

gondwana link

Gondwana Link Ltd

ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015



Not the whole mob by a long shot, but gathered here are representatives from Gondwana Link groups at the July 2014 'What's Happening?' Forum. Quality people doing quality work.

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INTRODUCTION

Gondwana Link is a collaborative and inclusive venture through which a wide range of organizations work to achieve exponential improvement in ecological protection and management across south-western Australia to achieve: **‘reconnected country in south-western Australia, from the karri forest of Australia’s south west corner to the woodlands and mallee bordering the Nullarbor plain, in which ecosystem function and biodiversity are restored and maintained’.**

Gondwana Link Ltd is the organisational structure built and operated to support the work of achieving Gondwana Link. It is a ‘Company Limited by Guarantee’ whose membership consists of groups working to achieve the Link. Gondwana Link Ltd was established as an independent entity, to serve as the ‘keeper of the vision’, to provide leadership in achievement of the vision and as an integrated support network for all involved in achieving the Link on the ground.

Chairs Report 2014-2015

It has been another busy year for all involved with Gondwana Link Ltd, with some significant milestones passed, some exciting expansion of the program and a few disappointments.

We look with pride on the efforts of all our members and affiliates. It’s been exciting to work with you for another 12 months and see so much achieved. Through your work Conservation Action Plans are in place and being implemented in all key habitat gaps across the Link, and an impressive program of planning and on-ground works is underway in key parts of the Great Western Woodlands. Our congratulations to you all.

This year Gondwana Link Ltd has continued our general profile raising and group support work, taken overall ecological planning to a new level, greatly expanded the Great Western Woodlands program and, we hope, been there for all our members and affiliates when they needed us.

The small size of our core operation continues to be a source of both pride and frustration. We are now effectively supporting work across the entire 1000km link, plus our engagement with a wider network of connectivity initiatives who look to our experience and insights. For much of the Link this is happening with the same two staff, Keith and Amanda, who have run the overall program since the initial six groups became involved and we had the early, almost total, focus on the Fitz-Stirling section. Fortunately we also have Peter Price, who has been a valuable part of the team for five years now, managing our extensive program in the Great Western Woodlands.

While we can be proud of the low overhead cost in running just three core staff, it is not sustainable, and is failing to capitalise on a number of opportunities to better support the work of our member and affiliate groups. Our core program needs modest expansion, but the funds needed to do this remain elusive.

Despite this difficulty, one major achievement has been expansion of the Great Western Woodlands team. Through Peter’s skill and relentless search for opportunities, we have been able to support capacity development of the Ngadju Conservation Committee through employment and training of key Ngadju community members. 2014-2015 was a big year for our friends the Ngadju, with their Native Title rights now formally recognised by the Federal Court – completing their transition from claimant to land holder. Congratulations to the Ngadju community on this, and it is a delight to be helping you prepare for your next big steps as land managers.

Poor government recognition and support remains a weakness of our program, but given the time we invested into supporting development of the National Wildlife Corridor Plan, which proved to be a very short lived Plan, we remain cautious about investing the considerable time needed to achieve improved recognition and support from governments.

As always, a highlight of the year has been the warm support and generous contributions of the donors and funders who have been behind the growth in achievement. The bulk of our core costs continue to be met by the generosity of donors and some of the larger groups. We particularly thank the Diversicon Foundation, Bush Heritage Australia and The Nature Conservancy for their support of our core costs, and also show our appreciation for the close working relationship we have with Pew Charitable Trusts who support our Great Western Woodlands program. We thank you all.

This Financial Year got off to a great start with our 'What's Happening Forum', held at the Porongurups in July. This was the first time for a number of years that all the groups have come together, and was a very uplifting gathering for us all, with a wonderful array of work presented by the groups. Gondwana Link Ltd spoke to our recently prepared Whole of Link Ecological Guide and Working Together Guide and the feedback, then and since, has been very positive. The 'hot topic' workshops were also very productive, so productive in fact that not all proposed initiatives have yet been fully implemented. The Forum also discussed our intention to complete a 'finish the Link by 2025' Strategic Action Plan, and considerable time has also been spent since preparing that document.

I would like to particularly thank Louise Duxbury and Nicole Hodgson from our member group Green Skills for their work in organising and facilitating the Forum.

Following the Forum we followed through on the constitutional changes made in the previous Financial Year, and invited all groups to be formal voting members.

Two changes were made to the Board during this year. In November Dr Tom Hatton joined the Board, but unfortunately he resigned in February 2015 to take up a position on the WA Environment Protection Authority. In March 2015 Dr Louise Duxbury was appointed to the Board, to fill the position vacated by Tom. Also in February 2015 Craig Anderson left both his position with Greening Australia WA and subsequently our Board. Craig had been with us since April 2011 and we wish him well in the future. Obviously we are now entering a period of Board renewal.

I wish to thank the current Board for their ongoing commitment and support. We are also very grateful to Ron Richards for his work as Company Secretary and for his guidance on a range of governance and financial matters over the last year.

On behalf of the Board, and I am sure all member groups, I would like to thank Amanda and Keith. Their dedication and effort underpins and sustains every element of the Gondwana Link vision and programme – effort that goes way beyond reasonable expectations of employees.

Amanda has continued to progress our GIS abilities, particularly in relation to fire data (a major threat identified in all plans) and providing support to groups and their work across the Link. In June she completed the first version of an all of Link Monitoring Plan. Amanda has also undertaken administrative, financial, website and project management duties as well as assisting with project work and supporting Eugene Eades in his cross cultural programs at Nowanup.

Keith continues to be the soul of the Gondwana Link vision not only providing the glue that stitches all the exciting work across the link together but trouble shooting and helping as many as humanly possible of the organisations working hard to achieve the vision.

The demands on our small core team are huge and while they have an astonishing record of achievement their respective workloads are not sustainable in the short or medium term. We desperately need a succession plan for both Keith and Amanda.

But there is no escaping the fact that our capacity to facilitate change does not match the ecological need or fully capitalise on the potential in the community to help implement the vision. The challenge for 2015-16 is to use well-developed long-term planning to attract the substantial investment which can greatly accelerate our shared levels of achievement.

We look forward to meeting that challenge with you.

Virginia Young



Chair and Director, Gondwana Link Ltd



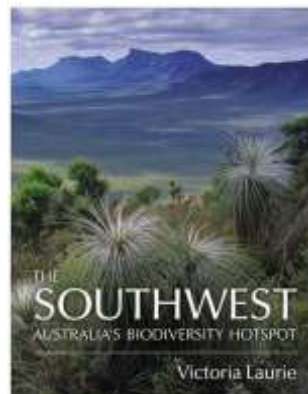
Ngadju Conservation Planning team near Norseman.

PROGRESS MADE

Activities across Gondwana Link are undertaken by a range of groups supported by Gondwana Link Limited (GLL). The following information covers the activities of Gondwana Link Limited for the 2014-15 year, grouped against our agreed functions.

High profile and support

Ensure the ecological vision for Gondwana Link has such a desirable profile and level of recognition that a wide range of organisations and individuals want to contribute, and continue contributing, to the work of achieving that vision.



Increased national recognition and support

- We have continued to work with our colleagues across Australia, even though the demise of the National Wildlife Corridor Plan, and the loss of some state government sponsored programs in other states, has taken some of the wind from the national connectivity sails. We have maintained a particularly close and productive relationship with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, and we delighted to attend their Forum in Sydney during August 2014. Substantial swapping of notes and lessons learnt continues.
- We had a good showing at the World Parks Congress in Sydney during November 2014, with Virginia Young, Keith Bradby and Peter Price attending, along with our Ngadju Conservation colleagues Les Schultz and David Graham. This was an important opportunity to both showcase the program and strengthen our international network and support base.

Communication

- We gave presentations at 8 public events during the year, and spoke at or attended a number of launches and group gatherings.
- Maintaining effective communications remains a challenge, but an active social media presence has been established and maintained, with a focus on providing information on key events. This has now been backdated to 2002, providing a 'fact and event' based history already being used by researchers, and proving a valuable 'filing system' internally.
- June saw the release of Victoria Laurie's superb new book, 'The Southwest – Australia's biodiversity hotspot' which features key areas and achievements across Gondwana Link on many of its pages. It was a delight to work with Victoria on this book. We have assisted in providing content for additional publications by other authors, which are expected to be released publicly in 2015-16.
- During the first half of 2015 we worked with our colleagues from Green Skills and the Great Southern Development Commission on the Business Case for a 'Biodiversity Drive Trail'. This followed a key workshop finding at the July Forum, identifying 'restoration tourism' as a major communication and funding opportunity. The concept, as developed and refined by this project will involve many of our member groups and their work sites, as well as a broader suite of groups across the region.
- We were delighted to spend time with author Sarah Martin. Sarah is writing a history of Bush Heritage Australia, and its growth to becoming such a major force in habitat conservation across Australia. Our discussions with Sarah gave us great pride in being part of that growth and hopefully contributed to Sarah's ability to put together such a 'ripping yarn'.

Increased capacity and tangible outcomes

Work independently and with organisations and individuals to ensure a steady stream of funding and benefits are available to those working to achieve essential parts of the ecological vision for Gondwana Link, with the end result being exponential progress made against clear targets.



Team updating the Fitz-Stirling Conservation Action Plan.

Knowledge base

- It has been a year of synthesis, where much of the knowledge and experience developed since the program began has been brought together into an initial 'Ecological Guide' – the first overall framework for the 'Whole of Link' effort. We have deliberately left this as task till now, so it could build 'from the ground' (the eight plans in place across the Link) but have also brought in considerable extra knowledge on ecological function at scale. The Guide, however, will need considerable extra refinement.

Planning

- Driven by the six main groups involved, the long standing plan for the Fitz-Stirling section has had a comprehensive review. The plan was first developed in 2004, revised a number of times since, and has guided many millions of dollars worth of land purchase, restoration and management. Some major changes were made to the plan, on the basis of recent experience and research, so next time someone waffles on about 'adaptive management' and integration, make sure you tell them it does happen here!
- Due to a lack of funding, we have only been able to provide relatively low support to groups this year in the revision and maintenance of their Conservation Action Plans. Our support has mainly taken the form of a small number of one day workshops.
- As also noted under Standards, we have been able to produce a guiding document for CAP groups entitled *CAP for Gondwana Link – Standards and Guidelines* (<http://www.gondwanalink.org/links/default.aspx>) to improve both planning and monitoring. This involved a desktop comparison of the five CAP plans in the central zone of Gondwana Link, to understand the commonality and divergence in the targets, key ecological attributes, threats and monitoring indicators, and a review of terminology used. This document presented standard terminology for key ecological attributes, threats and strategies and gives guidance on CAP development.
- There has been a largely internal assessment of how objectives align across different scales, aiming at being able to 'roll up' each CAP to assist in showing achievements at the zone and WOL scales (Note: this was aligned with separately funded work to develop the Whole of Link (WOL) and zone (regional) objectives and associated broad monitoring approaches).

Funds to support the work

- As always, we remain keen and available to support fundraising efforts by member groups and others working to achieve priority actions in achieving the Link. We attended a number of donor functions and site visits during the year, and gave strategic advice to groups seeking to improve their fundraising capacity.
- With support from us and engagement with a wide range of groups, companies and individuals, Greening Australia was successful in securing funds for the planting of over 600 hectares in the central zone of Gondwana Link (May 2015). This opportunity was through the Commonwealth Government's 20 Million Trees program, and will be rolled out over the next three years.

- This year has seen the initial development of ambitious investment packages aimed at securing the significant funds needed to substantially complete key sections of the Link. It is expected these will take another 1-2 years to complete and attract the investment needed.

Clear standards

Provide clear ecologically based standards and measures of success to guide the range of work underway and ensure maximum effectiveness in achieving the overall vision.

- We have made significant progress this year, with the production of three significant volumes that establish operating standards and guidelines for work across the Link.
 - Gondwana Link Ltd (2015) Gondwana Link Monitoring Guide V0.5
 - Gondwana Link Ltd (2014) *Gondwana Link Whole of Link Ecological Guide Version 1.2.*
 - Gondwana Link Ltd (2014) *Gondwana Link Working Together Guide Version 1.2.*
- Our Restoration Standards (Gondwana Link Ltd (2010) *Restoration Standards, Version 1.1*) remain applicable and are being used by a number of groups, but require some update.
- We have partnered with the Society for Ecological Restoration Australia on their development of national restoration standards, with our Gondwana Link standards being part of the inputs to this important work.
- Our good working relationship with the plantation industry continues. This year we have worked closely with all the companies involved across the Link on how the national Forest Stewardship Council Standards, for identifying and managing High Conservation Value vegetation on their properties, can be fine-tuned for south-western Australia.

Monitoring and evaluation

Establish and operate transparent evaluation processes that enable ready evaluation of the relative worth of various projects and their contribution towards achieving whole of Link objectives.

- As noted already, in June 2015 we published the first version of the 'Gondwana Link Monitoring Guide V0.5'. This has a focus on the central zone of Gondwana Link and gives guidance to groups involved in planning and implementation on how to develop their monitoring plan and some of the simple techniques they can use. This is a living document to be updated as additional information and techniques become available.
- While we have worked throughout the year to support systematic and strategically focused monitoring, we remain very concerned at the relatively small amount of monitoring being undertaken, particularly monitoring focused on outcomes rather than outputs. Improved techniques and guidelines will help, but the lack of capacity and funding streams prepared to support effective monitoring is a major concern.
- We were happy to host a small workshop in the Albany Office to explore biodiversity indicators for the south coast section of the Link. The expert opinion was clear on the complexity of this issue and the need for multiple and interacting indicators. Results from the discussion have fed into both our Monitoring Guide and a 'report card' program by South Coast NRM.

Critical gaps filled

Identify key gaps in the range of work underway to achieve Gondwana Link and work to fill those gaps effectively but with minimal ongoing role for Gondwana Link Ltd.

Additional involvement

- There has not been an increase in the number of groups involved this year.

Preventing further loss

- Managing major threats, including government funded ones, remains a time consuming aspect of our work. The State Government continues to plan for a 600km extension of the State Barrier Fence between the Great Western Woodlands and the rest of Gondwana Link. We have worked with a number of eminent scientific colleagues to highlight the poor process being followed and the ecological risks involved, and in September we had a journal article published on 'Ecological connectivity or Barrier Fence? Critical choices on the agricultural margins of Western Australia'¹. We understand the formal proponent, the Department of Agriculture, is now preparing to have the project assessed by the state EPA, which is an improvement. In the second half of 2014 we became aware that the Shires of Ravensthorpe and Esperance had been proposing the alienation to agricultural use of between 2-500,000 ha of the Great Western Woodlands, and was greatly heartened by the storm of consternation and opposition this provoked. However, both proposals, which would impact on the ecological function of not only the woodlands but also the Greater Gondwana Link, are still current.



Mike Griffiths is welcomed into the Great Western Woodlands program by Gondwana Link's Peter Price.

Great Western Woodlands (GWW)

This area remains a key operational focus for us. Throughout 2014-2015 Peter Price continued to do great work as our Project Manager for the Woodlands, and was successful in achieving a considerable expansion of the program.

- We have brought together a number of funding streams into a cohesive and very progressive package that is helping our Ngadju Conservation colleagues tackle the opportunities and responsibilities of land management. We would like to particularly thank our main funders - the Pew Charitable Trusts, Rangelands NRM, the Rural Jobs and Communities Program - and our colleagues at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Shire of Dundas, for the commitment, flexibility and goodwill they have shown as this program grows. Highlights have included:
 - The Ngadju Conservation Action Plan was effectively completed, and handed to the Ngadju community for formal endorsement. This has been an 18 month exercise, supported by our main funders and with additional support from The Nature Conservancy. Planner Paula Deegan has done a great job working with Ngadju to bring this important plan together.
 - Excellent cooperation and support from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Shire of Dundas, plus some additional funding through Rangelands NRM, has enabled the Ngadju community to establish a trained and equipped 'rapid response' Dundas Rural Fire Brigade in Norseman (August 2014 onwards)

¹ Bradby, K., Fitzsimons, J.A., Marco, A. Del, Driscoll, D A., Ritchie, E. G., Lau, J., Bradshaw, C. J. A. & Hobbs, R.J. (2014) Ecological connectivity or Barrier Fence? Critical choices on the agricultural margins of Western Australia. *Ecological Management & Restoration* Vol 15 No 3 September 2014.

- With support from the Rural Jobs and Communities Program, we have been able to support a number of Ngadju trainees as they gained qualifications in Indigenous Land Management Certificate III. Fourteen completed the three month course, with the invasive weed control training also eradicating the main Noogoora burr outbreak in south western Australia
- We enabled Ngadju Conservation representatives to meet with other Traditional Owner groups, and to tell their story to the broader community, through attendance at a number of events, including at the World Parks Congress in Sydney, the Australian Rangelands Society Conference in Alice Springs, and a soiree in the Australia Museum held by Bush Heritage Australia.
- In June we were delighted to appoint Mike Griffiths as our Woodlands Program manager, based in Norseman. Mike's work program has a strong initial focus on mentoring and supporting our Ngadju Conservation colleagues. Mike comes to us with a strong ecological background, including working in the World Wildlife Fund's Wheatbelt program for eleven years, as a Biodiversity Officer with Wheatbelt NRM for 18 months, and as a volunteer Threatened Species Field Assistant with the Dept. of Parks and Wildlife since 2007.
- The Great Western Woodlands was highlighted as a key area in Pew Charitable Trust's 'The Modern Outback' report launched at an impressive event in the WA Museum (October 2014). Not only are we appreciative of the ongoing partnership and funding arrangements with Pew, we see their program as a major step forward for the conservation of 'big sky-red dirt' Australia, of which the Woodlands is indeed an important part.
- 'This is the last opportunity on Earth for anyone to look at the ecology of an intact temperate woodland' – strong scene setting words from Professor Harry Recher when a large group of researchers gathered in April for a Birdlife Australia/Nature Conservancy workshop on bird research and management in the Great Western Woodlands. We provided some support in the establishment and operation of this program, and were delighted to see real results emerging (even though the work has confirmed the chilling fact that habitat decline elsewhere makes the Woodlands the main remaining occurrence of some birds, such as Gilberts Whistler and the Shy Heath Wren). And exciting to hear that continental scale connectivity continues, with birds from some species, such as grey fantails and purple crowned lorikeets, travelling thousands of kilometres to and from the Great Western Woodlands.
- Our GIS analysis capacity is reaching new heights with the extensive array of spatial layers and their analysis undertaken by Amanda in conjunction with the Centre for Conservation Geography at University of Queensland. While focused on GWW and our joint program with Pew, there are considerable skill and resource benefits 'leaking' into our wider system.

Noongar aspirations in Fitz-Stirling

- We continue to supply administrative and other support to the array of cultural programs underway at Nowanup. As but one example of the profile this work has achieved, in June Eugene and his program were highlighted globally by Amnesty International, in their 'A brighter tomorrow' campaign aimed at 'keeping indigenous kids in the community and out of detention in Australia'.

Continuity

Enable the collective effort to survive the ups and downs of area specific or group specific work by ensuring that GLL is viable and fully functional into the future so it can continue to provide leadership, support, guidance, strategic direction and agreed standards.

Governance

- The Board met five times during the year, and have managed to reduce costs by extensive use of phone and email.
- During the year there were three changes to the Board. Dr. Tom Hatton joined us in November 2014 but resigned in February 2015 to take up a position on the WA EPA. Craig Anderson also resigned in February 2015, subsequent to his departure from Greening Australia. Dr Louise Duxbury joined the Board in March 2015.
- We have maintained our 'Internal Operating Manual, Policies, Procedures and Forms' with some review and additional policies, and have kept our more detailed Occupational Health and Safety System current.
- In response to a number of government and private proposals that would adversely affect key parts of or ecological functions in the Link, we have developed an Advocacy Policy to guide any involvement we may have. Central to this is ensuring that we continue to promote informed debate and draw heavily on the science available or needed to promote improved understanding of the issues and the implications of particular viewpoints.

Internal capacity

- Staff capacity remains a major impediment to the work of revising the various plans, implementation of improvements to our structure and development of initiatives that can provide exponential improvements. It is recognised that the two core staff have significant operational responsibilities and to try and proceed faster on structural change and related initiatives would seriously impede the day by day operational momentum that underpins the existing level of overall program. In discussing this 'chicken or egg' dilemma, the Board is cognizant of the significant growth that has been achieved in the Great Western Woodlands program through having a dedicated staff person able to drive a number of initiatives.

Political awareness and support

During the year we have had discussions about various aspects of Gondwana Link, and are slowly increasing our profile with various departments and politicians.

- WA Shadow Minister for the Environment, Lands and Climate Change Chris Tallentire, who visited us in Albany and we arranged a tour with colleagues to a number of the areas that would be affected by the Esperance land clearing proposals.
- We have played a role in the establishment of the WA Landcare Network, and our CEO Keith Bradby now sits on its Management Committee. We see this as an important move to strengthen the voice and operating capacity of the many smaller groups working across Gondwana Link, and giving our program, and programs like ours, a greater voice in policy discussion, particularly pertaining to regional structures and government funding programs. Keith also joined the Committee of the National Landcare Network, and sees this as a significant opportunity to strengthen the on-ground voice in Canberra.

Learning to do better

- We have maintained a degree of involvement with other large 'connectivity conservation' programs around Australia, partly to strengthen the approach in Australia and partly as a

way of comparing and improving management and operational methods used for large landscape programs. We have had a particularly beneficial relationship with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, and attended their major workshop in Sydney during August 2014.

- We're being prodded and poked by a few studies:
 - In June PhD candidate Ben McGowan joined us. Ben's research has the tantalising title 'The political ecology of privately protected areas' and he is using Gondwana Link and the Riverland Biosphere Reserve as his two case studies. Ben has now conducted numerous recorded interviews with folk involved in aspects of Gondwana link, and our early discussions on his analysis shows we have a keen and politically astute mind probing our workings.
 - Also in June, Master's student Francesca Ciantar worked from the office, on her study of Offset programs in Australia – how they are meant to work, and how they work. We provided a number of contacts with experience in the Good the Bad and the downright Ugly from the world of offsets, and learnt much from Francesca's legal mind and probing of the current policies and procedures in WA (and yes, they are sweethearts, and yes he did pop the question not long after they returned east).



*Ben McGowan and
Francesca Ciantar*

STATE OF THE LINK

It remains difficult, given our current resources, to provide a useful picture of how areas across the Link are faring ecologically. However, we have made considerable progress in identifying what 'success looks like' at the 1000km scale, and which indicators will provide an accurate picture of progress against the Gondwana Link vision. These primarily relate to key ecological functions, and we are yet to determine achievable ways of measuring trends against these.

We have also collated, in our Ecological Guide, a number of the issues, such as stresses and sources of stress, identified in the various Conservation Action Plans. Altered fire remains a key stress, if not the key stress, and we have been pleased to see the 'rapid response' approach starting to yield benefits in the Great Western Woodlands (through agreements we helped develop between Shire of Kondinin, Dept. Fire and Emergency Services and Western Areas Nickel) and the 'Fire and Biodiversity' program Cape to Cape Catchments is running in Margaret River.

We hope to greatly expand this section in future Annual Reports, as we develop a system for assessing both ecological progress and institutional capacity and involvement.

Some of the many achievements of the many groups and individuals working to achieve their part of our collective vision

Much of the progress made in achieving Gondwana Link on the ground has not been part of this Annual Report, as that work is being achieved by the many groups, institutions, companies and individuals involved in the program, and whose work we provide support for where we can. These few examples have been selected to provide a feel for the progress made and the fun had.



Greening Australia's Barry Heydenrych. Photo Andrew Miller

Congratulations to our colleagues in Greening Australia, and especially to Barry Heydenrych. Greening have been successful tenderers for the Australian Government's 20Million Trees program, and through this will be supporting planting programs in key locations across Australia over the next three years. As the tender was coming together Barry burnt the midnight oil to get the site and planting details together for Gondwana Link's Central Zone, and as a result the area now has some 800hectares of funded planting to work through. Well done Greening, we look forward to standing in the shade of more of your plantings.



Libby Sandiford and Angela Sanders undertaking a vegetation survey at Monjebup. Photo Jessica Wyld Photography.

And you would be laughing too, if you'd just worked out that, per area, the patch of bush behind you was at least as rich in plant species as the Stirling Range and Fitzgerald River National Parks! Albany based botanist Libby Sandiford has recently completed a major plant survey of Bush Heritage's main Monjebup Reserve, recording '570 native taxa occurring in an area of less than 1200 hectares'. The list includes, we gather, some that may prove to be new to science and await further taxonomic work. When the Gondwana Link program started we were all focused on connecting important natural areas. Through the work of Bush Heritage and others we are increasingly confirming that the small bits in-between the major national parks are at least as important as the parks themselves.



Basil Schur riding through the karri country. Photo courtesy Basil Schur.

Green Skill's unstoppable Basil Schur has just pioneered the first stage of a three part Gondwana Link Ride, doing the section from the Indian Ocean near Margaret River to Denmark in an enjoyable five days. Basil is keen to make these rides a group event, and a fundraiser for Gondwana Link projects.



Kwongan Foundation's Hans Lambers and others visit Gondwana Link. Photo Amanda Keesing

Hans Lambers, University of WA Professor and key driver of the Kwongan Foundation, along with Dr Marion Cambridge and Geoff Bastyan, sea grass experts who can tell an amazing story of successful restoration in Albany's harbours, met with Nic Dunlop and others during a visit to the FitzStirling section of Gondwana Link. Nic was busy with bird surveys to learn how various bird functional groups use of the revegetation. We look forward to ongoing cooperation with the Kwongan Foundation, who have launched an ambitious plan to gain World Heritage listing for Australia's south western biodiversity hotspot.



Predator proof fencing goes in at Balijup. Photo Basil Schur

Green Skills were instrumental in the construction of a 4.3km predator proof fence to create a 111 hectare conservation enclosure on Balijup Farm, in Gondwana Link's Stirlings to Forest section. Once the foxes and cats were removed bandicoots were introduced to the area. The feral proof enclosure provides a safer breeding habitat for a number of birds and will be used to build up numbers of mammals lost from the area – a critical step in a wider recovery.



Ngadju team doing chainsaw training. Photo Jane Bradley.

Gondwana Link, with assistance of commonwealth and state funding through RJCP and Rangelands NRM, provided Indigenous Land Management Certificate III training for 20 Ngadju people. The training included first aid, chainsaw handling, 4WD skills, survey techniques and weed management. Ngadju Conservation can utilize these skills to manage Ngadju country as well as undertake fee-for-service work.



Photo Amanda Keesing

An important and incredibly informative day held by the Capes to Capes Catchment Group, as a first step in development of their 'Fire and Biodiversity Plan'. Highlights included the moving and insightful Welcome to Country by Wayne Webb, the detailed scientific perspective provided by Prof. Grant Wardell-Johnson and the practical and very bush friendly words from Gordon Temby and Ian Dowling of the local Volunteer Brigades. The very difficult and sensitive planning issues involved in managing fire and biodiversity in a rapidly developing area were well explained by Shire, Fire and Emergency Services and Planning representatives. Development of the Plan is one of the strategies being pursued by Capes to Capes to implement their Conservation Action Plan, as developed with Gondwana Link support.



Ongoing conservation planning by the Ranges Link group.
Photo courtesy Amanda Keesing

Scones and Cream based Conservation Action Planning continues. We're now into the 'next final' stage of helping groups revise the wording and content of plans across the Link. Amanda Keesing and Paula Deegan have developed some standard terminology which ensures groups are talking in the same language.



Visiting senior scouts assist with planting in Ranges Link. Photo Lucia Quearry

Twin Creeks in Ranges Link scored the help of an energetic bunch of nine visiting Senior Scout Rovers, who spent the day planting *Melaleuca* seedlings into rip lines. The Friends of Porongurup have been fortunate to receive two grants, one from the 'Biodiversity Fund' through South Coast NRM plus a '25 Years of Landcare Grant'. By combining these and adding some of their own funds and lots of volunteers the Friends are restoring the low lying and slightly saline 60ha old paddock that had been cleared (by previous owners) on the western side of the reserve. Once restored, this will not only be another important piece of habitat in their Link, but also protect Gaalgegup Creek, which is fresh by the time it leaves the reserve.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The audited financial statements for 2015 are set out below. Although Gondwana Link Ltd received incomes totalling \$725,620 only \$183,787 was applicable to core operations, the balance of \$541,333 was applied to specific projects managed by Gondwana Link Ltd. It is critical to our continued success that additional funds are obtained for core operations to effectively support these and additional projects so we can achieve our objectives.



Photo Amanda Keesing

GONDWANA LINK LTD
A.C.N. 138 516 944
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT

To the members of Gondwana Link Limited

Report on the Financial Report

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report of Gondwana Link Limited, which comprises the balance sheet and statement of profit and loss as at 30 June 2015, including notes to the accounts and comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001*. Additionally, the directors are responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls as necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 *Review of a Financial Report - Company Limited by Guarantee*, in order to state whether on the basis of the procedures described, I have become aware of any matter that makes me believe that the financial report is not in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* including: giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and *Corporations Regulations 2001*. ASRE 2415 requires that I comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit, I am satisfied that the financial report of Gondwana Link Limited is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) consistent with Australian Accounting Standards as applied and *Corporations Regulations 2001*.



Simon Smith CPA - Audit Review Practitioner
234 Stirling Terrace Albany WA 6330
5th October 2015



**SMITH
THORNTON**
ACCOUNTANTS

GONDWANA LINK LTD

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors submit their report for the financial year ended 30 June 2015 made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Directors

The names of directors in office at the date of this report are:-

VIRGINIA YOUNG (Chair)

PHILIPPA WALSH

LOUISE DUXBURY

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the company in the course of the financial year was providing charitable environmental services in protecting and restoring the natural environment across South-Western Australia from the wet forests to the edge of the Nullarbor.

Operating Results

The company generated a surplus from operations (before appropriations) of \$46,326.

Dividends

The statutory framework for companies limited by guarantee is such that there is a prohibition on payment of dividends to members. This policy is consistent with its Not-For-Profit status and Constitution.

Directors' Benefits

Since the date of incorporation, no director of the company has received or become entitled to receive a benefit. As defined in the company's Constitution, there exists a policy that no Director fees may be paid to Directors.

Indemnities

The company has not, during or since the financial year, in respect of any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company or of a related body corporate:

- indemnified or made any relevant agreement for indemnifying against a liability, including costs and expenses in successfully defending legal proceedings; or
- paid or agreed to pay a premium in respect of a contract insuring against a liability for the costs or expenses to defend legal proceedings.

On behalf of the Board

Signed at 

Date 14 December 2015

GONDWANA LINK LTD
STATEMENT BY DIRECTORS

In accordance with a resolution of the directors, we state that:

As detailed in Note 1 to the accounts the company is not a reporting entity because in the directors' opinion, there is unlikely to exist users who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These accounts are therefore "Special Purpose Financial Reports" that have been prepared solely to meet the Corporations Law requirements to prepare accounts.

The company has applied Accounting Standard AASB 1025 Application of the Reporting Entity Concept and Other Amendments. In the opinion of the directors no other Accounting Standards have mandatory applicability, and consequently no other Accounting Standards have been applied.

In the opinion of the directors,

- the profit and loss account is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the of the company for the financial year ended 30 June 2015;
- the balance sheet is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 30 June 2015; and
- at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The accounts to which this statement relates have been properly prepared by a competent person.

The company, in respect of the financial year to which the accounts relate -

- has kept such accounting records as correctly record and explain the transactions and financial position of the company;
- has kept its accounting records in such a manner as would enable true and fair accounts of the company to be prepared from time to time; and
- has kept its accounting records in such a manner as would enable the accounts of the company to be conveniently and properly audited in accordance with the Corporations Law.

On behalf of the Board

Signed at



Date

4 December 2015

GONDWANA LINK LTD
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	NOTE	2015 \$	2014 \$
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Fee for Service		58,192	14,100
Donation Received		77,013	71,105
Expense Reimbursement		300	1,390
Membership fees		800	-
Insurance Recoveries		-	318
Interest Received		1,674	1,602
Member Group Contributions		100,000	81,000
Project Funding	1d	483,641	627,317
Rebates and Subsidies		4,000	
Australian Government Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability and Heritage Organisations (GVESHO) programme		-	25,000
Profit on Equipment Sales		-	1,363
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		725,620	823,195

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts
SMITH THORNTON

GONDWANA LINK LTD
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	NOTE	2015 \$	2014 \$
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Accountancy		-	6,500
Auditors Remuneration - Fees		2,700	6,200
Bank Fees and Sundries		457	658
Bookkeeping Fees		7,740	7,680
Computer Maintenance		1,590	2,967
Consultants Fees		360,229	198,885
Depreciation		8,827	6,866
Donations		-	50,000
Electricity and Gas		1,562	1,733
Filing Fees		-	308
Field Days & Workshops		28,427	40,819
Insurance		5,309	3,990
Internet Expenses		2,151	2,331
Interest		1,543	2,018
Legal Expenses		2,135	4,550
Motor Vehicle Expenses		6,150	6,626
Rent		25,402	21,425
Repairs & Maintenance		3,519	330
Staff Amenities		151	137
Stationery and Incidentals		5,437	6,863
Superannuation		15,930	15,432
Telephone		4,506	4,508
Training		-	80
Travelling		30,845	70,007
Wages		164,684	169,130
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		679,294	630,043
OPERATING SURPLUS BEFORE APPROPRIATIONS		46,326	193,152

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts
SMITH THORNTON

GONDWANA LINK LTD
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	NOTE	2015 \$	2014 \$
OPERATING SURPLUS BEFORE APPROPRIATIONS -			
Carried Forward		46,326	193,152
 OTHER APPROPRIATIONS			
Project Funding Received in Advance:			
Surplus from Acquitted Projects /(Funding applied to Future Periods)	1d	<u>68,771</u>	<u>(186,251)</u>
 OPERATING SURPLUS AFTER APPROPRIATIONS		115,097	6,901
 SURPLUS FROM PRIOR YEAR		<u>23,526</u>	<u>16,625</u>
 RETAINED SURPLUS AFTER APPROPRIATIONS		<u><u>138,623</u></u>	<u><u>23,526</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts
SMITH THORNTON

**GONDWANA LINK LTD
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2015**

		2015	2014
	NOTE	\$	\$
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		<u>138,623</u>	<u>23,526</u>
REPRESENTED BY			
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			
Plant and Equipment at Cost		121,653	67,856
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(57,992)</u>	<u>(49,165)</u>
		63,661	18,691
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank	2	278,187	228,309
Petty Cash		2,510	1,478
Debtors		7,925	83,304
Yinma Foundation Costs for Reimbursement		6,228	-
Prepayments		<u>2,753</u>	<u>3,908</u>
		297,603	316,999
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>361,264</u>	<u>335,690</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts
SMITH THORNTON

**GONDWANA LINK LTD
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2015**

		2015	2014
	NOTE	\$	\$
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		23,630	19,713
Accrued Expenses		2,200	10,000
Funding for Future Periods	3	117,480	186,251
Provision for Accrued Employee Entitlements	4	51,349	60,828
PAYG Withholding Payable		3,240	3,046
GST Payable		11,160	11,615
Equipment Finance	5	13,582	20,711
		<u>222,641</u>	<u>312,164</u>
 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS			
		<u>138,623</u>	<u>23,526</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial accounts
SMITH THORNTON

GONDWANA LINK LTD
NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Presentation

The company is not a reporting entity and these accounts are therefore "Special Purpose Financial Reports" that have been prepared solely to meet the Corporations Law requirements to prepare accounts.

The company has applied Accounting Standard AASB 1025 Application of the Reporting Entity Concept and Other Amendments. In the opinion of the directors, no other Accounting Standards have mandatory applicability, and consequently no other Accounting Standards have been applied.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

b) Income Tax

No income tax is payable by the company as it is endorsed as a Public Charitable Institution and is exempt from income tax.

c) Depreciation

Fixed assets (other than freehold land) are depreciated on a straight line or diminishing value basis so as to write off the net cost of fixed assets over the periods of their expected useful lives.

d) Future Project Funding

Donations, Member Group Contributions, Grants and funding provided to the company is reflected in the Profit and Loss Account in its entirety as and when received. Additionally, funding received in the prior year is disclosed as revenue for the current year as follows:

Current year funding - disclosed as normal revenue	483,641
Surplus from Acquitted projects - disclosed as other appropriations	<u>68,771</u>
Total	552,412

Where specific project funding extends beyond the close of the financial year, an appropriation is raised to carry forward funding revenue for future project funding activities (refer Note 3 following).

e) Completed Projects

Completed projects with surplus funds remaining have had these surplus funds absorbed into general revenue. Conversely, completed projects with a Deficit of funding have been supported by general revenue.

For the current year, the completed Jobs and their relevant effect on general surplus were:

FENCE - Surplus	-	3,876
MG GWW-2015	(1,583)	-
RJCP	(694)	-
RAVE - Surplus	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>
General Surplus Increase/(Decrease)	(2,277)	8,876

SMITH THORNTON

GONDWANA LINK LTD
NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
NOTE 2 - Cash at Bank		
Bankwest Account 259171-0	188,503	122,679
Bankwest Account 267538-8	<u>89,684</u>	<u>105,630</u>
	278,187	228,309

NOTE 3 - Funding for Future Periods

Where specific project funding extends beyond the close of the financial year, an appropriation is raised to carry forward funding revenue for future project funding activities.

These projects are:

FIRE	-	1,829
GWW 2014	-	23,116
GWW 2015	112,984	-
MFOWL	-	109,970
OS	-	18,000
SC-CAP13	-	25,995
SPINIFEX	<u>4,496</u>	<u>7,341</u>
	117,480	186,251

NOTE 4 - Provision for Accrued Employee Entitlements

Annual Leave	14,753	21,609
Superannuation	4,455	9,988
Long Service Leave	<u>32,141</u>	<u>29,231</u>
	51,349	60,828

NOTE 5 - Equipment Finance

Capital Finance Santa Fe Wagon \$717.19 per month	-	8,606
with Balloon \$13,692 due June 2015	13,582	13,692
Interest Yet to Mature	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,587)</u>
	13,582	20,711

SMITH THORNTON