



Powerful Owl

Impact Report **2018-19**

**Protecting Victoria's most
threatened native plants and
wildlife for future generations**



**TRUST FOR
NATURE**
Habitat forever



Collaborating to protect biodiversity

Putting a protective conservation covenant on a property is one of the most important things landholders can do to help Victoria's plants and animals survive, thereby ensuring they are around for future generations to enjoy. It is a generous act, and we're proud to work with so many Victorians who value conservation.

This year, 36 conservation covenants were registered, protecting 1,918 additional hectares of Victorian land. This brings the total to 67,063 hectares protected by covenants since Trust for Nature's inception in 1972. These agreements with landholders protect native plants and animals on private land permanently, even after the land changes hands.

Trust for Nature would not be able to deliver many of the tangible outcomes and projects that we have delivered this year without the generous and valued support of people within our community, including volunteers, committees of management, friends' groups, business partners, community groups and financial donors. Thank you. We could not do it without you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria Marles". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

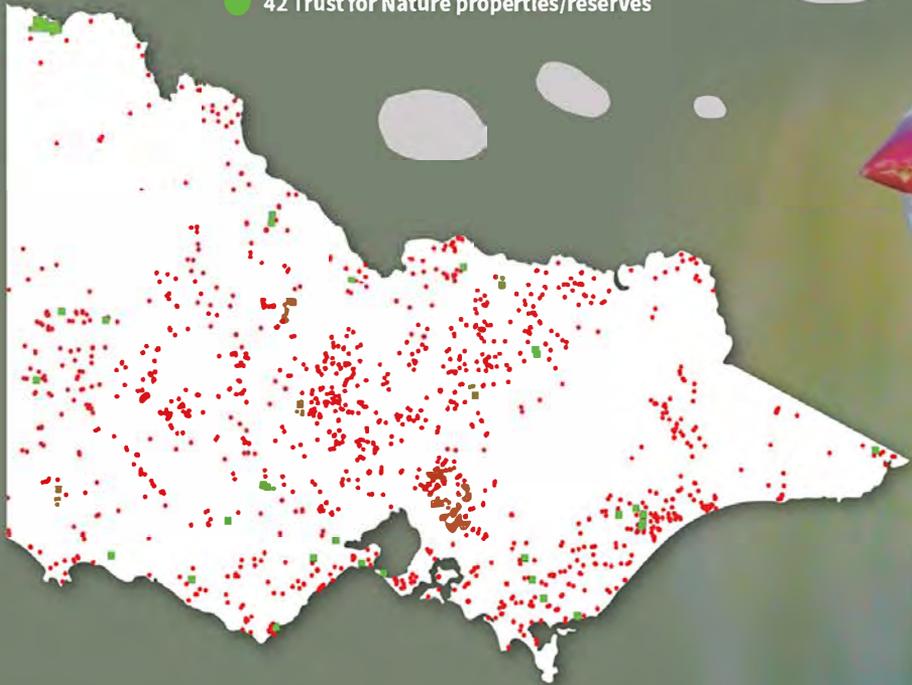
Victoria Marles
CEO Trust for Nature



What makes Trust for Nature different? We're all about making sure native plants and animals are protected on private land forever.

A total of 102,000 hectares across Victoria is already permanently protected under conservation covenants, or reserves owned by Trust for Nature.

- 1,459 Conservation covenants
- 42 Trust for Nature properties/reserves



We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples, and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land on which we work and live.



1

Conservation

Weed control across

10,900

hectares

It is important for us to work with landholders and help maintain private land to protect native plants and animals. Every on-ground action brings us closer to securing the future of threatened species across Victoria.

Newly protected land in 2018-19

Perry Bridge* (87.87 ha) in the West Gippsland region. Habitat for the vulnerable Lace Monitor Diamond Firetail. This site enhances the protection of the last link between the coast and the Alps in West Gippsland.

A close-up photograph of a Diamond Firetail bird perched on a weathered tree branch. The bird has a grey head, a bright red eye, and a black breast with white spots. Its wings are brown and its tail is red. The background is a soft-focus green.

Diamond Firetail,
courtesy Chris Tzaros

*These are three of the 36 new covenanted properties in 2018-19

1,459

conservation covenants registered
since 1972 protecting 67,063
hectares

More than

102,000

hectares now protected by
covenants and our reserves

More than

200

ecological surveys on
covenanted properties and
on our reserves, mostly with
threatened species projects

Newly protected land in 2018-19

**Ninyeunook* (129.5 ha)
in the North Central
region.**

Habitat for the critically
endangered Plains-wanderer
and Golden Sun Moth.

Plains Wanderer
Eugene O'Brien



We worked on more than 85 privately and publicly funded projects with conservation partners to help secure, maintain or improve habitat for a variety of threatened species, including Woolly Plover-daisy, Orange-bellied Parrot, Eastern Curlew, Swamp Skink, Plains-wanderer, Colourful Spider Orchid, Regent Honeyeater, Striped Legless Lizard, Bibron's Toadlet, Sooty Owl and Azure Kingfisher.

We partnered and shared our expertise with more than 100 organisations, community groups and businesses and with the Victorian and Australian governments.

Lace Monitor

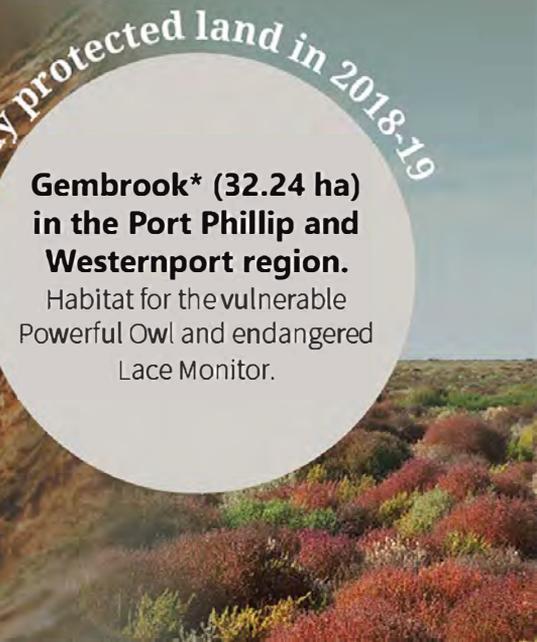
We engaged with Australia's first peoples by developing and delivering new partnership projects, spending time together on Country, joint land management, joint funding applications and sharing knowledge at meetings, community events, workshops and presentations.

In partnership with the Bunurong Land Council and Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation, we are supporting Aboriginal people interested in conservation and land management with higher education and work opportunities. Thank you to the Victorian Government, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, Bunurong Land Council and Zoos Victoria for supporting a Certificate III of Conservation and Land Management for a second year.

Newly protected land in 2018-19

**Gembrook* (32.24 ha)
in the Port Phillip and
Westernport region.**

Habitat for the vulnerable
Powerful Owl and endangered
Lace Monitor.



Protecting native plants and animals for future generations

Over the years Trust for Nature has partnered with landholders to place more than 1450 covenants on properties throughout Victoria, in urban and regional areas. People, like Tony Webber (pictured), who have put a conservation covenant on their properties are protecting native plants and animals for future generations.



Recovering lost biodiversity at Neds Corner Station

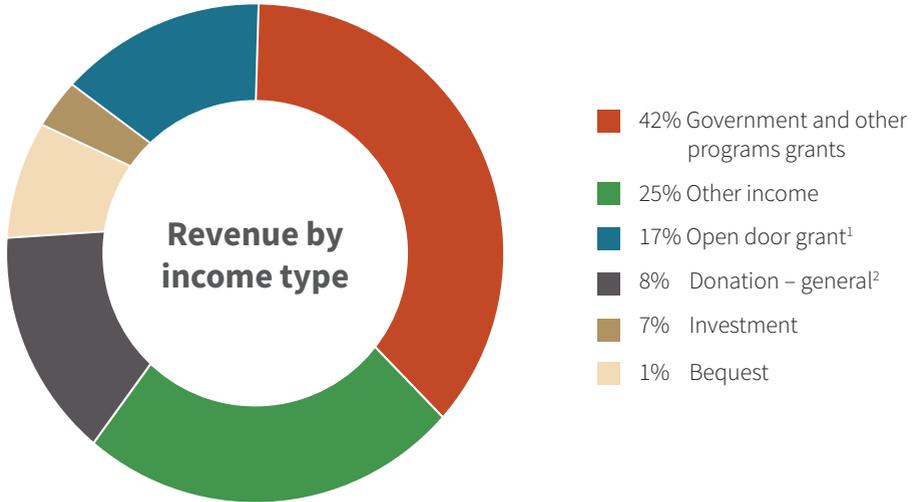
Since the Trust's purchase of Neds Corner Station in 2002, the native vegetation has recovered remarkably, there are fewer plant and animal pests, and we have discovered new populations of many species of plants and animals not recorded previously in Victoria or in the surrounding landscape. For example, in 2018–19 we identified the endangered Woolly Plover-daisy, previously thought to be locally extinct on Neds Corner Station. This small perennial shrub only has a few sites remaining in Victoria and its rediscovery on Neds Corner Station is due to the long-term and large scale control of rabbits.



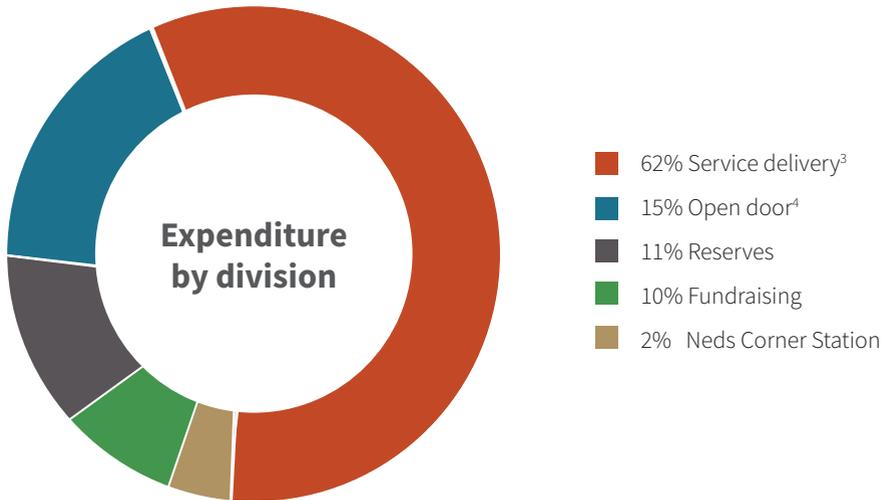
Tapestry at Neds Corner, courtesy Mark Schapper

Financial year summary 2018-19

Revenue by income type



Expenditure by division



1. Open door grant = from State Government for Trust for Nature as statutory entity
2. Donation - general = philanthropic grants, individual donors
3. Service delivery = covenant registration, covenant stewardship and monitoring, land management activities, regional coordination, conservation planning and on-ground works
4. Open door = governance, facilities & payroll, IT, HRE, science, policy & research



Contributing to policy

Trust for Nature takes an active role in public policy. In 2018-19 we contributed to a number of state, national and international issues including: the independent consultation on modernising regional forest agreements; the Australian Land Conservation Alliance's submission on the Australian Government's COP14 agenda items and draft decisions; and the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy communications strategy to increase awareness of environmental economic accounting.

Tackling climate change

In 2018-19, with the support of the Victorian Government the Trust continued reviewing its conservation planning approaches in the context of climate change. We have mapped priority areas for sustainable land-use conservation and properties most suitable for revegetation and carbon sequestration.

We also held workshops this year for our covenantors, landholders, staff, committees of management and friends' groups, to learn more about how they can help mitigate the impacts of climate change on biodiversity on their properties.

Revolving Fund

Another way we protect land is to buy properties with high conservation value and sell them to people willing to protect and care for them by putting a conservation covenant on the property. Proceeds from sales are reinvested into further property purchases of high conservation value.

This is our Revolving Fund. Since its inception 25 years ago, the Fund has purchased 74¹ properties and sold 63¹, resulting in the protection of 6,369 hectares of conservation land.

A list of properties for sale is available on our website trustfornature.org.au.



¹ Some properties have been prepared for sale as multiple parcels. This increases the number of properties retained and sold, but it does not affect the area of land protected.



The Matthews family on their property in Fiery Flat, North Central Victoria.

36

new conservation covenants registered

157

conservation management plans for covenanted properties

Trust for Nature is grateful to the

75 volunteers and 15

community groups who helped us make a difference to the Victorian environment in 2018-19.

50

field days and workshops across Victoria

Working with private landholders

Trust for Nature was established to protect native plants and animals on private land. One of the ways we do this is by partnering with landholders to place voluntary conservation covenants on land, protecting properties forever. Covenantors are supported through the teams in our regional offices across Victoria.



The two Acacias,
Acacia Blake (left) and
Acacia Merrick.

Thank you for helping us to protect native plants and animals forever. We could not have achieved these results without your support.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Trust for Nature welcomes public support for its conservation work. All contributions of \$2 and more are tax deductible.

Two-thirds of Victoria is privately owned, which means that protecting native plants and animals on private land is vital. Trust for Nature is a not-for-profit organisation that relies on generous support for our work to protect Victoria's amazing biodiversity – from old growth trees, orchids and fungi, to invertebrates, birds and mammals and everything in between. Not only do we focus on individual species, but also landscape scale projects, all of which form a healthy and prosperous environment. And healthy environments underpins healthy people, healthy communities and are vital for future generations to come.

For more details about how to support our work go to trustfornature.org.au.

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