BUSH TRACKS Bush Heritage Australia's quarterly magazine for active conservation Feral instincts

From the saltbush plains of Boolcoomatta in South Australia, to the sandy dunes of Ethabuka in Queensland, Bush Heritage staff are working hard to implement sciencebased methods to combat feral cats.

Hidden in a shallow cave in the centre of Charles Darwin Reserve in Western Australia, there is a beautifully sculpted nest of sticks. It's the former home of a Stick-nest Rat, a rodent last seen in this landscape decades ago. For Bush Heritage Ecologist Dr Vanessa Westcott, the nest is a reminder of the fate awaiting other native species if we don't do more to protect them from feral animals.

"Stick-nest Rats used to occur across a huge area and you can still find their nests all over the desert," says Dr Westcott. "Those nests are like tombstones - they're reminders of what was, and the need to act to stop what could be."

Other native animals such as bilbies and bettongs have also disappeared from the region since feral cats and foxes arrived, and similar stories are repeated across much of Australia. Sobering new research suggests feral cats now cover 99.8 per cent of the country¹, and our most vulnerable species are being driven to the brink.

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Above: The Spinifex Hopping Mouse is found on Bon Bon, Cravens Peak, Ethabuka and Eurardy reserves. Photo by Steve Parish/Nature Connect

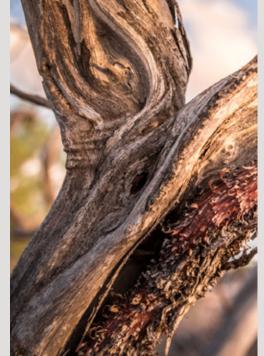
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From the CEO

It's been almost two years since we launched our 10-year Science Plan – a clear and ambitious statement declaring we would bring the best possible science to bear on our decision-making.

I'm pleased to report we're making tremendous progress, particularly around managing feral animals.

Not only are we developing our control strategies, we're also working on new techniques to ensure feral animals are eliminated from our landscapes, or minimised. Among these techniques are the grooming traps, which target feral cats, that were trialled on Pullen Pullen Reserve to help protect the population of endangered Night Parrots there.

Feral animal control is a priority for all conservation organisations, and new methods should be explored and supported. I think this is a really important and interesting way forward for our efforts to restore our native landscapes.

Looking ahead to 2017, our attention will turn to building on our successes to date. Primarily, we will consolidate new properties and reinforce our partnerships with traditional owners, pastoralists and other land holders.

As we continue our focus on using science-backed research to deliver the best outcomes for our landscapes, we also welcome Dr Rebecca Spindler to Bush Heritage Australia as our new Executive Manager of Science and Conservation.

On a personal note, I'm looking forward to spending time on our Queensland reserves this year, in particular Cravens Peak, Ethabuka and Carnarvon Station. We've had incredible rainfall out there, and I'm keen to see the recovery efforts and great work our staff are delivering.

Those rains also extended south across the border, where they transformed the wetlands on Naree Station in northwestern New South Wales. *Come rain or shine* highlights a post-graduate student's research into such flooding events, and how they can benefit the waterbirds and small mammals that live there.

Also in this newsletter, we celebrate some of our supporters – a volunteer with a passion for wildlife photography, and a man whose childhood love for the Australian bush ultimately led him to become a Bush Heritage donor and bequestor.

As always though, there is more work to be done, and I'm so grateful to the generosity of our supporters for making this possible.

Gerard O'Neill, Chief Executive



A welcome to Dr Rebecca Spindler

Dr Spindler has over 20 years of conservation science experience. During this time she has worked to improve the reproduction of rare and endangered species, managed multi-disciplinary programs in China, Brazil and the United States through the Smithsonian Institution, and spent a decade leading Taronga Zoo's Conservation Science Department.

Dr Spindler's evidence-based science approach and passion for collaboration will empower and guide our researchers and land managers as they continue their work protecting Australia's vulnerable species and habitats.



Opposite left: Gerard O'Neill. Photo by Bec Walton Opposite right: Minni-Ritchi on Hamelin Reserve, WA. Photo by Annette Ruzicka

Left: A Narrow-nosed Planigale on Boolcoomatta Reserve. Photo by Annette Ruzicka

Right: A feral cat captured on remote camera at Charles Darwin Reserve, WA.



Continued from cover

No one is more aware of the threat feral cats pose to our native species than Dr Alex Kutt, Bush Heritage Ecologist for south-west Queensland. His portfolio includes Ethabuka, Cravens Peak and Pullen Pullen reserves, which together protect a multitude of native animals, including Night Parrots, Hopping Mice, and Mulgaras.

Dr Kutt says the science behind feral cat eradication and minimisation techniques must continue to evolve.

"Feral cat control into the future needs to be more creative. It must be holistic and include a range of targeted management actions across the landscape," he says.

Bush Heritage already employs a multi-faceted approach across many of its reserves, such as on Pullen Pullen home to the endangered Night Parrot where electronic 'grooming traps' have been trialled.

The grooming traps, designed by South Australian ecologist John Read, make use of the instinctive grooming behaviour of cats and can work from up to 4m away. Placing them strategically throughout the landscape further improves their efficacy.

"We know feral cats use fire to hunt - they sit and wait for their prey as it escapes the flames. Based on that knowledge, we're putting the traps near controlled burns where feral cats will occur in higher numbers," says Dr Kutt.

Watch and learn

Without adequate monitoring, it's impossible to know where feral cats are most prevalent, and thus where to focus suppression work. For this reason, a number of monitoring programs are currently in place.

On Charles Darwin Reserve, motionsensor cameras are being used to monitor cat activity as part of the 'Eradicat' bait trial, as well as Malleefowl activity in baited and unbaited areas.

Dr Westcott says the aim is to see how Malleefowls, native ground-dwelling birds, respond to reductions in feral cat numbers.

"We're not just hoping to see lower feral predator activity in the baited areas; the ultimate goal is to see increased Malleefowl activity. This will help us to be sure that our predator control efforts are effective," says Dr Westcott.

The cameras on Charles Darwin are used to monitor both feral cat and fox numbers.

"You can't target one without considering the other," says Dr Westcott. "If you just target cats, you may in fact increase your fox numbers in the process, and vice versa."

"Recently, the results of the camera monitoring have been showing we have more feral cats than foxes. We will, however, continue to monitor the activity of both species so we can alter and adapt our control efforts accordingly."

Species under threat

On Boolcoomatta Reserve in South Australia, 60 motion-sensor cameras have been installed to determine the population and location of feral cats on the property.

The 63,000ha reserve supports species such as Bearded Dragons, Dusky Hopping-mice and Plains-wanderers. It's a haven for native wildlife, and a potential smorgasbord for feral cats - something Boolcoomatta Reserve Manager Alistair Dermer is well aware of.

"We currently rate feral cats as a serious threat here on Boolcoomatta, and for most of Australia, and they're contributing to species extinctions," says Alistair. "From this data, we'll be better equipped to target our ongoing cat control."

Save our Species

Feral animals are causing untold damage to our native species.

It's only through your generous support that we can continue to deliver a range of smart, sciencedriven solutions to control feral animal numbers on our reserves.

With the feral cat population reaching crisis levels, the need to implement such solutions has never been greater. Can you help?

bushheritage.org.au/donate

1. S Legge, BP Murphy, H McGregor et al., Enumerating a continental-scale threat: How many feral cats are in Australia?', Biological Conservation, vol. 206, 2017, pp. 293-303.

Left: Bon Bon Station Field Officer Kate Taylor holding a Thorny Devil. Photo by Aaron Fenner Right: A Thorny Devil at Bon Bon Station Reserve. Photo by Kate Taylor





Sympathy for the devil

When it comes to the Thorny Devil, names and appearances don't do this harmless little creature justice.

If there was ever a creature that could claim to have been cheated by binomial nomenclature, the Thorny Devil (*Moloch horridus*) might just have the strongest argument.

Named after a Canaanite god associated with child sacrifice, and inspired by the ominous looking spikes and horns that adorn its body, the Thorny Devil is one of Australia's most placid reptiles.

Measuring just 20cm, you're likely to find the Thorny Devil in arid scrubland feasting on ants — a far cry from the stories told about its namesake.

In fact, eating ants was exactly what one particular Thorny Devil was doing when Bon Bon Field Officer Kate Taylor spotted it. It was the first recorded sighting of a Thorny Devil on Bon Bon Station Reserve, in central South Australia, a huge milestone for Bush Heritage, and for the species itself.

"The Latin name couldn't be further from a true reflection of this little lizard's personality," says Kate.

"The Thorny Devil is actually one of the most placid reptiles you could encounter in the Australian outback."

"The Thorny Devil is the sole species in its genus group. They also have a very unique way of drinking – they can absorb water using capillary action through their skin by simply standing in a puddle. Think of your skin being able to suck water into your body like a sponge."

"Also, the spikes that give the Thorny Devil its scary appearance, and which were once thought to act only as a defense mechanism, actually help channel rain or condensation into its mouth – a useful adaptation for a desert living lizard."

"Now that we know they are here, we hope to start seeing more of them around the reserve."

The Thorny Devil

Scientific name: Moloch horridus

Common name: Thorny Devil (also known as Mountain Devil, Thorny Lizard and Moloch)

Lifespan: 6-20 years

Diet: Ants — thousands of them every day!

Breeding: Thorny Devils attract mates through head-bobbing and leg-waving. Courtship complete, the female will

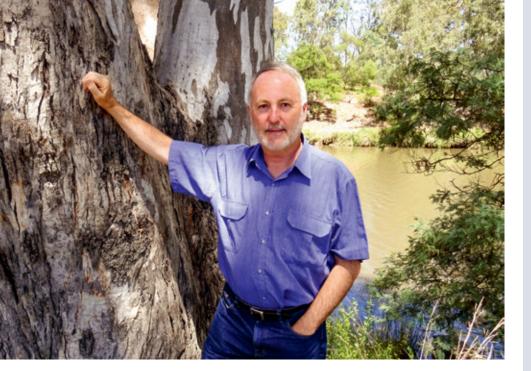
then bury 3-10 eggs in a chamber about 30cm deep. Eggs generally hatch after three to four months.

Distribution: Their range covers most of arid Australia – large parts of Western Australia, the southern half of the Northern Territory, South Australia and western Queensland. They live in dry sand country, spinifex grasslands and scrub.

Status: Scientists are still unsure about the Thorny Devil's distribution and population size. As such,

the International Union for the Conservation of Nature is yet to make an assessment about the conservation status of this extraordinary lizard.

Threats: Natural predators include Goannas and predatory birds like the Brown Falcon. Being entirely reliant on ant populations, the Thorny Devil is vulnerable to habitat loss and climate change.



How inspiration became a legacy

A childhood spent in the bush and an admiration for Bob Brown combined to inspire Bush Heritage donor and bequestor Davydd Shaw.

Growing up in Kyabram in north-east Victoria, Davydd Shaw recalls family trips to ironbark forests and the river country to the north.

It was these early encounters with the Australian bush that fostered Davydd's lifelong love for our native plants and animals, but it wasn't until 2005, after hearing Bob Brown talk about the founding of Bush Heritage Australia, that Davydd was inspired to become a Bush Heritage supporter.

"I find Bob Brown a truly inspiring person," Davydd says.

"His work on the Franklin River Campaign, his involvement with many environmental protection programs, and with the establishment of Bush Heritage Australia — he's a remarkable man and I wanted to support his cause."

In the years since, his funds have been used to support the purchase and restoration of properties around Australia, protecting the landscapes he loves.

"I don't have the funds to support many organisations, but have chosen Bush Heritage because of its special work on the ground and the difference it's making." "I'm very aware of the damage humanity has caused and I feel it's good to have people batting for the animals and plants that can't bat for themselves."

While his main motivation has been to protect the bush, Davydd has also been impressed by Bush Heritage's partnership programs and its science-driven approach.

"I particularly support the multifaceted approach to landscape restoration and management, from providing educational opportunities to university students and other land owners, to partnering with traditional owners, and connecting with neighbouring communities," he says.

Davydd has seen Bush Heritage's programs first-hand, having visited Scottsdale, Nardoo Hills, Charles Darwin, Boolcoomatta and Oura Oura reserves. After such awe-inspiring visits, it was only a matter of time before he decided to leave a bequest to Bush Heritage.

"I think when one's life is ending it's really comforting and encouraging to know that anything you've got left you can contribute to a cause that's going to benefit the planet."

Left: Photo courtesy of Davydd Shaw Right: Stromatolites at Hamelin Pool, WA. Photo by Annette Ruzicka

Thank you

Thanks to the many supporters who have generously donated to our work.

In Memoriam

Many friends have donated in memory of Jacquie Pryor, who had a deep and abiding interest in conservation and was an original patron of Charles Darwin Reserve. Her husband Paul continues to support Charles Darwin Reserve in her honour. Dr Fran Baum and Paul Laris gave in memory of their friend Christine Caleidin. Many people donated in memory of our supporter Beverley Menzies' canine companion 'Tug'. We also received several donations in memory of Desmond Murphy, and Robyn Blake, Patsy Chalmers and Heather Willes donated in memory of Rosalind Willes.

In Celebration

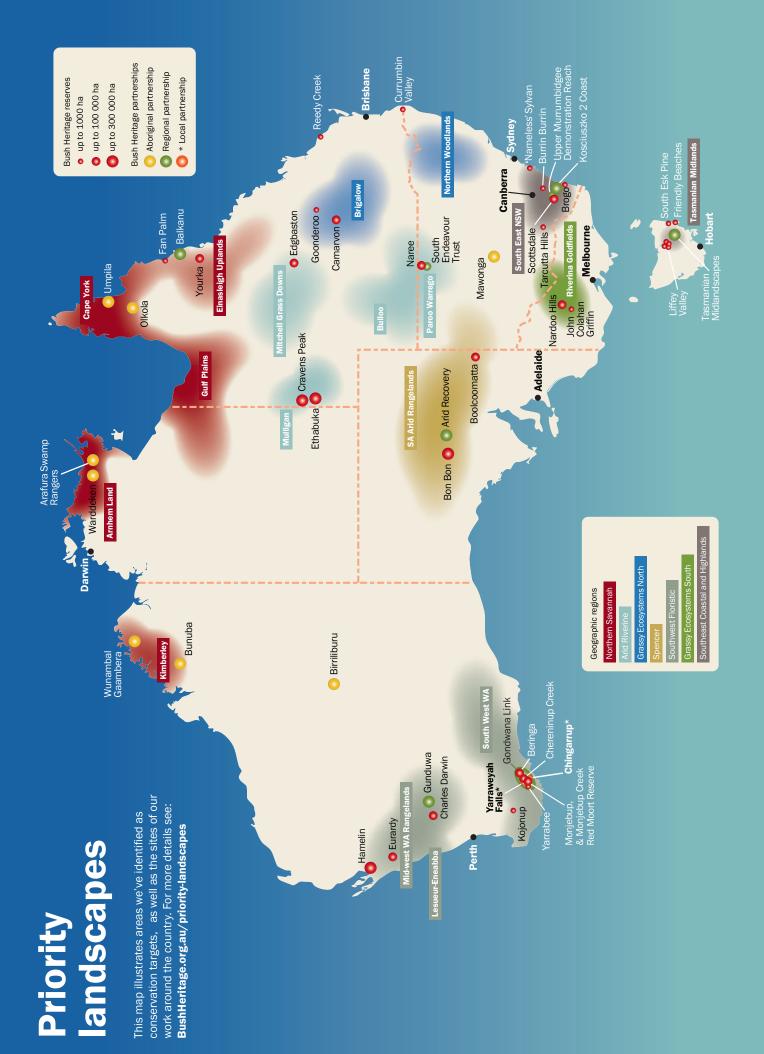
Nick Kolliner donated to celebrate Carol Young's 70th birthday. Kim Langley donated at the request of Peta Kowalski to celebrate her 50th birthday. We also received a donation from Emma Verge in celebration of Peta's birthday, and another from Freya Stromsvag to celebrate Gabi's birthday.

Bequests

We gratefully acknowledge the estates of Chris Burrowes, Loris Lorraine Grote, Gretel Woodward, Lorraine Maxine Meldrum, and Wanda Marion Summers.

If you would like to become a Bush Heritage Australia bequestor, contact Rebecca Passlow in our bequests team on 1300 NATURE (1300 628 873) or (03) 8610 9100.





Briefs from the blog

BushHeritage.org.au/blog

A glance through some of the regular posts on our blog gives an overview of what's been happening on our reserves around Australia - all made possible thanks to you.

Subscribe for regular updates or follow us on social media.









K2C bird surveys

The annual Kosciuszko to Coast spring bird surveys have been carried out on properties along the Murrumbidgee River Valley.

Eighty two species were recorded overall, which is slightly less than the usual spring count. It's believed the particularly cool and wet season that we've recently experienced allowed many waterbirds to expand their normal range.

Highlights from the surveys included a pair of Pied Butcherbirds, a new species for the survey list, at Stonehouse, south of Williamsdale. Other highlights were a Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, and six Hooded Robins (two family groups) at one site.

Small groups of Yellow-faced and White-naped honeyeaters were also recorded moving westwards through several sites on their return migration.

A Hooded Robin. Photo by Jeroen van Veen



The next David Attenborough?

Bush Heritage Australia volunteers and doting grandparents Kim and Pete Eastman shared their experiences of volunteering on Goonderoo Reserve in Queensland with their nine-year-old grandson Pelle.

Not only was it a chance for the trio to escape Tasmania's chilly winter temperatures, it also allowed Kim, Pete and Pelle to spend some quality time together working around the 593ha reserve.

When not helping on the reserve, Pelle could often be found perched in a tree with a bird guide in one hand and a camera in the other. He documented his bird encounters exhaustively, snapping umpteen photos and even shooting movies, which he narrated in a hushed voice reminiscent of David Attenborough's trademark style.

Pelle investigates a Bowerbird nest at Goonderoo. Photo by Kim Eastman



Night Parrot fledglings found

Night Parrot fledglings have been found on the newly acquired Pullen Pullen Reserve in Queensland, on a routine field trip.

It's an incredibly encouraging sign as Bush Heritage continues its work with ecologist Dr Stephen Murphy to protect and consolidate this population.

Hopefully these are the first of many more chicks to hatch as habitat management and pest control continues.

A Night Parrot fledgling. Photo by James Watson



Left: Erica Suosaari and Kelly Campbell prepare for a BRUVS drop. Photo by Greg Suosaari Right: A BRUVS drop is carried out in the waters of Hamelin Pool, WA. Photo by Greg Suosaari





Testing the waters

Bush Heritage is taking its renowned science-backed approach underwater to unlock the secrets of Hamelin Pool.

Much has been made of Hamelin Pool's incredible Stromatolites, living fossils similar to some of the earliest forms of life on earth, but what of its underwater inhabitants?

Although much research has been conducted through the greater Shark Bay World Heritage Area, Hamelin Pool's marine life has never been systematically documented.

This gap in knowledge means little is currently known about the ecological processes happening within the pool itself, something Bush Heritage Science Fellow Erica Suosaari says has impeded management planning.

"Although many studies have focused on the Stromatolites, the faunal assemblage in the pool itself has gone largely ignored," she says.

"The lack of baseline data in Hamelin Pool leaves us unable to assess the current health of the system, and the impact of heat waves along with the changing climate."

A new Bush Heritage project in collaboration with the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife and Curtin University plans to change that.

Introducing BRUVS

In years gone by, the only way to capture underwater footage was to send down a diver with a purpose-built camera. It was somewhat effective, but researchers couldn't escape the limitations of diveroperated systems such as fish behaviour changes and observation bias.

A new technology has now changed the game. Baited remote underwater video systems (BRUVS) have become the predominant method for conducting underwater surveys, providing greater accuracy while also reducing human interference.

Using little more than a steel frame, two cameras and a bait bag containing crushed pilchards or sardines, Bush Heritage researchers are capturing never-before-seen footage of Hamelin Pool's incredible sea life.

"It was previously thought that Hamelin Pool would have a low diversity of marine organisms, in particular fishes, due to the water's high salinity," Erica explains.

"Yet nearly 100 BRUVS drops have already revealed pockets of Hamelin Pool teeming with fish and snake life. One drop alone recorded Snapper, Gobbleguts, Yellowtail Grunters and Bream."

In addition to providing a platform to collect data for analysis, BRUVS also record invaluable information about the immediate habitat.

"A baseline ecological study for a biologically significant area such as Hamelin Pool is extremely important, as it helps us understand the ecological processes that inform management decisions."

The project will continue into 2020 and Bush Heritage expects to develop a comprehensive baseline understanding of Hamelin Pool's faunal assemblage. The data will inform a land management plan that will benefit the pool and protect its species for the long term.

Project design by Blanche D'Anastasi (JCU) and Erica Suosaari (Bush Heritage), BRUVS provided by the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Andyinc Foundation, whose donation allowed us to purchase our research boat at Hamelin Station Reserve.



A different lens

The final photograph: a platypus on Scottsdale Reserve, WA. Photo by Richard Taylor Right: The photographer in his element. Photo courtesy of Richard Taylor

This stonemason from England has a passion and love for Australia's unique plants and animals that can inspire us all.

The sun is just rising over Scottsdale Reserve as Richard Taylor quietly slips from the sleeping quarters. The chill in the air reminds him of his native Lancashire in north-west England, although the landscape is vastly different.

With him are his trusty camera and a collection of lenses. He makes his way to the river and methodically sets up on its banks.

It's a ritual he's carried out twice a day for more than two weeks. Every morning and evening he spends two hours by the river in the hopes of photographing the elusive platypus. The camera-shy creature is one of Richard's favourite Australian species, and it sits atop his extensive shot list.

Today is Richard's lucky day: there's some action in the water. A platypus emerges and sits by the rocks, as if posing. Richard's patience has finally paid off.

"Getting that photo just blew my mind," he says later.

"It was just incredible. That will be something that will stick with me for a long time."

Since arriving from the UK for a volunteering holiday in Australia, Richard has been quick to get his hands dirty. He's done everything from frog surveys to tree planting, weed control and general maintenance around Scottsdale Reserve. Wildlife photography is the one leisure activity he permits himself outside of his volunteering commitments, yet the workload has never daunted him.

"It's incredibly varied work and that's been one of the interesting parts. The reserve managers have a huge task in front of them so I'm just happy to play my part."

Richard is an experienced environmental volunteer, having worked with the National Trust, the Northwest Ecological Trust and The Wildlife Trusts in the UK. It was Australia's unique wildlife that drew him to our shores.

"I've been interested in conservation for some time and so I think it's interesting to see how conservation is done over here, especially the techniques Bush Heritage is using, how the land is managed and what fauna and flora are here," he says.

"It's all so new. Everything here, all of the plants and animals, are unique to Australia, and it's wonderful to see and experience it all for myself."

The diversity of Australia's ecosystems amazes Richard: "I see something new every single day," he says with evident enthusiasm. But he is also keenly aware of the urgent need to protect Australia's landscapes, and he has a message for

"These species are found only in this country. There's really nowhere else in the world you can see these plants and animals other than in Australia. If we lose them from here, we lose them from everywhere. They're gone."



Left: Justin McCann on Naree Station Reserve. Photo by Kathleen Davies

Right: Back Creek Swamp in flood, Naree Station Reserve. Photo by Justin McCann

Bottom: Great Egret chicks at Yantabulla Swamp. Photo by Brian Redman





Come rain or shine

Braving monsoonal rains and searing heat, PhD student and Bush Heritage Environmental Research Scholarship recipient Justin McCann is unlocking the secrets of Naree Station Reserve.

When talking about the prospect of flooding at Naree Station Reserve this year, Justin McCann can barely contain his excitement.

"I'll be putting a boat on the roof of the car, getting as much tinned food as I can and driving out there as soon as possible," he says with a hint of glee.

His anticipation is understandable — flooding at Naree only happens every eight to ten years. On a reserve receiving just 300mm of erratic rainfall each year on average, seeing its vast wetland network at flood is a rare sight.

It's an arduous journey from the University of New South Wales, where he studies, in the Sydney suburb of Randwick, to Naree - two days at least, and that's if the roads haven't been swallowed by floodwaters. But for Justin, it's all part of the adventure that comes with studying Environmental Science.

An office like no other

Naree Station is a former pastoral property found in one of the least disturbed parts of the Murray-Darling Basin in north-western NSW.

It lies in the Mulga Lands Bioregion, 150km north-west of Bourke on the Cuttaburra Channels, which connect the Paroo and Warrego rivers. Its southern boundary is the Cuttaburra Creek, and Yantabulla Swamp adjoins the property to the west.

It's uncommon to have such a diverse suite of ecosystems in one place, making Naree a unique place to conduct research. When the big wet arrives, the reserve's ecology goes into overdrive, resulting in an abundance of invertebrate eggs and plant seeds, which lie dormant until the next flood.

It's here that Justin has spent almost two years researching the boom and bust cycle of wetland flooding and its impact on the landscape — particularly its benefits to the waterbirds and small mammals of Naree.

This year marks the halfway point of Justin's research and he plans to visit Naree every second month to assess how the smaller floods created by recent generous winter rains have impacted on Naree's ecology.

"I've been looking at three things: the small breeding event of waterbirds that we've had recently, the long term flooding patterns of the wetland, and the benefit of these floods and what they provide to other animals in the landscape," says Justin.

Flooded with life

Recently, Justin has been examining waterbird breeding on Naree's Back Creek Swamp – counting nests, eggs and chicks – to gain an understanding of the ecosystem's overall health.

"When Yantabulla gets going, it's one of the top ten wetland waterbird breeding sites in Australia."

"We're trying to get a sense of how important these small floods are to the bird life in comparison to a big boom."

Importantly, Justin has also completed comprehensive flood modelling stretching back to the 1970s. Using satellite imagery and historical data, Justin's research will help Bush Heritage plan for the management of Naree and Yantabulla in the face of future threats, such as climate change.





Striking it rich in central Victoria

Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Ron Kerr inspects a scar tree on the Nardoo Hills reserves. Photo by Annette Ruzicka

The Nardoo Hills reserves in central Victoria are the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung people, and they protect both natural and cultural values.

Gloved fingers point at a collection of maps lying on a 4WD bonnet. The group of Dja Dja Wurrung traditional owners and Bush Heritage staff are here to survey the Nardoo Hills reserves in central Victoria for their cultural values, and Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Ron Kerr has recommended the team start by making their way to a river bed.

"A pretty important part of Aboriginal culture is water – it's where we find most of our artefacts and scar trees," Ron tells his Field Officer Jackson Dunolly.

Recently, the Nardoo Hills reserves grew by 203ha with the purchase of *Lawan* reserve, made possible through Trust for Nature's Revolving Fund, which assists conservation groups in purchasing and managing habitat of high conservation value in Victoria.

Lawan reserve, like the rest of the Nardoo Hills reserves, protects and connects patches of temperate woodland, which is the most threatened wooded ecosystem in Australia, primarily due to land clearing. Not only has this led to declines in woodland bird species, it has also resulted in the destruction of cultural heritage such as scar trees.

The group finds one such scar tree, a Grey Box gum, during their survey. The shape of the deep scars etched into its base tell Ron and Jackson that its bark was once used to create a coolamon, a device traditionally used to carry food and water, and to cradle babies.

"The process of extracting bark was a very important cultural practice and was conducted during certain seasons when the gums of trees were soft and easy to peel off," says Ron.

It's the ninth scar tree to have been found on Bush Heritage's Nardoo properties, and the fact that it is a Grey Box highlights the importance of protecting Victoria's grassy woodlands for both their cultural and natural values.

"We've found and recorded scar trees that connect us with our Dja Dja Wurrung ancestors, so it's good to be asked by Bush Heritage to do this survey," says Ron.

The purchase of the new Lawan reserve and associated costs was made possible through the generosity of donors (The RE Ross Trust, the Jaramas Foundation, the Biophilia Foundation and Mr Doug Hooley in memory of his parents Alan and Beryl Hooley), and through Trust for Nature's Revolving Fund.

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Visit a Bush Heritage reserve

This year, give yourself a holiday like no other and take a trip to one of our many reserves across the country. A camping trip or self-guided tour will allow you to explore at your own pace. Alternatively, you can sign up for a guided tour and learn firsthand from our staff about what makes our reserves so special.

Guided tours

(Bush Heritage – booking required)

- Ethabuka, Qld (24-28 July)
- Scottsdale, NSW (7 Oct)
- Naree Station, NSW (8-10 Sept)
- Nardoo Hills, Vic. (14 Oct)
- John Colahan Griffin, Vic. (15 Oct)

Guided tours

(Third party operator)

 Bird Tours – Melbourne Birding Tours, details and booking via Melbourne Birding Tours

Self-guided day visits

(All year round, weather dependent)

- Kojonup, WA
- Chereninup Creek, WA
- Oura Oura, Tas.
- Liffey River, Tas.
- Reedy Creek, Qld
- Currumbin, Qld

Camping

(Booking required)

- Charles Darwin, WA (April to Oct)
- Boolcoomatta, SA (April to Oct)
- Carnarvon Station, Qld (May to Sept)

Station stay

(Camping & accommodation – booking recommended)

• Hamelin Station (20 March to mid-Oct)

For more information or to book, visit our website www.bushheritage.org. au/places-we-protect/visit

Above: Waterbirds at first light on Naree Station Reserve. Photo by Annette Ruzicka

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