



**2019-20
ANNUAL REPORT**



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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the country on which we work, the Wadandi/Pibulumun people, and recognise their continuing connection to Country. Nature Conservation pays its respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome to Nature Conservation's 2019-20 Annual Report. Having recently completed my first year as Chair, I don't think anyone could have anticipated a year quite like 2020. With the global health crisis we have all been impacted in ways that we could never have imaged.

Amidst the continuing threat of COVID 19, Nature Conservation has been fortunate to be able to continue its valuable conservation work with little interruption. Our office closed for only three weeks and we had no financial impact. Even though some of our community engagement and schools events were postponed when restrictions were tight, staff managed to deliver all these events once conditions eased. I'm pleased to report that the 2019-20 financial year has been another successful one for Nature Conservation during which our staff have delivered a wide range of conservation and engagement activities in accordance with our long term strategies.

We acknowledge our strategic partners who have assisted us during the year and who are vital to our success. Once again the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, has generously supported our administrative needs and through their Environmental Management Fund supported a number of our key programs. Local business and individuals, too many to mention here, have also provided significant contributions to our work.

A major initiative of the 2019-20 financial year has been the Board supported decision to establish a Strategic Development Committee. The focus of the Committee is to broaden the organisation's income base, and improve our financial stability. The Committee has been working on key initiatives that will in the longer term aim to reduce our dependence on grant funding, and attract greater income from philanthropic sources.

During the year we have been pleased to be able to significantly expand our coastal program with the support of the Line in the Sand Philanthropic Group. The group's generous financial underpinning has allowed staff to continue working with schools at coastal 'Adopt a Spot' sites, grow our coastal restoration activities in collaboration with coast groups, engage our aboriginal youth in restoration activities coupled with cultural learning and raise community awareness of coastal issues.

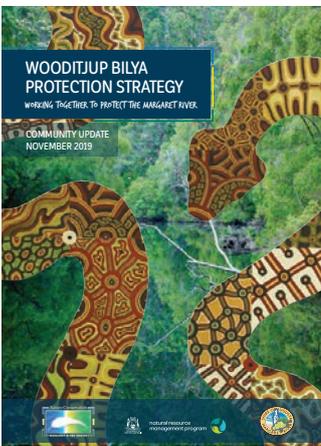
In November 2019, in partnership with the Shire of Augusta Margaret River we launched the Wooditjup Bilya Protection Strategy, providing a blue print for collaborative management of the Margaret River. The Shire has since supported us with funding for capacity to drive the implementation of the Strategy and establish a water quality monitoring program for the river. We are now excited to be developing a partnership with a local business as well applying for further State NRM Program funding, to support this program into the future.

I am also pleased to report that the region-wide Arum Lily Blitz commenced in 2019 and has resulted in significant levels of community engagement. In the first year of the three year Blitz, an impressive 624 landowners took part, actively controlling arum lilies across 10,800 hectares of land in the region. Staff are hoping to increase engagement to 1000 landowners in the 2020 season and hope that the Blitz will result in significant behavioral change to addressing one of the biggest biosecurity challenges in our region.

We've also been greatly encouraged by the success of action planning undertaken with the Giant Light Steps Alliance during the year. A number of the founding members of the alliance have prepared action plans outlining their commitments to the environmental challenges of the Margaret River region. These action plans will start to be implemented over the coming year and we will start to harness the power and benefit of this community environmental alliance.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedicated work of our Board, staff and volunteers. Our Board has played a key role in providing strategic oversight and discussion. During the year we have welcomed a number of new Board Members. Dr Ann Ward, Pam Townshend and Mandi McCluskey joined the Board, bringing great insight and experience. It was pleasing also that, at the same time, we have been able to address the gender balance of the Board. The staff at Nature Conservation, ably guided by Caroline Hughes, are to be congratulated on an amazing set of outcomes. I would like to thank all our Board Members, staff and volunteers for their passion and commitment to the organization.

DR JOHN CRESSWELL, CHAIR, NATURE CONSERVATION MARGARET RIVER REGION BOARD



2019-20 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Nature Conservation Margaret River Region is proud to report on the following key achievements against its organisational objectives during the 2019-20 financial year. More details of key achievements in each of Nature Conservation's three engagement and five conservation programs are provided in the program pages of our 2019-20 Annual Report.

- A Community Engagement and Stewardship Strategy was completed including a proposal and promotional package for a new For Nature Landowner Stewardship Program. Nature Conservation is crossing its fingers for a successful outcome for its 2020 State NRM Program grant application to realise this important engagement program in early 2021.
- The 'Our Patch' Environmental Education Program continued to increase the ecological knowledge and understanding of the next generation. During the 2019-20 financial year the program worked with 693 students from 7 schools delivering 43 incursions and 37 excursions with further activities delivered during term 3 of 2020.
- Commencement of the Line in the Sand Coastal Program including a two-pronged approach to caring for our coast – community education to inspire people to value and care for the coast, together with a program of on ground coastal rehabilitation working with community volunteers and schools to protect and rehabilitate the coast. The program includes a strong collaboration with the Undalup Association, sharing their stories of the coast and engaging Aboriginal youth in coastal rehabilitation activities.
- The first year of the region wide Arum Lily Blitz was rolled out resulting in an impressive 624 landowners actively controlling arum lilies across 10,800 hectares of land in the region. Nearly 1200 hours of spraying was undertaken by contractors on private property, National Parks and reserves. Private landowners themselves did over 800 hours of control. Volunteers from the Yallingup Land Conservation District Committee and the Friends of the Cape to Cape Track also began work to control arum lily within the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.
- 60 community members attended Project Snapshot, a workshop hosted by Giant Light Steps and Transition Margaret River in November 2019 at Fair Harvest Permaculture. The workshop included 17 presentations showcasing current and future community environmental and sustainability projects, encouraging collaboration and providing inspiration and opportunities for Giant Light Steps Members to contribute to addressing broader regional environmental issues.
- Action planning with Giant Light Steps Alliance members commenced with Nature Conservation facilitating the development of individual environmental actions and targets for each of the alliance members.
- The Wooditjup Bilya Protection Strategy was launched to the community at Rotary Park in November 2019. The Strategy provides a blueprint for collaborative management of the Margaret River, continued facilitation of the Wooditjup Bilya Collaborative Management Group and establishment a Keep Watch Water Quality Monitoring Program for the river.
- The second year of the 5 year Western Ringtail Possum Conservation Project funded by the National Landcare Program through the South West Catchment Council and supported by the Shire of August Margaret River's Environmental Management Fund was completed. A total of 249 volunteer citizen science surveys and 1.5 hectares of priority Western ringtail possum habitat has been enhanced with 9398 native seedlings since the 5 year project commenced.
- Regular communications were maintained with the Nature Conservation Network of 734 interested community members through regular email updates and social media posts. Nature Conservation's Facebook Followers increased to 1707 during 2019-20.



THE YEAR AHEAD

Every year Nature Conservation aspires to grow and expand its long term conservation and engagement programs. Learn about our priorities for 2020-21 below:

- Our Strategic Development Committee will be working hard to grow philanthropic support for our administrative needs and our conservation and engagement programs. A proposal to establish a Guardians Circle of philanthropists will be explored.
- A way forward for Nature Conservation in the fire and biodiversity space will be developed through consultation with key stakeholders. This initiative recognises that fire is one of the major challenges facing our environment and our community as impacts of climate change increase.
- Nature Conservation will connect with the newly formed Margaret River Community Resilience Alliance to increase cohesion and identify opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with other environmental groups and not-for-profits in our community.
- Relationship building will continue with the Undalup Association with a view to developing genuine collaborations with our traditional custodians to jointly care for country. This relationship will be complemented by the engagement of a Nature Conservation Aboriginal Conservation Trainee through generous support from the Water Corporation's Regional Liveability Initiative.
- An organisational communications strategy will be developed identifying major organisational and project communication campaigns to increase community engagement in conservation action.
- A data base structure for digital data and corporate memory will be developed to enhance the organisation's record keeping and reporting capability.
- Nature Conservation's Coastal Program supported by Line in the Sand Philanthropic Group will be expanded with Cultural Connection Coastal Walks, Aboriginal youth engagement activities, volunteer and schools engagement opportunities and the development of a community supported coastal code for our region.
- The proposed For Nature Landowner Stewardship Program will be rolled out to the community providing inspiration, knowledge and connections for urban and rural landowners to get involved in conservation action.
- Nature Conservation will work to secure further investment in arum lily control especially for control in the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park to support the amazing efforts of landowners through the Arum Lily Blitz.
- Community connections with Wooditjup Bilya will be increased through a video presentation in late 2020 showcasing actions to protect the river and a family friendly Wooditup Bilya Connections event at Rotary Park in early 2021.



2019-20 FINANCIAL REPORT

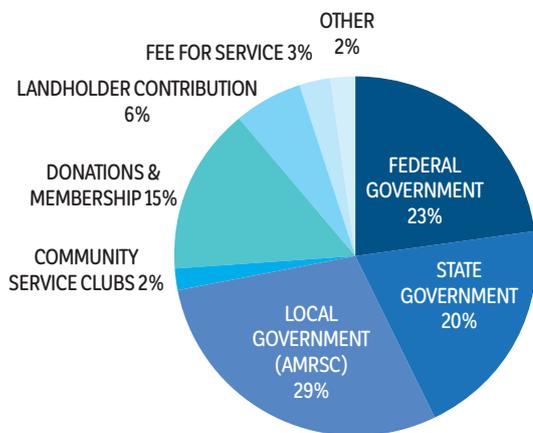
Nature Conservation's administrative funding continues to be sourced through a generous contribution from the Augusta-Margaret River Shire, administration contributions from grant funded projects, fund raising activities and support through business and individual donations to the organisation.

Nature Conservation's Program funding continues to be primarily sourced from local, State and Federal government grants with matching funding through community contributions and time. In addition during 2019-20 philanthropic support for the organisations coastal program was received.

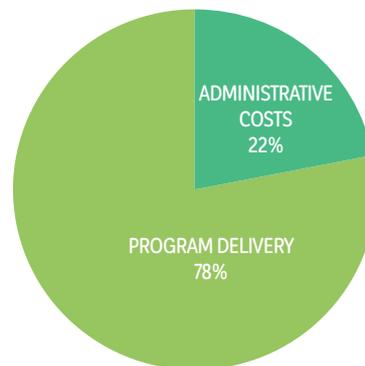
A thank you to all the local business, individuals, organisations and grant programs who provided financial assistance to Nature Conservation during the 2019-20 financial year. A list of our supporters for the year is provided on page 15 of our report.

2019-20 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME \$606,098



EXPENDITURE \$570,652



BREAKDOWN OF 2019-20 INCOME

Membership fees	\$1,158
Donations and Fundraising	\$92,970
Augusta Margaret River Shire	\$174,749
Rotary and Lions Clubs	\$10,000
State NRM Program	\$122,172
National Landcare Program via SWCC	\$113,661
Building Better Regions Fund	\$4,837
Landholder Contributions	\$36,048
Fee For Service Contracts	\$19,225
ATO Cash Flow Assistance	\$20,854
Bendigo Bank Sponsorship	\$10,000
Miscellaneous	\$64
Interest Income	\$360
TOTAL INCOME	\$606,098

BREAKDOWN OF 2019-20 EXPENDITURE

Administrative Costs (salaries and oncosts)	\$85,747
Administrative Costs (office expenses)	\$28,175
Administrative Costs (vehicle expenses)	\$11,396
Program Delivery (salaries and oncosts)	\$184,740
Program Delivery (operational expenses)	\$260,592
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$570,652



The way forward

Nature Conservation is inspired by the first year of the Giant Light Steps Alliance and its desire to contribute to the collaborative management of our environment. As the Alliance grows and develops momentum the benefits to the environment will be realised. Nature Conservation wishes to continue its facilitation role and requires \$30,000 annually to provide this capacity.

GIANT LIGHT STEPS

What we achieved -

- The Margaret River Wine Association joined the Giant Light Steps Alliance in October 2019 bringing the total members of the alliance to seven including: Nature Conservation Margaret River Region, Augusta Margaret River Shire, Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association, Margaret River Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Transition Margaret River, South West Catchments Council and the Margaret River Wine Association. The Alliance met twice during the financial year with the ability to collaborate reduced towards the end of the year due to COVID 19 restrictions.
- 60 community members attended Project Snapshot, a workshop hosted by Giant Light Steps and Transition Margaret River in November 2019 at Fair Harvest Permaculture. The workshop included 17 presentations showcasing current and future community environmental and sustainability projects, encouraging collaboration and providing inspiration and opportunities for Giant Light Steps Members to contribute to addressing broader regional environmental issues.
- Action planning to identify individual Giant Light Step member environmental commitments and targets commenced during 2019-20 facilitated by Nature Conservation. Transition Margaret River and Margaret River Wine Association completed draft action plans during this period, however progress with other members was hampered by COVID 19 commitments. Action plans for all members are now due for completion by December 2020.

Funding Contributions 2019-20	Amount
Building Better Regions Fund (including cash contribution from Nature Conservation)	\$20,000 over 18 months 2019 -2020





PEOPLE FOR NATURE

What we achieved -

- The 'Get Involved' pages of the Nature Conservation website were significantly improved to provide community members with additional information and ways of connecting with Nature Conservation and its programs.
- A range of Gardens for Nature and Bushland Management Information Sheets were completed, uploaded to the website and promoted at two community presentations. The sheets provide increased information for the community to get involved in conservation action at their place.
- Regular communications was maintained with the Nature Conservation Network of 734 interested community members through regular email updates and event notices.
- The Nature Conservation Facebook Page was kept up to date with activities, events and information with Facebook followers increasing to 1707 during 2019-20.
- A registry of 286 Nature Conservation Volunteers was maintained with volunteers engaged in on ground rehabilitation and citizen science volunteer opportunities coordinated by Nature Conservation and other organisations throughout the year.
- Advice and support was continued for 6 friends of reserve groups caring for local bushland, foreshore and coastal reserves. Despite cancellation of some on ground workdays due to COVID 19 six strategic planning sessions and eight on ground conservation activities were undertaken in partnership with these groups, including weeding, planting and seed collection. A total of 193 volunteer hours were contributed by 76 community members with 890 native seedlings planted across four Shire vested reserves.
- A friends of reserves forum was held in Augusta in February 2020 and engaged volunteers from across the Shire. The forum included a training session for volunteers on photo monitoring and record keeping. It was also an opportunity for volunteers to view the work of the Augusta Community Nursery, Coast and River Care Group, including a tour of the group's nursery and site visits to project sites along the Hardy Inlet foreshore
- Nature Conservation, supported by Award Sponsor Landsmith Collection, once again presented the Environment Excellence Award at the 2019 Telstra Margaret River Business Margaret River Awards recognising environment leaders in the business community.

The way forward

Nature Conservation is very keen to further engage landowners in conservation action and has developed a proposal to establish a FOR NATURE landowner stewardship program. An application for State NRM Program funding has been submitted to commence this program in early 2021. Nature Conservation still aspires to expand its community awareness raising capacity to assist the community to further care for our environment. An additional \$60,000 annually for a dedicated People for Nature Coordinator with an events budget is still required to make this happen.

Funding Contributions 2019-20

Amount

Augusta Margaret River Shire's Environmental Management Fund –
Increasing volunteering in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River

\$19,129



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

What we achieved -

- 693 school students from 7 local primary schools participated in the 'Our Patch' Environmental Education Program including 37 excursions and 43 in class lessons. Our Patch delivered focused learning on wetland ecosystems and local native fauna species for Year 3 students learning about local catchments, waterways and landuse. Year 6 catchment tours and Aboriginal cultural sessions were postponed until Term 3 due to COVID 19 school closures and excursion restrictions and have recently been completed.
- Two detailed teachers resource packs were developed for the Year 3 and Year 6 Our Patch Programs during the 2019-20 financial year. The packs provide a one stop shop for resources and links to the curriculum for teachers involved with the 'Our Patch' Program.
- The 'Adopt a Spot' Program continued to deliver a program of on ground conservation and student learning with Year 4 students. 759 students from 8 local schools cared for 9 bushland, coastal and foreshore sites attending 12 excursions and 12 in class lessons during 2019-20. Many 2020 rehabilitation excursions were postponed until Term 3 due to COVID 19 school closures and excursion restrictions and have recently been completed. 2260 native seedlings, 500 pigface cuttings transplanted, 1 load of brush laid and significant hand weeding were completed at these excursions.
- 256 Year 3 students from across the Margaret River region attended an aquatic themed School's Bioblitz at Barrett Street Weir on 14 November 2019. Students were treated to a half day of activities from a range of presenters about freshwater fish, food webs in the river and marron, Aboriginal culture and waterways, and animals that live in bushland along the river. The Bioblitz actively engaged students in real science, learning from scientists and experts in their fields about life in and around our local waterways

The way forward

Nature Conservation is keen to provide further financial stability to its current 'Our Patch' and 'Adopt a Spot' Programs, enabling the programs to grow and provide further opportunities for increasing ecological knowledge and engagement of our younger generation. Expanding the program to high schools is a high priority. Additional funding of \$50,000 annually would provide stability and enable expansion opportunities to be explored.

Funding Contributions 2019-20

	Amount
Rotary Club of Margaret River	\$10,000
Cowaramup Lions Club	\$4,000
Augusta Margaret River Shire Council's Environmental Management Fund	\$13,571
Participating Schools	\$10,500
Paskerville Foundation	\$15,000
State NRM Community Stewardship Grant – Adopt a Spot Program 2019	\$25,000
Line in the Sand Philanthropic Group - Adopt a Spot Program 2020	\$29,800





CONSERVE WOODITJUP BILYA (Margaret River)

What we achieved -

- The Wooditjup Bilya Protection Strategy was launched to the community at Rotary Park in November 2019. The Strategy provides a blueprint for collaborative management of the Margaret River. The community event included the launch of the Protection Strategy and a Report to the Community on progress against actions in the strategy, as well as a cultural walk along the river led by Cultural Custodian Iszaac Webb.
- Nature Conservation in partnership with the Augusta Margaret River Shire continued to facilitate the Wooditjup Bilya Collaborative Management Group. The group met twice during the 2019-20 year including a meeting on country with Cultural Custodian Iszaac Webb to discuss Aboriginal consultation and approvals processes. The group now focuses on implementation of the many actions within the Wooditjup Bilya Protection Strategy.
- A keep watch water quality monitoring program for the river was established in April 2020. Monthly monitoring at 6 locations from Canebrake Pool to the Rivermouth now provides the Collaborative Management Group with a base line on the health of the Margaret River and the ability to detect problems that may arise.
- Work commenced on a 2020 Wooditjup Bilya Community Update video showcasing the work being done to protect and enhance the Margaret River. The video will be presented to the community late in 2020.
- Significant priority weed control was delivered on behalf of the Augusta Margaret River Shire on the Shire vested reserves along the Margaret River between town and coast. Key species controlled included blackberry, Cape gooseberry, Pandora vine, woody weeds (Sydney golden wattle, Olive and Flinders Ranges wattle), Bridal creeper and African feather grass.

The way forward

Securing ongoing funding for the Wooditjup Bilya Protection Program continues to be a priority for Nature Conservation. Although a State NRM Funding application has been submitted and philanthropic partnerships are being developed ongoing financial support for this program is still sought. An amount of \$100,000 annually would allow Nature Conservation to drive the collaborative management process, continue water quality monitoring, contribute to foreshore restoration programs and raise awareness of river values.

Funding Contributions 2019-20

	Amount
State NRM Community Action Grant (Completed Dec 2019)	\$41,875
Augusta Margaret River Shire (March – December 2020)	\$55,560
Augusta Margaret River Shire (Foreshore reserve weed control)	\$15,000



COORDINATED WEED CONTROL

What we achieved -

- The first year of the region wide three year Arum Lily Blitz was rolled out resulting in:
 - Delivery of a targeted communications strategy aimed at raising awareness about the impact of arum lily, encouraging landowners to undertake control and encouraging registration with the Arum Lily Blitz.
 - Establishment of a 3 year arum lily control monitoring site in the Point Rd/Georgette Rd area in the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park. The monitoring site aims to provide important data on how large infestations in the karri forest can be tackled and what this control might cost. The trial is funded by private landowners concerned about the arum lily infestation in the Park.
 - Provision of advice, support and free herbicide to participating landowners and commercial control on a cost share basis in priority areas.
 - Engagement of an impressive 624 landowners actively controlling arum lilies across 10,800 hectares of land in the region.
 - Close to 1200 hours of control undertaken by commercial weed control contractors across 2770 hectares of private property and within National Parks and reserves. An additional 800 hours of control was also reported by private landowners.
 - Volunteers from the Yallingup Land Conservation District Committee and the Friends of the Cape to Cape Track also began work to control arum lily within the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.
 - A get together in November 2019 of key stakeholders to celebrate the achievements in the first year of the Arum Lily Blitz and to foster their continued involvement
- Significant other priority weed control was delivered on behalf of the Augusta Margaret River Shire on the Shire vested reserves along the Margaret River between town and coast. Key species controlled included blackberry, Cape gooseberry, Pandora vine, woody weeds (Sydney golden wattle, Olive and Flinders Ranges wattle), Bridal creeper and African feather grass.

The way forward

Nature Conservation is looking for ways to continue and expand its current Arum Lily Blitz. Significant investment is needed to address arum infestations within the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park and Nature Conservation has approached the State Government for their attention to this work. Ongoing support to landowners is also needed after our State NRM grant funding is complete. Financial support of \$100,000 per annum would allow Nature conservation to continue and expand the Arum Lily Blitz and also turn its attention to other priority weed issues in the region.

Funding Contributions 2019-20

Amount

State NRM Community Stewardship Grant – Strategic arum lily management in the Margaret River region	\$340,360 over 3 years 2019-2022
Landowner contributions (50% cost share basis)	\$36,048
Augusta Margaret River Shire contribution to foreshore weed control	\$15,000



MANAGING BUSHLAND FOR WILDLIFE

What we achieved -

- Two community presentations were conducted in August 2020 to promote new Bushland Management and Gardens for Nature web resources prepared by Nature Conservation. 'Attracting Birds to your Garden' targeted urban residents wanting to protect biodiversity in their gardens and 'Quenda – Ecosystem Engineers' attracted a more rural audience. Both presentations aimed to increased engagement of landowners in conservation action on their properties. The web resources have now been uploaded to the Nature Conservation website.
- A proposal to establish a For Nature Landowner Stewardship Program for the Margaret River region was developed as part of a broader investigation into increasing community engagement in conservation action. For Nature Landowner Stewardship Program will target rural and rural-residential landowners, and urban gardeners engaging them as community environmental stewards for our region. The key focus of the program will be to provide landowners with the inspiration, knowledge and connections to undertake conservation action and to foster landowner responsibility for these activities. An application to the State NRM Program for 3 year funding to implement For Nature Landowner Stewardship Program has been submitted and Nature Conservation hopes to roll out the program in early 2021.
- During 2019-20 Nature Conservation worked with local Land for Wildlife property owners to increase and improve habitat for threatened species. A total of 9280 local native seedlings were planted across 3 properties with adjoining habitat areas that support the critically endangered Western ringtail possum. Fencing and weed control was also undertaken as part of the support for these property owners.

The way forward

Nature Conservation is hoping to secure 3 year State NRM Program funding to commence the For Nature Landowner Stewardship Program landowner stewardship program in early 2021. This major initiative will enlist the help of urban and rural landowners in protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the region. Additional incentive funding of \$50,000 per annum to share the cost of strategic action with landowners would significantly value add to the program.

Funding Contributions 2019-20

	Amount
State NRM Program - Community Engagement and Landowner Stewardship Strategy	\$23,880
National Landcare Program via South West Catchments Council – Land for Wildlife Conservation Action	\$75,232



THREATENED SPECIES PROTECTION

What we achieved -

- The second year of a five year Western Ringtail Possum Conservation Project was completed. The project is funded by the National Landcare Program through the South West Catchments Council and supported by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. Achievements included:
 - 123 volunteer citizen science surveys on established transects throughout the region were completed to better understand priority habitats and distribution of the species. A total of 249 surveys have now been completed as part of the 5 year project.
 - 1 hectare of priority Western ringtail possum habitat enhancement was completed with 5724 native seedlings planted at two sites at Maxwell Street and Ashton Street on the banks for the Margaret River. A total of 1.5 hectares of habitat enhancement has now been completed as part of the 5 year project.
 - 5 community engagement activities including 2 survey volunteer get togethers, 1 community possum night stalk and 2 community presentations in October 2019 and June 2020.
 - Completion of the 2019 Spring Possum Tally engaging landowners in counting possums in the gardens, on their properties or in their local bushland.
 - Facilitation of the local Western ringtail possum Steering Group and participate in the broader Recovery Team for the species.
- The Black Cockatoo Conservation Project was continued and resulted in the following achievements:
 - Leading up to the 2020 Great Cocky Count Nature Conservation assisted Birdlife WA with assessment of roosts and coordination of local volunteer participation for the event. Sadly the 2020 Birdlife WA's 2019 Great Cocky Count was cancelled due to COVID-19.
 - Support was provided to Rankin Salinas to complete the Cape to Cape Cocky Run raising funds for Black Cockatoo conservation. Part of the proceeds raised supported Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Sanctuary and FAWNA Inc. to care for injured black cockatoos. Additional funds will be used to investigate how black cockatoo habitat can be better protected during prescribed burning activities.
 - Facilitation of the local Black Cockatoo Steering Group and continued communications with Birdlife WA regarding the conservation of the three black cockatoo species found in the region.
- Nature conservation provided auspicing support for the Owl Friendly Margaret River Region Group to continue their campaign to tackle poisoning of our nocturnal birdlife and other wildlife by rodenticides. The group is supported by sponsorship from the Augusta Districts Bendigo Bank.

Funding Contributions 2019-20

Amount

National Landcare Program via South West Catchments Council – Western Ringtail Possum Conservation	\$196,092 over 5 year 2018- 2022
Augusta Margaret River Shire's Environmental Management Fund – Western Ringtail Possum Conservation	\$24,650
Augusta Districts Bendigo Bank (sponsorship for Owl Friendly Margaret River Region)	\$15,000 (March 2020 – March 2021)

The way forward

Protecting our threatened species is high on Nature Conservation's list of priorities. Climate change and population growth are increasing threats to our wildlife so we need to work fast to understand how they use our landscape and how we can help. An additional \$100,000 annually would allow Nature Conservation to expand its citizen science programs and start to implement dedicated conservation action to protect the fauna species most at risk in our region.





CARING FOR COAST

What we achieved -

- During 2019-20 a collaboration with Line in the Sand Philanthropic Group commenced to deliver a program of coastal restoration and community awareness raising along the coast between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin. The program aims to inspire the community to value, respect and care for the coast, and to engage them in restoration activities to improve the condition of coastal ecosystems. The program has strong involvement of the Undalup Association representing the Wadandi people as the traditional custodians of the coast.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions planned community engagement activities were postponed until later in 2020. Planning and logistical arrangements were undertaken so that these activities could roll out once restrictions were lifted. Towards the end of June the following activities were able to be completed:

- Year 4 Cowaramup Primary students undertook their 'Adopt a Sport' rehabilitation activities including planting of 420 native seedlings and 400 pigface cuttings and laying a load of brush at Gracetown Swimmers Beach.
- Local volunteers from the Friends of Gracetown and Cowaramup Bay and the Cowaramup Board Riders Association were engaged in coastal restoration work including brushing and planting of 720 native seedlings at Melaleuca Beach and Huzzas.
- Support to coastal friends of reserve groups at Gracetown, Gnarabup, Redgate and Augusta was continued with volunteers attending a Friends of Reserves Forum in February 2020 in Augusta. The Forum included a training session for volunteers on photo monitoring and record keeping.
- Tangaroa Blue's Annual WA Beach Clean Up was once again promoted to volunteers and community groups within the Nature Conservation Network.

The way forward

Nature Conservation is keen to deliver a three pronged approach with its coastal program - to inspire the community to value, respect and care for the coast, to engage them in restoration activities, and to support local coastcare groups with information, advice and training and celebrate their efforts. Financial support of \$150,000 per annum would allow Nature Conservation to fully realise this vision.

Funding Contributions 2019-20

Amount

Line in the Sand Philanthropic Group

\$85,000 (Feb – Dec 2020)



NATURE CONSERVATION SUPPORTERS

During 2019-20 Nature Conservation received funding and support from a range of grant programs, organisations, business and individuals. We wish to thank all those who partnered with and supported Nature Conservation and assisted our organisation to achieve environmental outcomes for the Margaret River region.

Strategic Partners

The Undalup Association
Augusta Margaret River Shire Council
South West Catchments Council
Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association
Margaret River Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Margaret River Wine Association
Transition Margaret River
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Gondwana Link
Murdoch University Freshwater Fish Group and Fish Health Unit
Edith Cowan University
Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee
Geographe Catchments Council
Birdlife WA and Cape to Cape Bird Group
FAWNA Inc.

Community and Business Supporters

Nature Conservation Members and Donors
Nature Conservation Volunteers
Friends of Reserve Group Volunteers
Contributing landowners
Rotary Club of Margaret River
Cowaramup Lions Club
'Our Patch' Participating Schools
Brewhouse Margaret River
Candy Cow Cowaramup
Paskerville Foundation
Line in the Sand Philanthropic Group
Cape to Cape Explorer Tours
Augusta Districts Community Bendigo Bank

Grant Programs

Shire of Augusta Margaret River's Environmental Management Fund
State Government's Natural Resource Management Program
Federal Government's National Landcare Program
Building Better Regions Fund

A special thank you also to Christian Fletcher for use of a number of his stunning photographs of the Margaret River region in this document and on www.natureconservation.org.au.



Dr John Cresswell
CHAIR



Pam Townshed
DEPUTY CHAIR



Stuart Hicks AO
SECRETARY



Margaret Moir
TREASURER



Professor Emerita
Carmen Lawrence



Dr Boyd Wykes



Jarrad Clark



Dr Ann Ward



Mandi McCluskey

NATURE CONSERVATION STAFF

Part time staff during 2019-20 equated to 3.1 full time staff and included:

Caroline Hughes	Executive Officer, Strategic Partnerships and Projects
Fran Dohring	Administration and Finance
Genevieve Hanran	Biodiversity Protection
Drew McKenzie	Biodiversity Protection, Threatened Species, Coastal Restoration
Lyndsey Cox	Research and Citizen Science and Land for Wildlife
Michelle Keppel	'Our Patch' Environmental Education, Friends of Reserve Support, Wooditjup Bilya Protection
Tracey Muir	Adopt a Spot Program
Sascha Papalia	Giant Light Steps



NATURE CONSERVATION MARGARET RIVER REGION

Nature conservation works with the community to protect and enhance the nature environment of the Margaret River region.

Our vision for the region is:

‘A healthy and biodiverse natural environment supporting the livelihoods and lifestyles on which our community depends’.



OUR APPROACH

Inspiring a conservation culture

Nature Conservation aims to inspire and encourage a strong community conservation culture that values, supports and engages in nature conservation. Our engagement programs work at various levels within the community targeting a variety of community audiences and aiming to increase whole of community support for protection of the Margaret River environment.

NATURE CONSERVATION’S ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Giant Light Steps

Championing environmental stewardship with key community stakeholders as a core economic and lifestyle responsibility.

People for Nature

Inspiring community participation in environmental stewardship.

Schools environmental education

Developing ecological awareness and connecting young people to nature



Addressing the key challenges of the region

Nature Conservation aims for the Margaret River region to maintain a range of natural terrestrial, aquatic and coastal ecosystems that are healthy and resilient. Our conservation programs are aimed at making the biggest difference to the key environmental challenges facing the Margaret River region, whilst helping to excite people’s imagination and showing results on the ground.

NATURE CONSERVATION’S CONSERVATION PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Conserve the Wooditjup Bilya

Protecting the unique values of Wooditjup Bilya (Margaret River)

Coordinated weed control

Controlling environmental weeds to protect biodiversity

Managing bushland for wildlife

Building habitat resilience and linkages for fauna

Threatened species protection

Protecting wildlife at risk in the region

Caring for coast

Supporting community efforts to protect coastal ecosystems





JOIN WITH NATURE CONSERVATION

We need your help to protect the unique and special natural environment of the Margaret River Region. Visit our website www.natureconservation.org.au to find out how you can help.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

Phone: 9757 2202

Email: info@natureconservation.org.au

www.natureconservation.org.au

Find us on Facebook [@natureconservationmargaretriver](https://www.facebook.com/natureconservationmargaretriver)