



Nature Conservation Margaret River Region  

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2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



## *Acknowledgement of Country*

Nature Conservation would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the country on which we work, the Wadandi/Piblemen people, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture in the region.

*We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

Image courtesy of Koomal Dreaming.

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## Chair's Message

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### **Welcome to Nature Conservation's 2020-21 Annual Report.**

I would like to thank our outgoing Chair, Dr John Cresswell for his dedicated contribution to the organisation since 2018. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Nature Conservation made several changes to the operations during 2021 beginning with the appointment of a new CEO in May, followed by the departure of our Executive Officer, Caroline Hughes. I would like to acknowledge Caroline's dedication, hard work and significant achievements during her nine years working for the organisation.

Once again our staff and volunteers have accomplished significant outcomes against our engagement and conservation programs during the 2020-21 financial year. Our strategic focus on these long term programs is paying dividends for our local environment.

Our funding partners continue to play a crucial role. I would like to acknowledge our valued partner - the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, who generously supports our administrative needs and through their Environmental Management Fund supports a number of our key programs. I would also like to thank the Wright-Burt Foundation and Line in the Sand for their valued support in helping us to build a stronger, more effective organisation. We are also appreciative of the volunteers who give generously with their time, and the significant, increasing number of individuals and businesses supporting our work through donations and fund-raising opportunities.



In closing, I am thankful for the opportunity to take on the role of Chair of Nature Conservation, and I acknowledge the significant contributions of all who have worked with me on the Board of Management. As Nature Conservation embarks upon the next phase, the delivery of our services to the community and environment will remain our primary focus. I speak both personally and for the Board in saying that we are proud of the important role the organisation plays, and will continue to play, in the delivery of conservation and environmental services to the community.

**Dr Ann Ward**  
A/Chair Board Of Management

# 2020-2021 At A Glance

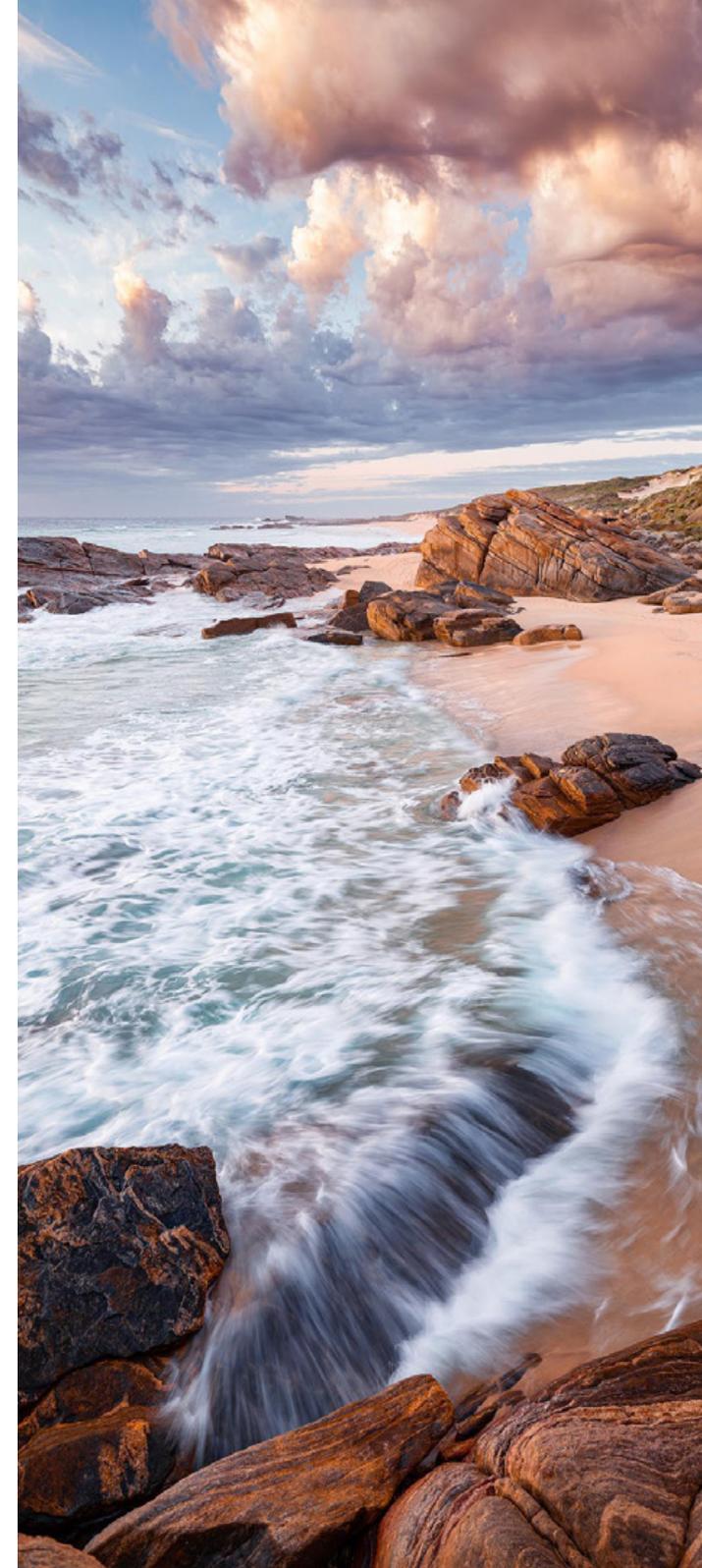
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## Key highlights include:

- Our passionate team has delivered seven key projects assisting the environment and reaching many members of the community.
- A review of Nature Conservation's Strategic Plan to 2023 was conducted.
- A strong relationship maintained with Undalup Association for cultural awareness training to strengthen understanding of cultural issues and activities with collaborative opportunities. This also saw the employment of an indigenous trainee in partnership with Watercorp.
- The Giant Light Steps Alliance Charter grant was acquitted with members including Nature Conservation, Augusta Margaret River Shire, Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association, Margaret River Chamber of Commerce, Transition Margaret River, and the Southwest Catchment Council leading the way for collaborative work to protect our environment.

The following key organisational objectives were delivered during the 2021 financial year. More details of key achievement in each of Nature Conservation's conservation programs is provided in the program pages of the 2021 Annual Report.

- The 'Wootijup Bilya Protection Strategy - Working together to protect the Margaret River' is ongoing through a collaborative partnership with the Shire of Augusta Margaret River and the many organisations and groups with interests and responsibility for the river coming together as the Margaret River Collaborative Management Group. The Group has developed an implementation plan and is working successfully to implement key actions from the Strategy. The Strategy was launched to the community in late 2019 and funding has been provided by the State NRM Program and the AMRS to continue the collaborative process and implement key actions during 2020. Funding support was also provided by Landsmith Collection to conduct foreshore revegetation.
- 400 community members were connected with the river event.
- An Arum Lily Management Plan for the Margaret River region entered year three in collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and a major campaign to address Arum Lily across the region, funded by the WA Government's State NRM Program commenced. The three-year Arum Lily Blitz campaign aims to significantly increase engagement of landowners and managers in controlling arum lily in the region. We have applied for a further three years of funding to take the program to 2025.



- The second year of a five 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. The project has seen a survey of the Margaret River foreshore from town to coast and 365 volunteer citizen science surveys completed, as well as 1.5 hectares of revegetation undertaken to enhance Western Ringtail Possum habitat.
- Nature Conservation invited its members and partners to its Annual General Meeting and Celebration at Fair Harvest Permaculture in December 2020. This social event allowed interested members to learn about Nature Conservation's achievements and showcased guest speakers Andrew Webb - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Dr Ursula Salmon, and Gina Marino Department of Water and Environment regulations.
- A submission was made on the Local Planning Strategy 2036 (AMR Shire).
- A joint statement was issued with MRREC on our position regarding the commencement of the WDT construction, supporting the position of the local Wadandi elders that it should not be there, while carrying out, with their approval and in the role of guardians of the river, our agreed-to roles of overseeing its implementation.
- Nature Conservation has been involved in advocating for the forests this year where supporting messaging aligned to Nannas for Native Forests and the Fire and Biodiversity Forum.

### **We participated in the following events:**

- Margaret River Premiere of "Cry of the Forest" (Nov 2020).
- The Fire and Biodiversity Forum (June 2021). The Fire and Biodiversity Forum held in Margaret River at the HEART and promoted by Nature Conservation.

The major sponsors were WAFA, DEC and MRREC. The Forum attracted approx. 450 delegates and highly positive reviews, including appreciation of the expert range of speakers, location, and venue.

Our Patch annual student's presentation was held this year bringing together students across the Primary schools. Throughout the program, they have learnt about the environmental and cultural values of their local catchment. They have also learnt about the mixture of land uses in their catchment and what landowners are doing to care for the environment. Students worked scientifically to collect site observation as well as data on water quality and visited landholders to hear and see firsthand what is being done to manage the land sustainably.

After completing their field work, each class has worked diligently under the guidance of their teacher to identify an environmental value in their local catchment that is facing challenges and put together a project to inspire our community to care for the environment.

Our community engagement programs have also gone from strength to strength over the last year.

The Giant Light Steps Alliance set goals to identify actions to collaboratively protect our environment. It was great to see the key economic sectors of tourism, business and wine coming together for a common cause to play a part in conserving our local environment.

### **Safety, Environment and Community**

The health and safety of our employees, volunteers, school children and contractors are our highest priority in conducting our business each day. We will continue to be unwavering in our commitment to safety.

### **Volunteer Support**

We are grateful for our volunteers' investment. Volunteers provide their time, professional skills, and energy towards achieving our environmental goals. We acknowledge the pro bono contribution from individuals and agencies and those who make up our Board of Management; We also owe a debt to our many local volunteers. Together, our volunteers help Nature Conservation deliver effective environmental support and community engagement.



## 2022 Outlook and Strategy

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With a commitment to drive ongoing growth and deliver value in 2022, we will continue to deliver on the following to achieve our key strategies:

- Growth to achieve greater environmental outcomes.
- Consolidate the project team to focus on synergies, efficiencies and enhanced operating processes and systems gained across projects.
- Development of a new website.
- Grow the member, volunteer, and donor base as a result of an enhanced website, improvements in communication and community events.
- Capitalise on the well respected and recognised brand of Nature Conservation.
- Take advantage of the growth in environmental awareness including initiatives to capture donor opportunities.
- Increase capability to capture growth in trends towards online donors.
- Ongoing focus on human capital.

*The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved.*

**Richard Rogers**

## Our Vision

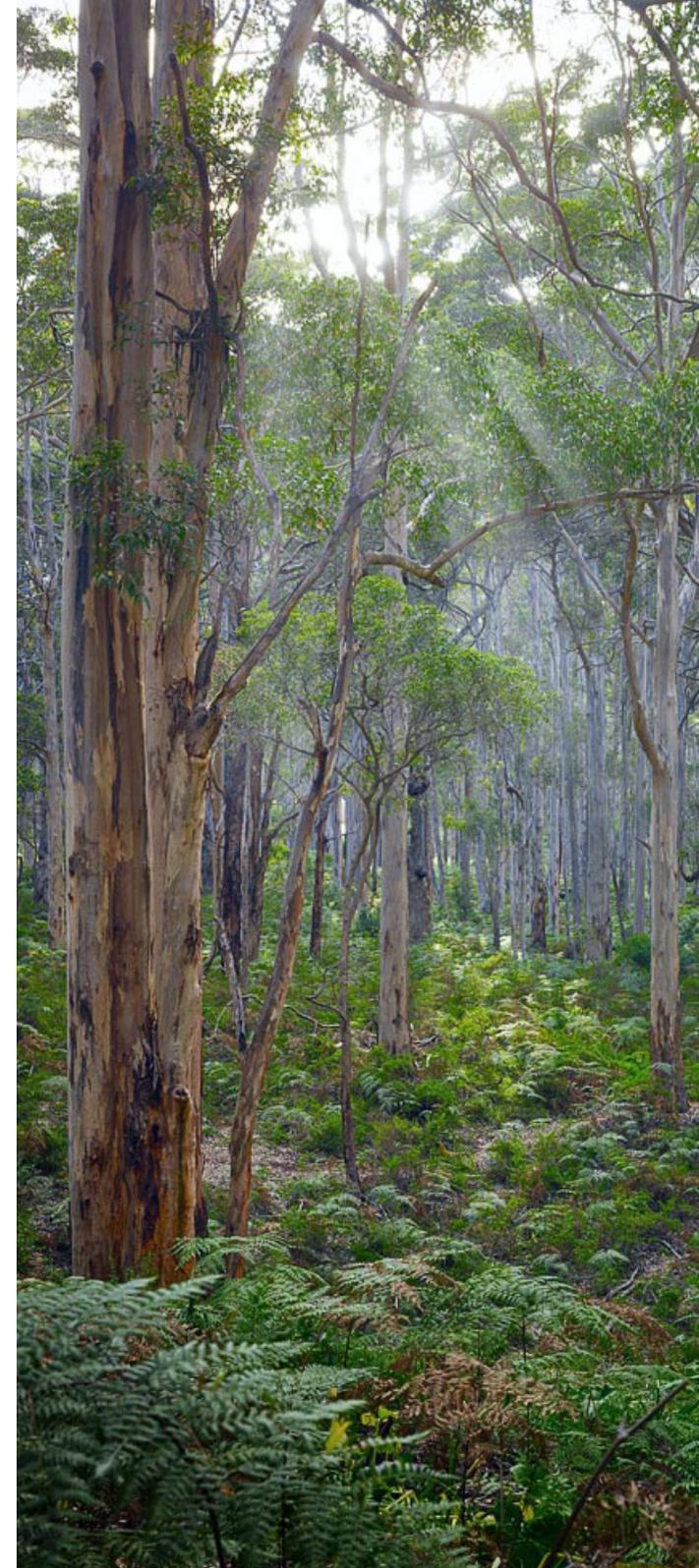
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A healthy and biodiverse natural environment on which we depend.

## Our Mission

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To build and sustain an effective, respected and influential regional nature conservation group through science-based on-ground action and powerful leadership.



# 2020-2021 Financial Report

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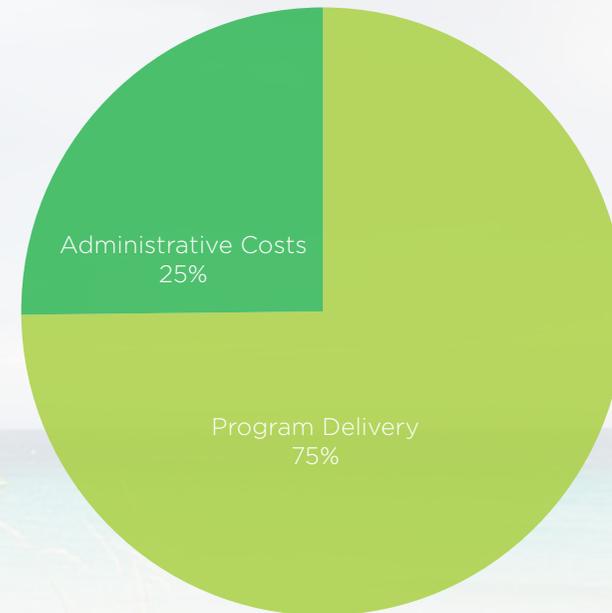
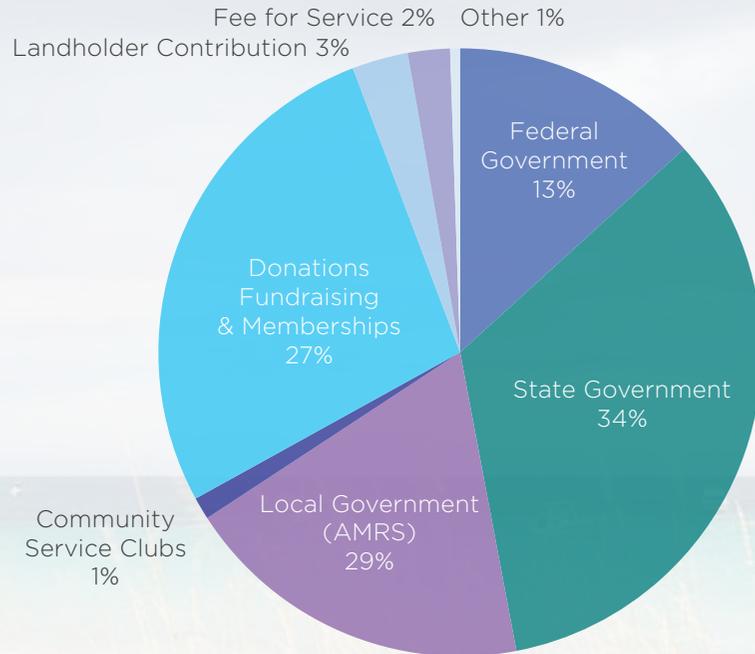
We were fortunate to have ongoing generous contribution from the Augusta-Margaret River Shire to support our administration overheads. A number of individuals also support our organisation through donations and fundraising opportunities.

Nature Conservation's Program funding was primarily sourced from local, State and Federal government grants with matching funding through community contributions and time.

A thank you to all the local business, individuals, organisations and grant programs who provided financial assistance to Nature Conservation during the 2021 financial year.



# 2020-2021 Income and Expenditure



## Breakdown of 2020-2021 Income

Federal Government	\$128,685.35
State Government	\$325,409.50
Local Government (AMRS)	\$181,735.75
Community Service Clubs	\$11,500.00
Donations Fundraising and Memberships	\$262,799.53
Landholder Contribution	\$28,994.89
Fee for Service	\$21,747.50
Other	\$5,134.21
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$966,066.73</b>

## Breakdown of 2020-2021 Expenditure

Administrative Costs (salaries and oncosts)	\$107,186.53
Administrative Costs (office expenses)	\$41,391.78
Administrative Costs (vehicle expenses)	\$11,170.25
Program delivery (salaries and oncosts)	\$209,540.70
Program delivery (operational expenses)	\$265,244.56
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$634,533.82</b>



## Nature Conservation's Programs

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### Inspiring a conservation culture

Nature Conservation aims to inspire and encourage a strong community conservation culture that values, supports and engages in environmental work. 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 environment.

Nature Conservation's Engagement Programs this year included:

- **Giant Light Steps**  
Championing environmental stewardship with key community stakeholders as a core economic and lifestyle responsibility.
- **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 this year included:

- **Coordinated weed control**  
Controlling environmental weeds to protect biodiversity.
- **Conserve the Margaret River (Woodijup Bilya Project)**  
Protecting the unique values of the Margaret River.
- **Managing bushland for wildlife**  
Building habitat resilience and linkages for fauna.
- **Threatened species protection**  
Protecting wildlife at risk in the region.
- **Caring for coast – in partnership with Line in the Sand**  
Supporting community efforts to protect coastal ecosystems.

## Giant Light Steps

### What we achieved

- The Alliance met twice during the financial year.
- Alliance members completed planning to identify individual environmental commitments, facilitated by Nature Conservation. The Margaret River Wine Association developed a comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan. Action Plans were also prepared by the Margaret River Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association and Transition Margaret River. The Shire submission was based on attaining regional eco-accreditation. The Action Plans acquitted the Building Better Regions Fund grant that facilitated key economic sectors of tourism, wine, commerce, and local government, together with the Transition on behalf of the wider community, to address priority conservation and sustainability issues relating to the impacts of their activities.
- Work began to identify opportunities to collaborate and contribute to addressing broader regional issues.

### Funding Contributions

Building Better Regions Fund over 30 months \$20,000 including cash contribution from Nature Conservation. The grant period was extended due to COVID restrictions.

### The Way Forward

Nature Conservation shares the GLS vision of the broad community working together to fulfil our custodial responsibilities for our environment as a legacy to the future and to provide integrity to the 'clean green' reputation that underpins the social and economic well-being of the region.

The next steps are to jointly develop an "Our Place" manifesto to agree on the values that define our special place, and to identify opportunities for collaboration on sustainability and environmental actions.

**60** *community members attended project snapshot workshop*

## Owl Friendly

NCMRR auspiced the rodenticide group while being sponsored by the community bank. The Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association has stepped up to help with ongoing finance by selling a wide range of attractive Owl Friendly merchandise at their venues, with 50% of profits going to our campaign for which we are very grateful.





# For Nature

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### What we achieved

- A network of 768 interested community members were engaged through Nature Conservation Network newsletters, updates, and events.
- The Nature Conservation Facebook Page was kept up to date with activities, events and information with Facebook followers amounting to 2,379 in 2021.
- A registry of 377 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.
- Support was continued for 7 friends of reserve groups caring for local bushland, foreshore and coastal reserves with on ground conservation activities undertaken in partnership with these groups during the year undertaking weeding, planting and brushing activities in reserve areas.
- An annual Margaret River Bioblitz was delivered in 2021 on the foreshore of the Margaret River engaging local residents in foreshore discovery walks, bird watching and possum night stalks with local scientists.

Funding Contributions 2021	Amount
Augusta Margaret River Shire Council's Environmental Management Fund - increasing volunteering in the Shire of AMR	\$33,318

# Schools Environmental Education – Our Patch

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## What we achieved

- 727 school students from six local primary schools participated in the 'Our Patch' Environmental Education Program including 44 excursions and 55 in class incursion lessons covering water quality, catchment and land use, macro invertebrates, indigenous knowledge and Western Ringtail Possum conservation.
- Unfortunately, there was no Year 6 project or project presentation sessions due to Covid interruptions. Term two activities had to be delivered in term three, which left no time for classes to prepare a project plus teachers were stretched with Covid last year in general.
- A Bioblitz event was held at the Barrett Street Weir, specialist presenters ran sessions regarding reptiles, owls, birds and mammals, marron and Indigenous culture. The number of Year 3 students that attended the Bioblitz was 233.
- Nine local bushland, coastal and foreshore Adopt a Spot sites were enhanced and cared for by 680 local primary school students and 122 volunteers. During the financial year 15 excursion and eight in class lessons were delivered.

Funding Contributions 2021	Amount
Rotary/Lions/Paskeville Foundation/ AMRSC/School Donations	\$53,071





## Coordinated Weed Control

Excellent progress has been made in the second year of the three year Arum Lily Blitz with over 1,000 landowners engaged in the project. The level of interest and commitment we've seen in the last two years inspires us to believe we can achieve the vision of arum lily being controlled in our region to protect biodiversity, agriculture and visual landscape values.

- 1,020 properties are currently registered as actively controlling arum lily across 16,100 hectares.
- 479 people collected free herbicide in 2019 and 2020. We have so far had 357 reports from landholders providing data on their work which totals an impressive 2428 hours of arum lily control completed by landholders. At \$35/hr that equals nearly \$85,000 of landholder effort. And this data only represents a proportion of the work done. A huge effort and commitment across the region.
- 90 landholders have been supported on a cost share basis to control arum lily in high priority areas. This has involved a total of 1,700 hours of contractor work demonstrating a huge commitment from landholders to invest in managing arum lily on their properties.

**1,000** *landowners engaged in the project*

- We continue to work in close partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to share the cost of control in some areas of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste and Wooditjup National Parks. Areas of focus in 2019 and 2020 have been Wooditjup, Calgardup, Cowaramup, Prevelly, Moses Rock and Yallingup. 395 hours spraying has been completed in the National Park in the last two years. This strategic work is protecting vegetation quality in some areas of the National Park but there is a lot more work to be done to better understand the presence and extent of arum lily and to undertake control to reduce the impact on the many varied and beautiful native vegetation communities in the Park.
- The Shire of Augusta Margaret River, City of Busselton and Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association continue to implement arum lily control programs. In the last two years these organisations have completed 1,025 hours arum lily control.

### **Community volunteers working in the National Park**

The Arum Lily Blitz project has encouraged and supported volunteers to undertake arum lily control in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. DBCA has been open to volunteers spraying in the National Park provided they are trained and meet requirements for OHS, approvals and reporting. DBCA staff have provided excellent support to enable this to happen.



In 2018 Yallingup LCDC volunteers mapped arum lily density across 242 hectares of National Park surrounding the Yallingup townsite. The mapping provided direction for control effort in 2019 and 2020. In 2020, 10 Yallingup volunteers spent 284 hours spraying arum lilies. They sprayed 2,910 litres. This incredible volunteer effort equates to someone undertaking spraying as a full time job for over seven and a half weeks.

In 2019 the Friends of the Cape to Cape Track volunteers mapped arum lily along the 124km length of the Cape to Cape track. This year 18 volunteers did 152 volunteer hours work to control arum lily along the track. The Friends of the Cape to Cape Track also raised funds through donations to fund contractor control of larger infestations on the track at the Moses Rock campsite and other areas in this stretch.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the volunteers for this incredible effort.

#### **Demonstrating effective arum lily control**

The need for an arum lily control monitoring site to evaluate and demonstrate successful arum lily control was identified early in the project. A site in the National Park was identified, approvals given by DBCA and funding successfully sought from the community.

Density mapping using 20x20 quadrats, vegetation transects and photo point monitoring were established prior to spraying. In 2019 control was undertaken across approximately 13 hectares. In 2020 the density mapping, vegetation transects and photo point monitoring were replicated. Follow up spraying was undertaken and the area of control extended to cover the rest of this infestation.

The follow up data showed an enormous reduction in arum lilies. It also sadly demonstrated the significant reduction in abundance and diversity of native flora once the density of an arum lily infestation crosses a threshold.

Thank you to Adrian Fini, Gavin Bunning, Bill Castelden, Penny Bower, Grant Johnston, Janet Holmes a Court, Gilbert George, Bill Breidhal and Phil Finch for contributing funding to make this work possible.

<b>Funding Contributions 2021</b>	<b>Amount</b>
State NRM Community Stewardship Grant - Strategic arum lily management in the Margaret River region	<b>\$105,120</b> 3 year project
Arum Weed Control Leeuwin Naturaliste Park - Department Water and Environment Reg	<b>\$100,000</b>



# Conserve The Margaret River

## What we achieved

- In partnership with the Shire of Augusta Margaret River the Margaret River Collaborative Management Group was facilitated to share information, improve communications, and coordinate management of the Margaret River and its catchment. The group represents agencies and organisations with responsibilities and interests in the Margaret River including Nature Conservation, the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, Undalup Association representing indigenous interests, the Department Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Watercorp and the Margaret River Regional Environment Centre.
- The ‘Wooditjup Bilya Protection Strategy - Working together to protect the Margaret River’ with an implementation plan formed the working document for the group to collaboratively take action to protect the ecological health and community values of the river. The Wooditjup Bilya Communications strategy was completed, and began to roll out including “Weed in the spotlight”, “What lies beneath” and foreshore protection messages going out to community via newspaper, Facebook, community education and schools.

- On ground action to improve the condition of foreshores of the Margaret River continued including significant weed control, native seedlings planted to enhance habitat for the critically endangered Western Ringtail Possum, 12 months of Keep Watch Water Quality Monitoring (12 sampling events across six sites).
- Wooditjup Bilya Community Connections Event held on 27 March 2021.
- Three Collaborative Group meetings were held.
- One community catch up event - movie screen, along with update and guest speaker.

Funding Contributions 2021	Amount
State NRM Community Action Grants - Margaret River Action Plan (Protection Program)	<b>\$25,000</b> Feb to Feb funding
Augusta Margaret River Shire Environmental Management Fund	<b>\$44,636</b>
Landsmith Collection (Foreshore reserve weed control)	<b>\$20,000</b>

## Managing Bushland For Wildlife

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- Land for Wildlife Project (September 2020 – September 2021) SWCC funded. Five Land for Wildlife property reports written – contracted to Drew McKenzie. 136 hours of priority woody weed control carried out at one property.
- Priority weed control project joint funding from Wooditchup-Bilya project and AMRSC. Priority weeds controlled along the Margaret River in Shire vested reserves between town and coast. Key species controlled – Blackberry, woody weeds (Sydney golden wattle, Olive, Finders Range wattle and Sweet pittosporum), Bridal creeper, Pandora vine, Cape gooseberry, Dolichos pea, Genista and African feather grass.
- Blackberry control funded by DWER. Thanks to funding from DWER, Blackberry control was continued in the upper Margaret River, upstream of 10 Mile Brook dam.

Funding Contributions 2021	Amount
State NRM	<b>\$34,240</b> 3 year project
AMRSC, Water Corp and Landowners	<b>\$36,000</b> 3 year project
Land For Wildlife - SWCC	<b>\$17,574</b> LFW





## 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:

### Community events

- Two night stalks in October 2020 – Peta Lierich and Boyd Wykes.
- “Citizen Science in Margaret River” presentation October 2020.
- Two night stalks as part of Wooditjup Bilya Community Connections Event March 2021.
- Tree ID training for citizen scientists April 2021.

### Citizen Science WRP Monitoring

- 365 number of surveys conducted.
- 1,587 numbers of possums sighted.
- New scientific advisor Ben Ford contracted to provide scientific oversight to the project.

### Revegetation

- 0.5 hectares planted on Ashton Street, continuing from last years’ planting in June.
- Eco Health (MRSHS) student tree planting day on 30 June.

### Ringtail Tally

- 1,587 number of possums sighted.

### Additional

- Pets Away Possums Play campaign being rolled out with Margaret River Shire, Produce Store and local vets getting on board to help spread the message.
- New Project Officer, Lauren Scanlon came on board March 2021.

Funding Contributions 2021	Amount
AMRSC	\$24,400
SWCC Possum	\$35,980 5 year project

**1,587** *number of  
possums sighted*

# Adopt A Spot

## What we achieved

Local Year 4 and older students from Yallingup to Augusta have learnt about a coastal or riverside reserve where they live and have 'adopted' it. They have examined the values, the threats and then actively restored the spot through laying brush and planting. In coastal areas they have also been able to learn about the specific Wadandi cultural values.

Nine schools engaged with 440 students over the year. Nine in class induction education sessions held. Nine planting and restoration sessions held at Injidup beach, Gracetown, Wadandi Track, Margaret River foreshore, Gnarabup, Redgate, Darch Brook and Hamelin Bay. 2,100 cuttings were planted and two loads of brush were laid at coastal sites. 1,560 seedlings were planted at riparian zones. Nine monitoring and weeding session were also held at each site, maintaining the plantings.

**183** *volunteers*  
*were engaged*

## Friends of Reserves

At the start of the program Indigenous consultation was undertaken with Undalup to ensure the appropriateness of activities.

A Friends Forum was held for all bush and coast care volunteers across the Shire on April 23 it provided an excellent opportunity for collaboration and networking and was attended by 11 key co-ordinators of groups. A First Aid training session was also offered to the Friends of Reserves group and was attended by 10 volunteers who can now offer first aid to their groups. A Snake Awareness training session was attended by 27 volunteers and ensured a deeper understanding of bush safety.

Seven Friends of Reserves Groups have been regularly engaged in environmental restoration work across the Shire. Eight planting days were held, 11 weeding sessions and three sessions of fire management preparation were conducted.

A total of 183 volunteers were engaged and 384 hours were spent on ground caring for local reserves.

Funding Contributions 2021	Amount
Caring for Coast/Line in the Sand	\$70,000
Prevelly and Gnarabup Coast/Coastwest	\$10,055



# Nature Conservation Supporters

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Nature Conservation has a track record of successful partnerships with industry, government, and our regional communities. Our deep roots in our region provide the experience and insights needed to design and implement projects with sustainable environmental outcomes.

Nature Conservation seeks to leverage the strength of the regional community by raising awareness, inspiring commitment, and empowering action on behalf of the environment.

To this end it develops and nurtures a diverse network of supporters within the Margaret River region. This includes strong grassroots support from individuals and local businesses, teams of dedicated volunteers and citizen scientists, a network of strategic partnerships as well as collaborative working relationships with Federal, State, and local government agencies.

Nature Conservation wishes to thank the following groups and organisation for their support during 2021.

## Philanthropic Funding Partners

- Line in the Sand
- Paskeville Foundation
- Wright Burt Foundation

## Strategic Partners

- Arts Margaret River
- Augusta Margaret River Shire Council
- Birdlife WA and Cape to Cape Bird Group
- 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
- Curtin University – Marketing department
- Murdoch University Freshwater Fish Group and Fish Health Unit
- Geographe Catchments Council
- Gondwana Link
- Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee
- Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association
- Margaret River Chamber of Commerce
- Margaret River Regional Environment Centre
- Margaret River Wine Association
- Mindful Margaret River
- Southwest Catchments Council
- Transition Margaret River
- Yallingup LCDC
- Undalup Association

## Community and Business Supporters

- Brewhouse Margaret River
- Candy Cow Cowaramup
- Cape Mentelle Wines
- Cowaramup Lions Club
- Cullen Wines
- Friends of Reserve Group Volunteers
- Higgins Lane Motel
- Lions Club of Cowaramup
- Nature Conservation Members and Donors
- Nature Conservation Volunteers
- Rotary Club of Margaret River
- Landsmith Collection
- 'Our Patch' Participating Schools
- Sustainable Settlements Pty Ltd

## Grant Programs

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

A special thank you also to Christian Fletcher for use of a number of his stunning photographs used throughout the year of the Margaret River region, also included in this document and on [natureconservation.org.au](http://natureconservation.org.au)

# Nature Conservation Board

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The Board are all volunteers who meet on a regular basis. They are responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of the organisation and are committed to maintaining high standards of governance and accountability.



**Dr John Cresswell**  
Chair

John is a retired researcher working most recently with the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). John completed a PhD at Curtin University in 1998 and from 2000 until 2009 managed OECD education assessment and monitoring projects both in Australia and in Paris. He moved to Margaret River in 2013.



**Mandi McCluskey**  
Co-Deputy Chair

Mandi McCluskey retired to Margaret River in 2019 after a career in Sustainable Investment. Mandi has had a number of non-executive roles including founding Deputy Chair of the Investor Group on Climate Change, Non-Executive Director of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and the Banking and Finance Oath. Mandi was also a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader.



**Dr Boyd Wykes**  
Co-Deputy Chair

After completing PhD research at Monash University Boyd pursued a career in environmental science in WA as an academic, educator and environmental manager for the Department of Defence. Since retiring to Margaret River in 2011 he contributes his time, passion and expertise to Nature Conservation and Birdlife WA. Boyd passionately chaired Nature Conservation from 2015 to 2019.



**Stuart Hicks AO**  
Secretary

Chair of South West Development Commission 2011-17 Stuart previously headed various government agencies, including Transperth, the Department of Transport, and Department of Marine and Harbours. He also served as a commissioner of the WA Planning Commission, Chair of the National Transport Commission and Chair of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority.



**Margaret Moir**  
Treasurer

A retired farmer and businesswoman Margaret is a long-term Margaret River resident and a founding member of the Cape-to-Cape Catchments Group (now Nature Conservation). She is currently President of the SW Capes Branch of the Wildflower Society of WA.



**Professor Emerita Carmen Lawrence**

Former Premier of Western Australia (1990-1993), Member for Fremantle in House of Representatives (1994-2007) and Minister for Human Services and Health (1994-1996), 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 and President of the Conservation Council of WA (current). Carmen now has a bush retreat in the Margaret River region and visits regularly.



**Dr Ann Ward**

Ann Ward recently moved to Margaret River from the Kimberley where she has spent the last 26 years as a rural GP Obstetrician. Prior to that she was a Flying Doctor in Meekatharra for three years. She has a passion for bushwalking in wild areas and has worked in various capacities in the Himalaya, Antarctica, the Arctic and Tonga. Ann has now made Margaret River her home.



**Jarrad Clark**

Jarrad has been working hands-on in the biological sciences since 2001, within tertiary and government research roles and in private consulting. For the last 10 years he has designed, implemented and managed a large number and diverse range of fauna survey projects throughout Western Australia, with Phoenix Environmental Sciences, the business he founded in 2008.



**Crispin Underwood**

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 personal interests.



**Michelle McManus**

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

## Staff 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

**Pip Close** – Chief Executive Officer commenced May 2021

**Caroline Hughes** – Executive Officer

**Fran Dohring** – Administration and Finance

**Genevieve Hanran-Smith** – Biodiversity Protection

**Drew McKenzie** – Biodiversity Protection and Land for Wildlife

**Lyndsey Cox** – Research and Citizen Science and Threatened Species Protection

**Michelle Keppel** – 'Our Patch' Environmental Education and Woodjup Bilya Protection Officer

**Tracey Muir** – Adopt a Spot Program

**Trevor Paddenburg** – Communications For Nature

**Peta Lierich** – For Nature

**Lauren Scanlon** – Western Ringtail Possum Coordinator



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📘 [/natureconservationmargaretriver](https://www.facebook.com/natureconservationmargaretriver)  
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Images courtesy of Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association, Christian Fletcher, Steve Castan, Sean Fergusson, Koomal Dreaming and Sandra Hill.