

Threatened Species Conservancy

Annual Report

2018- 2019



THREATENED
SPECIES
CONSERVANCY

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the places in which we live and work. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with this country and pay our respects to elders past, present and future.

Who We Are

We're an independent not-for-profit organisation working to protect Australia's threatened plants and animals.

Our Mission

To work with communities, scientists and government to save Australia's plants and animals from extinction.

President's Report

Australia is home to an incredible diversity of flora and fauna with more than 80% of species occurring nowhere else in the world. Tragically, Australia also leads the world in rates of plant and animal extinctions and we have some of the highest numbers of listed endangered and threatened species in the world. Despite these sobering statistics, government programs to prevent plant and animal extinctions have been very poorly funded and as a result, threatened species populations have continued to plummet. These issues were clearly in the minds of my co-founder Abi Smith and I when we decided, in 2017, to found the Threatened Species Conservancy, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the recovery of threatened plants and animals across Australia. Our first board meeting took place on the 24th March 2018. Then, on the 22nd May, we became a Victorian-based incorporated association able to operate in other states.

The Jarra or Dja Dja Wurrung people are the traditional owners of the lands and waters of the Mount Alexander region where the Threatened Species Conservancy is based. The Threatened Species Conservancy recognises that Aboriginal people have experienced profound devastation and grief caused by European colonisation which continues to the present day. These issues are intrinsically woven into the work we do because this devastation extends to the Australian landscape and its unique and diverse flora and fauna. Australia has one of the worst land clearance records in the world and climate change is pushing many species to the brink of extinction. Consequently, the value and urgency of our work is more important than ever. I believe the Threatened Species Conservancy will play a vital role in the prevention of plant and animal extinctions in Australia in the years to come. We are ready to take on the challenges ahead.

The success of our organisation is due to the enormous contributions made by our wonderful team. Our co-founder and Director, Abi Smith plays a vital role in our organisation. Abi's vision and her extensive knowledge of threatened species recovery and the not-for-profit sector has enabled us to get to the place we now are. We have also been incredibly fortunate to become part of the Just Add Purpose mentorship program. Through this program, Morri Young has provided vital support to us and shared his extensive knowledge of not-for-profit governance and finance. Finally, our wonderful Board members and volunteers have provided endless unpaid hours to help us develop as an organisation.



Metallic Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra epipactoides*) habitat on the South West Coast of Victoria. Photo credit: Daniel Sessler UNSPLASH

Business Achievements

The Threatened Species Conservancy has had a number of significant achievements in the year since our incorporation. This has included: setting up our financial management system (Xero), registering as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and receiving a fundraising licence. We have also signed a contract with the fundraising organisation, Goodwill Wines to raise money through their wine sales. We are a member of Landcare Victoria which has enabled us to procure low-cost public and association liability insurance, professional indemnity insurance and public and products liability insurance.

Delivery of Funded Programs

Our Black Gum Waterways and Safeguarding the Future of *Ballantinia antipoda* projects have been running since July 2018. These programs were funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The Black Gum Waterways project has worked with the Woodend community in Victoria to raise awareness and protect Black Gum (*Eucalyptus aggregata*) populations from extinction. Key activities have included:

- holding a Black Gum Community Information Day;
- a mail out of Expression of Interest forms to 150 landholders in the Woodend district inviting them to participate in future Black Gum habitat restoration activities;
- assessing private land sites in Black Gum habitat;
- Black Gum seed collection
- Threatened Species Conservancy market stalls at the Woodend Community Farmers Market;
- providing information about Black Gum conservation; and
- controlling weeds in Black Gum habitat along the Five Mile Creek.

The Safeguarding the Future of *Ballantinia antipoda* project has led to significant gains in the recovery of the Southern Shepherd's Purse. Seed collected from Mount Alexander Regional Park was successfully reintroduced into moss mats at Mount Buangor State Park.

The TSC was also funded by the Mount Alexander Shire Council to collect seed from the Southern Shepherd's Purse for long term storage at the Victorian Conservation Seedbank at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Three field trips were conducted with local Castlemaine residents and members of the Harcourt Valley Landcare group. Seed was then transported to the Royal Botanic gardens where it was lodged at the seedbank.



Nationally listed Southern Shepherd's Purse (*Ballantinia antipoda*).

People and Partnerships

We have received resounding support from a wide range of community and government stakeholders. The Black Gum Waterways project generated significant interest in our organisation and we have developed an extensive list of community members who are interested in restoring private land with Black Gums or participating in our community projects. We have also had incredible support from our core volunteers. Our Administration Assistant has performed her with skill and enthusiasm. Derek Smith has used his expertise and energy to get our OH&S policies and procedures up and running. Members of Woodend Landcare have generously provided many hours to the Black Gum Waterways project. Linnet Good from Goodscribble has contributed many hours of her time to assist us to develop our Strategic Plan which we hope to complete in 2020. Shoni Ellis, our newest volunteer has provided invaluable assistance to us through the redevelopment of our website.

During 2018 and 2019, we partnered with the following organisations to develop threatened species recovery programs including:

- Australian Plant Bank
- Braemar College
- DELWP (Loddon Mallee, Gippsland and Grampians regions)
- Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Corporation
- Goldfields Library Corporation
- Harcourt Valley Landcare
- Laughing Bird Designs
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Parks Victoria (Grampians and North Central regions)
- Queensland University of TAFE
- RMIT
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
- Western Water
- Woodend Landcare



Raising awareness of threatened species with the TSC Sound Dome.

Communications

We continue to build on our public relations capacity. So far, we have developed a website, registered and managed three email addresses, created and maintained a Facebook page and Instagram account and designed the TSC logo. We have been interviewed three times on ABC Central Victoria and have had one article published in the Castlemaine Mail regarding the Black Gum Waterway program. Our Black Gum Waterways program was also advertised in the Macedon Ranges Shire Council newsletter.

Future efforts

We have a number of important tasks ahead of us. These include submitting an application for Donor Gift Recipient status to the Department of Environment and Energy; finalisation of our Strategic Plan; development of a Financial Management Plan and Communications Strategy.

Future achievements include:

- lodgement of an application for Donor Gift Recipient Status (in progress);
- development of the TSC Strategic Plan (in progress);
- development of a Financial Management Plan;
- development of a Communications Strategy;
- lodging additional funding submissions;
- sourcing corporate donations;
- holding fundraising events;
- launching the Threatened Species Conservancy;
- development of fauna monitoring protocols with Deakin University;
- providing strategic input into Biodiversity Response Planning for DELWP; and
- Five Mile Ck project scoping with NCCMA, Western Water, Landcare and Traditional Owner groups.

In summary, much has been achieved over the past 17 months and there is much more work ahead. We look forward to working with our partners in 2019/20.

Anna Murphy

Director, Chairperson, Head of Flora Ecology

Treasurers Report

This financial report covers an 18-month period from 1 January 2018 to the 30 June 2019. The total income for this period was \$66,014.00. This was made up of government grants, donations, one contract and interest. The total amount received from grants was \$98,523. As these grants ran over the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 we are reporting grant income of \$62,940 which was received for the financial year 2018/19. We expect to expend the total grant received in 2019/2020 on works outlined in the grant conditions. We also received \$530 in donations, a contract for \$2,500.00 and interest of \$44.00. Total expenditure for this period was \$65,785.00. Most of these funds were spent on wages and salaries for direct on-ground works, with only 7.5% of income going towards administration costs.

Funding submissions

During the 2018/19 period, we received funding from five funding bodies equating to a total of \$98,523.00.

Funding body	Requested	Received	Project description
DELWP Community and Volunteer On-ground Action Grants	\$46,680.00	\$46,680.00	Black Gum recovery, community engagement and landholder extension. Runs from 1 July 2018 to 30 December 2019.
DELWP Community and Volunteer On-ground Action Grants	\$48,843.00	\$48,843.00	Translocation of Southern Shepherd's Purse to Victorian Pyrenees. Runs from 1 July 2018 to 30 December 2020.
Mount Alexander Shire Council	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	Seed collection Southern Shepherd's Purse. Runs from July to December 2019.
TOTAL	\$98,523.00	\$ 98,523.00	

Abi Smith

Director, Treasurer and Head of Fauna Ecology