

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Newsletter #3 May 2021



*Photo: Amanda Keesing*

## Welcome!

A core part of Gondwana Link's work is ecosystem restoration, so here is a special newsletter to add our wholehearted support to the new **United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration**.

The UN Decade will be formally launched in Pakistan on World Environment Day, June 5th. We welcome the global recognition being given to the importance of large-scale ecological restoration.

Many years of hard work and collective ambition have led to fantastic achievements across Gondwana Link, with more underway. All those involved deserve our collective congratulations and thanks. But so much more needs to be done, and the UN Decade marks the time when we need to address the world's climate and ecological emergencies together. We need to build on our collective successes, learn from our fumbles along the way, share our experiences with the growing network of like-minded citizens, and put our skates on to achieve much more across the Link and elsewhere.

Gondwana Link will help to achieve the goals of the UN Decade by sharing

Zealand. This includes Great Eastern Ranges, our main colleague group in eastern Australia, and Reconnecting Northland in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

**Our first item below is an invitation to join with Gondwana Link and our CALLANZ colleagues on June 3rd in the first of a webinar series designed to celebrate and promote the UN Decade. We are pleased to announce that Tim Christophersen, who heads the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, will be the lead speaker.**

Through the coming decade, with support from The Ian Potter Foundation, we will assist a number of restoration practitioners and scientists to meet and share their knowledge and experience. This is just one of the steps being taken to accelerate the restoration work that's underway in Gondwana Link and other parts of the world. At the same time, we need to keep supporting vital efforts to protect natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

*Keith Bradby, Gondwana Link*

---

Launching the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration  
- join our Webinar on Thurs 3 June at 9 am (WA time)



Sharing restoration experiences from across the country - and across the ditch! We are delighted to join with [Reconnecting Northland](#) and [Great Eastern Ranges](#) to bring you inspiring speakers and important perspectives.

The first webinar, which explores the topic '**We are Nature**', will start with **Tim Christophersen**, who leads the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration program. We'll then be treated to some First Nations leadership through the inspiring words of New Zealand broadcaster, Māori astrologer and cultural adviser, **Rereata Makiha**; learn the essence of Citizen Science monitoring at scale with flying foxes and other wildlife from **Dr. Peggy Eiby** in eastern Australia; hear from **Dr. Charles Royal**, a passionate advocate for 'Indigenous creativity'; followed by **Dr. Adam Cross**, who is working with the Global EcoHealth Network on the nexus of soil health, human health, and ecological restoration. Finally, a story of First Nations on-the-ground leadership from **Tahnee Adamson** of the Tjaltjraak Aboriginal Corporation in Esperance.

**To register for the webinar and for more information click [HERE](#)**

---

A 'Tree of Life' rising from the ground  
- the launch is 1.00 pm Saturday 29 May



*Aunty Carol Pettersen at the installation of the 'Tree of Life' sculpture at Twin Creeks Conservation Reserve. Photo: Ben Beeton*

The place to be at 1.00 pm, Saturday 29th of May is the Twin Creeks Community Conservation Reserve, Porongurup. A long process of inspiration, perspiration, design and re-design has led to the creation of a rather large and marvellous artwork. It combines deep time science, Noongar and wadjela artworks and some superb metal fabrication.

The Genestreams Sculptural Project depicts the evolutionary journey of a range of local plant and wildlife species, and reminds us that we are merely a blip in

the Great Southern featured in the base.

The sculpture launch will be followed by a scrumptious afternoon tea and a panel discussion led by local farmer and plant specialist Peter Luscombe, artist Ben Beeton, botanist Prof. Stephen Hopper, and Menang Noongar Elder Carol Pettersen. **All welcome.**

We warmly thank ALL the people involved in the sculpture's creation and installation, including Ben Beeton, Aunty Carol Pettersen, Mark Hewson, Mali Moir, Jane Thompson, Jenny Wilson, Patrick Bocian from Bakers Junction Engineering, inmates from Pardalup Prison, Liz Jack, Lucia Queary, Peter Luscombe and the Friends of the Porongurup Range.

The project was funded by the Great Southern Development Commission's Regional Economic Development Grants Program and a Regional Arts WA Resilience Grant.

---

## Dedication of the Ngadju Indigenous Protected Area



*Les Schultz and Peter Price at the dedication of the Ngadju Indigenous Protected Area near Norseman, March 2021. Photo: Keith Bradby*

For a decade, Gondwana Link worked with the Ngadju people and the Ngadju Conservation Aboriginal Corporation to establish their ongoing program, and we

---

Area. At 4.4 million hectares, the Ngadju IPA includes much of the southern Great Western Woodlands.

The organising and compering of this marvellous event by young members of the Ngadju Ranger team was a tribute to their skills, enthusiasm and training. We thank them for the wonderful music, food and company and we pay tribute to Les Schultz, Chair of the Ngadju Conservation Aboriginal Corporation, other board members, CEO Helen Langley and other staff.

As well as giving our personal congratulations to the Ngadju people, it was good to see Peter Price back in his natural habitat. Peter worked for Gondwana Link for ten years, with his main focus being to help the Ngadju people reclaim their role as managers of their lands. Thanks again for all your wonderful efforts, Peter! (He has not gone far, and continues to do good work).

Late update: As many people know, Ngadju Conservation's Les Schultz has played a stellar leadership role in gaining the Ngadju IPA and developing the various programs now running – all while battling ill health. This article was written while Les was receiving a kidney transplant. He has woken up after the surgery and all is going well. We wish him and his family all the best.

---

Upcoming screening of 'Breathing Life into Boodja'

Nature Conservation Margaret River Region  
and the Undalup Association  
present the Gondwana Link film

# Breathing Life into Boodja

Social and ecological restoration in an ancient land



**Breathing Life into Boodja** is a good-natured and galvanising portrayal of the conservation work being conducted by farmers, scientists, environmentalists, the Aboriginal community and local groups. Together, they are restoring and healing land around the Porongurup and Stirling Ranges as part of an ambitious 1000 kilometre effort to restore ecological connections from Margaret River to the Great Western Woodlands.

Join us for a dose of hope and inspiration  
**Tuesday 13 July 2021**

**6.00 pm: meet and greet; bar service**

**6.45 – 8.30 pm: presentations, screening of Gondwana Link's video shorts and Boodja film, Q&A panel**

**Margaret River HEART** 47 Wallcliffe Rd

Tickets: [www.margaretriverheart.com.au](http://www.margaretriverheart.com.au)  
\$20 adult, \$12 concession and children

Queries: [contact@margaretriverheart.com.au](mailto:contact@margaretriverheart.com.au) or 9780 5294;  
[info@natureconservation.org.au](mailto:info@natureconservation.org.au) or 9757 2202

Main photo by Basil Schur; other photos by Mark Godfrey, Amanda Keesing, Raana Scott



Please join us for the next public screening of our film 'Breathing Life into Boodja' at Margaret River HEART on Tuesday 13 July. Tickets are available [HERE](#). Further information about the event is available [HERE](#)

We are keen to help other groups who would like to arrange public screenings. Please email [info@gondwanalink.org](mailto:info@gondwanalink.org)

Help us meet the challenge of achieving



*A 13-year-old yate woodland restoration planting south of Jerramungup, linking to bush in the distance. Greening Australia's 'Peniup' property. Image: Gondwana Link/Green Man Media*

The planet needs large-scale ecosystem restoration and we are proud that Gondwana Link has helped to pioneer this approach in Australia.

We continue to be awed by the amazing array of groups, individuals and companies helping to achieve Gondwana Link on the ground. It truly is an impressive effort you are making, and we thank all who have been part of and supported the effort over many years.

We're also proud of the low administration costs that we have operated with since inception - the core team isn't much bigger than in 2002, yet so much has been achieved. Our core Gondwana Link effort has been kept going with private funding, from a wide range of wonderfully generous supporters. Again, we thank you all.

It's been a slightly precarious life for us - but one with lots of job satisfaction!

For the last 15 months we have been tapping into the rapidly increasing national and international recognition for what we do by working with a number of new partners and supporters on how to accelerate and expand our program. The prospects are good, but the effort involved is straining our ability to support existing initiatives.

We encourage you to donate to Gondwana Link to keep the achievements coming and enable us to take on the challenge of 'bigger and better' large-scale restoration.

**Please donate :)**

---



Green Skills has purchased the 50 hectare 'Tootanellup' property near Rocky Gully, which sits in an important part of Gondwana Link. The property provides a wonderful opportunity to connect two key, existing habitat areas and develop a base for community education programs that support eco-restoration. We encourage you to support this important work which contributes to the Gondwana Link vision. Please consider making a donation towards its purchase. [READ MORE.](#)

---

## Always Was - Always Will Be

Gondwana Link acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work across the Link, and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We re-affirm our commitment to help future Elders emerge in a world that shows respect for First Nations communities and culture.



---

*Copyright © 2021, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Gondwana Link Ltd  
Unit 9, 70-74 Frederick Street  
Albany, Western Australia 6330  
Australia

[Add us to your address book](#)

As you have been a supporter of Gondwana Link we have added you to the list of Newsletter recipients. If



[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

