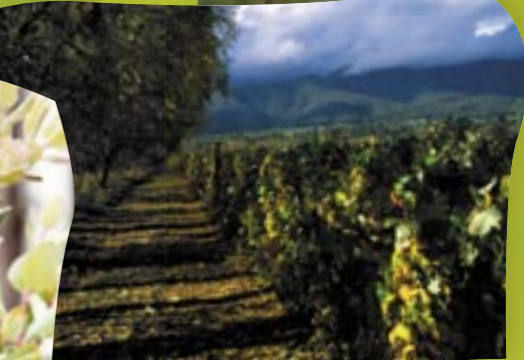
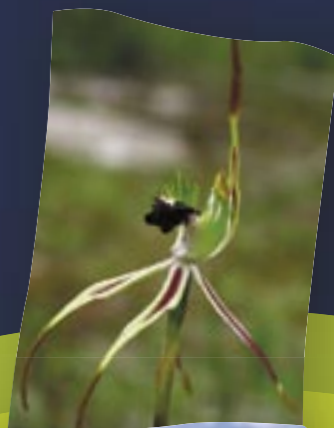


Threatened Species and the Built Environment



How you can help

The task of saving our species is far too great for governments and conservation organisations alone. That's why there are community groups all around the country helping to protect our threatened species: on individual farms and properties, in suburban gardens, in and along creeks and rivers, on grassy plains and coastal shores, in small urban green spaces and in National Parks.

You too can get involved in a community conservation group in your area. Learn about threatened species and how you can help! If you are a landholder or manager, seek advice about the best way to care for threatened species that may live on your property. The challenge is not to be daunted, but to get involved. Every individual contribution makes a difference.

For more information on helping threatened species in your area, contact the Threatened Species Network on freecall 1800 251 573, go to the website at www.wwf.org.au/tsn or contact your local coordinator on the details below.

About our threatened species

Across Australia around 1550 species are currently threatened with extinction¹. More than 1230 of these species are plants, and approximately 320 are animals. Did you know that 27 mammal species have become extinct since the arrival of Europeans in Australia? The national threatened species list currently contains 86 mammals that are threatened, including the Tiger Quoll, which inhabits parts of eastern Australia.

There are more than 100 listed bird species, including the beautiful Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, which lives in the southwest of Western Australia. Around 50 reptiles are threatened, including the Great Desert Skink, which lives in the Western Desert region and is very important to local Aboriginal people. And 37 species of fish are listed, including the critically endangered east coast population of Grey Nurse Shark.

But the list is dominated by plants, one of which is the stunning Large-club Spider-orchid, whose range is limited to the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia.

The Threatened Species Network (TSN), a community-based program of the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust and WWF Australia, is working in partnership with community groups as well as state, territory and local governments to ensure the protection of our native species. The \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust also provides support for a range of other vital local, regional and national conservation projects across Australia.

Helping species in built environments

Each year on National Threatened Species Day, 7 September, we take stock of our unique plants and animals and recognise the extraordinary efforts of the community to protect them. During NTSD and throughout Biodiversity Month (September) we also recognise two particularly Australian characteristics that fuel this 'community' of volunteers and experts – a love of our magnificent native species and the generosity of spirit to dedicate time and effort to their conservation.

2004, the Year of the Built Environment, provides the opportunity to consider the relationships between both our natural and 'built' landscapes. It's no coincidence that the landscapes preferred by the human population are also home to much of Australia's terrestrial biodiversity, particularly on and around our coasts, where a moderate climate, comparatively fertile soils and the food they produce provide for inhabitants.

So what is the 'built' environment? While we might think of structures such as skyscrapers and office blocks, the built environment also includes any landscape that has been modified, directly or indirectly, by humans. Pine forests, orchards, agricultural land, suburban rose gardens and parks and reserves are often visited by some of our native species. And while these areas are not commonly thought of as built environments, they can become adopted habitats for species that usually rely on our native landscapes to survive. The outstanding conservation work of many communities throughout Australia seeks to create some balance between our natural and built environments so we can look to a better future for our native residents.



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¹ 1550 species listed (excluding extinctions) as of 21 July 04, <http://www.deh.gov.au>.

Species Saviours

During this Year of the Built Environment we are reminded of the impact that we have on our landscapes but can also recognise that we have the power to make amends.

Each year up to 40 hands-on conservation projects are funded through the Threatened Species Network (TSN) Community Grants Program with the support of the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust. These projects bring together dedicated members of government, business and industry, along with Indigenous people, landholders and scientists to halt species decline in local areas.

For at-risk quolls, butterflies, turtles and plant communities alike, this work is a vital lifeline. From Tasmania's King Island to Western Australia's remote beaches, the verdant southeast Queensland rainforests to the dry expanses of the Great Sandy Desert, communities across Australia are helping to protect our native plants and animals. The projects outlined here demonstrate how our care and commitment is making a difference as we celebrate National Threatened Species Day on 7 September.



Yellow Chat
Gary Porter

Rare rediscovery

Five new populations of the tiny, critically endangered Yellow Chat (Dawson) have been discovered along the central Queensland coastline during recent TSN surveys. The species had not been seen on the Australian mainland for almost 90 years when the team - led by Central Queensland University, Birds Australia and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service using a TSN Community Grant - found the birds in the Broadsound and Fitzroy Delta. Inspired by their discovery, the team will continue to look for other mainland populations, and assess how to restore the freshwater and marine habitat on which the birds depend.

For more information contact Keryn Hyslop, Queensland's TSN Coordinator on (07) 3839 2677.



Acacia imbricata
DN Kraehenbuehl

A protective eye on Eyre

Threatened plants on the Eyre Peninsula now have a few more allies, courtesy of a series of workshops conducted by the Threatened Plant Action Group and funded by a TSN Community Grant. The five workshops, tailored to community and school groups and natural resource management workers, covered site action planning, bushcare techniques and funding opportunities for the protection of threatened plants and ecosystems. As well as raising awareness, the workshops led to the formation of a new 'Friends' group at Wanilla settlement.

For more information contact Karina Mercer, South Australia's TSN Coordinator on (08) 8223 5155.



Surveying at King Island
TSN

Forest birds of King Island

Volunteers are being mobilised on King Island to keep an eye on three threatened bird sub-species - the Scrubtit, Brown Thornbill and Green Rosella. The TSN-funded project involves about 30 local residents - led by King Island Natural Resource Management Group - installing nest boxes and monitoring the habitat of these endangered birds, as well as encouraging landholders to enter into voluntary agreements to help conserve populations on private land. The project is already reaping rewards with a second population of the King Island Scrubtit located in the past few months.

To become a volunteer contact Peter McGlone, Tasmania's TSN Coordinator on (03) 6234 3552.

Bilbies of the Kimberley

Centuries of wisdom held within the Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community is helping to save the Greater Bilby in the southern Kimberley. Traditional owners are using a TSN Community Grant to help track the animals, map their active burrows and record the presence of foxes, cats and camels in a conservation area within the Edgar Ranges. The next phase is to trial the application of fire and feral animal controls in an attempt to learn how best to manage the dwindling Bilby populations.

For more information contact Raquel Carter, Western Australia's TSN Coordinator on (08) 9387 6444.



Greater Bilby
WWF-Canon/Martin HARVEY



Loggerhead Turtle hatchling
Robert Thom

Help track turtles

Fancy walking the beaches of Ningaloo Reef for a few weeks between December and February? Then sign up as a volunteer to help conduct turtle surveys during the annual nesting season! It will be your job to identify successful turtle nests, record turtle species and report any incidences of human disturbance. This year we also hope to recruit some volunteers to train to become interpretive guides and scouts at the Jurabi Turtle Centre adjacent to the marine park.

For more information contact Raquel Carter, Western Australia's TSN Coordinator on (08) 9387 6444.



Gove Crow butterfly
Philip Wise

Embattled butterflies get a helping hand

Invasive insects and weeds - such as introduced Yellow Crazy Ants and perennial Mission Grass - continue to threaten the endangered Gove Crow Butterfly in the Northern Territory's northern savannas. But a TSN-funded study - carried out by Dhimurru Land Management rangers and the NT Parks and Wildlife Service in northeast Arnhem Land - is helping to halt the butterfly's decline. The two-year survey identified habitat and threats and provided recommendations on how to address the spread of invasives to improve the butterfly's chances of survival.

For more information contact Jarrad Holmes, Northern Savannas TSN Coordinator on (08) 8941 7554.



Malleefowl
John Benshemesh

Combining traditional and modern methods for tracking Malleefowl

Anangu elders and children from a number of communities in the arid rangelands of South Australia are using a TSN Community Grant to restore Malleefowl populations in the Watarru and Walakara Indigenous Protected Areas. The project has successfully reinstated the use of traditional 'patch burning' near Malleefowl habitats to reduce the risk of large wild fires. Communities are collecting data using both traditional ecological knowledge as well as 'cyber trackers' to map predators and threatened species.

For more information contact Colleen O'Malley, Arid Rangelands TSN Coordinator on (08) 8952 1541.

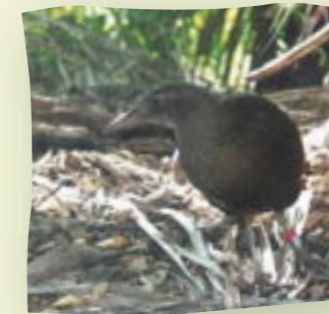


Regent Honeyeater
WWF Australia

Haven for rare birds

The spectacular, cliff-lined Capertee Valley on the western fringes of the Blue Mountains is the most important breeding area for the endangered Regent Honeyeater and critical to the species' survival. Concerned about the bird's fragmented and degraded habitat, Birds Australia - with TSN support - has helped to coordinate hundreds of volunteers to plant nearly 52,000 trees in the past ten years. In time the revegetated sites will provide additional habitat for the honeyeater and other declining woodland birds including the Swift Parrot and the Brown Treecreeper.

For more information contact Alison Colyer, NSW & ACT TSN Coordinator on (02) 8202 1222.



Lord Howe Woodhen
Vicki-Jo Russell

Walking the walk on Lord Howe

The war on weeds is not lost on Lord Howe Island. Locals are enlisting the help of visitors to keep out the creeping menace threatening the World Heritage values of the island. Guides now identify common walking track weeds and how to keep them off the islands. A weed-free scene means better habitat for the Lord Howe Woodhen and other endemic flora and fauna.

For more information contact Alison Colyer, NSW & ACT TSN Coordinator on (02) 8202 1222.



Planting native trees
TSN

Cassowaries finding their way home

Queensland's iconic rainforest rambler - the Cassowary - is susceptible to traffic accidents and dog attacks when moving between the fragmented areas of its remaining habitat. By planting native trees along Bushy Creek and Devil Devil Creek near Julatten, northwest of Cairns, the Corridors for Cassowaries project will allow cassowaries to move between habitat fragments without encountering dogs or roads. Thanks to the TSN and JAMARR (Julatten and Molloy Association of Residents and Ratepayers) Envirogroup, the corridors will open a little faster with the help of weed removal equipment.

For more information contact Keryn Hyslop, Queensland's TSN Coordinator on (07) 3839 2677.



Bush Stone-curlew
WWF-Canon/Martin HARVEY

Noble deeds in Nagambie

Setting the scene for a renaissance of the endangered Nagambie Leek Orchid, the Grey-crowned Babbler, Muellers Daisy and Bush Stone-curlew is a top priority for the Nagambie Landcare Group. Community members are mapping and surveying in the region while improving conditions across the landscape for around 30 of the region's endangered species. Many hands are helping in controlling predators and weeds while enhancing habitats on the Nagambie plains.

For more information contact Julie Kirkwood, Victoria's TSN Coordinator on (03) 9341 6507.

Get involved today!

For information on National Threatened Species Day activities near you or to learn how you can become involved in TSN projects in your state or territory, freecall 1800 251 573 or go to www.wwf.org.au/tsn.

To find out how you can help protect Australia's threatened species, freecall on 1800 803 772 or visit www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened



The Threatened Species Network is a community-based program of the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust & WWF Australia.

