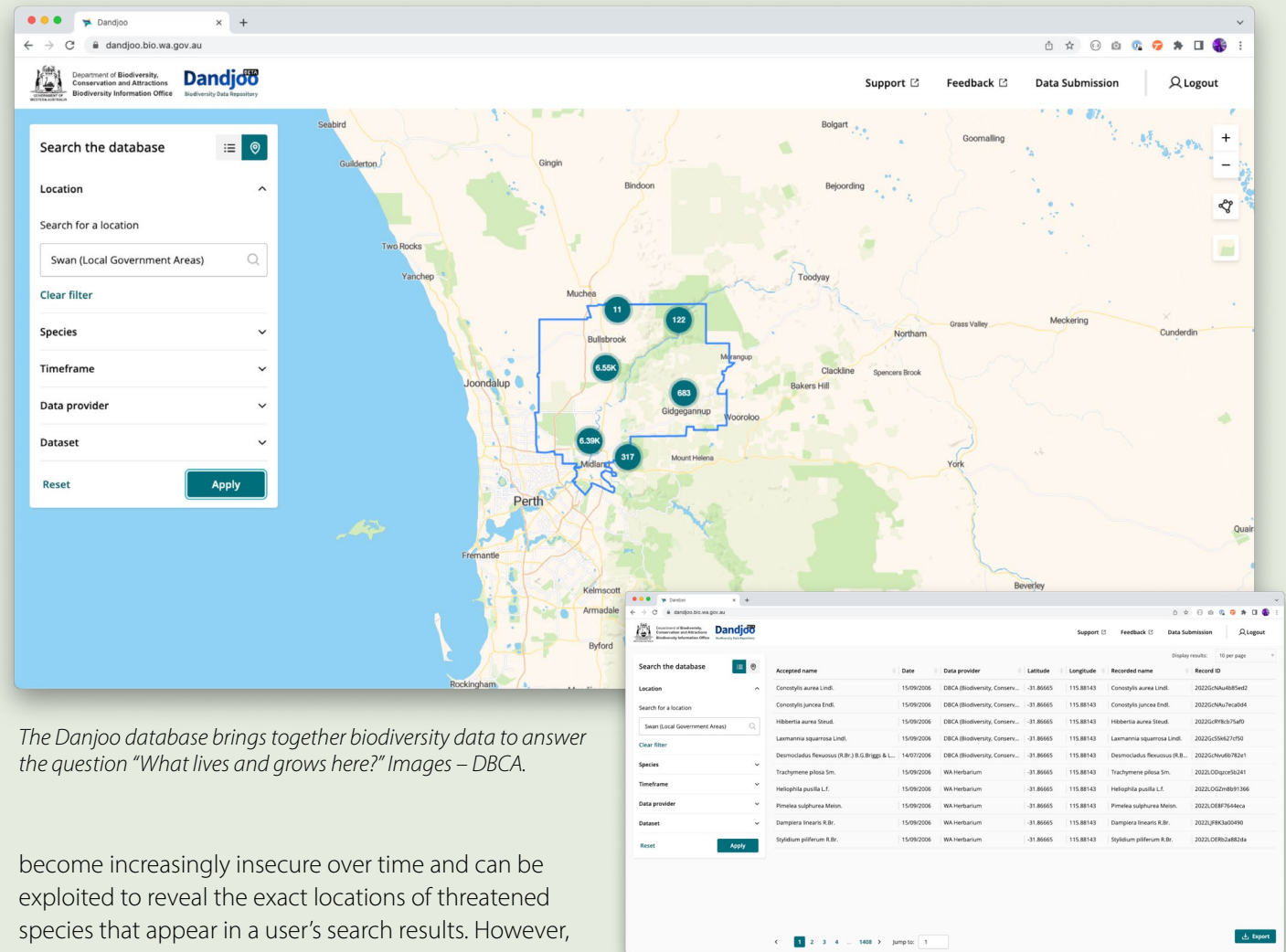


Dandjoo: bringing our biodiversity data together By Helen Ensikat

The Biodiversity Information Office, or [BIO](#), was established in late 2020 as part of a broader government plan to streamline environmental decision-making and regulation in Western Australia. BIO's work on improving the quality and availability of the State's biodiversity data supports more informed, more efficient decisions within government. However, agencies and regulators are far from the only groups that will benefit – local governments, businesses, researchers, educators, and community groups also ask the question 'what lives and grows here?' as part of their work.

In mid-2022, BIO launched [Dandjoo](#) – a digital platform that handles all stages of biodiversity data management, from submission, through to curation and display. Dandjoo's name translates to 'together' in the Noongar language, a reference to both the bringing together of data from various sectors, and its origin as a collaboration between various State and Federal agencies. For data users, this release of [Dandjoo](#) offers a light map interface, and core search and data export functions. As detailed in the [Dandjoo User Guide](#), users can currently search for species occurrences by date, scientific name, location, or data provider, and can apply a variety of map overlays to put the data in context.

In early 2023 the BIO team began work on the next phase of Dandjoo's development, which will deliver a substantial upgrade and performance enhancements for users. One of the most welcome additions will be the introduction of species reports that incorporate conservation-listed species – a popular feature of DBCA's retired NatureMap platform. The previous technology used to provide this feature in older systems has



The Dandjoo database brings together biodiversity data to answer the question "What lives and grows here?" Images – DBCA.

become increasingly insecure over time and can be exploited to reveal the exact locations of threatened species that appear in a user's search results. However, the BIO team spent the end of 2022 successfully developing and testing a new, more secure approach that will allow this important data to be shared safely via Dandjoo by the middle of 2023.

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BIO is also looking forward to introducing a variety of new and improved search tools in Dandjoo in the coming year including the ability to search by common name, as well enhanced handling of data produced by scientific surveys. When this work is complete, users will be able to drill down into survey datasets, exploring and displaying more detailed information about specific survey sites as well as data on the species found there.

For those who collect biodiversity data in their day-to-day work, Dandjoo allows them to share it with others, providing self service tools that take the hard work out of formatting and standardising their records. Dandjoo also includes an extensive set of built-in curation tools. Every record loaded into the platform undergoes a series of quality checks that species names, conservation codes, locations, and dates are valid. Records from some of Western Australia's most significant biodiversity data collections are among the millions being ingested into Dandjoo for curation, delivering in a State-wide uplift of data quality. Over 1.5 million records have already been curated and loaded, and this number will continue to grow.

Beyond 2023, BIO is developing a long-term roadmap for Dandjoo's future, from delivering user-requested features to incorporating new data sources. Visit bio.wa.gov.au to follow the progress of this work.

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1983–2023 Celebrating 40 years of landcare in Western Australia

2023 marks 40 years since the beginnings of the modern landcare movement in Western Australia and the WA Landcare Network is establishing the WA Landcarers' Hall of Fame, a repository of portraits, biographies, and timelines of this rich history to provide inspiration and education for generations to come.

Appointment to the WA Landcarers' Hall of Fame will include presentation with special certificates at community-based 40-year anniversary celebrations around the State, duly recognising a lifetime of dedication through action, leadership, research, advocacy, policy, publication, and persistent hard work.

Landcare owes a great deal to traditional custodianship, and to those early landcare adopters who stepped up and stayed there, breaking the utilitarian approach to land that dated back to when Europeans first arrived, and giving energy and passion to the beginnings of the broader movement we have today. No enduring movement is born overnight, and a lot had been happening prior to 1983 in response to the degradation occurring in the environment. This 40-year birthday marks when WA entered the era of formalised landcare and pays tribute to all the actions that occurred around that time. By 1988, 60 percent of farmers and 90 percent of pastoralists were directly involved in community landcare. Simultaneously nature focused groups such as the Ongerup Conservation Organisation, environment centres and friends of groups evolved.



Photo – Kevin Sparrow

First Nations peoples have always carried out cultural responsibilities managing and caring for the health of Country, with this becoming increasingly recognised by the landcare movement from the mid-1990s.

Keep an eye out for the 40-year anniversary of landcare's WA season of celebrations, starting in August. Landcare groups will be invited to host celebrations with their local landcare communities, and the newly formed [Parliamentary Friends of Landcare](#) will be engaged in enabling landcarers to celebrate with local politicians, building relationships and support for their work.

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natural resource
management program

