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Newsletter 1 (March 2019)

Welcome to our first newsletter!



Here we are, with a formal newsletter at last! By popular demand, and with a generous donation of time from Margaret Robertson, we have finally got a newsletter together to share some great news on what is happening across the Link. Keeping in touch with all those involved and supporting the program has been a challenge - we've tried regular [Facebook](#) posts, a [blog page](#) and we're even starting to Tweet (@GondwanaL) - but it seems a good 'old fashioned' email newsletter is preferred by lots of people.

For some of you there will be a lot to catch-up on, but this is a newsletter not an encyclopaedia. What follows is an update on some projects, a brief overview of recent months and a tiny look forward. We hope to produce a newsletter every three months (wish us luck!), jam-packed with good and important news, but probably a bit shorter than this one. For those who haven't visited the Gondwana Link website lately, it has been re-jigged somewhat and has lots of information on the broad program (thanks to Nicole Hodgson and Margaret Robertson for their assistance).

There is a lot happening across the Link. Some we are directly involved in, some happening as a result of earlier involvement and support, some just happening. Bottom line is our vision of 1000kms of connected and ecologically healthy habitat is being achieved - bit by bit - through the efforts of an amazing number of people and organisations.

It's wonderful being part of such a bold and effective community effort.

Keith Bradby and Amanda Keesing, Gondwana Link

We have included you in our mailing list in the hope that you would like to receive our newsletter. If this is not the case, feel free to unsubscribe (see link at the bottom of the newsletter). We do understand information overload!

If you wish to share what you're doing to support the Gondwana Link vision, we'd really welcome your contributions. Please send to info@gondwanalink.org.

Coming events

Great Western Woodlands

Photography Exhibition: Open 10am to 4pm Friday 15/3, Saturday 16/3 and until 2pm on Sunday 17/3 at City Arts Space, Northbridge.

Organised by The Wilderness Society, this exhibition is a stunning collection of photographic images, drawn from a competition, which showcases one of Western Australia's most iconic regions - the Great Western Woodlands - the largest temperate woodland left on Earth. More info: (08) 9420 7255 (TWS WA).

South Coast Festival of the Birds & Biodiversity:

Follow this [link](#) to the wonderful, action-packed program organised by Green Skills, which continues across March-April 2019. The **Festival of Birds Symposium**, one of the main events, is on this Friday, 15th March, 8.30am - 12.45pm at UWA Albany, 35 Stirling Terrace. Speakers include Prof Stephen Hopper, Dr Nic Dunlop and Sarah Comer. Morning tea provided; cost \$10 per person. More info: Green Skills 9848 3310. Registrations at <http://birdfestival.greenskills.org.au/>

Other festival events in the program include *Feathered & Furred – Celebrating South Coast Fauna* photography exhibition (1 – 30 March, Three Anchors, Middleton Beach, Albany); and *Denmark Bird & Fauna Outing & Talk* (30 March). More info: Basil Schur at Green Skills (08) 9848 3310 (w); 0429 481 019; bschur@greenskills.org.au.

Gondwana Connections – Giant Paintings Mapping Special

Country: This touring exhibition, organised by Green Skills, will open at the Cranbrook Hub at 11.30am on

Saturday 30th March (during Cranbrook Field Day). More info: Basil Schur (08) 9848 3310 (w); 0429 481 019.

Great Western Woodland Birdlife

surveys: the next surveys will take place at Credo 1-4 April and Frank Hann/Peak Charles followed by Dundas May 1 – 9. We understand that Birdlife is interested to hear from experienced birdos who enjoy rough bush camping and are still looking for Gilbert's Whistler, Southern Scrub-robin, Shy Heathwren and Rufous Fieldwren! More info: Libby and Lorraine gww@birdlife.org.au.

Art in the Porongurup: formerly Art in the Park, this annual must-see event is organised by Friends of the Porongurup Range, 19 to 27 April 2019 at Karribank, 1983 Porongurup Rd, Porongurup. Email friends@porongurup.org.au

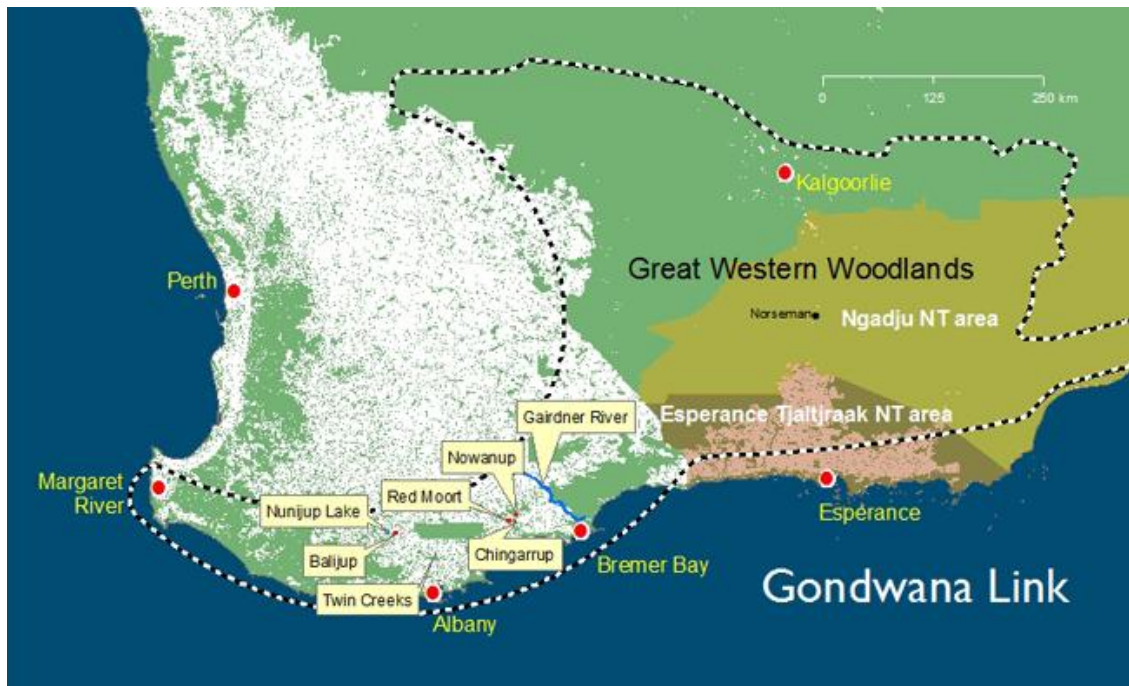
Prescribed Burning

Conference ([link](#)): Changed fire regimes are a major ecological stress right across Gondwana Link. Save the date for UWA's Prescribed Burning Conference, 'Evidence and Policy', 31 July to 1 August 2019.

WA State NRM & Coastal

Conference, 1-4 October 2019, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup. Organised by the WA Landcare

Where is that? This map should help.



Stories and news from across the Link

We start by expressing our respect for Elders past and present in the lands we work on across the Link, and re-affirming our commitment to helping future Elders emerge in a world that shows greater respect for their communities and cultures.

Ngadju Conservation Caring for Country in the Great Western Woodlands



Ngadju Rangers at Israelite Bay for a beach cleanup. Photo William Newchurch.

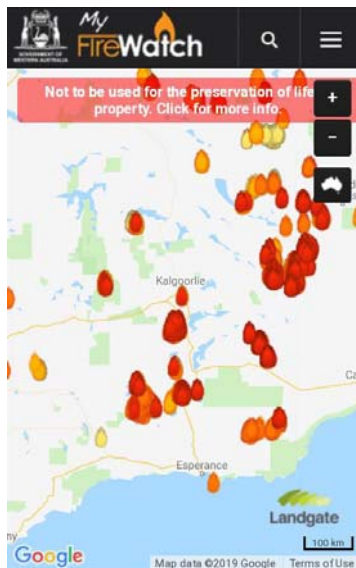
The Great Western Woodlands (see map above) have been a key focus of the Gondwana Link program for many years, and assisting with the establishment of the Ngadju Conservation Aboriginal Corporation (NCAC) and the Ngadju Rangers has been a vital part of that effort.

administration and mentoring. Six full time Ngadju Rangers working out of a well equipped Ranger Base in Norseman, undertake numerous projects across the 4.4 million hectares of the Ngadju Native Title area. We have great respect for what has been achieved by NCAC Chair Les Schultz and the Ngadju community.

Our Great Western Woodlands Program Manager, Peter Price, has been a key driver in this program. He helped achieve the significant Indigenous Advancement Strategy funding that currently underpins the program, and continues to work very closely with NCAC. Currently Peter is supporting the national liaison underway in the lead up to formal declaration of the Ngadju Indigenous Protected Area (announced last year by Minister for Environment Melissa Price). Meanwhile, lots of work continues on the ground in Ngadju country, with a number of damaged sites being repaired and protected. The work is guided by a comprehensive Conservation Action Plan that was recently the subject of a two day review by planning consultant Paula Deegan. Our thanks to PEW Charitable Trusts and Rangelands NRM for their generous support for this program - we are excited about what's being achieved.

Esperance Tjaltjraak Conservation Action Planning

Great work is also underway in the southern Great Western Woodlands, where the Esperance Tjaltjraak community has also developed a comprehensive Conservation Action Plan. Gondwana Link's Peter Price has again been the key person arranging our funding support for that process and providing additional advice and encouragement, with Paula Deegan facilitating the planning. Esperance Tjaltjraak were successful last year in securing WA Government Ranger Program funding, and is currently attempting to follow this up with Commonwealth funding. The Ranger Team, which works from an office in the town centre, undertakes a wide range of projects towards improving the targets in their Action Plan.



Woodlands on fire

Sadly, all is not well in the Great Western Woodlands. For weeks now, waves of lightning strikes has started numerous fires, with emergency services and local volunteers facing around a dozen fires at any one time. On current estimates, around 300,000 hectares has burnt, with the worst fires around Widgiemooltha plus north-east and north-west of Esperance. It seems that under current management - without full restoration of Ngadju and Nyungar fire management, and possibly a higher incidence of lightning - large intense fires are increasing. Some great research by CSIRO and the Dept. Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions has shown that woodlands start maturing at 200 years post fire, and become more fire resistant as they get older. Yet our analysis of current data shows that much of the old growth woodland has burnt in the past 35 years. Bugger!

Bungalbin (Helena and Aurora Range)



Stunning Bungalbin, some of the most beautiful country I have ever visited. Photo Amanda Keesing.

As part of its recent [‘Plan for Our Parks’](#) announcement, the WA Government has reaffirmed its commitment to protect the larger Bungalbin (Helena and Aurora Range) area, north-east of Southern Cross. A key element of this, which we strongly support, is the Government’s commitment to work closely with the Traditional Owners on the formal reserve designation process. Congratulations again to all, and specifically to Kalamaia Elder Brian Champion and the many environmental groups who have worked so hard for this northern section of the Great Western Woodlands.

We all need to continue pressing the WA Government to deliver on this commitment. For more Bungalbin information and images go to the [Helena Aurora Range Advocates](#) website.

In October last year, ABC TV’s ‘Gardening Australia’ ran a story about Bungalbin called [Remote Ranges](#). The show featured Brian Moyle of the Wildflower Society of WA, one of the people working hard for Bungalbin’s protection.

No doubt Bungalbin will feature in The Wilderness Society’s exhibition of photos from GWW (see Coming Events above).

Environmental history of Great Western Woodlands



Andrea Gaynor and Alexandra Vlachos visited the woodlands last year, and enjoyed the many special places, such as McDermid Rock (pictured above).

Vlachos, visiting researcher from Switzerland's Bern University, working with Professor Andrea Gaynor from University of WA and Professor Tom Griffiths from Australian National University. Alexandra is "focusing on alternative knowledge production and exchange, historical development of land management practices, storytelling, and narrative networks. The aim is to include human and non-human actors, indigenous, local, environmental, scientific and semi-scientific knowledge and data to draw a somehow 'bigger picture'". Alexandra spent the second half of 2018 meeting with folk and scouring the archives in WA, and for the first half of 2019 is based with Australian National University.

It was going to be a research paper, but we are told a book is now on the horizon.

Nowanup news



Working together on the new artwork at Nowanup's Meeting Place. Photo Steve Hammond.

Nowanup, a 754ha Greening Australia property (see map), continues as a vital on-country base for a wide range of cultural camps. Since 2006, Noongar leader Eugene Eades has run these camps at Nowanup, supported and administered by the Gondwana Link program. In October last year, in recognition of his remarkable work over 12 years, Eugene was the overall state winner of the 2018 Regional Achievement and Community Service Award.

Eugene's work continues in 2019! Over January, Nowanup buzzed with activity as he ran a Noongar youth camp in conjunction with Ngalla Maya (a non-government organisation), immediately followed by a Family Healing Camp – one of seven supported by WANSLEA and Gondwana Link over the past six months.

On the same hot weekend, a Friends of Nowanup working bee, co-ordinated by Rod Safstrom, undertook repairs and maintenance, established some new facilities, and assisted with a major facelift for the Meeting Place, which has seen so many thousands of people sit and share. The Meeting Place now incorporates a circular concrete and stone artwork, designed by Errol Eades and including the handiwork of a number of families. The Meeting Place rebuild was completed with the hard work and materials supplied by friends and neighbours of Nowanup.

Nowanup Rangers.

Nowanup Rangers



Rangers Jason Bolton and Rivah Coyne replacing the brush wall of the Meeting Place. Photo Ranger Errol Eades.

Established by Gondwana Link and Eugene in 2017, the all-Noongar Nowanup Rangers received much appreciated private funding in early 2018. Most recently the Nowanup Rangers have been busy supporting camps, undertaking cultural restoration work including the burial ground on the Gairdner River just east of Jerramungup, building toilets and brush mulching to augment the cultural circle plantings.

Last year the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group (FBG) contracted the Rangers to help eradicate Victorian Tea Tree from the Bremer Bay area. FBG were very impressed with the team's effort and plan to have them do another Tea Tree control blitz next season.

Nowanup Bush University – working with Curtin University



Aden Eades, Keith Bradby, Carol Pettersen, Assoc Prof Eugene Eades, Errol Eades, Prof Simon Forrest (Curtin's Elder-in-Residence) and Prof Deborah Terry (Vice-Chancellor, Curtin University) at the celebration of the signing of intent between Curtin and Gondwana Link to establish a 'Bush University' at Nowanup. This beautiful painting by Errol Eades was signed as part of the ceremony. Photo Amanda Keesing.

This is getting serious! At a ceremony in September last year, two delightful things happened. First, a Statement of Intent was signed between Curtin University, Gondwana Link and Eugene Eades to establish the Nowanup Learning Centre (aka the Bush University) as a campus of Curtin. Then Vice-Chancellor of Curtin, Professor Deborah Terry, appointed Eugene Eades to the position of Adjunct Associate Professor. The concept behind the Bush University has been jointly developed (initially around a campfire of course) over the past two years by Eugene and Professor Simon Forrest, Curtin's Elder-in-Residence. Initial design work for the campus facilities has commenced, and the first of a series of student camps and courses starts at the end of March.

Watch this 90 second Facebook video entitled ['Leaving the classroom for Noongar Country'](#) for insights into the Bush University.

Communicating through stories



Basil Schur at Balijup ready to have one of his many stories recorded by Frank Rijavec and Margaret Robertson.

This newsletter isn't the only ramp-up of our communication efforts that's underway. Green Skills' have already established a successful video series on 'Wetlands of Gondwana' and other topics. Late last year Gondwana Link, with filmmaker Frank Rijavec and sound assistant Margaret Robertson, started filming more of the many stories 'out there' about the remarkable people, groups, places and biodiversity we work amongst. In addition work is underway on a Gondwana Link communications program of shortish documentaries, micro-videos and multimedia items featuring other aspects of the Link. 'Sound in the Ground', with its stories of respect for the land and motivation to care for it, is the first to be filmed (through a Federal National Landcare Program grant), and a short 'Quality Restoration' documentary will follow (State NRM grant). A series of micro-video stories for a Gondwana Link exhibit in the new WA Museum, opening late 2020, is also on the drawing board.

By highlighting the wide range of great people and projects across the Link, our hope is to inspire and attract new participants and conservation investors to the work of protecting and reconnecting habitat, while also broadening community support and nurturing a land care ethic.

Gondwana Link's Biodiversity Trail is happening!



Minister McTiernan shortly after the announcement, with Gondwana Link's Keith Bradby and Margaret Robertson.

Lets strengthen Tourism and use it to build understanding and support for the ecological, cultural and social values across the Link! Since our 2014 Gondwana Link Forum we have been working towards a network of trails across the Link. Many thanks to Regional Development Minister Alannah McTiernan, who has recently announced the success of our \$84,000 bid for the Central Zone Pilot Trail - funded through the Great Southern Regional Economic Development Grants. We

have so many colleagues still keen to be part of this (now to show proof of concept and find more \$\$'s). Along with our film and multimedia projects, this Trail is designed to highlight the many wonderful people and places along the Gondwana Link, and the fantastic work they are doing. We start the project with a web based narrative and trail map - with one very exciting sculpture project to be added (you will just have to wait until the next newsletter for that).

Burning issues

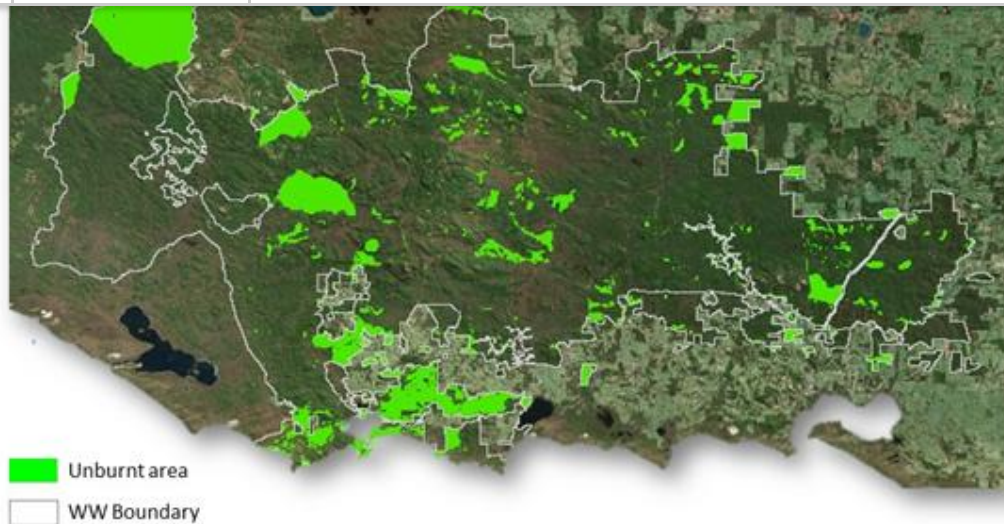


Dean Freeman with Ngadju rangers discussing the rangers successful cool burn around the Norseman Hospital to reduce fire risk. Photo courtesy Jessica Weir.

Changed fire regimes have been identified by many groups as a MAJOR ecological stress right across Gondwana Link. Therefore we are tackling fire as a 'Whole of Link' issue and providing support in a number of areas.

In September it was a visit by Dean Freeman and Jessica Weir. Dean is a Wiradjuri man and Cultural Burning Manager with the ACT Parks and Conservation service. Jessica is a researcher, specialising in native title and associated management issues, currently with the CRC for Bushfires and Natural Hazards. In a flying trip across the Link they met with groups in Norseman, Esperance, Nowanup, Albany and Bunbury, and spoke about the importance of cultural burning in its own right, along with the role it can play in ecological restoration and protecting lives and property. There was a fantastic response to their trip, and they met with a number of Traditional owners, Dept. Fire and Emergency Services, Dept. Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and local government staff, as well as local brigade members. Follow up is planned - watch this space!

Prescribed burning in the Walpole Wilderness Area



Walpole Wilderness areas UNBURNT in the last decade (2009-2018).

Dr Joanna Young has prepared a thorough and disturbing analysis of the State Government's fire management in the Walpole Wilderness Area and presented this at a number of meetings, including to the state Environmental Protection Authority. Joanna has a powerful story to tell and we were very pleased to assist her as she developed the analysis, including helping with the mapping. We encourage groups to invite Joanna to present her PowerPoint at one of their regular committee meetings.

Prescribed burning conference



Save the date for [UWA's Prescribed Burning Conference 2019](#), 'Evidence and Policy', 31 July to 1 August 2019. This inaugural conference is on the policy and practice of prescribed (controlled) burning in Australia. The focus will be on recent research, which can guide policy decisions and foster an informed public debate. The four main strands of discussion over the two-day conference are:

- Indigenous fire management - history and current practice;
- The health effects of prescribed burns and wildfires;
- The impact of prescribed burns and wildfires on biodiversity; and

'Forests for Life'

Within the forest zone of Gondwana Link, the WA Forest Alliance (Wafa) is undertaking a bold initiative: 40,000 hectares of agro-forestry is the objective of Wafa's 'Forests for Life' program. A detailed overview [report](#) has already been undertaken and a Business Plan has recently been commissioned. We're excited by this initiative, and have provided advice to Wafa on the development of the approach, as well as detailed input into the documentation to date. We're also scratching our head about how plantings for timber production on farmland can be 'tweaked' to improve biodiversity outcomes, and how commercial agro-forestry fits best in a landscape where restoration for ecological connectivity is also a goal. What percentages and configurations works best ecologically and for the farmer? These are not simple questions!

Citizen Science events

A number of conservation properties in Gondwana Link's central zone are the focus of regular Bio Blitz and citizen science events. These gather valuable information that may be used for assessing whether restoration and management actions are working, while also enabling locals and visitors to learn more about the plants and animals of the area. Some of the citizen science events are led by Dr Nic Dunlop and team members from the Conservation Council of WA Citizen Science Program, and supported by a number of other scientists with specialist knowledge.



Weighing and measuring a caught quenda (Southern brown bandicoot) at Balijup - great experience for recent university graduates. Photo Basil Schur.

At a January Bio Blitz event on the 571 ha **Chingarrup Sanctuary** (see map near top of newsletter), conservation landowners Eddy and Donna Wajon had a record 37

honey possum) in the 60 pit traps, but many spiders, ants, beetles, crickets, velvet ants and centipedes. In 2018, Chingarrup received only ~100mm of rain compared to about 500mm in each of the previous two years, which has had a large effect on the area's vegetation and fauna. There have been some deaths in the extensive restoration plantings at Chingarrup, but only isolated examples - most plants are doing well.

On the 921 Balijup property, Basil Schur of Green Skills recently organised a Citizen Science and Eco-Restoration event at the fenced **Balijup Fauna Sanctuary** near Tenterden (see map). With the help of 22 participants, activities included fauna trapping (considerably more quenda and brush tailed possums caught than previous events), bird surveying, fence and gate maintenance, photo point monitoring, and checking Phascogale boxes. Balijup is owned by the conservation-minded Hordacre family.

Nunijup Lake, due west of the Stirling Range, was the focus of a recent wetlands and fauna survey, again organised by Basil Schur. Water ecologists Geraldine and Steve Janicke guided over 60 participants, including TAFE and primary school students and local landholders, in surveying and identifying the range of invertebrates that live in the wetlands. Brad Kneebone of the Denmark Bird Group provided a detailed bird survey of the lakes - over 1300 birds of 12 water bird species were spotted on Nunijup Lake the week before. What were they feeding on? Some answers in Steve and Geraldine's two minute [YouTube](#).

Ranges Link



UWA restoration ecology students visit Ranges Link restoration. Photo Keith Bradby.

Yep - we need more trees! Visiting University of WA Restoration Ecology students hug the shade while hearing about some ambitious salt-land restoration sites on Peter Luscombe's property in the Ranges Link section of Gondwana Link. Results so far are good, with the Ranges Link team able to show off some impressive growth after only two years, plus new ecological connections across Peter's hilly farmland, and of course progress at the 511 ha Twin Creeks Community Conservation Reserve. Earlier in the week, Neil Pettit from University of Western Australia gave the students a great presentation on the fundamentals of ecological restoration, and the importance of

work happening across Gondwana Link.

Rolling out large-scale restoration - Greening Australia



Greening Australia will be continuing their extensive restoration plantings this year. They are working with a number of farmers and other landholders to restore an additional 600 ha of farmland, primarily by direct seeding with native seed mixes, as well as planting seedlings. These restoration plantings will be undertaken at a number of sites on over 11 farms and other properties, largely within the Gondwana Link pathway. Many of the sites being restored this year have salinity and water logging issues, requiring additional site preparation, including ripping and mounding. The work is funded by the Federal Government's 20 Million Trees program and includes over 150,000 seedlings of which at least 50,000 will be planted by the Nowanup Rangers.

Greening Australia's Barry Heydenrych and Glen Steven are the driving force behind these plantings. Here is Barry. Glen is rarely photographed, he's too busy driving big equipment!

Michael Tichbon Field Station – Bush Heritage



Ezzard Flowers gave the Welcome to Country and Eugene Eades sang one of his own songs at the opening of the Micheal Tichbon Field Station. Photo Amanda Keesing.

Congratulations to Bush Heritage on the opening of their new \$1.1 Million Michael Tichbon Field Station, on their Red Moort property in the Fitzgerald to Stirlings

University in the Fitz-Stirling section, Twertup Field Study Centre in Fitzgerald River National Park, Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre at Ongerup, and Twin Creeks just north of the Porongurups. And we've recently visited 'Perup: Nature's Guest House' over on the edge of the forest country, and hope to support some workshops and additional science work there soon.

We're heartened by the fact that south-western Australia is starting to get the research attention it deserves and needs.

Functional Bird Guilds - survey approach explained

One of the exciting developments of the past 18 months has been the establishment of a 'functional bird guild' monitoring approach by Dr Nic Dunlop of the Conservation Council of WA. This promises to give us a much better estimate of restoration health across Gondwana Link than traditional survey methods, and the early data supports the success of our shift from the earlier revegetation approach to ecologically-based design and implementation - restoration ecology in practice.

The WA Landcare Network (WALN) has prepared a video of Nic presenting '[A Citizen Science Model for measuring NRM Outcomes](#)', in which he discusses this monitoring approach. Nic also describes the changes in landcare since the 1980s and the many factors that have prevented landcarers from assessing the outcomes of their restoration projects.

Nic explores the need for landcarers to close the 'adaptive management loop' and suggests that without looking at the outcomes of our restoration projects we don't learn, can't transfer knowledge to others, which often results in both decision makers and volunteers losing interest.

Through his recent work using bird communities to monitor ecosystem development in a range of restoration projects across Gondwana Link, Nic describes how the Conservation Council is developing and nurturing a centralised citizen science base.

This video is supported by the WA Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Nic's talk was presented at the WALN Members and Stakeholders Forum in July 2018. The program has just received another years funding from State NRM, so stay tuned for news of exciting progress to be made in 2019.

Reinforcements!



Jillian Seigert with Amanda Keesing and Keith Bradby. Photo Margaret Robertson.

As proud as we are that Gondwana Link has grown so much with only a few of us at the core, it's been bloody exhausting at times. We are very grateful for the much needed 'starter' funding which enabled us to increase the core team slightly, with Jillian Siegert coming on board in 2017 two days a week to help with all the bookkeeping across the numerous projects, plus management of the Ranger program. Phew! Jillian is still here, and we can pay her most of the time (though we suspect her additional support has enabled a growth in the program rather than a lessening of the workload). A big thank you to Diversicon Foundation for making this possible.

Donations much appreciated

We are not a one year project involving cute furry animals, but a 1000 kilometre long program that supports numerous projects and numerous groups and individuals to do great work. But the core of Gondwana Link also needs money to run. If you can help we'd love to hear from you.

Please donate :)

Gondwana Link and the Law



Workshop to discuss key issues across Gondwana Link with the EDO. Photo Amanda Keesing. Right: Declan Doherty.

Generous support from the Koorabup Trust has enabled an immense amount of hard work from the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) volunteers and staff, who are now close to completion of a massive review of how the law impacts, positively and negatively, on environmental change programs like Gondwana Link. A very large draft document is now being reviewed and improved, a separate 'Tools for Change' document is being finalised, and a number of fact sheets on specific topics have been prepared and are ready to roll out. There has been a lot of local consultation to tighten specific sections, with a number of 'curly questions' asked, some of which have 'even curlier answers'. The Law can be a force for environmental good, but much WA legislation was developed in earlier years, and supports development more than restoration, so a number of reform proposals are also being chewed on. This project has run for nearly 18 months now, and has been an exhaustive and rigorous process which highlights many issues, and solutions, that extend beyond Gondwana Link. EDO's previous Principal Solicitor Declan Doherty (pictured) has led the program, and will continue to finalise it in his new role. Thanks Declan.

New Gondwana wetlands film



'Birds on the Edge - WA's Cranbrook Community Helping Threatened Shorebirds'.

Congratulations to Green Skills on the release of this new seven minute YouTube video, which shows how the Cranbrook community and landholders are taking action to conserve these lakes, north of the Stirling Range National Park, for the benefit of their rich birdlife. A list of additional Green Skills short films, both in the Gondwana wetland series and other topics, can be found on the Gondwana Link website [resources page](#).

Restored some habitat – feeling better already?

Eco-Health Network being established by an eminent group of restoration scientists, and organised through the Missouri Botanical Gardens (USA). Once fully operational these sites will hold long term monitoring to demonstrate the interactions between restoration work, soil health, community fabric and human health. There has been a whirlwind of activity already, with restoration ecologist James Aronson visiting WA and Gondwana Link to meet with a wide array of the scientists, health professionals and communities who will be involved. As well as a "whole of Link" approach, potential focus sites have been identified inland of Albany and at Margaret River, with more to come. We're excited! A workshop in St Louis, Missouri will be held in May to further define the project. (Photo of James Aronson in Albany by Amanda Keesing).



Feral cat workshop - Oyster Harbour Catchment Group



Feral cat workshop participants. Photo Amanda Keesing.

The recent Feral Cat workshop, organised by Oyster Harbour Catchment Group, was a great success. The day consisted of a series of self-managed, open discussions on topics put forward by the participants. The flavour of the topics varied from 'Is it worth undertaking a feral cat control if it is not part of an integrated feral control program?' and 'How can we collaborate more effectively?' to 'How do we win the hearts and minds of people to better manage cats?'

Key coordinator for the day, Jenni Loveland, had strived to ensure all aspects of feral cat control were considered. The 30 participants included representatives of local environmental groups, shires, agencies, universities, wildlife carers, traditional custodians, vets, RSPCA and landholders.

then received expressions of interest for the formation of a feral cat working group. We hope to see the group up and running in the near future.

  **Fri 15th March 2019, 8.30am - 12.45pm**
UWA Albany, 35 Stirling Terrace

Festival of Birds Symposium - Albany, WA



UWA's Professor Steve Hopper, Dr Nic Dunlop, Sarah Comer & others. Panel & discussions, morning tea provided, \$10 per person.

For info contact Basil Schur 98483310 or bschur@greenskills.org.au
Reg: birdfestival.greenskills.org.au/programs-registrations

GREEN SKILLS AND BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA PRESENT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL



GREEN SKILLS AND BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA PRESENT THE SIXTH ANNUAL  

Denmark Bird & Fauna - Outing & Talk **9am-11.30am**
"Birds & Fauna of the Forest and Home Garden" **Sat 30th March**



*Event details & registration: birdfestival.greenskills.org.au
or contact Green Skills on 98483310*





We wish to acknowledge our Gondwana Link Ltd Board Members Virginia Young (Chair), Louise Duxbury, Peter Luscombe and John Holley and thank them warmly for their help and support.



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