





The Foundation receives numerous requests to fund PhD students in their research. In making our decision in favour of a project, we pay particular attention to how widely the research results are to be disseminated. No matter how good the applicant or how useful his or her research, it would seem to us to add little to the sum of human knowledge where the intended research fails to either engage with key people at the regional level or moves only marginally beyond a file on the applicant's computer.

Another new Trustee joined the Foundation during the past year. A Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Dr Sarah Ewing gained her PhD by examining the Australian landcare movement. Other of her research areas that are of relevance to the Foundation include looking at participatory policies in natural resources management and the mechanisms for undertaking R & D in developing an integrated catchment management (ICM) approach.

Last year's inaugural Norman Wettenhall Memorial Lecture by evolutionary scientist Tim Flannery proved a great success, with a full house in attendance. As this annual report goes to print, we are about to hold the second Norman Wettenhall Memorial Lecture to be delivered by another outstanding scientist and environmentalist, Ian Lowe. This year we welcome Museum Victoria in joining us in hosting the lecture series along with Birds Australia and the Trust for Nature.

Projects funded in the past financial year are summarised in this report, along with updates on the progress of previously monitored projects. Feedback on a project's progress is requested as a condition of funding by the Foundation.

Once again, I would like to acknowledge the invaluable support and counsel of my fellow Trustees and the sterling back up provided by the Foundation's Administrator, Scott Anderson.

Donations to help us achieve even more are always gratefully received. All donations to the Norman Wettenhall Foundation are tax deductible.



Gib Wettenhall  
Chairman  
Norman Wettenhall Foundation

MADE BY THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2002

## DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, Ms. REBECCA OVEREEM

A grant of \$9,141 was paid towards the application of new identification and location techniques to determine critical factors affecting the breeding success of Little Penguins. The project will focus on the Little Penguin colony at Middle Island, Warrnambool and is integrated into the new management plan endorsed by the City Council. The study will utilise transponder technology in place of the traditional banding techniques for bird identification.



*Penguins being studied to determine breeding success*

## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

ZOOLOGY, Ms. A ROGERS

A grant of \$2,000 was paid towards monitoring a population of Eastern Whipbirds through daily visits to map territories and record social interactions. Eastern Whipbirds are antiphonal duetters – the male and female of a pair sing alternately, but so precisely it sounds like the resulting song is produced by just one bird. Hypotheses on why birds may duet include: (a) maintaining the pair bond, (b) joint territorial defence, and (c) acoustic mate guarding. This project will undertake song recordings of each bird at different stages of the breeding cycle. The information garnered will be made widely available to the public, including use in Birds Australia HANZAB series. Knowledge of this species is very poor.



Ecology and Conservation of

# Owls



Editors: Ian Newton,  
Rodney Kavanagh,  
Jerry Olsen & Iain Taylor

*The soon to be released Owls 2000  
proceedings*

## AUSTRALASIAN RAPTOR ASSOCIATION

### PUBLICATION COSTS OF THE OWLS 2000 PROCEEDINGS

A grant of \$7,500 was paid towards the publication of the proceedings from the Owls 2000 conference, titled 'Owls: Biology and Conservation in the 21st Century'. Over 30 papers from the conference have been edited by Ian Newton, Rodney Kavanagh, Jerry Olsen and Iain Taylor to bring together findings from a wide range of research.

## ILFRACOMBE SHIRE COUNCIL

### VIEWING PLATFORM FOR WETLAND

#### HABITAT

A grant of \$2,700 was paid towards the construction of a viewing platform on the recycled water ponds on the outskirts of Ilfracombe. The project will provide an opportunity for residents to see what type of trees and shrubs attract different birds into their gardens as well as raise the awareness of people to the diversity of the region. While not a sanctuary, the habitat will provide a degree of security from the ravages of foxes and cats, as well as offer a year round supply of water to the birds.



*Transplant volunteers planting trees at the Wright Retarding Basin.  
Photo courtesy of Melbourne Water*

## TRANCEPLANT

### TREEPLANTING WITH 'ATTITUDE' PROJECT

A grant of \$5,000 was paid towards a treeplanting project that was aimed at attracting youth to become involved. After planting along the Moonee Pond Creek at the back of Broadmeadows in a location known as 'Wright Retarding Basin', the volunteers were treated to a dance party at a location in South Melbourne. The Foundation provided support to allow the purchase of plants for the day. For information regarding Tranceplant, see their website at [www.tranceplant.org](http://www.tranceplant.org).





*A volunteer recording for the New Atlas of Australian Birds*

## **BIRDS AUSTRALIA**

### **NEW ATLAS OF AUSTRALIAN BIRDS**

A grant of \$20,000 was paid to assist in the publication of the *New Atlas of Australian Birds*, the only continental zoological atlas of its type in the world. Completed between 1998 and 2002, the database for this project involved 8,000 volunteers and covered some four million records. A hard cover single volume, the book will display distribution maps for over 750 species, highlighting habitat preferences, migratory status, breeding and foraging characteristics as well as changes in abundance over the last 20 years. For more information, see Birds Australia website at [www.birdsaustralia.com.au](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au)

**TOTAL GRANTS \$86,733**





## **TRUSTEES**

Mr. Gibb Wettenhall, Chairman

Dr. Sarah Ewing

Miss Patricia Feilman, AM

Mr. Geoff Park

Mr. Ian Sinclair, FCA

Mr. Bill Weatherley

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