



wildlife matters

australian



wildlife
conservancy

SEPTEMBER 2005

Mornington

A stronghold for the
Kimberley's threatened wildlife



saving australia's threatened wildlife



the awc mission

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is dedicated to saving Australia's threatened wildlife and ecosystems. To achieve this mission, our actions are focused on:

- Establishing a network of sanctuaries which protect threatened wildlife and ecosystems: AWC now owns 13 sanctuaries covering 655,000 hectares (over 1.6 million acres).
- Implementing practical, on-ground conservation programs to protect the wildlife at our sanctuaries: these programs include feral animal control, fire management and the translocation of endangered species.
- Conducting (either alone or in collaboration with other organisations) scientific research that will help address the key threats to our native wildlife.
- Hosting visitor programs at our sanctuaries for the purpose of education and promoting awareness of the plight of Australia's wildlife.

about awc

AWC is an independent, non-profit organisation based in Perth, Western Australia. Donations to AWC are tax deductible.

During 2003-2004, over 90% of AWC's total expenditure was spent on conservation programs, including land acquisition. Less than 10% was on development (fundraising) and administration.

Cover photo: *Purple-crowned Fairy-wren*
(Ian Montgomery)

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Welcome to the latest edition of *Wildlife Matters*. The last few months have been another busy period for AWC as we consolidate our on-ground conservation programs and continue to carefully evaluate possible new projects.

Our highest priority is, as always, the implementation of practical measures to protect the threatened wildlife and ecosystems at AWC's sanctuaries. Delivering results where it really counts – in the field – is our 'trademark'. It is how we measure our success as an organisation. This commitment to practical, on-ground conservation is central to the character and identity of AWC and is pursued with vigour and determination by our dedicated field staff.

In the following pages, you will read about some of the key outcomes being delivered at AWC sanctuaries. At Mornington, early results from our biodiversity monitoring program suggest a clear and measurable benefit for the Kimberley's threatened wildlife. We are finding more species, in greater numbers, in destocked areas. Similarly, at Faure Island, the population of all threatened mammals has increased, with the Boodie population expanding from 17 individuals to over 150 animals in the last three years.

Our success in protecting some of Australia's most threatened wildlife has led to increasing national and international recognition of AWC's efforts. At the national level, our involvement in the new Invasive Animals CRC (see page 6) is evidence that AWC is acknowledged as a leader in feral animal control. Internationally, our work with partners such as The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International (see page 8) highlights AWC's emerging international profile.

The practical, on-ground results being delivered by AWC would not have occurred without *your* support and the support of other AWC donors. Every donation makes a difference! Every supporter is part of the AWC team and should draw quiet satisfaction from the achievements of the organisation to date. If you wish to experience 'first hand' one of the special places that you are helping to protect, why not plan a visit to Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary? We would love to see you in the Kimberley!

On behalf of all of us at AWC, thank you for your support to date. I hope you will continue your support, and perhaps even enlist some of your friends in helping to save Australia's imperilled wildlife.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the incredible efforts of AWC staff. The commitment of our staff is remarkable and their hard work, often in remote areas and difficult conditions, is the foundation on which the organisation's success is built.

I trust you will enjoy reading about AWC's progress in this edition of *Wildlife Matters*, and I look forward to reporting again in a few months on how your support is helping to provide new hope for Australia's wildlife.

Atticus Fleming
Chief Executive

Population of endangered Boodies thriving on Faure Island

The results of AWC's most recent monitoring expedition to Faure Island suggest that reintroduced populations of the Boodie, the Shark Bay Mouse and the Banded Hare-wallaby are thriving. The successful establishment of secure populations of these species – all listed as threatened under Federal legislation – will represent a remarkable victory for conservation in Australia.

The monitoring expedition, led by AWC staff member Jo Williams, covered a two week period in July 2005. During that period, Jo and her team trapped an incredible 143 Boodies, 40 Shark Bay Mice, and 8 Banded Hare-wallabies. This outcome was more significant because the monitoring program covered only a small section of the 6,000 hectare island.

All the animals trapped were in excellent condition. Most Boodies and Banded Hare-wallabies were carrying pouch young and many of the Shark Bay Mice were in breeding condition, with enlarged teats.

It is clear that AWC and its partners at Faure Island, including the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management, are playing a pivotal role in preventing the extinction of these three species. The world heritage listed island is the third largest island in the world from which cats have been eradicated. Boodies and Shark Bay Mice were reintroduced in 2002 and Banded Hare-wallabies in 2004.

The Boodie population, in particular, has expanded rapidly. Seventeen (17) animals were initially released in

2002. Over a period of three years, there has been a stunning increase in the population to more than 143 (the number trapped in July). Boodies can produce up to three young per year, with a single pouch young at a time, and very occasionally twins.

The population of Shark Bay Mice has also increased and they are now widespread throughout the island. Faure Island represents the first successful reintroduction of this species. Banded Hare-wallabies have been so successful in adapting to their new environment that they bred in the first year after release and have quickly produced three new recruits to bolster the fledgling population.

A key factor in the success of the reintroduced mammals has been the response of the vegetation on Faure Island to the removal of goats. Photo monitoring points have provided dramatic evidence of this change, from a scattering of low heath in 1992 to a lush mosaic of heath and grassland in 2005. The recovery of biodiversity on Faure Island highlights the success of AWC's practical, on-ground management.



A Boodie, or Burrowing Bettong, takes shelter

Ecopix

at Heirisson Prong in Shark Bay (107 hectares for males and 86 hectares for females) and wild Boodies on Barrow Island (133 hectares for males and 98 hectares for females).

Felicity is about to embark on a review of the taxonomy of the Boodie, which occurs in the wild at Bernier and Dorre Islands in Shark Bay and on Barrow Island off the Pilbara coast. She will utilize genetic analyses to investigate how population bottlenecks (reduction of large populations to a handful of individuals) might have affected the long-term viability of reintroduced Boodies. The results may help determine when reintroduced populations require a "top up" of animals to strengthen genetic diversity. In this way, her research is set to provide invaluable support for biodiversity reconstruction projects across Australia.



WA Agriculture Department

1992: Grasslands degraded by goats on Faure Island, prior to acquisition by AWC

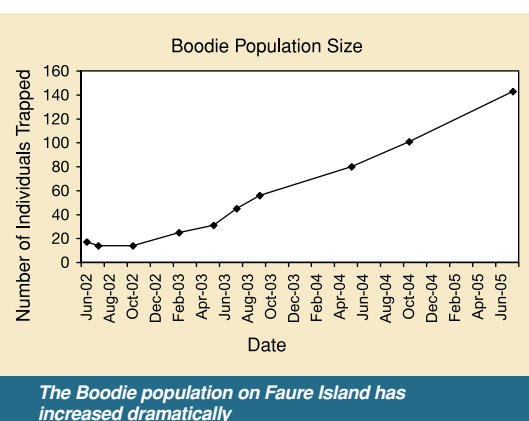


Jo Williams

2005: The same area after the removal of goats by AWC

Strategic research at Faure Island

Felicity Donaldson, an AWC volunteer and PhD student at the University of Western Australia, has been studying Boodies at Faure Island for the last two years. Felicity has discovered that the home range of Boodies on Faure Island averages about 100 hectares, about one sixtieth of the island's total area. This is comparable to home ranges of reintroduced Boodies that were studied



The Boodie population on Faure Island has increased dramatically

Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary

A stronghold for the Kimberley's threatened wildlife



Stripe-faced Dunnart

Alex Dudley

The significance of Mornington for biodiversity conservation in the tropical savannas has been dramatically reinforced by AWC's research and conservation program in recent months. Biological surveys have increased the list of vertebrates known to occur on the property, and are also demonstrating the positive effects on flora and fauna of the conservation and land management program, particularly the destocking program. In addition, groundbreaking work by external researchers is highlighting the importance of Mornington for threatened and declining animals like the Antilopine Wallaroo and the Purple-crowned Fairy-wren.

Biodiversity monitoring reveals new species...

Four species of mammal have been found on Mornington for the first time in the last year, including the Rock Ringtail Possum, which haunts the deeply fissured sandstone of the spectacular escarpments and gorges, emerging only at night to feed on leaves, flowers and fruit, and to visit their distinctive 'latrines', or scent-marking spots. Rock Ringtails are listed as threatened (Priority Fauna) in WA. Another mammal associated with rock, but this time very little rocks, is the Kimberley Pebble-mound Mouse, which builds characteristic heaps of pebbles (some as big as the mouse) around the entrance to its burrow. Several of these mounds have been found on the spinifex-dominated sandstone slopes of the Sir John Range.

An intensive trapping survey in August caught two species of small mammals that have not been recorded on Mornington before. The Common Planigale is a tiny carnivorous marsupial that weighs 6-12 grams. Its small size belies its intense ferocity, which it needs to subdue and devour invertebrates and even geckos and skinks that are almost as big as itself. Another 'first' was the Lakeland Downs Short-tailed Mouse, which is a poorly known and rarely-collected native rodent, distributed sparsely across the tropical north. One thing we do know about it is that it has extremely efficient kidneys, which presumably allows it to exploit drier habitats. The trapping survey also turned up the Stripe-faced Dunnart, another carnivorous marsupial that had been seen just twice on Mornington, and never trapped. This dunnart has the distinction of having the shortest gestation of any marsupial (11 days), which allows it to take advantage of good conditions with alacrity.

New discoveries have not been confined just to mammals; eight new reptiles have been added to Mornington's list, including the Northern Knob-tailed Gecko, a very odd-looking animal, and the Graceful Velvet Gecko. The latter has only previously been found on the coastal fringe of the Kimberley, so this find represents a large range extension to the south.

...and also positive biodiversity effects

The trapping survey is part of a monitoring program at Mornington designed to enable AWC to assess the biodiversity outcomes of active land management. In the last year, the major land management focus has been the destocking program, involving the fencing of a 65,000 hectare enclosure and the removal of the cattle within. As this newsletter goes to press, the newly-minted destocking fence is complete. For the past year, mustering has kept cattle numbers in the destocked area very low, at around 300 head, or one cow to over 220 hectares; previously this area carried around 2000 cattle.

The remaining cattle will be removed in the coming months, but the plants and animals within this area are already showing signs of recovery following the substantial reduction in stocking density. Ground cover has improved – there is less bare soil, and grass tussocks have larger crowns. Even more exciting, though, is that the trapping survey has shown that the abundance of small mammals has increased compared with the previous year. The survey focused on four distinct habitats, and this pattern was true of each of them (see graph 1).

Differences in animal abundances between years could be due to factors



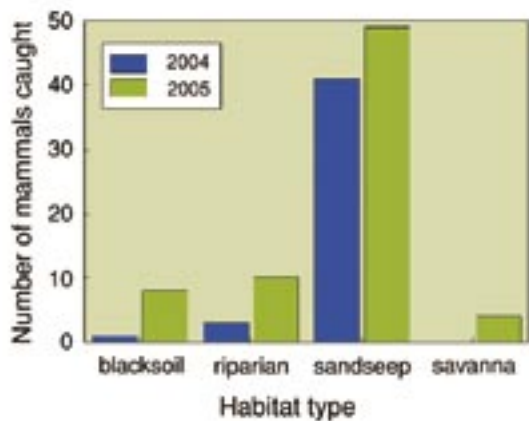
Alex Dudley

unrelated to the destocking program (such as the weather). To address this issue, the trapping survey in the destocked area was replicated in identical habitats in the part of Mornington that still carries higher stock numbers. Graph 2 shows that more mammals and reptiles were caught in the destocked than the stocked area. So we can be cautiously confident that the increase in animal abundance during the last year is related to the removal of stock.

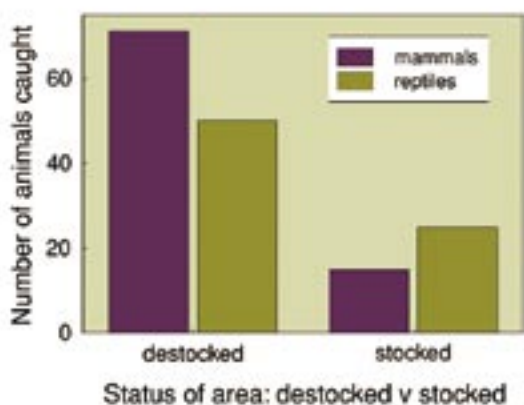
Cattle damage is arguably most marked at creeks, where they destroy existing vegetation and stop regeneration. This is disastrous for some animals, like the Buff-sided Robin and the Purple-crowned Fairy-wren, that

are specialised inhabitants of the unique creekside habitat. Although these birds are relatively common on Mornington already, the removal of cattle should see an increase in suitable habitat and therefore the numbers of these threatened taxa. A research group from the Max-Planck Institute in Germany, led by Dr Anne Peters, has begun a 5-year research project on Mornington to investigate the breeding ecology and habitat requirements of the Purple-crowned Fairy-wren. Their preferred habitat is being closely mapped, and populations of wrens on the creeks are being individually colour-banded, allowing us to track their numbers more closely over the coming years.

Managing a property that covers more than 3,000 square kilometres in the heart of one of Australia's most remote regions is an enormous challenge. However, through the generous support of our donors, AWC's practical, on-ground management is clearly having a positive impact - we are discovering species new to the property, seeing animal densities increase, and finding good populations of threatened wildlife. We hope you will continue your support for AWC, enabling us to further enhance protection for the Kimberley's wildlife through programs such as our innovative fire management strategy and our destocking program. As a valued supporter of AWC, we also hope you will visit Mornington to see 'first-hand' how your contribution is helping protect this stunning property (information on visiting Mornington can be found on our website).



Graph 1 - Increase in mammals after destocking



Graph 2 - Greater animal numbers in the destocked area



Kesner Delaney

A Fairy-Wren that has been banded, part of the Annie Creek population



Sarah Legge

Establishing a biodiversity monitoring site is hard work



Alex Dudley

Richard Costin builds the fence to keep cattle out of Mornington

AWC and partners in new offensive against feral animals

Feral species are probably the number one cause of animal extinctions in Australia. Foxes, feral cats and rabbits have contributed to Australia having the worst mammal extinction record in the world. Black rats are identified as the cause of several bird extinctions. Sadly, the impact of feral animals on our native wildlife continues to grow.

Feral animals also have a massive impact on agricultural productivity – a recent report estimated that the direct economic cost of feral animals was at least \$720 million per annum (far higher than the estimated cost of salinity, which is about \$200 million per year).

In a bold attempt to halt and reverse the threat posed by feral animals in Australia, AWC has joined forces with a number of other organisations to establish the Invasive Animals Co-operative Research Centre. The Invasive Animals CRC represents the single most important initiative ever undertaken to address Australia's invasive animal problem.

The Invasive Animals CRC is a unique partnership between a range of industry organisations, universities, government agencies and non-government organisations. The founding members of the CRC include the CSIRO, the University of Sydney, the Murray-Darling

Basin Commission, the Cattle Council of Australia and WWF Australia, as well as AWC.

The Australian Government will contribute \$30 million over the next 7 years to support the Invasive Animals CRC. It is anticipated that contributions from founding members and other sources during this period will significantly increase the overall budget of the CRC.

The purpose of the CRC is to reduce the impact of feral animals through the development and application of new technologies. In particular, its priorities include investing in the development and use of new products and techniques to reduce the impact of:

- foxes;
- feral cats;
- cane toads;
- feral pigs;
- rabbits; and
- carp.

AWC will play a pivotal role in the operation of the Invasive Animals CRC. Demonstration projects are planned for Mt Gibson (foxes and feral cats) and Brooklyn (feral pigs). In addition, AWC is in the process of establishing the largest fox and cat-free area on mainland Australia at Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary. AWC's Chief Executive, Atticus Fleming, is a Director of the new CRC.

AWC's inclusion in the new CRC is recognition of our leadership in the battle against feral animals. AWC's field staff invest enormous time and resources in addressing the threats posed by cats, foxes, rabbits, pigs, goats, brumbies and donkeys at AWC sanctuaries around Australia. Such practical, on-ground management action is vitally important if our wildlife is to survive.



AWC Sanctuary Update

Cassowary conservation at Brooklyn

AWC has commenced an intensive research and conservation program for the endangered Southern Cassowary at Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary. Approximately 7,000 hectares of Brooklyn has been mapped by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) as Cassowary habitat, including approximately 2,500-3,000 hectares identified as habitat critical to the survival of the species. AWC's program will be particularly significant because most Cassowary habitat on Brooklyn is in 'upland' areas, where relatively little is known about the ecology of Cassowary populations.

Outcomes of the AWC project will include a map of Cassowary distribution on Brooklyn, an understanding of population structure and abundance, information on diet and food sources and the implementation of key threat abatement measures such as fire management.

The Cassowary is the only significant seed dispersal agent for a number of large-fruited rainforest trees. The ecological health of the rainforest is therefore dependent on the survival of the Cassowary, further highlighting the significance of AWC's research and conservation program at Brooklyn.

Northern Bettong research at Mt Zero-Taravale

The Northern Bettong, a small member of the kangaroo family, is one of Australia's rarest mammals. There are only 4 small populations remaining and the overall population could be as low as 750 animals (source: *Northern Bettong Recovery Plan*).

Mt Zero-Taravale protects one of the last remaining Northern Bettong populations. AWC's management of Mt Zero-Taravale is therefore critically important to the survival of this species. Unfortunately, however, little is known about the ecology of the Northern Bettong. In particular, little is known about key issues such as its preferred habitat and its response to changes in habitat caused by forces such as altered fire regimes. Such information is vital if AWC and other land managers are to prevent the extinction of the Northern Bettong.

For this reason, AWC has joined forces with the QPWS and James Cook University (JCU) to initiate vital research on the Northern Bettong at Mt Zero-Taravale. Two students from JCU will undertake a program designed to unlock the secrets to the survival of this elusive mammal. AWC looks forward to providing updates on this research in future editions of *Wildlife Matters*.



Southern Cassowary

QPWS

Prescribed burning at Curramore

AWC's conservation program at Curramore, near Maleny, has to date focused on the removal of lantana from key habitats. The next phase of this program was implemented in August, when a prescribed burn was carried out by AWC staff member, Peter Hensler, and the Maleny District Rural Fire Brigade. The prescribed burn was designed to reduce fuel loads in the grassy woodlands at Curramore and to prevent the invasion of those woodlands by lantana. AWC is grateful for the support of the Rural Fire Brigade and our neighbours, who participated in the burning operation. An additional priority for AWC is to carry out a detailed baseline survey of the property, building on previous surveys carried out by the Queensland Museum and the Caloundra City Council.

Endangered mammals thriving at Scotia

As this edition of *Wildlife Matters* goes to press, AWC staff at Scotia and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service are preparing for another release of endangered mammals into the 4,000 hectare feral predator-free area known as Stage 1. Additional Bilbies, Bridled Nailtail Wallabies, Boodies and Bettongs will all be released into Stage 1. Meanwhile, work is progressing on the establishment of additional feral predator-free areas, with the aim of increasing the size of the fox and cat-free area to 12,000 hectares (30,000 acres) by the end of 2006.



The endangered Northern Bettong

QPWS

AWC and Conservation International

A Global Effort to Save Endangered Mammals



The Greater Stick-nest Rat is threatened with extinction

Steve Parish

AWC and Conservation International, a leading Washington-based environment organisation, have joined forces to promote the conservation of Australia's mammal fauna as part of a major global initiative, the Global Mammal Assessment (GMA).

The GMA is an initiative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Species Survival Commission (SSC), Conservation International and the University of Virginia. The objective of the GMA is to reassess the threat status of the world's 5,500 mammal species by consolidating available information on individual species.

AWC recently sponsored and participated in a regional GMA workshop to assess the threat status of all mammals from Australia, New Guinea, the East Melanesian Islands, New Caledonia, and the Pacific (in total, approximately 600 species).



AWC

AWC wildlife ecologist, Dr Jacqui Richards, with fellow scientists Dr Wes Sechrest of IUCN and Mike Hoffmann of Conservation International

The workshop was opened by AWC Board member, Dr Tim Flannery, and hosted by the South Australian Museum. It brought together around 60 of Australia's leading mammal experts, including AWC staff member Dr Jacqui Richards.

At the workshop, information from expert mammalogists was collected on distribution, population numbers, habitat preferences, threats and existing conservation measures for all 600 mammal species in the region. Importantly, the workshop also identified key measures that need to be implemented if we are to save threatened mammal species in Australia and in our neighbouring countries.

Mike Hoffmann, one of the GMA workshop organisers from Conservation International, said that "this combined knowledge will then be used to produce an accurate baseline from which to define and monitor mammalian biodiversity and to identify threatened species and their conservation needs".

AWC Wildlife Ecologist, Dr Jacqui Richards, presented a snapshot of AWC's contribution to mammal conservation to the participating scientists. AWC's

on-ground conservation programs are helping save threatened mammals such as the Bilby, Boodie, Bridled Nailtail Wallaby and Woylie. The knowledge gained by AWC in implementing these programs across Australia meant Jacqui was able to contribute vital information toward the assessment of many of Australia's mammal species.

Significantly, the GMA scientists recognised AWC's tremendous contribution to mammal conservation by proposing the downlisting from endangered to vulnerable of several species protected by AWC.

Jacqui reported that the workshop provided a rare opportunity for group discussion, interaction, and peer-review of scientific information about individual mammal species, and future conservation directions in Australia.

AWC's role at the GMA workshop helped highlight the global significance of Australia's mammal fauna and underlined the critical importance of AWC's on-ground conservation programs.

At present, 24% of the world's 5,500 mammals are considered threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable) by the IUCN. In addition, the threat status of more than 2,500 mammals is insufficiently known or inadequately documented. It is likely that the number of threatened species will increase to one third, following re-assessment by GMA workshops around the world. AWC's role in mammal conservation, particularly in increasing mammal populations and the area of suitable habitat required for their preservation, was recognised as integral in reversing the recent trend of worldwide mammal decline.



Tim Flannery

The Dingiso, a tree kangaroo from the mountains of west New Guinea

Sydney Aquarium Conservation Foundation

A partnership between AWC and Sydney Aquarium

Grey Nurse Sharks, Sea Turtles and Sea Dragons are just some of the threatened species that will enjoy a more secure future following the establishment of the Sydney Aquarium Conservation Foundation.

Australia's marine and freshwater habitats are home to an incredible diversity of wildlife including species unique to Australia. Sadly, however, many of these species are being pushed to the edge of extinction by pollution, diversion of water for irrigation, coastal development, over-fishing and climate change.

The Sydney Aquarium Conservation Foundation has been set up to help prevent a wave of extinctions engulfing our aquatic wildlife. It is an innovative partnership between AWC, with our focus on saving threatened species and ecological communities, and Sydney Aquarium, a corporation listed on the Australian Stock Exchange that is strongly committed to conservation and environmental education.

The new Foundation will protect Australia's aquatic wildlife by supporting:

- projects to protect and restore populations of threatened species, including captive breeding of the critically endangered Grey Nurse Shark;
- research to determine the survival needs of a range of endangered aquatic life; and
- public awareness of the threats to our aquatic ecosystems.

Tax deductible donations in support of the Foundation can be made to AWC. Each of the 1.3 million visitors to Sydney Aquarium every year will be given the opportunity to make a donation to help the Foundation save Australia's endangered aquatic wildlife. Hopefully the stunning

displays at Sydney Aquarium will inspire visitors to support the Foundation and its projects!

AWC regards this partnership as an important step forward in the ongoing development of AWC. We believe the Sydney Aquarium Conservation Foundation may serve as a model for developing partnerships with other organisations with an interest in protecting the environment. In this respect, it is important to note the Foundation is not a sponsorship arrangement – it is a joint venture between two organisations whose interests and activities have been aligned in a manner that benefits both organisations. In this case, that alignment is good news for Australia's endangered aquatic wildlife.

In addition to contributing to vitally important new projects, such as the captive breeding and release of endangered Grey Nurse Sharks, AWC's participation in the Foundation is linked to our existing efforts to conserve aquatic wildlife and ecosystems at AWC sanctuaries – for example, the marine and intertidal areas of the world heritage-listed Faure Island in Shark Bay and the iconic freshwater habitats along the Fitzroy River (at Morningson in Western Australia) and the Mitchell River (at Brooklyn in Queensland).

For more information about the Sydney Aquarium Conservation Foundation, visit: www.sacf.com.au



Loggerhead Turtle

Sydney Aquarium



Weedy Sea Dragon

Sydney Aquarium



Richard Woldendorp



The Fitzroy River, which contains a high diversity of freshwater fish species, at Morningson Wildlife Sanctuary

Biodiversity has some new champions

An extract from the Australian Financial Review Magazine, July 2005.

Article by Jennifer Hewett.

THE AUSTRALIAN Financial Review Magazine

Ross Grant spends plenty of time figuring out exactly what companies are worth. Down to the last cent a share. As chief executive of Grant Samuel – the corporate advisory firm which specialises in providing independent expert analysis in takeovers – he’s a master of the numbers.

These days, however, Grant is just as likely to be talking about the declining numbers of Australian mammals and just how cute little native animals are. The reason is his latest passion: the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), a body set up to try to buy back the farm. Literally.

The not-for-profit group has been acquiring areas of land all over Australia to try to regenerate native flora and fauna – including many endangered species. The idea is to both protect undeveloped holdings and return others as close as possible to their pristine state, including special fencing to keep out all those feral predators introduced into the Australian bush over centuries. To do so, the AWC is relying heavily on the financial support of some of Australia’s business leaders. It’s no small undertaking. With 13 properties covering about 655,000 hectares (1.6 million acres) currently on its books, AWC is already the largest private conservation landowner and land manager in Australia.

[AWC CEO, Atticus Fleming] is concentrating on increasing business support for the AWC by borrowing from an American model, the Nature Conservancy, which has used hundreds of millions of dollars in private American philanthropy to buy back large swathes of land in the US. And his drive for private cash has an urgency to it. “The problem is we now have thousands of endangered species across the country and the trend is for that to get worse,” he says. “There are limits to what governments can achieve and that is where the private sector can step in.” The cost of buying and managing all this privately in Australia has been in

the tens of millions of dollars, rather than the hundreds. But that is still a substantial ask in a country and corporate culture unaccustomed to making gifts for such a purpose – even if they are tax deductible. Then again, the AWC also offers one of the most conceptually neat propositions for philanthropy: using wealth built from Australia’s development to protect and return land to its natural state.

The neatness of that fit is a measure of how far the once almost-unimaginable coupling of Australian business and the environmental movement has come in recent years. These days the suits are downright comfortable in the wild. Fleming is just back from a trip to outback Queensland to investigate another potential property when he speaks to *The AFR Magazine*. This time he had no executives with him but they do love the chance to visit AWC’s various sanctuaries, ranging from the dry scrub country west of Broken Hill to rainforest in Queensland, remote red wilderness in the Kimberley and an island in World Heritage listed Shark Bay.

The AWC also relies on thousands of people willing and able to donate small monthly amounts. But to become a Foundation Supporter – those who can afford it give a minimum amount of \$10,000 a year over five years – some donate many times that amount, including lump sums for particular projects such as reintroducing threatened species – the burrowing bettong or the bridled nailtail wallaby for instance – back into their once natural habitat; or perhaps funding the annual management costs of a particular sanctuary.

“One of Australia’s greatest secret embarrassments is that we have the claim of having the highest mammal extinction rate in the world,” Bill Ferris says. “AWC is clearly doing something of fundamental significance for Australia that is trying to be practical rather than an academic exercise.”

“What AWC does well is to manage remote areas for conservation,” Fleming says. “Our focus is very much on endangered species and endangered habitats that will be lost forever unless we act now.” The AWC likes to point out that it spends 8 per cent of its total expenditure on administration and fund-raising and that more than 80 per cent of its 30-odd staff, including research scientists, are field based. Apart from land acquisitions, its running costs are just over \$3 million a year, spent on things like eradication of feral animals, weed control and relocation of threatened species.

Greg Paramor of Mirvac grew up in WA where the ethos was to clear as much land as possible as quickly as possible. Now he sees the results as he flies over the salt plains spreading through once-profitable farmland. He has become increasingly concerned about the degradation of such a clearly fragile place. “If we start putting back in – whether in terms of time, money or intellect – then collectively, we can make a difference,” he says. “We’ve got to start somewhere and if we can stop the eradication of native species, it’s one step at a time.”

Up at Noosa, Keith Ince says conservation was not an area he had thought much about before his retirement from funds management. He wanted to get involved in the future wellbeing of Australia in a way that contrasted with his previous career in superannuation, concerned with the futures of individuals. He also wanted an organisation that had enough commercial focus to ensure it was sustainable. But he says the personal benefit for him is the experience that comes from visiting the sanctuaries and seeing what has been achieved. “It’s like opening up a new world for me,” he says. And so much more interesting than looking at another PE ratio.



AWC Foundation Supporters on a special expedition to Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary



The West Australian

Martin Copley at the release of an endangered Black-flanked Rock-wallaby



Vincent L. Long

Keith Ince at Curramore Wildlife Sanctuary

Supporting AWC

AWC has thousands of supporters around Australia. We value and appreciate the contribution made by each supporter. Every donation helps make a difference where it really counts – in the field!

Some supporters become **regular monthly donors**, making a contribution each month of \$20, \$50 or even \$100. Making a monthly donation from your credit card, or as a direct debit from your bank account, is of great benefit to AWC as it ensures a reliable source of income for our conservation programs and it is very efficient, keeping administrative costs to a minimum.

Other supporters join **AWC's Foundation Supporter network**, pledging to donate a minimum of \$10,000 per annum for at least 5 years. AWC's Foundation Supporters provide valuable leadership for the organisation, often becoming intimately involved with some of our major conservation projects and assisting with the development and implementation of key strategies for the organisation.

Some donors decide they wish to **sponsor specific projects**, such as the translocation of an endangered species or the construction of infrastructure such as a research centre or a feral-proof fence.

There are many other ways in which you can help AWC, whether through making a bequest, including AWC in a workplace giving program or by donating your time and skills at an AWC sanctuary. Thank you to all of our valued supporters for the assistance they have provided to date. We hope you will continue to help us in the battle to save Australia's endangered wildlife.



AWC sanctuaries protect over 135 threatened animal species including the Bridled Naitail Wallaby



we urgently need your help

yes, I want to help awc save australia's endangered wildlife at places like brooklyn, scotia and mornington wildlife sanctuaries

Name: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms _____
 Address: _____
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 I wish to become a regular supporter and give a tax deductible donation each month of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$ _____ Other (minimum \$10)
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 I am unable to give monthly but would like to make a single tax deductible donation of:
 \$100 \$250 \$1000 \$5000 \$ _____ Other (minimum \$10)
 I wish to pay by: **Credit card** - Please fill in details below or call (08) 9226 0340.
 Cheque/Money Order - (enclosed) Payable to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund.

Credit Card Details
 Mastercard Visa AMEX Bankcard Diners
 _____ / _____
 Card Number Expiry Date
 Cardholder's Name: _____
 Signature: _____

Direct Debit Request
 I / We request that you draw by way of the Direct Debit System, \$ _____ per month, for the payment of a monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund.

My/Our Account details are
 Institution: _____
 Account Name: _____
 Account Number: _____ BSB: _____

I / We acknowledge that this Direct Debit Request is governed by the terms of the "Direct Debit Client Service Agreement" (below).

Signature: _____
 Printed Name in Full: _____ Date: _____

Commemorative Plaque
 I have donated \$250 or more or made a monthly pledge of \$25 or more. Please commemorate my name on a plaque at Brooklyn.

Bequests
 I am interested in making a bequest in my will. Please send me some information.

Information
 Please tick this box if you do NOT wish to receive news and information on our latest initiatives and progress.

Your Direct Debit Client Service Agreement with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy ("our", "we" or "us"), ABN 36 068 572 556

Our Commitment to You, Drawing Arrangements:

- We will advise you, in writing, the details of your monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy (amount, frequency, commencement date) at least 3 calendar days prior to the first drawing. Thereafter each drawing will be made on the 15th day of each month (or part thereof as specified).
- Where the due date falls on a non-business day, the drawing will be made on the next working day.
- We will not change the amount or frequency of drawings arrangements without your prior approval.
- We reserve the right to cancel your monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy if three or more drawings are returned unpaid by your nominated Financial Institution and to arrange with you an alternative payment method.
- We will keep all information pertaining to your nominated account at the Financial Institution, private and confidential.
- We will promptly respond to any concerns you may have about amounts debited to your account.
- We will send a receipt within 45 days of the conclusion of the financial year summarizing your entire year's gifts for tax purposes.

Your Rights:

- You may terminate your monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy at any time by giving written notice directly to us (PO Box 1897 West Perth WA 6872), or through your nominated Financial Institution. Notice given to us should be received by us at least 5 business days prior to the due date.
- You may stop payment of a monthly donation by giving written notice directly to us (PO Box 1897 West Perth WA 6872), or through your nominated Financial Institution. Notice given to us should be received by us at least 5 business days prior to the due date.
- You may request a change to the donation amount and/or frequency of the monthly donations by contacting us on (08) 9226 0340 and advising your requirements no less than 5 business days prior to the due date.
- Where you consider that a drawing has been initiated incorrectly (outside the monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy arrangements) you may take the matter up directly with us on (08) 9226 0340, or lodge a Direct Debit Claim through your nominated Financial Institution.

Your commitment to us, Your responsibilities:

- It is your responsibility to ensure that sufficient funds are available in the

nominated account to meet a drawing on its due date. (You may be charged a fee by your Financial Institution if the account details are incorrect or there are insufficient funds in the nominated account when we attempt to deduct donations.)

- It is your responsibility to ensure that the authorisation given to draw on the nominated account, is identical to the account signing instruction held by the Financial Institution where your account is based.
- It is your responsibility to advise us if the account nominated for transactions with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund is transferred or closed.
- It is your responsibility to arrange a suitable alternative payment method with us if the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund drawing arrangements are cancelled either by yourselves or by your nominated Financial Institution.
- Please enquire with your Financial Institution if you are uncertain whether direct debit functions are available on your account. (You may be charged a fee by your Financial Institution if the direct debit facility is not available on your account.)



WILD23422 Newsletter 6