transport Make your own way to the reserve, where you'll meet up with your guide. You'll need a high-clearance 4WD.

Facilities Accommodation in a shared cottage on the reserve. Camping option available. Shared showers and toilets.

Food All meals included

Nearest town Glendambo (100 km), Kingoonya (75 km)

Cost \$750 for supporters / \$850 for non-supporters

Photograph by Steve Heggie

Bon Bon Station Reserve

Self-guided camping and daytrips

You can visit some of our reserves on a self-guided camping trip from the beginning of April to the end of September or a daytrip any time of year (pending management activities). To see which reserves and for information go to www.bushheritage.org.au/getting_involved_visit.

Bookings are essential – contact us on 1300 NATURE or (03) 8610 9100 or email visits@bushheritage.org.au.

Bush Heritage Australia

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Chingarrup, turner of hearts

Eddy and Donna Wajon aren't the only ones who fell in love with Chingarrup Sanctuary, as John Sampson reports. Honey possums and western whip-birds have also found a home there since the two dedicated supporters began working with Bush Heritage to create our newest partnership reserve.



The first time Perth couple Eddy and Donna Wajon explored Chingarrup Sanctuary they walked away with a check list of 150 flower species for later identification and a desire to become the property's owners.

"I thought wouldn't it be great to own and look after this place," says Eddy. "How great to say we own this patch of bush and are responsible for looking after it."

More than eight years later and Chingarrup Sanctuary, a five-hour drive southeast of Perth and now managed under a Bush Heritage partnership model, is well and truly Eddy and Donna's patch.

"We've seen honey possums returning to the revegetated area, and even some of the fussier birds such as Western whipbirds."

Since buying the 576 hectare bush block in 2002 they've poured their heart and soul into it, replanting native woodlands, weeding, restoring buildings, and documenting the extraordinary biodiversity of the area.

During that time Eddy has come to know the property intimately, and has photographed at least half of Chingarrup's estimated 500 plant species, many of which appear in his self-published books on Western Australia's wildflowers.

He's particularly taken by the colour, detail and delicately feathered flowers of the *Verticordia* genus, which he fondly calls the turner of hearts.

He's also fascinated by the more than 150 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and moths still found on the property, despite it being almost completely cleared during the 1960s and 70s.

Bush Heritage ecologist Angela Sanders started working with Eddy and Donna just after they bought Chingarrup and says it's one of the most important properties in the Gondwana Link project, a plan to restore a 1000 km swathe of remnant bushland from WA's South West to the edge of the Nullarbor Plain.

"It's connected to large areas of Crown land and links up really well with a lot of large bush areas, including our other Bush Heritage reserves, Chereninup Creek and Monjebup," says Angela.

"It also contains four very important conservation targets for the area: yate woodland; proteaceous-rich heath; black-gloved wallabies and an important creekline."

Angela has helped Eddy and Donna set up species monitoring sites and visits once a year to carry out bird and plant surveys.

This partnership benefits all involved. Eddy and Donna receive expert help managing their land, which is in a high priority area for Bush Heritage. And because we know Chingarrup is in good hands, more of your generous donations can be used to buy and protect areas elsewhere. And the honey possums and black-gloved wallabies now have a safe home.

Angela says watching the bush come back to life under Eddy and Donna's

guardianship gives her great hope for the future.

"Some of the wildlife coming back to Chingarrup is very exciting," she says.

"We've seen honey possums returning to the revegetated area, and even some of the fussier birds such as Western whipbirds."

Above: Honey possums have returned to the revegetated Chingarrup Sanctuary

Photographs by Eddy Wajon



Transparency Awards Top Ten finalist

Bush Heritage is pleased to announce we have been awarded a Top Ten placing in the \$5m to \$20m category, in the PwC Transparency Awards, introduced to Australia in 2007 to recognise the quality and transparency of reporting in the not-for-profit sector. This endorsement gives you the confidence to know you're supporting a professional organisation who receives your donations with a grave sense of responsibility.

FROM THE CEO



Our birthday celebrations started in March when I stood proudly under the shadow of Dyrts Bluff and accepted Bob Brown’s gift of Oura Oura, his home of forty years, on behalf of Bush Heritage supporters, as our 33rd reserve.

On a beautiful autumn day in April, I found myself in a reflective mood, surrounded by neighbours and locals celebrating a milestone at the Nardoo Hills reserves: we were there to celebrate Bush Heritage’s twentieth birthday. I hadn’t been to Nardoo since the discovery of the presumed extinct robust greenhood orchid last spring but I could see all around me why an orchid might come back to life here – the property is in terrific condition. Our management activities have allowed us to take full advantage of the abundant summer rainfall and, together with our wonderful volunteers, reserve staff have successfully restored the property’s cover of native vegetation.

2011 is a big year for reflection. Our birthday celebrations started in March when I stood proudly under the shadow of Tasmania’s Dyrts Bluff and accepted Bob Brown’s gift of Oura Oura, his home of forty years, on behalf of Bush Heritage supporters, as our 33rd reserve. In April, Nardoo was just one of the reserves in NSW, SA, Vic. and WA, that hosted BBQs for reserve neighbours, locals and others who have had a special part to play in each reserve’s success.

At Nardoo, I particularly enjoyed the commitment of guests to Bush Heritage’s work. Most telling for me was a neighbour commenting on the respect we had earned

from him for the work we are doing. Accounts from other reserves confirm our generally good standing in the communities in which we work. As relative newcomers to the places in which we operate, this is a hard-won but very important step in Bush Heritage’s work for landscape-scale change. The BBQs gave us an opportunity to thank some of those communities closest to us for their support.

As someone who has shared our first 20 years, you and your fellow Bush Heritage supporters also have cause to celebrate. As you may know, Bush Heritage started in 1991, when Bob Brown took a punt on the generosity of his fellow Australians to save a patch of beautiful forest. I’m so pleased to say that his hunch was right: for 20 years, Australians have come to the rescue of the places which they hold so dear. We have come a long way. Just imagine what we can do together in the next 20 years.

Doug Humann, CEO

Photographs by Peter Morris / petermorrisphoto.com

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