

# PAWS

SPRING 2016

Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife

Bringing Parks &  
People Together

Saving WA's Plants  
from Extinction

Searching for  
the Tiger Quoll



Foundation for  
National Parks  
& Wildlife





National Parks are the landscapes of some of our best memories. Front page: FNPW is focussing on making National Parks more accessible for everyone to enjoy. Photo: Nathan Deutschbein. This page: Construction work being carried out on the Maatsuyker Lighthouse in Tasmania. Photo: Marina Campbell. Back page: Rangers are helping protect habitat for Olive Pythons and Northern Quolls in the Millstream Chichester National Park. Photo: Matt Francey.

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## Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife

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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# FNPW: Creating parks, saving species



**Natural wonders.**  
Beautiful wild acacias  
blooming in winter.  
Photo: Melanie Wagner.



# Welcome to your new SUPPORTER MAGAZINE

We're proud to work with you to safeguard wilderness & wildlife for future generations.

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To our regular supporters and readers, thank you for your on-going support and welcome to our new PAWS newsletter. To the new readers picking up our magazine for the first time, we hope you enjoy learning more about the important work we're doing here at the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife (FNPW).

I have only been in the role of FNPW's CEO since March but in this time I have really enjoyed learning more about FNPW and all the projects that our organisation is currently working on. There is so much going on here at FNPW. We're proud to announce that we now have a brand new website up and running which we encourage you to check out. We've also got a new logo that still has our Koala mascot but better represents our organisation. And of course there is this new look for our supporter magazine PAWS.

Your support achieves amazing things. As you will see in this magazine, FNPW supports a wide range of projects from improving parks for people, to helping species avoid extinction. We have selected just a few of our most recent projects to highlight in this spring PAWS. You can read about the successes of Kangaroo Island's bandicoot monitoring, the amazing restoration of a significant Australian lighthouse, and see how FNPW are improving visitor experiences of our National Parks.

**National Parks are our special  
sanctuaries for wildlife and people.  
FNPW is committed to bringing those  
two together for a better future.**

Kind regards,



Ian Darbyshire,  
CEO Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife



Two young sisters are creating waves for Manly's Little Penguins.

The Little Penguin (above) breeding colony in Manly is endangered. Photo: Alyson Boyer-Rode.

Swiss sisters, Anne-Sophie and Marie-Christine (middle) are fundraising for their favourite penguins. Photo: Carole (Mum).

The two sisters were rewarded for their fundraising efforts when FNPW and Taronga Zoo organised a feeding day at the zoo for them (right). Photo: Sarah Ellington.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Making a donation is a wonderful way to support Australian conservation. Raising funds through your own event or initiative is also an amazing way to contribute. For a little inspiration, check out this fantastic fundraising effort from two of Manly's sweetest girls.

**O**ur names are Anne-Sophie and Marie-Christine and we come from Switzerland. We relocated to Australia in 2014, because we love the nature, the space, the climate, the outdoor lifestyle and all the exotic animals! We chose to live in Manly, because of the beautiful beaches, the good schools and the closeness to nature.

And we were not disappointed! We spent as much time as possible at the beaches in Manly when we just arrived and we saw seals, dolphins, lizards and even a Little Penguin—so cool! But we also saw all the rubbish left on the beaches and learned how dangerous this is for all the animals and we told our parents that we wanted to help to protect these animals, especially those cute little Little Penguins.





## We knew that more has to, and can be, done here in Manly to protect the Little Penguins.

Locals, but also all the thousands of tourists who visit Manly every year, need to be aware of the Little Penguins in the area and be respectful of their needs. It was great to learn that the Penguin Wardens, who are supported by FNPW, do just this to keep the penguins safe.

We had the idea of selling some blue wristbands with the logo "Save the Manly NSW Penguins" and asked our parents to help us. They were so touched by our idea that they helped us out immediately.

Soon we had 1,000 of these wristbands, which we wanted to sell at school, in our neighbourhood, and as far and wide as we can. All the money we have raised will go towards helping the Little Penguins, including installing some cool penguin-bins, so people will put their rubbish in it and at the same time, they will get some information about the Little Penguins.

## We ended up raising almost \$5,000!

It was really easy to set up our fundraising page at Everyday Hero. If we can do it, you can too!

To find out how to smash your fundraising goals contact Emma Lipscombe at [elipscombe@fnpw.org.au](mailto:elipscombe@fnpw.org.au) or 0412 468 921.



Scan me to find out more about setting up an Everyday Hero page to raise funds for species conservation.





**Taking the office outdoors.** Top: Nielsen employees enjoying a day at Lane Cove National Park. Middle: PwC volunteers helping out on Shark Island in Sydney Harbour. Bottom: A volunteer from Nielsen helping with the planting. Photos: Odessa O'Brien.



# Workmates help out

Encourage your workplace to do a corporate volunteering day with FNPW. You'll get your hands dirty making a difference for conservation in a local National Park.

Since 2010 FNPW has run corporate volunteering days to help our National Parks.

Our National Parks take a lot of effort to maintain and look after. While the Park Rangers do amazing work managing everything from track maintenance to fire-fighting and bush regeneration, they can always do with some extra pairs of hands.

FNPW decided to help out our Rangers while also giving office workers a chance to stretch their legs, breathe in the fresh air and soak up some sun by running regular corporate volunteering days. To run these events, FNPW partners with NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, Landcare Australia, local bushcare and 'Friends of' groups and of course lots of companies from diverse industries.

**Companies that get involved in giving back to the environment send their volunteers to various National Parks.**

Volunteers help with weeding, protecting cultural heritage, and planting. Some of the places that are benefitting from all these pairs of hands are Lane Cove National Park, Shark Island, and Middle Head in Sydney Harbour National Park.

Corporate volunteers don't need any bush regeneration experience—just a willingness to learn while exploring and restoring some of our unique parks! Teams come away from their experience with a better understanding of the environment, the importance of National Parks and also new contacts and friends.

**If you're interested in getting involved, contact Development Manager, Odessa O'Brien**  
[odessa@fnpw.org.au](mailto:odessa@fnpw.org.au)  
 or (02) 9221 1949.



# How much can a KOALA BEAR?

FNPW has been working with Gai and Rob Waterhouse and other generous donors to conserve Koalas in NSW Southern Highlands.

*Written by Lea Stracey for Gai's Gazette.*

In the 16th edition of 'Gai's Gazette' Magazine, Susanna Bradshaw from FNPW wrote an article about Koalas in the Southern Highlands and the support given to the Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project by Gai and Rob Waterhouse.

Having recently purchased their country property two years ago, upon exploring the paddocks, you can imagine their surprise in discovering a Koala in a tree close to the entrance. Contact was made with FNPW and Gai and Rob chose to donate to one of the GPS tracking collars that facilitate satellite

tracking and monitor local Koalas.

Thanks in part to FNPW's fundraising efforts, 20 tracking collars have been monitoring Koalas throughout the Southern Highlands shire for the past ten months collecting location data every twelve hours. The next phase of the project is to analyse the data collected over the past ten months and then a report is to be written by the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage. Apparently, thus far, the Koalas in the east indicate interesting variations in home range size compared to those Koalas in the west of the shire.

A few weeks ago, Gai, Rob, friend Pennie Psaltis and Jessica Berry, Flying Start student accompanied Lachlan from the National Parks & Wildlife Service with his Koala tracking equipment through the "wilds" of the Southern Highlands countryside. Jessica takes up the story...

"During the few weeks that I shadowed Gai,

the expedition to search for Koalas was one of the biggest highlights. Particularly as an American having never seen a Koala in my life, it was a real treat to see such an iconic symbol of Australia in its natural habitat. We met Lachlan, our guide, bright and early at the farm and after a short drive into the forest we began our trek. I felt we were on a proper expedition following the chirps of the tracking radar and blazing a trail per its instructions down boulders, ravines and the bush of the Southern Highlands!

By the end of the morning we managed to view two Koalas, both deep within the wildest parts of the forest. The Koalas were surprisingly high up in the trees and difficult to spot! We got a good look through the binoculars though and managed to observe them snacking away, contentedly unaware of their audience.

I am thankful to Gai and Rob and Lachlan for such a wonderful experience and can hardly wait to return to Australia!

**Thank you!** FNPW thanks the amazing donors that contributed to this Koala conservation work.

Photo: Dr Dan Lunney.



# Tracking Bandicoots on Kangaroo Island

Caught on camera.  
This camera will gather  
data on Kangaroo  
Island's bandicoots.  
Inset: Project Manager,  
Robyn Molsher.



Thanks to the Broinowski Foundation, FNPW gave \$15,000 in 2015 to a monitoring program for the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot on South Australia's Kangaroo Island.

*This update from the field is from Robyn Molsher, Project Manager from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR).*

**T**he project began on Kangaroo Island (KI) in August 2015 and seeks to engage the community in surveying for endangered Southern Brown Bandicoots. This project is conducting surveys and providing training and information sessions on detecting bandicoots so that the KI community can help determine the distribution of the species.

These bandicoots were once widely distributed on the Australian mainland but are now restricted to Kangaroo Island and two areas on the mainland of

South Australia. A survey on the island in 1990 found the species was widespread where native vegetation remained but subsequent surveys failed to detect large numbers of the species. Anecdotal reports from the community indicate that the bandicoot is in decline.

The project has already had some great successes recording bandicoots on cameras in and around the town of Parndana and in some remote areas in the Flinders Chase National Park to the west of Kangaroo Island. A total of 86 people have been

involved in the project so far, assisting with surveys or attending one of the field days or seminars that have been held.

Camera trapping surveys have been conducted at 12 sites across the island with bandicoots detected at four of those sites. At one of the sites in the middle of Parndana, the bandicoots are so numerous that they are the main species detected on the cameras along with the occasional wallaby, possum, rat and cat.

Natural Resources  
Kangaroo Island, Wildlife  
Project Manager, Robyn



Molsher, said "because of the high numbers of bandicoots detected, we have been able to obtain information on their bait preference and the times when activity is highest which is really useful for other studies."

**There were once eight  
different species of  
bandicoot in South Australia.  
Now there is just one.**

"It was also great to see adults with their young which showed that the bandicoots are actively breeding in this area."

This project will continue to raise awareness of the bandicoots in the community through talks and surveys and will analyse the thousands of photos it has already obtained. This project is also contributing to the taxidermy of a roadkill specimen which will be a great visual aid for the school talks and seminars. The project is due to complete in December 2016.

For further information on this project and how to get involved, contact Robyn Molsher [robyn.molsher@sa.gov.au](mailto:robyn.molsher@sa.gov.au)

*Scan me to learn more  
about this bandicoot  
conservation project.*



### **Kangaroo Island locals are helping save their Southern Brown Bandicoot from extinction.**

(Above right from top). Project Manager, Robyn Molsher meeting with local landholders to investigate bandicoot sightings.

One of the community training days where locals learn how they can get involved in this citizen science project for bandicoots.

The bait trap cameras capture a photo of a female bandicoot with her young.

All photos in this article: DEWNR.





## CULTURAL HERITAGE

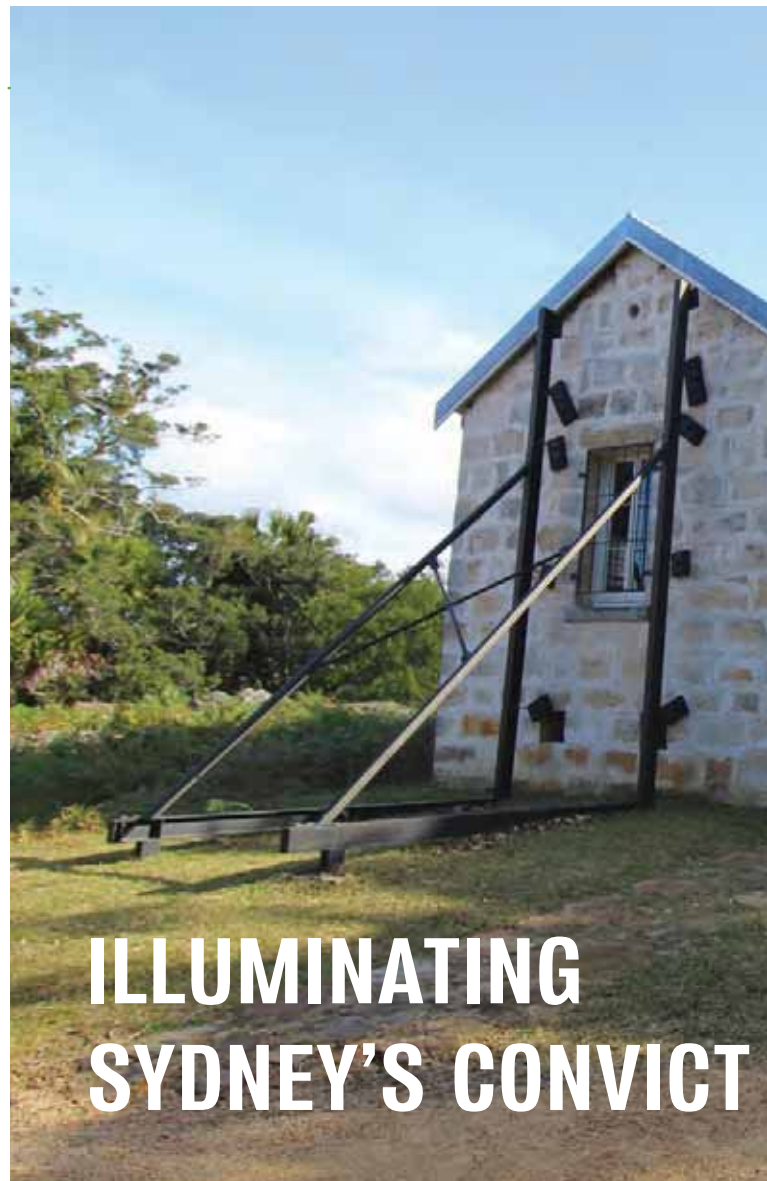
To showcase the oldest sandstone building in Sydney's Sutherland Shire, FNPW gave \$15,000 for visitor information panels and to improve the walking track access to the site.

**C**harles Gogerly and his brother William were found guilty of theft in 1817 in England and sentenced to transportation for life to the distant colony of New South Wales. The two teenager's stories have become part of Australia's European cultural heritage.

After being pardoned in 1840 Charles Gogerly went on to become the publisher and printer of a satirical newspaper. When he printed an article deemed to be too inappropriate, he was imprisoned for 12 months. When released, he sought out the peace and quiet of remote Port Hacking to raise his 12 children.

In 1853 Charles Gogerly bought 22 acres of land for just £85 in what is now the northern part of the Royal National Park alongside the Port Hacking River. While Charles is the first well-documented owner of the house, he was not the one who built the cottage. It is believed the cottage was built earlier than 1840.

Before the restoration works began in 2005, Gogerly's Cottage had fallen into disrepair as it hadn't been lived in for a long time. It had also lost a few of its original features such as the verandah so it was not an accurate representation of the early cottage. Restoration works by the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service have brought new life to the convict's former residence. While undertaking restorations on the cottage, impressive architectural elements and different layers of wallpaper from different eras of Australia were uncovered.



## ILLUMINATING SYDNEY'S CONVICT

Much of this fascinating history is now displayed for visitors in the information panels that were installed with the grant from FNPW.







## HERITAGE

### Bringing an old convict cottage back to life.

Left: New signage helping visitors understand local convict history.

Above: The oldest sandstone building in the Sutherland Shire—Gogerly's Cottage.

Right: Whale watching from the Royal National Park is a great family day out. All photos in this story: Melanie Wagner.

They feature images of the previous owners and what the cottage used to look like. The neighbouring Hilltop Cottage was built in 1912 and has also received a new sign explaining its history to visitors.

Hilltop Cottage and Gogerly's Cottage both receive regular visitors as Hilltop Cottage is rented out by the National Parks & Wildlife Service for tourist accommodation. For the safety and convenience of visitors to the area, the grant from FNPW was also used to create a better path between the cottages and also down to the river. New stairs were created and sections were cleared to improve access for visitors coming to enjoy the surrounding National Park. You can visit the site and stay in the nearby accommodation any time of year.

## Head outdoors

Explore the Royal National Park and see this project in person.

**T**he Royal National Park has a long history in Australia. In 1879 it was declared Australia's first National Park (second in the world) and has therefore been an important oasis for wildlife ever since. Nestled next to Australia's largest and constantly growing city—Sydney, the Royal has been able to help protect species such as the Eastern Pygmy-possum and the Spotted-tailed Quoll.

It's a great time to get out to visit the Royal at the moment as winter and spring see the Humpback Whales swimming south with their new born calves. So take your binoculars and cameras and walk along the Coastal Track to spot whales and the wildlife within the park.





# SPOTLIGHT ON Spotted-tailed Quolls

Spotted-tailed Quolls have declined to just 50% of their pre-European range. This project aims to find out if they remain in the Monaro.

*This update from the field is from Dr Andrew Claridge, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.*

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**T**he Spotted-tailed Quoll is the largest native marsupial carnivore left on the Australian mainland.

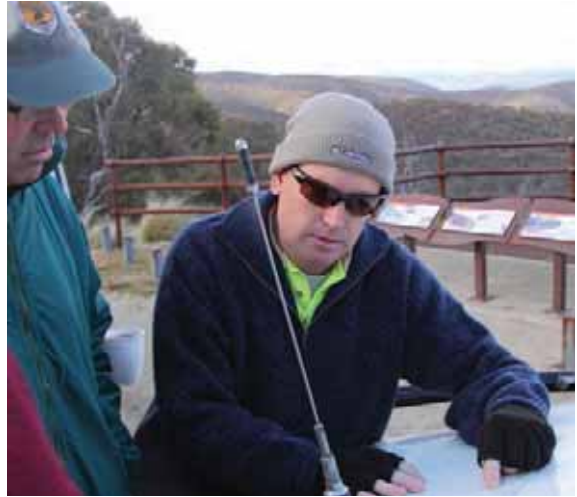
In southern New South Wales the quoll's status is still mostly uncertain, particularly away from major expanses of timbered country including Kosciuszko National Park and along the coastal escarpment.

There is actually no information to suggest that the species persists in the fragmented timbered landscape that is typical along the edge of the Monaro Tablelands.

**Commencing in autumn 2016, a new project funded by FNPW will aim to survey for the species.**

Surveys will be conducted in the fragmented timber landscapes, including private tenures, to establish where quolls still occur. The sites recorded during this program will hopefully form part of a broader regional network of places where the ongoing status of quolls can be re-measured over time against a backdrop of different land management activities.

The general landscape in which the study is taking place is well known to me. Having conducted extensive studies for quolls



elsewhere in southern New South Wales, a logical geographic gap in sampling became apparent.

Preliminary surveys in some areas around the fringe of the Monaro, done in conjunction with other NPWS staff as well as private landholders, have shown promise with new records of quolls obtained.

Through the next two winters, myself and my colleagues and volunteers will use a combination of remote infrared cameras and mapping of latrine sites to detect quolls in key areas around the Monaro.

Latrine sites are discrete places in the landscape that quolls repeatedly return to and deposit scats—for communication purposes. Latrine sites tend to be on flat surfaces such as rocks and the tops of logs. In short, quolls will be recorded through indirect rather than direct means such as trapping. This means it's better for both the animal and quoll researcher!

The success of the project will be measured by a number of factors including the number of new localities discovered, the range of land tenures visited for surveying, the involvement of private landholders, and improving awareness and understanding of quolls in the community.





**Stay tuned over the next year to hear what the findings show. There may well be some previously unknown quoll populations to report on.**

**The race is on to discover whether quolls remain in southern NSW.**

Left: Dr Andrew Claridge with staff and volunteers preparing for survey work in the Monaro, NSW.  
Photo: Lucy Morell.

Above left: The Spotted-tailed Quoll is Australia's largest marsupial carnivore on the mainland.  
Photo: Kathy (Flickr).

Above right: Loo with a view where the quolls leave their scats as a form of communication with other quolls nearby. Photo: Andrew Claridge.

Above: Infrared cameras are being used to observe quolls without having to trap and handle them.  
Photo: Andrew Claridge.



# CREATING QUOLL HABITAT

## On Private Land

'Quoll Headquarters' is the property of Steve Haslam, Private Land Conservation Grant (PLCG) recipient. Purchased over 10 years ago because of his love for the New England Tablelands in NSW, Steve made his property a Wildlife Refuge for the Spotted-tailed Quoll and other native animals.

*Written by Steve Haslam, Quoll Headquarters.*

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Quoll Headquarters already had a high concentration of habitat types on its 160 hectares including old growth eucalypt woodland, granite escarpment, heath and endangered upland swamp but one habitat type it didn't have was wetlands.



**That was until FNPW offered me a grant to help create a wetland in 2013.**

Several considerations were undertaken before deciding on the final plan of the wetland including what flora and fauna were affected within the flooding zone, underwater topography to provide varying depths and temperatures to suit a wide array of aquatic life and also landscaping or 'waterscaping' as I like to call it by providing habitat with logs, rocks and a range of locally endemic aquatic plants.

Broader consideration had to also be given to the impacts of the new visitors that this wetland may attract and what should be introduced in an attempt to balance this new ecosystem.

Once the design was approved, work soon commenced on this ambitious project by vastly extending the earth wall on an old farm dam within the property and shaping the final layout. Then we had the exciting moment of letting the water flow into this new area and watching the wetland grow.

Thanks to very favourable rain, the new wetland was full and overflowing within just three weeks!



## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

The Private Land Conservation Grants is a partnership initiative of the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife and funded by an alliance of not-for-profits and government agencies.

The Private Land Conservation Grants program has been offering grants to owners of properties protected under conservation agreements since 2008. To date, the program has provided more than \$1.6 million to support NSW private landholders undertaking conservation works on their own properties.

With the majority of land in Australia, including in New South Wales in private ownership, this conservation program is an important complement to the public National Park system. Importantly, private conservation land connects habitats across the state by creating wildlife corridors between National Parks, improving their resilience and integrity.

If you have a conservation agreement on your land and you would like to find out more about applying for these grants, you can email Grants Manager Jennie Morgan [jmorgan@fnpw.org.au](mailto:jmorgan@fnpw.org.au)



**Lending a helping hand to conservationists.**  
Above: Grants Manager for FNPW, Jennie Morgan visiting recent grant recipients, Trish and Werner Koch who are tackling invasive Blackberry on their property near Eugowra, NSW.

Three years on and the wetland continues to delight and surprise me. A vast amount of newly recorded species to Quoll Headquarters have decided to call this new ecosystem their home. This includes the Great Barred Frog, Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Australasian Grebe, Nankeen Night Heron and Azure Kingfisher.

## The most amazing and rewarding new resident of all is the Platypus!

It moved into the wetland just weeks after it was completed and is still there today. It was suggested a top order aquatic predator would be needed to balance the wetland so Murray Cod and Yellowbelly fingerlings were also introduced.

This project has been a truly great success and I would like to deeply thank FNPW along with their partners and generous individuals who help fund projects just like mine across Australia.

**When it comes to wildlife, build it and they will come.**

Previous page: Steve with one of the quolls being studied as part of ongoing monitoring on his Tenterfield property.

Top: Construction work begins on Steve's wetland to help supply permanent water to quolls and other animals.

Middle: It didn't take long before the local animals such as frogs began moving in and enjoying the wetland.

Right: Steve standing in his new wetland.



# RESTORING MAATSUYKER LIGHTHOUSE

**A good day for cleaning.** The Maatsuyker Lighthouse was the last lighthouse to be de-manned in Australia, as late as 1996. It is also the most intact pre-1900s lighthouse in Australia.

All photos: Marina Campbell.

There's cause to celebrate! Thanks to you, our incredible FNPW supporters, volunteers from the Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI) Wildcare Inc. and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service have conserved a significant site of Australia's heritage.

*Article written by Marina Campbell, Member of FOMI.*

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**T**he completed conservation and restoration works on the historic Maatsuyker Island lighthouse is a great achievement by all involved.

## Maatsuyker Island is Australia's most southerly lightstation.

In 1996, it was the last to be de-manned in Australia when a stand-alone automated beacon was installed. Maatsuyker Island has the most intact example of a pre-1900 lighthouse in Australia. It has essentially remained unchanged since it opened in 1891.

It is the only First Order lighthouse that has retained its original roller pedestal, upon which the light mechanism rotates. The lighthouse mechanism is also one of the few original mechanisms in working order and in situ.

Planning and preparation for this work has been underway since 2014. FOMI is grateful to FNPW and the many other



supporters that helped this major four-week project come to fruition in March 2016.

During a period of (mainly!) unseasonably fine weather, essential works were completed. This included waterproofing the lighthouse dome and lantern, corrosion management, and painting the exterior of the lighthouse. For this, we have three amazing lighthouse restorers and painters to thank—Mark Sheriff, Mick McNamara and Brian Burford.

A FOMI exhibition at the Maritime Museum of Tasmania, also funded by the FNPW grant, promoted the importance of the lighthouse station and explained the preservation works that were being undertaken. This exhibition opened in January 2016.

For more information on FOMI, our other Maatsuyker projects (on and off-island), or how to get involved please contact [wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com](mailto:wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook.

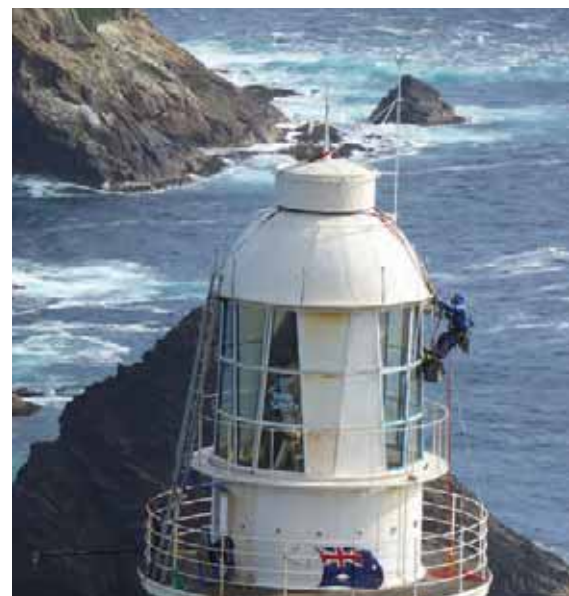
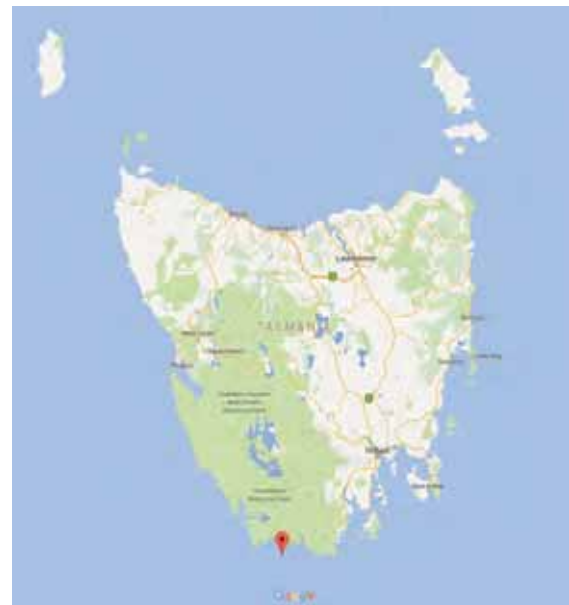
**FOMI would like to thank  
FNPW for supporting this  
important cultural heritage  
conservation work.**

**In late 2015 the Friends of Maatsuyker Island  
Wildcare Inc. (FOMI) approached FNPW for financial  
assistance to bring a part of the island's cultural  
heritage back to its former glory.**

Photo top: The amazing final result of the lighthouse restoration works. The gleaming white Maatsuyker Lighthouse has come a long way from the rusting decay it was experiencing just a few months ago.

Photo middle: The Maatsuyker Lighthouse is way down south in Tassie.

Photo bottom: During the dramatic restoration work.





## Natural wonders.

Left: Ngurrawaana Rangers, DPaW staff, and local Yindjibarndi people have teamed up to remove Stinking Passionflower. Right: The vulnerable Olive Python will have improved breeding grounds thanks to this project. Photos: DPaW.

Thanks to Aurizon Community Giving Fund who gave \$15,000 to a conservation project bringing together a team of local traditional owners with parks staff in order to help threatened species recovery in the Millstream Chichester National Park.

**A**n introduced pest is taking over parts of Millstream Chichester National Park (MCNP). This project is helping to control some of the Stinking Passionflower, *Passiflora foetida* weed within parts of MCNP.

Controlling the Stinking Passionflower will help to protect the Pilbara Olive Python's, *Morelia olivaceus barroni* breeding grounds and the Northern Quoll's, *Dasyurus hallucatus* habitat and food sources.

The Pilbara Olive Python is listed as Vulnerable under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)* and as a species that is Rare or Likely to become Extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act (1950)*.

**The Olive Python is culturally important to the Yindjibarndi people as a traditional food source and through mythological narratives and Law song cycles.**

The Northern Quoll is Australia's smallest quoll species and listed as "Endangered" under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*.

Both Olive Python and Northern Quoll habitat is restricted within the Pilbara region in Western Australia, amongst rocky escarpments and gorges next to permanent or semi-permanent waterholes and rivers.



The Olive Python and Northern Quoll populations of the Pilbara are genetically and ecologically important because they are separated from more northern occurrences of these species.

### They conserve genetic diversity and may be less vulnerable to the spread of the introduced Cane Toad.

Stinking Passionflower is a scrambling vine that invades the habitat types utilised by Olive Pythons and quolls. In these unique environments passionflower can create dense vine 'mats' at ground level or climb into vegetation, smothering understorey plants and providing fuel ladders for fires to reach into the canopies of trees.

Passionflower has created a significant increase in flammable biomass, making wildfires far more destructive. It also greatly reduces invertebrate diversity and abundance which has the potential to reduce available insect prey for the Northern Quolls.

MCNP falls entirely within the traditional country of the Yindjibarndi people and this project will be carried out by the

Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) staff in conjunction with the Ngurrawaana Ranger Team, a group of ten Yindjibarndi men and women located at the Ngurrawaana Community.

The project scope includes the manual application of herbicide to 21 hectares of passionflower at Cliff Lookout (Warrungunha) using methods developed at Millstream in previous control efforts.

Cliff Lookout is a long rocky escarpment overlooking a permanent pool in the bed of the Fortescue River. Cliff Lookout has been identified as a key breeding ground for the Olive Python in previous studies by DPaW and a preferred habitat type for the Northern Quoll.

Cliff Lookout is also a key tourist node and an important Yindjibarndi cultural site. The pool at the base of Cliff Lookout is a Murlurnmunyjurna Wurndu (Crossing Pool) and was an important camping site for the Yindjibarndi.

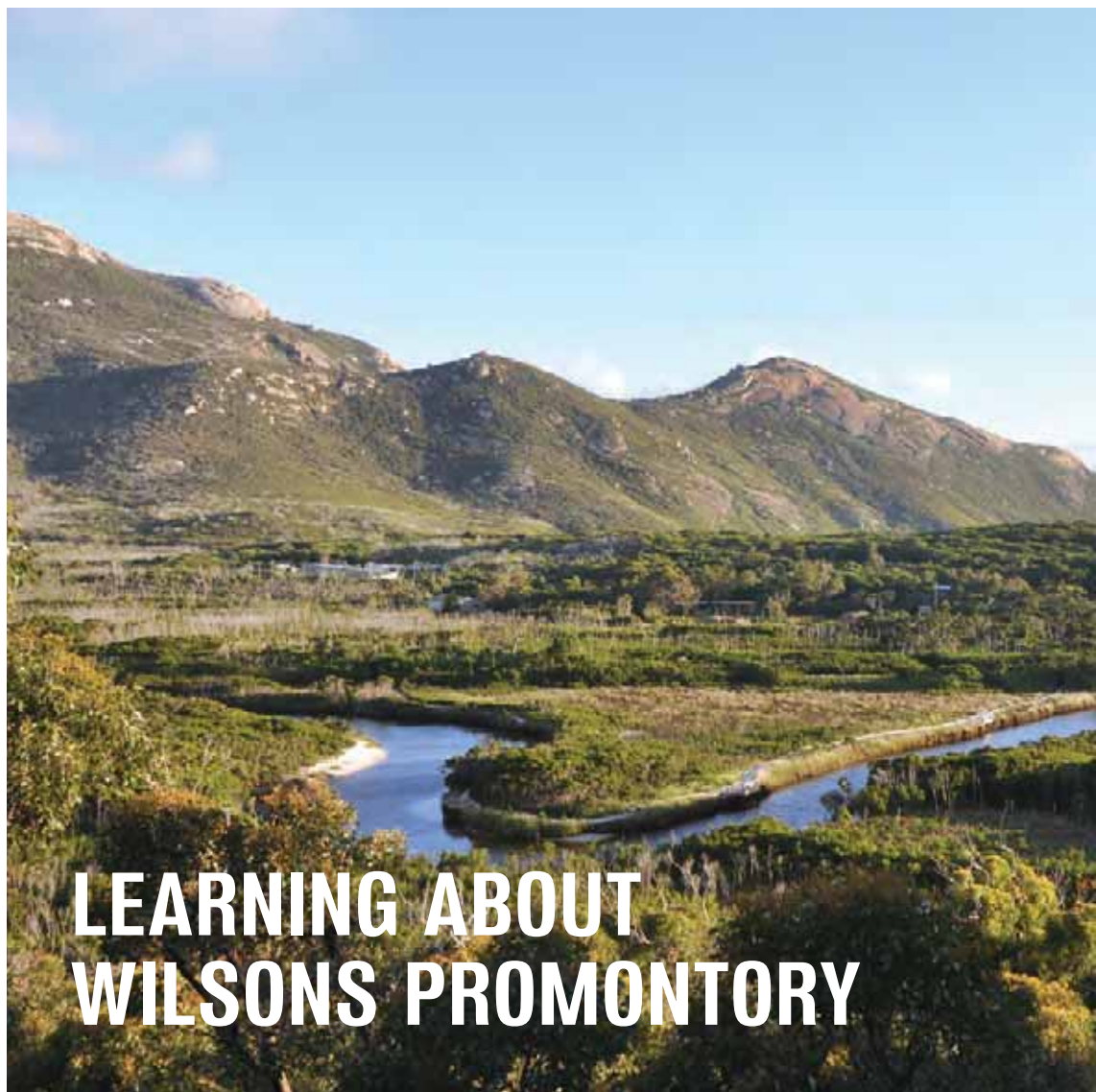
While other pools within the Fortescue River are taboo for swimming and fishing due to the presence of the Warlu (Rainbow Serpent), Murlurnmunyjurna is not taboo and was therefore a key area for habitation in the past.



**Wilsons Prom.**

The Tidal River Visitors Centre will be receiving new interpretive signs to help increase visitor experience.

Photo: Melissa Nichols. Right: Gang Gang Cockatoos are just some of the attractions to the area. Photo: David Cook.



## LEARNING ABOUT WILSONS PROMONTORY

The installation of new interpretation and information displays in the Visitors Centre at Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory National Park (WPNP) will provide improved interpretation and therefore knowledge in regard to and protection of the unique terrestrial and marine values of WPNP.

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**T**he Visitors Centre, located at the main camping and accommodation area within WPNP, Tidal River, was heavily damaged by flooding in March 2011.

The old interpretive displays and information panels were destroyed and were unable to be replaced due to significant infrastructure damage to visitor accommodation and facilities elsewhere that took funding priority. Consequently the funds were limited to only reinstating the salvageable interpretations.

Since the floods, there has been a lack of natural and cultural interpretation material





within the WPNP Visitor Centre. Visitors do not have access to the type of information, knowledge and inspiration to encourage them to explore, discover, appreciate and protect the National Park.

**To help improve visitor experiences at Wilsons Promontory National Park, FNPW granted \$15,000 to Parks Victoria to create new interpretive and educational materials.**



**It is hoped the project will significantly improve visitor experience, and increase the potential of Tidal River as a major destination for nature based tourism.**

Visitors will now be able to appreciate the complex management approach required to control invasive Coastal Tea Tree into the park's rare vegetation community of Coastal Grassy Woodland.

The interpretive signs will promote boating hygiene in relation to the recently discovered Pacific Sea Star—a nationally prohibited aquatic pest that was discovered within the estuary of Tidal River. The main access to the river being less than 500 m from the visitors centre which means this is an ideal place to begin communication on boating threats.

Key messages will also be communicated about wombat ecology and appropriate visitor behaviour. For example, visitors should avoid feeding wombats and put food in their cars overnight. This will improve both the visitor experience and protect the wildlife.

Parks Victoria will be surveying visitors about these visitor centre improvements prior to project commencement, during works and after the project is completed to assess visitors appreciation of the new interpretive material.



**Working together for conservation.** Helping protect cultural and environmental heritage at the Hunter Wetlands National Park with the involvement of traditional owners, corporate volunteers and the Hunter community. Photo: Boyd Carney. Inset: Doug Beckers.

A newly acquired land addition to the Hunter Wetlands National Park has a remnant dune system that needs protecting.

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**T**he dune system is considered to be an aboriginal walking trail by the Worimi community and contains a large number of artefacts. However this site is heavily degraded due to previous agricultural use.

**To help improve the habitat on this dune system as well as protect the significant cultural heritage, FNPW granted \$15,000 to this conservation project.**

Through partnering with the Local Aboriginal Land Council, this project

is engaging traditional owners in the protection of these artefacts, while at the same time increasing the resilience of high quality vegetation and improving the wildlife corridor habitat.

Exotic weeds and pasture grasses are presently the dominant vegetation. The project would control existing weeds and reintroduce native vegetation back onto the site. Much of the weeding and revegetation activities are being carried out by the local Worimi Green Team.

Protecting the majority of the cultural artefacts has been proposed through a burial and planting program. This project is also providing a platform for two aboriginal trainees to undertake on-the-ground training in both cultural and environmental activity.

There was a recent community planting day held on World Environment Day (June 5th) with Worimi team members and young Green Army volunteers planting over 2,500 native plants. This day greatly assisted with the revegetation works and helped engage the community in aboriginal cultural and environmental awareness.



# Gaol Time

Trial Bay Gaol, within Arakoon National Park, is a State Heritage Listed historic site located on the mid-north coast of NSW. It is significant for its historic, scenic, research, community and tourism values.

**T**rial Bay Gaol is a very special place. Besides being a rare example of a Public Works Prison from 1886 to 1903, the Gaol housed a German Concentration Camp for Enemy Aliens from 1915-18 during World War I. Later it became a popular holiday and picnic site, all the while maintaining its links with the local Aboriginal people.

The Trial Bay Gaol Museum was started by a local Trust in the 1980s and forms a core part of the site. Trial Bay Gaol Museum has over 500 objects, 2000 photographs and an estimated 5000 documents that relate to the history of the site. These include a black and white photo collection from the German Concentration



**The history of Trial Bay Gaol.** Volunteers helping catalogue the museum collection into the online database. Photo: Lela Green.

Camp period which is of international significance.

FNPW granted \$14,520 to the NSW North Coast Parks & Wildlife Service to protect, preserve and document the irreplaceable heritage collection.

Elizabeth Broomhead, Historic Heritage Curator for the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) said "The Trial Bay Gaol collection is one of many hundreds of collections that we manage throughout NSW. In funding this project, FNPW has enabled the Gaol's collection to be included within our state wide project to document and record online all of the historic heritage objects and collections located in our Parks."

To make this heritage collection more accessible to the public, the NPWS applied to FNPW for a

Registrar to oversee the items being entered into a digital, web-based collection management system.

This information can then be made available to the public to produce temporary displays and to answer enquiries. The database will provide an alternative record should the original collection be impacted by disaster. It will also reduce the number of times documents and photographs are handled, thus protecting the originals.

**FNPW funding has already allowed the entering of over 250 objects into the online management system.**



**Incredible species in incredible places.** Left: Re-sprouting Spiral-fruited Wattle which survived a prescribed burn aimed at helping germinate their seeds. Photo: Leonie Monks.

## Saving Our Species

Using fire to grow back critically endangered plants in Western Australia.

*Article written by Leonie Monks, Department of Parks and Wildlife Western Australia.*

**I**n 1997 the Spiral-fruited Wattle, *Acacia cochlocarpa* subsp. *cochlocarpa* was listed as critically endangered. Endemic to Western Australia the two remaining

populations, with just 51 plants, were confined to a tiny remnant along a road verge, about 200 km north of Perth.

There was nowhere for the populations to expand and they were under constant threat from weed invasion, spray drift from adjacent farms and accidental destruction from road maintenance. So the West Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) made the decision to begin a recovery program for the Spiral-fruited Wattle, which included translocation.

Fast forward to 2014 and things were looking brighter for the Spiral-fruited Wattle. Survey effort had been rewarded with an additional three populations and three new translocated populations grown from seed had been established. However, the three new natural populations were all very small and located on road and rail verges—so in no better position than the original populations.

Furthermore our translocated populations, although large (830 plants across three populations) and located on conservation estates, had not yet recruited a second generation. For the translocations to be effective in helping save the species, not only did the plants need to successfully establish, a viable population needed to be created through natural recruitment. We knew from past research that this was unlikely to happen without fire.

So, with funding from FNPW, DPAW developed a plan to regenerate a population of the Spiral-fruited Wattle using fire.





Above: The new seedlings have emerged after the burn, showing the incredible success of the project.  
Inset: DPaW staff conducting the necessary burn to save this wattle species. All photos: Leonie Monks.

In early June 2015, a regeneration burn was undertaken by DPaW on one of the translocated populations. The site was fenced off after the burn to prevent herbivores such as kangaroos and rabbits grazing on any seedlings. Follow up rains straight after the burn raised our hopes that seedlings might germinate at the site. However, disappointingly a visit to the site, a couple of months later, found no sign of seedlings.

But another visit in October told a different story... we counted 952 seedlings that had come up after the fire and 15 adults that survived! An excellent result, but now the worry was whether the seedlings would make it through the long dry summer. Our hopes for the seedling's surviving were raised again when above

average rain was experienced across the region throughout the summer.

**On our return to the site in April 2016 we were delighted to see that not only did the 15 adult plants make it through summer, so did 785 seedlings.**

A great result for the project. We now wait patiently to see how these seedlings grow and whether they in turn will produce seed to ensure the translocated population is viable and help bring the Spiral-fruited Wattle back from the brink of extinction.

# NEW LOOK FOR FNPW



**Onwards and upwards!** In the organisation's 46th year, FNPW received a makeover to freshen up its image and grow its supporter base.



**Foundation for  
National Parks  
& Wildlife**

As part of the Strategic Growth Forecast that the FNPW Board of Directors developed, it was decided to bring about some necessary re-branding and create a new look.

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**A**fter many months of consultation, FNPW now has a brand new website, logo and magazine. We hope you enjoy our new design. Our logo is now much easier to read and recall, and our website is modernised and much more user-friendly.

The bold new colours, simple designs and more engaging graphics will hopefully inspire new audiences and generations to get involved so that FNPW can achieve the

mission to safeguard wilderness & wildlife for future generations.

The more positive awareness generated by this new look, the more amazing conservation projects FNPW can support.

Check out  
the new website at  
[www.fnpw.org.au](http://www.fnpw.org.au)  
Email [fnpw@fnpw.org.au](mailto:fnpw@fnpw.org.au)  
to let us know what  
you think!



# Backyard Buddies

How to make a simple nest box and bring native animals back to our towns and cities.

Most of Australia's land isn't found in National Parks or Local Council parks—it's privately owned. This means that in order to have the greatest positive impact on our local environment, we need to get Australia's residents talking about conservation in their own backyards. That's why FNPW runs the environmental education program, Backyard Buddies.

Backyard Buddies is full of tips on how to create habitat havens in suburban and rural properties. Backyard Buddies provides factsheets, such as this one, on how to make a nest box.

Nest boxes replicate natural shelters such as tree hollows. When making a nest box, make sure you use untreated



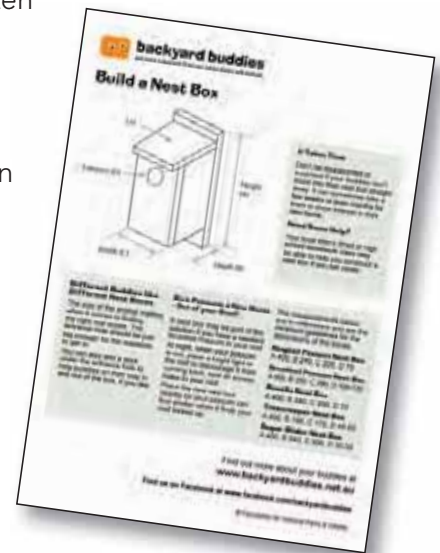
Nest boxes are fun, easy and cheap to make, and provide a home for many years to come. Photo: Melanie Wagner.

wood. Animals will often chew it and chemicals can harm them. The box should have drainage holes in the bottom and ventilation holes toward the top but not in the roof, or water will leak in.

Place the entrance hole near the top so that the bottom remains dark. Add 'toe holds' inside the box so young can climb out.

When attaching the lid or roof, use hinges so you can clean it out after breeding season.

For a nest box factsheet, head to the Backyard Buddies website: [www.backyardbuddies.net.au](http://www.backyardbuddies.net.au)



## NURTURE A LOVE OF NATURE IN YOUR CHILDREN WITH WILDERQUEST

Developed by NSW National Parks, WilderQuest uses digital technology and in-park experiences to inspire children to explore the great outdoors.

For more information visit [nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/wilderquest](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/wilderquest)





# Community Fundraising

## Be a Force of Nature

Do you love Australia's natural environment, native animals and believe in taking that extra step to help its ongoing protection?

*Written by FNPW's Partnerships Manager, Emma Lipscombe*

**O**f course you do! So please support the work we do at FNPW and join a team, running event or launch your very own fundraising campaign today.

Whether you want to run, walk, paddle, cycle or swim—you can do just about anything to help us raise crucial funds for significant conservation projects Australia-wide. FNPW will also be there with you, every step of the way, to help you reach your fundraising goal.

FNPW is a supporter charity for two major community fundraising events in Sydney and we need you, our Running Rangers, to enter and create a fundraising page. Make your experience count.

The Real Insurance Sydney Harbour 10k and 5k returns to the historic Sydney Rocks and sparkling Sydney Harbour foreshore taking in spectacular Sydney

landmarks including the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Opera House and new this year the beautiful Barangaroo Headland.

The 15th annual Blackmores Sydney Running Festival is being held on Sunday 18th September 2016, so come celebrate and help make a difference! This event is your chance to run, jog or walk over the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and finish triumphantly at the beautiful Sydney Opera House. It's a great way to get outside, get active, and go the extra mile to protect and conserve our unique environment including the animals that live there.

You can even RUN FOR FREE if you reach your fundraising target. Reaching your target means you can apply for a full refund on your entry. It's a win-win for everyone!

If you live outside of NSW, there are plenty of events you can participate in near you. Visit either GoFundraise or Everyday Hero for up to the minute updates on community events.

If you're not as comfortable participating in the fitness events, the national Garage Sale Trail would be great for you. Register to hold your own garage sale in October and choose to fundraise for FNPW. Have fun, de-clutter and avoid sending your unwanted possessions to landfill. The money you raise can become a donation (and a selling point!) which will make a real difference to Australia's environment.

Main image: Florian Rohart. Left: Emma Lipscombe. Middle: Felicity Harvey. Right: Bernard Oh.



To find out  
how to smash  
your fundraising goals  
contact Emma Lipscombe  
[elipscombe@fnpw.org.au](mailto:elipscombe@fnpw.org.au)  
or call 0412 468 921.



**Garage Sale Trail** **Saturday 22 October 2016**

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**fnpw.org.au**

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