

AUSTRALIAN BUSH HERITAGE FUND



An introduction to Australian Bush Heritage Fund

The Australian Bush Heritage Fund is a national, independent non-profit organisation. We strive to protect for the long term the unique and abundant diversity of life in Australia. We achieve this by acquiring and managing land and water of outstanding conservation significance.

We are Australia's most widely supported organisation of this type – over 14 000 Australians have already provided support. We currently protect and manage twenty-four reserves throughout Australia covering an area of over 670 000 hectares.

Bush Heritage has developed a simple, practical and powerful approach to protecting and caring for the bush. It purchases land on the open market from private owners, and manages that land in perpetuity. Our environmental scientists and ecologists are rigorous in identifying, selecting and managing our environmental reserves. We are committed to protecting these reserves for the long term, thus the ongoing costs of management are taken into account when properties are first assessed for acquisition.

Once properties are purchased, Bush Heritage collaborates constructively with the owners of neighbouring properties, and other stakeholders such as individual and corporate

pastoralists, governments, scientific institutions, indigenous groups, and other conservation organisations to encourage regional conservation outcomes.

Bush Heritage – a growing success

Since its inception Bush Heritage has grown steadily while remaining true to its mission to protect the bush for all Australians. Its financial conservatism, budgeting for the long-term management of the reserves and a small administration reassure our supporters that their contributions will be directed responsibly to the conservation of the Australian bush.

Clockwise from above: The first Bush Heritage reserve at Liffey River, Tas. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX Malleefowl are found on six Bush Heritage reserves. PHOTO: JIRI LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES Inset: Spider orchid at Eurardy Reserve, WA. PHOTO: JULIAN FENNESSY





The plight of the Australian environment

In the last 200 years Australians have destroyed or degraded more than 75 per cent of the country's native vegetation. Our land management techniques are not changing swiftly enough to protect the remaining bush and its species and we are now suffering severely from the excesses of the past. As one of the world's wealthiest nations, we have the resources to address many of the issues faced in the bush and in our country towns.

Bush Heritage offers a strategic solution

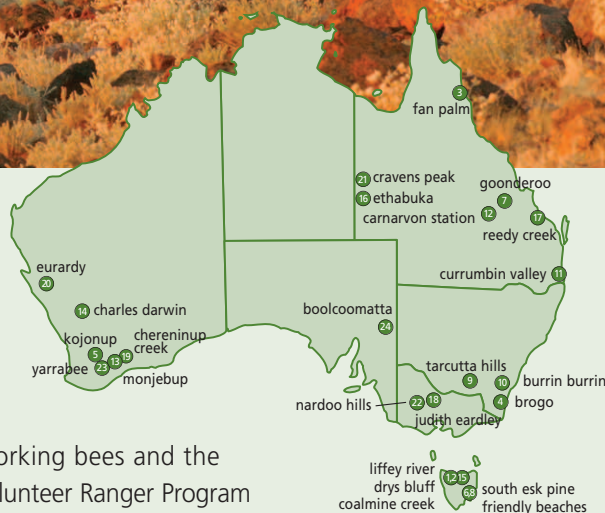


Bush Heritage provides a practical means for us to take up this challenge. Bush Heritage's strategy is to target the ecosystems and species that are most poorly reserved and under the greatest threat.

How you can help

People like to support Bush Heritage because it enables them to protect the environment in a direct and tangible way. Your donation will help us to continue purchasing land around Australia and protecting threatened vegetation communities, plants and animals. You can become a Friend of the Bush and give monthly by automatic deduction or send your gifts whenever you can. Your donations are tax-deductible. Please think about leaving a bequest to Bush Heritage in your will. This is a special way to help protect our environment for the generations that follow us.

Volunteers are a vital part of the organisation. Volunteering, either in the Conservation Support Centre in Melbourne or on the reserves, is a rewarding experience.



Working bees and the Volunteer Ranger Program put volunteers on reserves

for special projects or to help for extended periods with general reserve work. Volunteer rangers work alongside the reserve manager to protect the land and its wildlife.

You can visit our reserves. Field trips, working bees, volunteer ranger opportunities and limited camping are available. A small number of reserves can be visited without a guide.

Clockwise from above: Dome Rock at Boolcoomatta Reserve, SA. PHOTO: WAYNE LAWLER/ECOPIX
Volunteers and staff on reserves. Fat-tailed dunnart. PHOTO: JIRI LOCHMAN/LOCHMAN TRANSPARENCIES

