



ccwa

Dr Ward receiving the Len Howard Community Group Conservation Award from CCWA on behalf of Nature Conservation.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Kaya!

Once again we have had a very busy and successful year working hard to make our actions count with our mission to connect, respect and act for biodiversity.

The year's highlights included:

- Being awarded a very important grant from the lan Potter Foundation over 4 years to work strategically on the long term protection of the Wooditjip Bilya (Margaret River).
- Our Sundowner Series continuing to grow and bring world-class speakers to our region to trigger important community conversations and action.
- Our Environmental Services Unit expanding its impact through biodiversity planning and assessment (BAM) and great on-ground work from our bush regeneration team. This initiative is already bringing benefits to our environment, our community and the organisation. Not only can we can provide high quality work and advice, but the income generated supports our core funding.
- Raising community awareness and action through our Coordinated Weed Control Programs: the Arum Lily Blitz and the Woody Weed Campaign. The launch of the Field Book App has empowered the community and is delivering valuable data to guide and plan control works.
- Adopt a Spot, Our Patch and Waatu Kaatijin Environmental Education programs continuing to foster
 connection, respect and action on our local environment by primary students. The incorporation of
 the art element to Adopt a Spot has been a powerful addition to this program.
- The inspiring Youth Marine Stewardship Program engaging and empowering our local youth in the marine environment. The learning opportunities of the youth team, the development of their leadership skills and the projects instigated have been incredible.
- Our new Friends of Wooditjup Bilya initiative creating a regular team of volunteers to undertake quality, ongoing bush revegetation work on the Wooditjup Bilya.
- Our Caring for Coast program undertaking excellent on-ground work and community engagement.
- Winning the Len Howard Community Group Conservation Award from the Conservation Council of WA for demonstrating "an outstanding commitment and success in the conservation of the Western Australian environment".
- Partnering with the Friends of Meelup to deliver the Cape Naturaliste Conservation Enterprise
 to address threats to the unique conservation values of the Cape Naturaliste. With involvement of
 environmental stakeholders in the region, this ambitious project has the potential to provide a model
 for management of the Capes region.

I'd like to personally thank everyone who has contributed to the success of Nature Conservation this year. The passionate support of our board, staff, ambassadors, advisers and volunteers who generously give so much of their time and energy to support the biodiversity in our region is inspiring.

Thank you to all our funders, partners and supporters - we could not do this work without you.

Despite the threats we face in this region, I cannot help but feel grateful to live in this wonderful place amongst such a supportive community. Our custodianship of this region really counts.

Thank you.

DR ANN WARD

analowa

CHAIR BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



NATURE CONSERVATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF BIODIVERSITY.

WE CONNECT PEOPLE TO NATURE, LANDSCAPE AND PLACE.

WE BUILD UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR BOODJA.

WE FACILITATE, SUPPORT AND DRIVE LOCAL CONSERVATION WORK.

CONNECT | RESPECT | ACT

Two pillars of Focus

WOODITJUP BILYA

CARING FOR THE CAPES



Principles Act with integrity Collaborate to increase reach, impact and ownership Focus on long-term and landscape scale difference Avoid activities that are detrimental to our goals Commit to monitoring, data collection and sharing Provide leadership and advocacy on local environment issues Acknowledge, engage, support and partner with local cultural custodians

2023 - 2024 **OUR IMPACT**





State Award CCWA 'Len Howard' Community Group









2023-2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

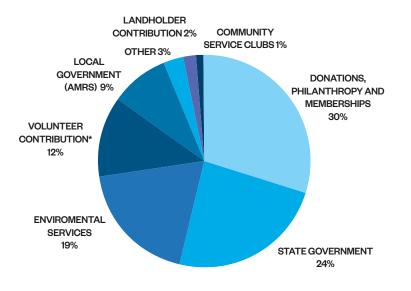
Nature Conservation grew its funding base through 2023–2024 providing additional capacity and resources to support the local environment, the community and the organisation.

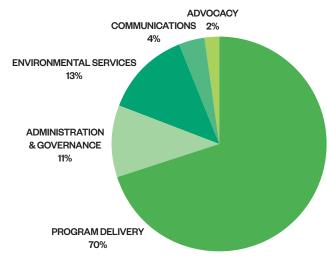
We are incredibly grateful to all our supporters, funders and partners for continuing their backing and collaboration with Nature Conservation during financial year 2024. Our work and our impact would not be possible without them. The figures below include a recognition of the 'in kind' volunteer contribution to the organisation and our programs. It represents a very significant component and one without which our work would not be possible.

2023-2024 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME \$1,424,214

EXPENDITURE \$1,041,619





BREAKDOWN OF 2023-24 INCOME

State Government	\$340,808
Local Government (AMRS)	\$131,122
Community Service Clubs	\$7,500
Donations, Philanthropy and Memberships	\$425,101
Landholder Contribution	\$33,722
Volunteer Contribution*	\$177,925*
Environmental Services	\$269,148
Other	\$38,887

^{*} A conservative estimate of the contribution of volunteer time by the community and board to the organisation and our programs.

BREAKDOWN OF 2023-24 EXPENDITURE

Program Delivery	\$733,458
Administration and Governance	\$114,790
Environmental Services	\$132,767
Communications	\$37,061
Advocacy	\$23,543











LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

One of Nature Conservation's core principles is to 'Provide leadership and advocacy on local environment issues'. In many ways this principle underpins all of our work from Environmental Education with youth, campaigns like the Arum Lily Blitz and our popular Sundowner Series. Another key element involves making comment and submissions on policy, development proposals and legislative change. We feel that this role is critical in the protection of biodiversity in a landscape that is experiencing rapid population and visitor growth. Whilst we remain very much a grass roots organisation undertaking the bulk of our work with the community and on the ground, we feel it is important that we also use our local knowledge to proactively influence better decision making.

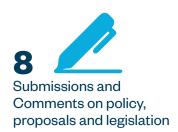
Sundowners

With the support of Shire of Augusta Margaret River Community Events grant we were able to run 3 Conservation Sundowners focused on The Flora of the Leeuwin Naturaliste ridge, Marine Biodiversity and the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park. After outgrowing the District Club, the series moved into the Main Theatre of the Nala Bardip Mia in 2023 and has grown from strength to strength.

Keynote speakers in 2023-2024 included:

- Professor Stephen Hopper,
- Wadandi Cultural Custodian Zac Webb,
- Dr Tim Langlois; and
- Ben Tannock from Karri Karrak.











ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM: OUR PATCH, ADOPT A SPOT, WAATU KAATIJIN

Our award winning Environmental Education work encompasses three unique programs working sequentially with grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 across the region. We work with nine schools to build understanding and connection to our landscape and provide students with opportunities to actively contribute to caring for it. We connect them with cultural custodians, local experts and community volunteers to build authentic experiences and real-life learning opportunities.



"So awesome to be involved with you all in working towards something very important for boodja" Josie Percival, Undalup Ranger

"It is so good because this is REAL work, has a REAL purpose, and will make a REAL difference in the kids' lives. It has such strong, meaningful wider community links and attracts so much interest throughout our district. Parents love it! It's what all teaching/learning should be like! It's been so rewarding to see the kids so actively engaged in preparing the presentation - they totally own it. Just love it!

Mark Harrison, teacher at MRPS





Our Funders of the Environmental Education Programs:







PASKEVILLE FOUNDATION











Our partners in Environmental Education are:

Undalup Association, DBCA, University of Western Australia, Great Southern Reef Foundation, WAM, Coastal Connections, , Bird Life Australia, Margaret River Coastal Residents. Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association, The Hairy Marron, GCBC, MRPS P and C and all participating schools.













OUR PATCH

The Our Patch Environmental Education Program is delivered in 7 local schools in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. The underpinning philosophy of the program is that we live in a beautiful unique place which defines our identity. Our connection to place is intertwined with a sense of belonging to community and a shared sense of stewardship.

The method of learning is inquiry based, occurring in and about the local environment. School communities are motivated to learn through students' questions, through a sense of purpose and authenticity to actual 'real world' tasks and concerns.

Highlights included:

- 7 primary schools engaged.
- 428 students participated in the program.
- 5136 student hours of environmental education in class and on country.
- Over 20 community groups/members, landholders, government agencies, NGO's, volunteers, and businesses shared their knowledge and principles of environmental stewardship with school groups.
- 133 excursion/incursion sessions.

ADOPT A SPOT

Adopt a Spot, through funding from Line in the Sand connects every school in the Cape to Cape region with a nearby bushland or coastal reserve. Becoming stewards of country, students learn about the unique values and threats of their special spot, experience stories of place from Cultural Custodians, engage with community members and take action to care for their adopted spot. In 2024 the program received funding from DLGSC to embed learning from First Nations Cultural Custodians and six artists to create art based on the adopted natural sites with students.

Highlights included:

- Workshops in two-way science for 172 students with Cultural Custodians and Undalup Rangers.
- 8th year running.
- Delivered across nine schools.
- 388 students engaged.
- 2,142 student hours engaged.



WAATU KAATIJIN (OCEAN LEARNING)

Through Waatu Kaatijin, students are empowered to become stewards of a designated coastal area. Through hands-on learning they study, identify threats, engage with stakeholders, propose and implement conservation measures, and share their knowledge with the community. Fostering a sense of responsibility, Waatu Kaatijin equips students with problem-solving, reflection, and practical skills for marine conservation.

Highlights included:

- School linked with Undalup Cultural Custodians, WA Museum, Oceans Institute UWA, marine science students, DBCA marine rangers, Birdlife, Coastcare groups, coastal engineers and geologists.
- 90 students engaged.
- 12 excursions with experts to the coastline.
- 19 in class lesson with external experts.
- End of year sharing with whole school and supporters to reflect on four key projects.







STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL WEED CONTROL

Arum Lily Blitz

ARUM LILY 6 The Arum Lily Blitz successfully entered its fifth year funded by the State NRM Program. This ambitious 30+ year campaign tackles the worst environmental weed in our region. The extent of the problem is enormous, but the level of community interest and action inspires us to continue the work. From 2019 to 2023, 1,970 landholders became involved controlling arum lily across over 23,000 hectares.

Many hundreds of landholders continue to join up every year.

Successfully managing arum lily across the region involves a shared management approach and we work with landholders, government, volunteers and the community to change attitudes and drive action on control of this damaging invasive species.

Key highlights for the year included:

- Landholder registrations in Spring 2023 brought the number of properties registered
- 405 landholders collected herbicide and were provided with information.
- 948 contractor hours of arum lily control on private properties.
- 250 contractor hours of arum lily control in the National Parks.
- Friends of the Cape to Cape Track completed 383 volunteer hours on arum lily control in the National Park.





Contractor hours targeting priority areas



Key funding or partnering organisations include:



natural resource management program









Other supporting organisations include:

Friends of the Cape to Cape Track, Yallingup LCDC, Capes Foundation, Augusta Home Hardware, Busselton Agricultural Services, Cowaramup Agencies, Dunsborough Rural, Karridale Agencies, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Pendrey Rural Supplies, Vasse General Store,









Woody Weed Campaign

Our StateNRM funded Woody Weed Campaign went into overdrive this past year. It aims to protect and improve native vegetation and habitat condition by the strategic and co-ordinated control of these very high priority weed species.

In order to achieve, this the project is working to:

- Increase awareness of the threat posed by these species.
- Increase the capacity of landholders and the community to identify and control woody weeds.
- Build a standardised mapping database to help prioritise and direct control efforts.
- Co-ordinate and undertake control in high priority locations.

Key highlights for the year included:

- The development and rollout of the Fieldbook App engaging the community in the mapping of priority weeds through our region.
- 13 very well attended workshops.
- Strong collaboration with local government and state government agencies.
- Strong landholder interest and uptake.
- Significant control across 760ha.











Key funders and partners of the Woody Weed Campaign include:

















WOODITJUP BILYA

Wooditjup Bilya is of great cultural and environmental significance. It is iconic and recognised as one of the healthier rivers in the southwest. However, it faces significant threats. Its protection represents one of the core priorities for our organisation.

Important work towards this during the year included:

- Successful application made to the lan Potter Foundation for a four-year project focused on the long term protection of the river.
- Fencing of a significant stretch of foreshore adjacent to a high-priority river pool in the agricultural zone.
- A very well-attended Sundowner focusing on our drying climate, the impact on streamflow for Wooditjup Bilya, water supply and management and monitoring responses.
- Wooditjup Bilya Collaborative Management Group with representation from key agencies and stakeholders continued to pursue cross-agency implementation of the protection strategy. This represents an important body for progressing issues related to the river.
- The very successful establishment of our new 'Friends of Wooditjup Bilya' program. With funding
 from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, this project has provided a tangible impact towards
 the protection and restoration of Wooditjup Bilya by:
 - Building community understanding and connection to the river through diverse speakers and event leaders including scientists, cultural custodians, river carers and conservationists.
 - Actively tackling degradation along the river foreshore through community action and supported volunteer events.







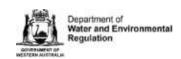


Partners and Key Funders include:









Pater Charitable Fund



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Our Environmental Services initiative established in July 2022 operates on a Fee for Service basis to:

- Work with landholders to improve understanding of biodiversity and threats on their property and provide recommendations and actions to maintain and improve biodiversity and habitat.
- Map biodiversity values and threats across the landscape to guide planning, benchmark the current state and monitor change.
- Provide a trusted team to implement ecologically informed bushland management such as controlling environmental weeds, erosion control and revegetation.

This assists not only in the implementation of Nature Conservation's programs but also undertake key work for private landholders, land managers and agencies. Our Environmental Services operates with the following objectives:

The Environmental Services initiative has the following objectives:

- 1 To build capacity within Nature Conservation.
- 2 To provide an important service and facilitate the planning and implementation of important work.
- 3 To build a key dataset to support landscape planning; and
- 4 As a Not for Profit, invest proceeds back into the organisation to help build resilience and impact.

2023 - 24 HIGHLIGHTS:

Planning and Assessment:

- Assessment of 25 National Trust Covenant properties including over 500ha of bushland.
- 3 'BAM's undertaken across approximately 400ha.
- Assessments have resulted in dieback assessments and education and on ground action on at least 19 properties.

On-ground Bush Regeneration:

- Implementation of high priority riparian zone revegetation projects.
- Over 400 hectares of strategic environmental weed control.
- Support at key coastal restoration and regeneration sites
- New watering trailer helped maintain large areas of revegetation over the 'big dry'.



1927
Hours of
bush regeneration





Key clients include:























CARING FOR COAST

In partnership with Line in the Sand this program collaborates with cultural custodians, local volunteer coastcare groups, boardriders, Local Government and DBCA to engage people in on ground coastal protection and restoration.

Significant highlights from the year include:

- Collaboration with the Margaret River Wine Industry and 70 industry volunteers at the annual coastal rehabilitation event at Gas Bay.
- The inaugural Sip n Sort event at Margaret River Brewhouse, in partnership with Tangaroa Blue and the WA Beach Cleanup.
- WSL 'Activation' at Gas Bay with pro surfers, Cow Bay Boardriders, Shire staff and Youth Marine Stewardship team working to regenerate the dunes at Gas Bay.

Youth Marine Stewardship Program

2024 saw the launch of the Youth Marine Stewardship (YMS) Program with funding from WSL One Ocean. The program aims to build a culture of coastal stewardship and give young locals with a keen interest in the coast and ocean the opportunity to learn from leaders in coastal conservation, watermanship and leadership. The youth are mentored and supported to develop their own projects in collaboration with local groups to effect change and build leadership skills.

Highlights include:

- Immersion Weekend: hands-on workshops with an all star team of local mentors and leaders topics including leadership, mental health, indigenous culture, freediving, reading the coastline and coastal conservation.
- Designing and development of projects addressing key marine issues.
- Completion of projects and celebration to come in October 2024;• WSL 'Activation' at Gas Bay with pro surfers, Cow Bay Boardriders, Shire staff and Youth Marine Stewardship team working to regenerate the dunes at Gas Bay.







Key Partners and Funders:









Supporting organisations:

Undalup Association, Margaret River Coastal Residents Association, Brewhouse Margaret River, Gracetown Cowaramup Bay Community Inc., City of Busselton, Cowaramup Bay Boardriders, Yallingup LCDO, Friends of the Cape to Cape Track, Tangaroa Blue, Birdlife Australia, Great Southern Reef Foundation, Margaret River Surfing Academy, One Ocean International, Scott Bauer, Cape to Cape Explorer Tours, Surf Point Resort.



FOR NATURE

The 'For Nature' Landholder Stewardship Program finished up in 2024 after 3 years of providing the community and landholders with the inspiration, knowledge and support to undertake conservation action. It worked to:

- 1. Inform landholders on how to support and enhance existing native flora and fauna on their properties.
- 2. Support initiatives which create and restore biodiversity and wildlife habitats.
- Promote community adoption of environmental stewardship through building capacity and motivation.

Key highlights across the project's three years include:

- 79 Landholders received support towards planning or on ground works.
- Over 19,000 plants established.
- Nearly 3,000 hours of conservation work (contractors & landholders).
- · 24 biodiversity assessments.
- 14 Landholder workshops, 619 attendees.
- 3 Open Garden Events with over 1000 attendees.













Key funders of 'For Nature' have been:



natural resource management program







Other supporters include:

 $Backyard\ Creations, Margaret\ River\ Mitre 10, Lazarus\ Horticulture\ Services, Cowara\ Landscaping, MRREC.$



NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD

Our volunteer board provides leadership experience and a broad knowledge base. They are passionate about protecting our environment and dedicated to furthering conservation of the region's biodiversity. They are responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of the organisation and are committed to maintaining high standards of governance.



Dr Ann Ward (Chair)

Ann is a doctor who made Margaret River home after moving from the Kimberley where she had spent 26 years as a rural GP Obstetrician. Prior to that, she was a Flying Doctor in Meekatharra for 3 years. She has a passion for bushwalking in wild areas and has worked in various capacities in the Himalaya, Antarctica, the Arctic and Tonga. She was formerly on the Board of Directors for the RFDS WA Section for 9 years and is a founding member of Gija Total Health Advisory group, supporting the Warmun Aboriginal Community. Ann has a strong interest in the extraordinary biodiverse qualities of the Margaret River Region and enjoys sharing her passion with like-minded people.



Hamish Worsley (Deputy Chair)

Hamish is an economist and actuary who settled in Margaret River with his family in 2014. Raised on a family farm in southern NSW, he has worked and travelled extensively within Australia and internationally. He is a Director at NMG, an international strategy consulting firm. His passion is spending time in nature and the outdoors with his wife and children.



Crispin Underwood (Treasurer)

Crispin is the founder and Director of an environmental consultancy specialising in environmental engineering and natural resource management. He has had a varied career with private industry, Government, the not-for-profit sector and in farming. Crispin has a holistic approach, which has drawn from his diverse work history, wide ranging travels, and his nature based interests.



Michelle McManus (Secretary)

Michelle operates a leading and award-winning regenerative farming business and currently supports Landsmith Collection. Her experience includes urban development, mining, infrastructure, rail, and natural gas as well with SME, the arts and local and state government. She brings experience in stakeholder engagement, communications and management focussing on sustainable development, environmental management, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).



Professor Emerita Carmen Lawrence

Former Premier of Western Australia (1990 – 93), Member for Fremantle in House of Representatives (1994-2007) and Minister for Human Services and Health (1994-96), Chair of the Australian Heritage Council (2010-2016), Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Change in the School of Psychological Science at the University of Western Australia. Carmen has a bush property in the Margaret River region and is a regular visitor.

NATURE CONSERVATION ADVISERS



Emma Scaife



Peter Adamson



Jane Scott



Leon Pericles

NATURE CONSERVATION AMBASSADORS



NATURE CONSERVATION STAFF

As at September 2024 (equivalent to ~8.1 Full Time Staff)



Drew McKenzie General Manager



Cass Jury Biodiversity Officer and Program Manager



Fran Dohring

Administration

and Finance



Geneveive Hanran-Smith Biodiversity Officer



Lauren Scanlon 'Our Patch' Environmental Education and Friends of Wooditjup Bilya



Lyndsey Cox Spatial Data Officer



Tracey Muir Adopt a Spot and Waatu Kaatijin



Trevor Paddenburg Communications



Peta Lierich Biodiversity Officer and 'Our Patch' Environmental Education



Jodie Passmore Special Projects



Mandy Edwards Coastal Officer and Biodiversity Officer



Obelia Walker Biodiversity Officer



Declan McGill

Environmental Services

Coordinator



Nathan Hammer Bush Regeneration Team



Jackson Res Bush Regeneration Team

NATURE CONSERVATION SUPPORTERS

Nature Conservation receives significant funding and support from a broad range of grant programs, philanthropic partners, businesses, community groups and individuals. As an independent Not for Profit organisation we are entirely dependent on this support and take this opportunity to thank all those who partnered with and supported Nature Conservation during the year.

KEY GRANT FUNDING PARTNERS

















PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING PARTNERS











Pater Charitable Fund



BUSINESS SPONSORS

GOLD:







BRONZE:



SIGNIFICANT PRIVATE DONORS

Caroline de Mori, Ann Ward, Sam Castleden and Natasha Bussell, Helen and Robert Bradbury, Bill and Wendy Castleden.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS, COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Arts Margaret River

Birdlife WA and Cape to Cape Bird Group

Carbon Farming Foundation Brewhouse Margaret River

Bunnings Margaret River Cape to Cape Explorer Tours

Crossfit Margaret River

City of Busselton

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Edith Cowan University

Edgewalkers FAWNA

Friends of Reserve Group Volunteers

Hairy Marron Café IGA Margaret River

Friends of the Cape to Cape track Geographe Catchments Council

Gondwana Link

Gracetown Cowaramup Bay Community Inc

Holst Design + Build

Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation

Lions Club of Cowaramup

Lions Club of Margaret River

Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee

Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association

Margaret River Business Network

Margaret River Coastal Residents Association Margaret River Regional Environment Centre

Margaret River Wine Association

Mindful Margaret River

Murdoch University Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems

Participating Schools throughout the region

Owl Friendly Margaret River Region

Recycology

Rotary Club of Margaret River

Landsmith Collection South West NRM The Servo Taphouse Transition Margaret River Undalup Association

Voyager Estate Yallingup LCDC

 $A special \, thank \, you \, to \, Sean \, Blocksidge, \, Christian \, Fletcher, \, Keith \, Lightbody, \, Rusty \, Rouse, \, Steve \, Castan \, and \, Jinni \, Wilson \, for \, the \, use \, of \, their \, images \, within \, this \, document.$





TAKE ACTION WITH NATURE CONSERVATION

We need your help to protect the unique natural environment of the Margaret River Region.

Visit our website www.natureconservation.org.au





CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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@natureconservationmargaretriver

Find us on Instagram:

natureconservation.mr