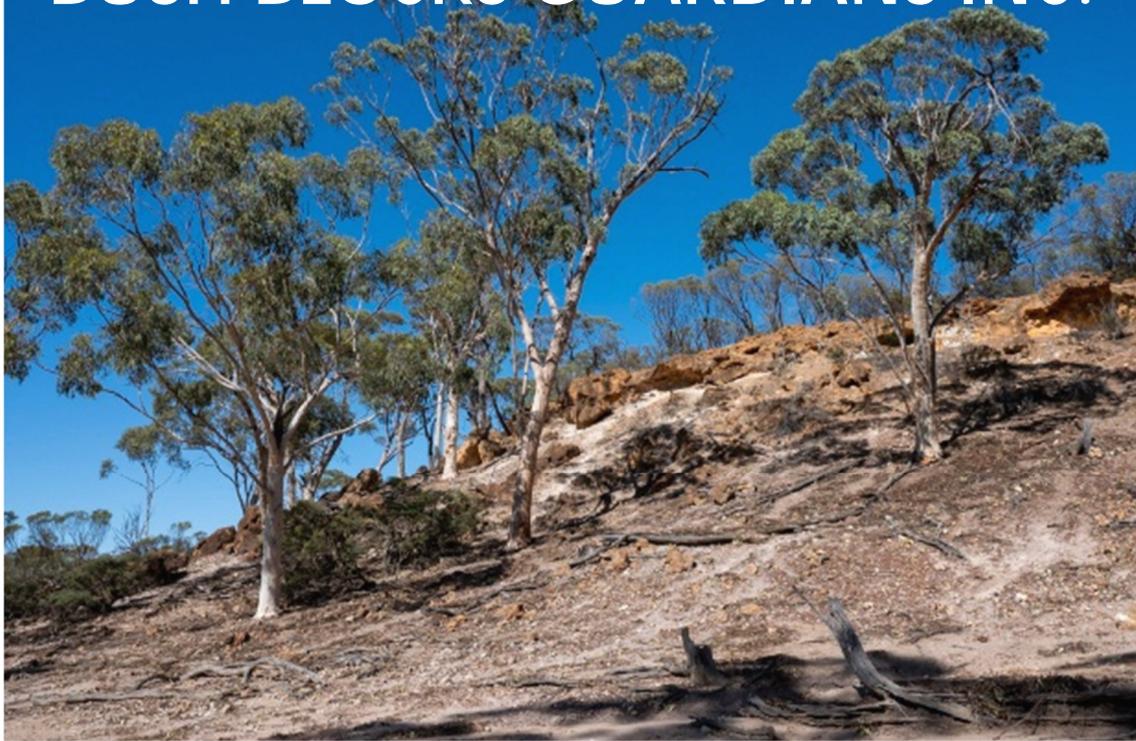
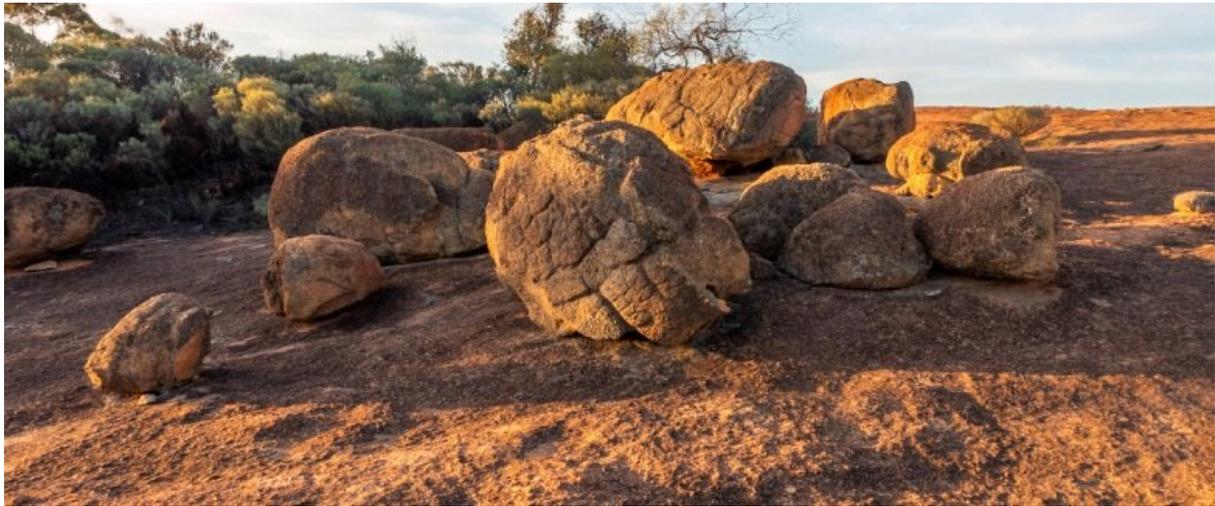


BUSH BLOCKS GUARDIANS INC.



Bush Blocks Guardians Inc.

The Bush Blocks Guardians Inc. (BBGI) is an incorporated association and not-for-profit conservation group focused on the preservation of Western Australia's unique biological and cultural heritage. The group was formed in 2021, as a collection of like-minded people with a passion for conserving, protecting and restoring the state's world renowned environment, with an initial focus on the wheatbelt.



Objectives of the BBGI

The objectives of the group are to purchase and manage land in Western Australia to conserve and restore the natural environment. We are initially targeting land in the wheatbelt, particularly adjacent to existing nature reserves, as the region is poorly represented in our reserve system and contains a range of threatened flora and fauna.

We aim to use any land acquired to increase the awareness and enjoyment of the natural environment and its rich cultural history, among members and the general community. We also plan to foster scientific research using non-destructive methods, and to enhance and promote indigenous knowledge and management techniques. The lands will have covenants attached to prevent any future clearing and development.



“The environment is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share.”
— *Lady Bird Johnson*

Our First Property

We have purchased 372 Morrison Road Westonia – a biodiversity hotspot in the eastern wheatbelt (outlined in red on the right):

- 666 ha (200ha cleared) next to Chiddarcooping Nature Reserve (75 km NE of Merredin) which combined represents a large area of native bush in the mainly cleared wheatbelt;
- Granite outcrops, Breakaways, Melaleuca, Mallee, Wandoo Woodland;
- Gnamma holes, creeks, regenerated areas and regrowing paddocks;
- Threatened flora: *Eucalyptus caesia*, *Acacia ascendens*, *Acacia lobulate*, *Eremophila viscida*, *Leucopogon sp.* *Yanneymooning*;
- Threatened fauna: Malleefowl and potential for additional fauna such as Chuditch;
- May support a range of other woodland species including Dunnarts, Western Yellow Robins, Brushtail Possums and Pink Cockatoo;
- Publications: Hopper (1981, 2000): Honeyeaters and their Winter Food Plants on Granite Rocks in the Central Wheatbelt of Western Australia



On-ground Conservation

Conservation actions to conserve and restore may include:

1. Acquisition of land to ensure the cessation of clearing and degradation associated with agriculture;
2. Revegetation of previously cleared land;
3. Protection of biological or cultural significant areas including:
 - a. Breeding Sites for threatened fauna (e.g. Malleefowl);
 - b. Archaeological or anthropological sites (e.g. gnamma holes, artefact scatters);
 - c. Threatened flora;
4. Feral animal control;
5. Establishment of fencing to protect areas, including a predator proof enclosure;
6. Facilitation of research, biological and archaeological surveys;
7. Long-term monitoring of flora and fauna; and
8. Potential fauna translocations



Stimson's Python and Malleefowl mound present



"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty, the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living." – Sir David Attenborough

How Will BBGI Fund Its Purchases and Manage the Bush?

We will be raising funds to purchase and manage the bush blocks and cover other expenses using these methods:

- Donations including tax deductible;
- Sourcing grants from Government, other organisations and philanthropic trusts that have an interest in our objectives;
- Crowd sourcing for specific projects;
- Gathering members for the group who will pay an annual fee.

Why Is BBGI So Important?

About 95% of the WA wheatbelt has been cleared for farming, with most of the uncleared areas being non-cultivable granite outcrops and narrow strips of perimeter bush, and some of these are preserved in postage-stamp sized nature reserves. The extensive land clearance and degradation associated with agriculture, in combination with weed invasion and predation by cats and foxes has devastated the region's unique biodiversity. Unlike regions outside the wheatbelt, there are no national parks or areas of wilderness here. Our aim is to reverse the situation and strategically purchase both uncleared and cleared land with the aim to rehabilitate and reintroduce missing flora and fauna and hopefully link many of these areas together to help them become sustainable. A secondary benefit of revegetating areas in this region is to help slow the rising water tables and resulting salinisation of our soils and waterways, which is predicted to render large swathes of the wheatbelt unsuitable for cropping.

Aside from a few individuals who have purchased modest-sized bush blocks and some farmers who have fenced and rehabilitated small sections of their land, there is no government or organisations currently undertaking what we aim to achieve. In the southern wheatbelt, the Gondwana Link collective is making great strides in preserving and revegetating large areas. And nationally Bush Heritage and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy are adding large holdings to their private conservation reserves, but have done little or nothing in our targeted region.

BBGI Foundation Members

Some of our foundation members include:

Jeff Turpin

Jeff is an ecologist, coordinating biological surveys across Western Australia. Jeff's interests are in the conservation of Western Australia's unique wildlife and he is currently undertaking a PhD on the fauna of the Great Victoria Desert. Jeff, and his partner Jo, look forward to many camping trips under the stars with their little son Aiden.



Jeff fitting a GS transmitter to an endangered Sandhill Dunnart (above) in the Great Victoria Desert with partner Jo.

Samantha Lostrom

Sam is an ecologist with a focus on conservation. She currently conducts wildlife surveys across WA, from the forests of the southwest to the remote central deserts. Prior to this she worked in Africa on large predator conservation (including leopards, lions and African Painted dogs) in the Okavango Delta, and in meerkat behavioural research in the Kalahari Desert. When not in the bush, Sam enjoys rock climbing or painting the wildlife she encounters.



Sam assessing meerkats in the Kalahari desert and releasing the Vulnerable Northern Quoll in the Pilbara.

Peter Ewing

Peter has been active in WA voluntary conservation since the late 1970s, working on protecting karri forest, energy, climate change and helped to setup and serves as a Trustee on the Conservation Council of WA's Trust Fund since its inception 25 years ago. Before retiring he worked as an engineer and is a keen black and white landscape photographer. In 1985, together with seven other families, purchased and has preserved 345ha of wilderness on the south coast.

More Information

View a selection of photos of "372 Morrison Rd" at this link: <https://adobe.ly/39oR6Ui>

And of the adjacent Chiddarcooping Nature Reserve here: <https://adobe.ly/2UKs0Kf>

BBGI Constitution

We use the WA Government's Model Rules for incorporated associations – see <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/consumer-protection/model-rules>

Our objects are:

1. to purchase and manage 666ha of land at 372 Morrison Road, Westonia (Lot on Plan: P214203 372, Land ID Number: 2055195) for the purposes of restoring and conserving its natural environment;
2. to purchase or otherwise obtain possession of any land in the Shire of Westonia or elsewhere in the state of Western Australia;
3. to use any land so purchased or held for the purposes of restoring its natural habitat, both flora and fauna, and conserving its natural environment;
4. insofar as it is consistent with the objects 1, 2 and 3 to:
 - a. use any land so purchased or held to increase the awareness and enjoyment of the natural environment and natural history among its membership;
 - b. apply conservation covenants to all land purchased to prevent any clearing, development or sub-division to protect the land in perpetuity;
 - c. undertake programmes for the purpose of fostering community interest in the natural environment and natural history;
 - e. foster scientific research into the natural environment that uses non-destructive methods;
 - f. encourage affiliation and/or cooperation with other organisations who have similar objectives;
 - g. work with local Aborigines to enhance and promote indigenous knowledge of the land we managed.