

Media Release

\$100,000 awarded to help save our Aussie species

24 July 2017: Two recently funded volunteer projects tackling the issue of endangered species are enhancing wetland habitat for bird species and protecting remnant vegetation in Western Australia.

Destruction and encroachment of native habitats by humans, feral animals, and introduced plant species has contributed to 161 species now classified as endangered. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of thousands of Australians, there is hope for saving our treasured animals from extinction.

In 2017, \$100,000 was awarded to 10 Landcare groups to undertake habitat restoration projects across Australia. The funding was made possible via Landcare Australia's Workplace Giving Program, which works in partnership with 23 businesses across the country, including Telstra, Qantas, and Konica Minolta.

It is expected that Blackwood Basin Group's project will significantly enhance wetland habitat for bird species through revegetation, protection of existing habitat, and the creation and installation of three floating islands. The project will increase nesting sites and habitat for wetland fauna species, including 14 that are listed as significant to the area.

"Creating a safe habitat around the wetlands for significant species is extremely important to ensure not only their survival, but also assisting their breeding and nesting opportunities," said Brian Chambers of Blackwood Basin Group.

Wellstead Community Resource Centre's project will, among other things, install five hectares of provenance flora species in buffer plantings and wildlife corridors, reconnecting over 180 hectares of high diversity remnant vegetation on Wilyun Pools Farm.

"It is the vision of Wilyun Pools Farm to be a local, state, national and international demonstration site where long term environmental monitoring helps find the balance between agricultural food production and careful management of landscape ecological health for a better future. I feel our project on Wilyun Pools Farm just continues to build and develop on many of the past activities undertaken within the District over the last three decades," said Sylvia Leighton, of WCRC.

Landcare Australia's Workplace Giving Program is an easy way for employees to contribute to charity from pre-tax income. It also helps businesses enhance their reputation, actively engage their employees, and make a positive impact on the community. Visit <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/workplace-giving/> for more information.

For a full list of the grant recipients visit:

<https://landcareaustralia.org.au/news/habitat-restoration-grants/>

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For an interview about the individual projects, contact:

Karrie Williamson

Blackwood Basin Group

08 9765 1555

karrie@blackwoodbasingroup.com.au

Sylvia Leighton

Wellstead Community Resource Centre

0427 991 085

pb.mac1@bigpond.com

For an interview about Landcare Australia's Workplace Giving Program, contact:

Manjari Fergusson

Communications Executive – Landcare Australia

manjari.fergusson@landcareaustralia.com.au

(02) 8440 8807

About Landcare Australia

Landcare Australia is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision of all Australians actively caring for the land and water that sustain us. For over 25 years, Landcare Australia has worked collaboratively with federal, state and local governments, corporate partners and sponsors, and individuals, to build capacity for the Landcare community to better manage Australia's crucial land and water assets.

Landcare Australia delivers hundreds of projects annually through the volunteer efforts of local community groups, Indigenous groups, and the more than 5,400 Landcare and Coastcare groups that make up the Landcare movement.

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