



Foundation for
National Parks
& Wildlife

PAWS

SPRING 2019

Community Conservation Grants

Saving our Species

**Spring into action and
create a native garden**

**Monitoring Brush-tailed
Rock-wallabys**

"We are a prosperous society, we are a caring society, we have a wonderful nature, we shouldn't be allowing such species to slip into extinction without us actually raising a finger to do anything about it,"

(Prof Woinarski, a threatened species expert with more than three decades of experience, saw the last living Christmas Island Forest Skink before it died in captivity in 2014).

For almost 50 years, FNPW has been committed to protecting Australia's wilderness and wildlife for future generations. Of course, when I say this, what I am really saying is that: along with FNPW, **you, our wonderful supporters** have been doing more than just raising a finger to protect our natural heritage!

You may recall that last year we completed the purchase of 229 hectares of land to add to Woomargama National Park in NSW, home for some 25 endangered or vulnerable species.

This year we have lifted the bar and are working with the South Australian Government to acquire and protect 60,000 hectares of land in the Flinders Ranges. Not only is this land home for two threatened ecological communities, some 44 species of native animals and 111 species of native

plants, but it contains the very important Ediacara fossil beds that are believed to record the earliest animal life known on Earth.

It is our hope that the purchase of this land at Nilpena is the start of a much bolder strategy - to create a UNESCO World Heritage precinct in the Flinders Ranges, a region of outstanding landscapes, Adnyamathanha and European heritage, biodiversity and unique geology.

Of course, creating new parks can only be part of the story. After all, wildlife does not understand our man-made boundaries. Therefore, it is important that we establish wildlife corridors through a landscape of roads, towns and agriculture such that species can connect, migrate, breed and search for food, water and habitat in order to thrive.

That is why FNPW has worked hard to secure funding for three NSW Saving Our Species projects, focussing on restoring wildlife corridors for threatened gliders, quolls, numerous woodland birds, and the Albert's Lyrebird.



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Front Cover : A Brushed-tailed Rock-wallaby joey sees the world for the first time.

Back Cover: Spring has sprung for this Western Spinebill.

This page: The Flinders Ranges, home of the globally significant Ediacaran fossils. Image courtesy of Michael Waterhouse Photography.

In May we announced the funding of ten Community Conservation grants across the country. And in South Australia, in addition to the Bandicoot Super Highway project that I have mentioned previously, FNPW has funded the planting of 2,000 Sheoak trees in Deep Creek conservation park to create a corridor for endangered Black Cockatoos.

Thanks to the tremendous support of our donors and partners, FNPW has a number of very important projects underway. However, there is so much more we can do together to protect and preserve Australia's amazing wildlife. Here are some of the ways you can help.

- Consider becoming a monthly donor by joining our Habitat Hero program;
- Talk to your networks about our work and share FNPW's appeals and newsletter, so we can reach new audiences;
- Engage your employer and work mates in a workplace giving or Corporate Volunteering program. (Not only is it fun and rewarding, but the money raised will be directed into conservation); or
- Become a corporate partner and link your company's corporate responsibility outcomes to our projects.



Spring is a time for renewal.

Take a look at:
backyardbuddies.org.au
for ideas on how to make your backyard friendly to wildlife.

Or better still, work with your neighbours to create some community connectivity, or a wildlife sanctuary.

Thank you again, and if you have ideas on how you can help us achieve more, I would love to hear from you.

Ian Darbyshire,
CEO
Foundation for
National Parks & Wildlife.



Send your email to:
idarbyshire@fnpw.org.au

Let us know your email address, so we can communicate with you electronically. This will conserve paper and lower our operating costs.
Call us on 1800 898 626 or email us at fnpw@fnpw.org.au

Community Conservation Grants 2019



FNPW's Community Conservation Grants program contributes to the protection of Australia's native species, habitats, landscapes and cultural heritage by providing funding for field projects and education programs that have a direct conservation outcome.



By January this year we had received 70 applications from across Australia for our small grants program. Proposals were submitted by a wide variety of organisations and individuals, focussing on FNPW's strategic areas of threatened species conservation, cultural heritage, environmental education, parks for people, and land and water conservation.



FNPW's Projects Committee would like to thank everyone who prepared and submitted a grant application. We know that many of the organisations that seek funding for their projects are run by small but passionate groups of volunteers, and that much time and effort goes into finding the funds needed to sustain their vital conservation initiatives.

The following projects were allocated funds in this year's FNPW Community Conservation Grants.





Volunteers from Friends of Bass Strait Island tackle the invasive African Boxthorn

Project Name	Conservation Focus	Lead Organisation	State
Protecting the Red-tailed Phascogale in Katanning	Threatened species recovery	Katanning Landcare	WA
Busy Bees: educating and engaging local kids in native bee protection	Environmental education	Wagga Wagga Urban Landcare	NSW
Roydon Island African Boxthorn Control	Land and water conservation	Friends of Bass Strait Islands	TAS
Upgrading the Fagus Walking Track at Mount Field	Parks for people	Wildcare Friends of Mount Field	TAS
Yesterdays stories: Heritage drive from Wollongong to Bega	Cultural heritage	Yesterday Stories	NSW
Currie Wharf Bush Restoration	Cultural heritage	King Island NRMG	TAS
Weed management and restoration of native vegetation on Deal Island	Land and water conservation	Wildcare Friends of Deal Island	TAS
Eco-acoustic monitoring of Leadbeater's Possum and Powerful Owls by citizen scientists	Threatened species recovery	Victoria National Parks Assoc.	VIC
Youth Wildlife Ambassadors	Parks for people	Phillip Island Nature Parks	VIC
North of the Tully - endangered fauna corridors	Threatened species recovery	Brettacorp	QLD

It is only through the generosity of FNPW supporters that important conservation projects such as these can be undertaken.

The Red-tailed Phascogale (Phascogale calura) was once wide-spread across southern Australia, but is now limited to a 'triangle' in south-west WA.

Loss of habitat (wandoo / sheoak woodland) and predation by feral and domestic cats have been catastrophic for the species, and it is now listed as Endangered.

Thanks to dedicated efforts by a number of conservation groups and individuals over the past decade, the future for Red-tailed Phascogales is improving. Community awareness has increased, as have sightings (including breeding reports).

However, there is still a long way to go to protect this iconic arboreal mammal.

The aim of this community conservation project is to continue to raise awareness, improve the availability of nesting / breeding spaces and to reduce predation by cats. The project builds on significant work by Katanning Landcare, Wagin-Woodanilling Landcare, Bush Heritage Australia, the South West Catchments Council and Wheatbelt NRM over many years - projects which have included awareness raising, environmental fencing, revegetation, predator control, nest box construction and installation, and community reporting.

An on-line Phascogale Nest Box Monitoring Survey portal has been developed and will continue to be used for community members to monitor and report usage of their nest boxes - giving important data on species distribution and population.



Backyard Buddies

An educational initiative of FNPW

Create a Habitat Haven this Spring

A native yard will help create connectivity between patches of habitat for the safe movement of indigenous birds and animals.

A well positioned bird bath provides these Yellow-faced Honeyeaters fresh drinking water and a chance to rid their feather from dust. Why not install one in your garden?

Australia's native fauna are far outnumbered by our diversity of flora. Including plants such as conifers, ferns, mosses and plant algae, Australia is home to over 24,000 species – and that is only the species that have been identified so far. We have over 18,000 species of flowering plants alone!

Local native plants are easy to grow, are adapted to the extremes of our climate, and can offer a lot of colour and texture to make your garden wonderful for you and your Backyard Buddies.

What do I need?

- You don't need a big backyard to make a big difference. Creating a habitat haven is a creative process and there's often a number of different ways to make a wildlife friendly feature for your garden.
- You may already have a lot of items lying around that can help wildlife. Terracotta pipes are great places for lizards to rest. A plastic children's paddling pool can make a perfect frog pond, and instead of binning those pesky gum leaves or jacaranda flowers that just keep falling, they can make great mulch.

Plants

- Choose plants that are indigenous to where you live. Most councils should have a list of these plants and they might even have a native nursery where you can buy them. The Atlas of Living Australia is another way to find out about local plants.
- Plant shrubs and grasses in dense clumps. This provides protective habitat for more vulnerable species.

Maintenance

- Encourage natural pest controllers into your garden, like ladybirds to eat aphids and microbats to eat large quantities of flying insects including mosquitoes, or Blue-tongue Lizards to gobble up snails.
- Many native plants and animals are susceptible to illness and death from pesticides, herbicides, and poisons – so keep these out of your garden.



Pets

- Remember to keep your cats indoors or in a cat run, especially at night when they hunt the most.
- Keep dogs in a secure yard, away from the base of trees if possible, so they can't attack possums, Koalas and snakes, etc.
- And don't feed the wildlife. Feeding native animals mince meat, bread or sunflower seeds can make them very sick, artificially inflate their population, and make them more susceptible to disease.

Be a Backyard Buddy

It's easy. All you have to do is care... and take a few simple steps. Backyard Buddies are the native plants and animals that share our urban areas, waterways, backyards and parks. Backyard Buddies are also the people who value native wildlife and want to protect it.

Find out more about your Buddies:
www.facebook.com/backyardbuddies

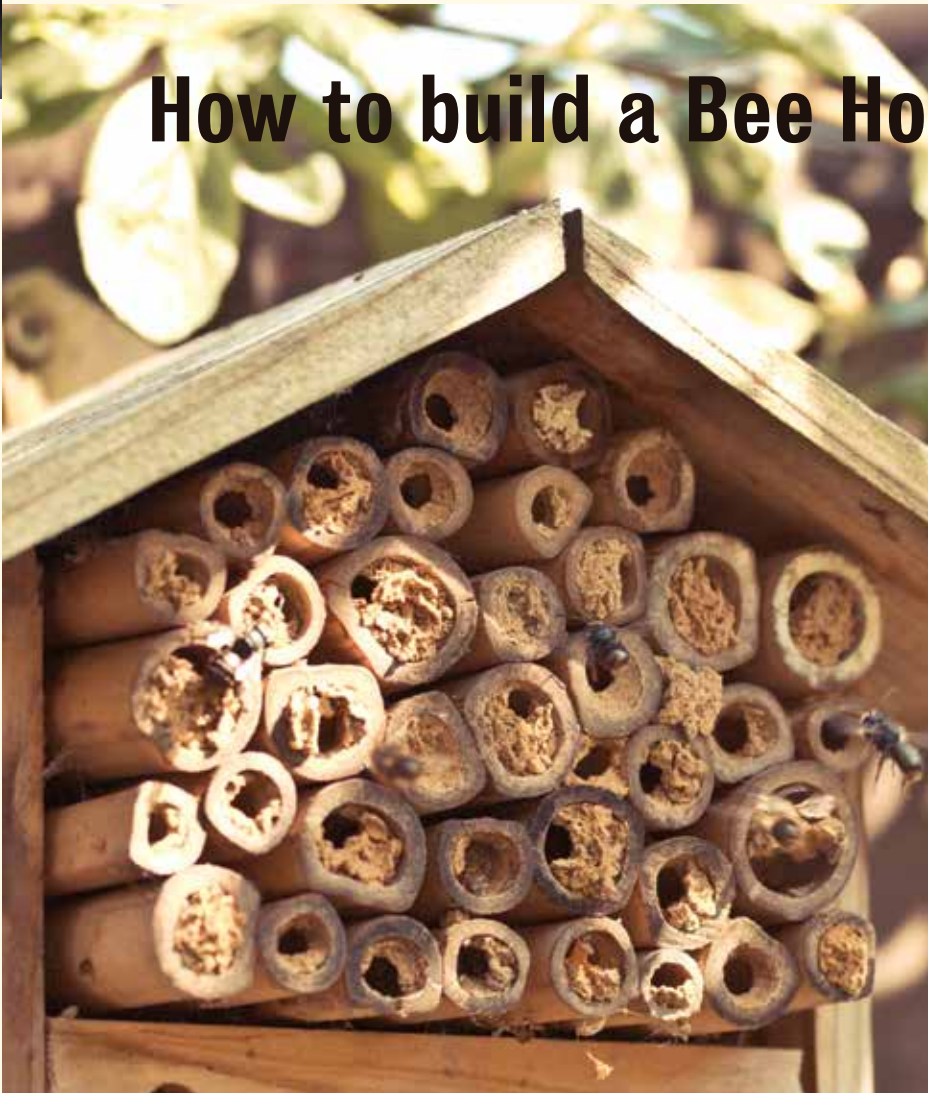


Planting native species will attract native birds like Rainbow Lorikeets.



A Brush-tailed Possum peeps out of its Backyard Buddy possum box.

How to build a Bee Hotel



- If you have tree stumps or logs, drilling holes in them is all you need to do. Drill the holes so the entrance faces sideways, not straight up. No logs? Any offcuts of timber will do, but make sure they have not been chemically treated.
- Small nests on the ground can be easily constructed with twigs, bark and wire to hold them together. Locate them out of the way, so they are not destroyed by birds or people or your dog trampling all over them.
- Lengths of bamboo are an excellent choice, as the entrance is just the right size for bees. Seal one end so they feel safe enough to lay eggs. Around 15 to 20cm long is perfect.
- Cement breezeblocks and bricks with holes in them are very simple hotels as long as one side is sealed - use a natural material like clay, mud or even mulch or dead leaves - not superglue.

Trails for Tails

Encouraging site-based management to mitigate threats and restore habitat, will assist in maintaining Threatened Ecological Communities in NSW's Yabba, Toonumbar, Border Ranges and Nightcap National Parks.

Albert's Lyrebird (*Menura alberti*) is uniquely identifiable by its elaborate tail of glossy black and silver plumes. They are also remarkable mimics, giving calls resembling other rainforest species as well as man-made sounds such as cars and chainsaws.

The total population of Albert's Lyrebird is estimated at 3,500 breeding birds (across NSW and Queensland) and is likely to be declining based on documented data. The leading cause of population decline is the fragmentation and isolation of suitable habitats.

With the majority of Albert's Lyrebird and the vulnerable Marbled Frogmouth (*Podargus ocellatus*) distribution being outside of protected National Parks, private lands containing good areas of connecting habitat are likely to be important to the survival of these species and maintenance of their geographical range.

FNPW's Trails for Tails project involves:

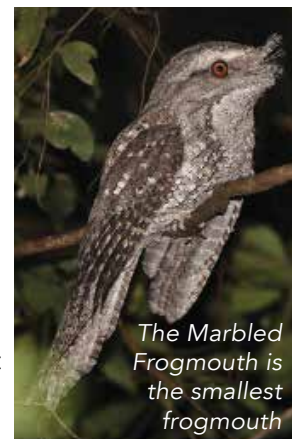
- Workshops and mentoring focusing on weed



The Albert's Lyrebird is rarer than the Superb Lyrebird and lacks the lyre-shaped tail feathers.

identification and control, native plant propagation and bush regeneration techniques.

- Wildlife camera monitoring and data recording, fire awareness, wildlife friendly fencing, and feral animal monitoring and control.
- Undertaking baseline surveys on selected properties and establishing an ongoing mentoring program for landholders.
- Data collation and reporting to deliver threat assessments and improved knowledge around patterns of movement and population health.



The Marbled Frogmouth is the smallest frogmouth

Connect to Protect



Squirrel Gliders are often mistaken for the common, smaller Sugar Glider.

Targeted interventions will focus on preventing further population decline and ensuring the long-term persistence of threatened species across the Gillindich-Wyangala landscape.

The Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), the Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and the Scarlet Robin (*Petroica boodang*) are all listed as threatened in NSW, and are now the focus of a community-based initiative aimed at securing these species in the wild for 100 years.

The Petaurus Connections project (named after the charismatic Squirrel Glider) will build on the success of the Kanangra-Boyd to Wyangala Link (K2W) BushConnect program.

Ecologists will work alongside field naturalists and community members to undertake a comprehensive study of the project area, helping to bridge knowledge gaps, assess habitat condition and threats and establish a record of resident species.

The project team will also work with local landholders, offering training and incentives to enhance and protect habitat, manage pests and weeds, undertake fencing and revegetation works, and ongoing monitoring.

The work undertaken to secure the future for these threatened species will also benefit a host of other species and improve biodiversity and productivity across the region.

Reconnecting Nectar-Lovers

Little is known about the movement patterns and local habitat use of nectivorous birds, while formal records of their presence on a local scale are sparse in a number of important districts.

A concerted effort is needed to build knowledge about the location and habitat use of threatened nectivorous species.

This co-funded Saving Our Species project will target a core set of recovery strategies shared by several nectivorous bird species: Painted and Black-chinned honeyeaters, Little Lorikeet, Swift Parrot, and Dusky Woodswallow. Associated benefits will likely extend to other species (eg. Regent Honeyeater, Grey-headed Flying Fox, Squirrel Glider, Brown Treecreeper).

The project will use Birdlife Australia's highly successful "Birds on Farms" model to address a significant knowledge gap about the health of woodland bird populations on private land in southern NSW.

Through a program of engagement with the local community, conservation agencies, researchers and landholders in the Southwest Slopes, the



The Black-chinned Honeyeater is the largest Melithreptus honeyeater on the mainland.

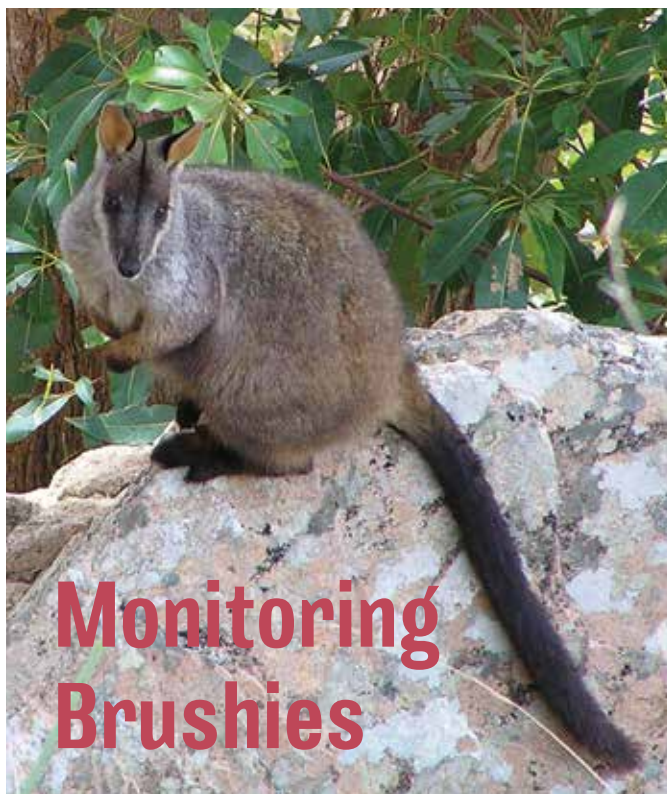
project will target the on-ground restoration and enhancement of core habitat and foraging areas by:

- Encouraging the targeted management of key food resources and other habitat resources (hollow-bearing trees, understory structure, etc.) to ensure sites remain viable to support transit stops and breeding sites at key times of the year.
- Preparing for infill plantings and other active site restoration in priority locations where outcomes can be maintained and enhanced through ongoing effort; and
- A program of survey and mapping activities to encourage communities to become more aware of the importance of their district for supporting often poorly-recognised threatened species.



These three projects have been supported by the New South Wales Government's Saving our Species program.





Monitoring Brushies

Life is tough for the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and impacts on their available habitat have caused this iconic species to disappear from much of the southern and western part of its range.

Brushies must also cope with introduced predators and competition from feral goats, sheep and rabbits. Consequently, the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby is listed as Endangered in NSW and Threatened in Victoria.

Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies (*Petrogale penicillate*) can be found in fragmented populations from southeast Queensland to the Grampians in Western Victoria. They live on rocky escarpments, granite outcrops and cliffs, which have caves and ledges for shelter and face north for warmth.

In 2018, FNPW funded a project to monitor rock wallaby populations at three colonies in the NSW Southern Highlands. Extensive predator control was also undertaken on both private and public land to reduce the threat of predation on the wallabies.

By the end of the year there were 26 adults and 17 pouch young in the population which was an increase from previous years. Community support was integral to the project with landowners providing access for surveys and pest control.

Funds provided by FNPW also enabled eight education events with over 300 participants, including many school children. It is expected that the knowledge gained by students during this program will be carried forward with them through their life and shape their understanding of the importance of protecting threatened species.

Planting trees for you in SA

Deep Creek Conservation Park contains some of the last remaining heath and stringy bark open forest on SA's Fleurieu Peninsula, and of She-Oak, Pink Gum woodland, once home to the Glossy Black-Cockatoo.



Once a prized source of firewood and stock feed during droughts, drooping sheoaks were selectively cleared across the SA landscape, destroying habitat for the glossy blacks. Rabbit grazing prevented the sheoaks from regenerating and with no food for survival, the Glossy Black-Cockatoo disappeared from mainland South Australia.

Deep Creek is also home to an array of native wildlife such as the Southern brown Bandicoot, Short-beaked Echidna and Southern Emu-wren, as well as another 100 species of birds and reptiles.

Using funds contributed by FNPW supporters through our Plant A Tree For Me program, the goal of this project was to establish 2,000 Allocasuarina Verticulata trees to enhance habitat at Blowhole Beach, creating a stepping stone that will hopefully bring Glossy Blacks back to the region.

The re-establishment of She-Oak woodlands will also provide additional food source and habitat for other regionally rare species such as Firetails.

You can support this and other FNPW tree planting projects by donating at www.plantatreeforme.org.au



FNPW needs your help to continue our vital work. Please donate today

I would like to support FNPW's ongoing conservation work by donating:

- ☐ \$20 per month ☐ My choice \$ _____ per month
☐ \$60 one-off donation ☐ \$80 one-off donation ☐ \$40 one-off donation
☐ \$100 one-off donation ☐ My choice \$ _____ one-off donation
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☐ I enclose my cheque (payable to Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife)
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or online at fnpw.org.au/donate**

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2. FNPW will withdraw only the amount that you have nominated in accordance with the direct debit request.
3. FNPW will send you a receipt within 30 days of the end of the financial year summarising your entire year's gifts for tax purposes.
4. The commencement date of your direct debit request will be on the date specified.
5. FNPW will keep information pertaining to your nominated account and financial institution private and confidential.
6. FNPW will respond to any enquiries and concerns.
7. You may ask FNPW to alter the terms of the direct debit request.
8. You can cancel your direct debit request by writing to FNPW stating your name, direct debit details and the reason for the change.
9. It is your obligation to be aware of any potential charges your financial institution may apply to direct debit transactions.
10. It is your obligation to ensure there is sufficient funds in your account each month.
11. It is your obligation to advise us if details of your bank account or financial institution change.

**Thank you for your
donation and
ongoing support.**

Wish you were here?

The wildflowers of Western Australia are as rare as they are spectacular with over 60% of the varieties only found in the West.

They can be seen and enjoyed from July to November.



**Foundation for
National Parks
& Wildlife**

**When you have finished reading PAWS
please share it with your family,
friends and community.**

Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife

ABN 90 107 744 771

FNPW is the charity partner of Australia's National Parks. We're a non-government organisation on a mission to protect Australia's ecosystems and native species for generations to come.

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Post GPO Box 2666, Sydney NSW 2001

Phone 1800 898 626

Email fnpw@fnpw.org.au

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