

Annual Report

2021-2022



Murray Darling
WETLANDS
WORKING GROUP LTD.

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Annual Report 2022

Since 1992 the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group has delivered hundreds of projects across thousands of hectares of wetlands, involving hundreds of people in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Pioneers in water management for wetlands since 2000, we have delivered over 80000 Megalitres to more than 200 wetlands, improving habitat for birds, fish, frogs, insects, lizards, mammals, trees, plants and many endangered and vulnerable species.

The key to our success has been collaboration with many stakeholders including irrigators, NGOs, government agencies, businesses, Aboriginal and community groups.

We know the solution to addressing wetland health in the Murray-Darling Basin lies with people working together.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we work, live and learn on and pays its respects and gratitude to Elders past, present and future.

Report from our Chair.



It goes without saying that much of the Murray Darling Basin is wet with high river flows and the large southern dams basically full, and spring hasn't started yet!

This creates both great opportunities from high natural flooding and increased difficulties in managing environmental watering for best environmental effect. As is indicated in Deb's CEO report our staff team was able to manage to utilize all available water.

Personally, I was surprised to work out that I am approaching 5 years as the MDWWG chair, replacing the indomitable Howard Jones in late 2017, after Howard stepped down from the board having held the position since 1999.

It was a time of great change for MDWWG with the -

- Murray-Darling Basin Balanced Fund established in 2015 and environmental water delivered from the environmental water trust in 2017, and
- Part of the successful Nimmie Caira consortium with the NNTC, TNC and UNSW announced in 2018

This coupled with the tragic loss of two of our wonderful staff and friends Rhonda Sinclair and Rick Webster and board member Roger Good meant that MDWWG needed consolidation of our organization rather than further expansion. The last few years have been bumpy and of course the Covid-19 pandemic destabilizing many of our plans.

Even so MDWWG through judicious management by Deb and our dedicated staff under the attentive gaze of the board has strengthened its position both financially and operationally to where the working group is now set for a more expansionary future.

One of the board's biggest challenges over the next few years will be around succession planning for replacing our long serving CEO and some renewal of the board including appointing a new chair. We will discuss the timetable for these changes at our next meeting.

Ian Davidson CHAIR

Report from our Chief Executive.



Dear members,

The vision of the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group is to enable community understanding, caring and rehabilitation of wetland environments across the Murray-Darling Basin. This past year has delivered fully on that vision as we worked with community to successfully water 17 wetlands across NSW and VIC in a diversity of wetland types encompassing approximately 818 Ha. Water was delivered in partnership with private landholders, NGO's, First Nations, local councils, sporting clubs, water authorities, and other state agencies.

MDWWG also contributed to the Barmah-Millewa spring flows and wetland inundation in the NSW lower Murray between Locks 15, 7 and 9 delivered in partnership with CEWO.

The influence of this watering goes beyond the immediate hectares affected, providing for habitat for visiting birds, terrestrial animals and plants. Our monitoring shows clear results over many years that we are making a positive impact on biodiversity and wetland management.

This work is supported by many different funding organisations, including The Environmental Watertrust, Nari Nari Tribal Council and the Gayini Consortium, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, The Ian Potter Foundation, Trentham Estate, NSW Save our Species, Australian Government, The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and Western Local Land Services. As well as this direct funding support, there is in-kind support from many organisations and

individuals which account for hundreds of hours of valued commitment to the same vision.

I am particularly excited by our continued and broadening engagement with First Nations People, as together we learn about wetland management and the real and practical ways we can assist each other. The relationships being built as we work towards shared objectives give me confidence, inspiration and motivation to continue on that path.

Part of that path is to also improve our communications with the broader community and show people the many positive stories of hope amidst the sometimes depressing news of the day. Our new communications manager, Simon Morris, is now building those communications and you can expect to see an invigorated public profile, aimed to showcase our work and draw in greater support.

Each year I like to extend my personal thanks to the families of all our Board members and staff, as I know they also share the vision of 'the Group'. Without your support, none of this is possible.

Thank you,

Deborah Nias
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The MDWWG delivered ~3764.4 ML of water in 2021-2022. Seventeen wetlands across NSW and VIC covering approximately 818 Ha were inundated.

Recovery efforts in 2021-22 for the nationally endangered Murray hardyhead fish were supported through delivery partnerships with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and NSW DPI Fisheries. The only NSW population of the Murray hardyhead experienced the biggest population boom ever recorded, with estimates of 90,000 individuals of varying age classes detected!

Recovery efforts for the nationally endangered southern bell frog were supported through water delivery and monitoring partnerships with the Saving our Species Team. The frog was observed at seven wetlands that received EWT in 2021-22.

Foraging and breeding habitat was created and maintained for 54 waterbird species including nationally endangered species such as the blue-billed duck and freckled duck.

Over 400,000ML of environmental water was received by the Gayini floodplains. Forty-four endangered male Australasian bitterns were heard calling and one endangered Australian painted snipe was sighted (our first observation since monitoring started) in 2021-22

Eight Victorian wetlands watered in 2021-22, an additional five since 2020-21 and numbers increasing in 2022-23 and beyond

New Grants received

Australian Government, The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment: Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program: Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program Small Grants (Round 2) – Bottle Bend Reserve environmental water enhancement and rehabilitation works. Grant amount: \$65,700 ex GST

Australian Government, The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment: Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program: Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program Small Grants (Round 2) – Keera Station In channel creek rehabilitation works. Grant amount: \$69,000 ex GST

Australian Government, The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment: Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program: Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program Small Grants (Round 2) – Gol Gol Creek In channel creek rehabilitation works. Grant amount: \$92,100 ex GST

Western Local Land Services: Coomealla wetlands track rationalisation and sign interpretation. Grant amount \$20,000 ex GST

Highlights of 2021-22



Foraging and breeding habitat was created and maintained for 54 waterbird species including nationally endangered species such as the blue-billed duck and freckled duck. CREDIT: © Chris Tzaros, Birds, Bush and Beyond

Our vision, mission and goals.

Our vision

Community understanding, caring and rehabilitation of wetland environments.

Our mission

Restoring and improving the management of wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin by linking community involvement with best scientific understanding.

Our values

Innovation – creative thinking and encouraging opportunities.

Accountability and transparency – responsible and open decision-making and sound financial management.

Equity – appreciation of environmental, social, economic and cultural issues across the Murray- Darling Basin.

Integrity – responsive and reliable in all our actions and respectful of community opinions and issues.

Community focussed – engaging and empowering basin communities in environmental solutions.

Commitment – a community-based organisation committed to wetland restoration.

Our conservation goals

- Promote and implement sound management of Murray-Darling Basin wetlands to optimise their environmental values.
- Promote the sustainable use of wetlands and water resources.
- Specifically, we shall restore and improve the ecological health of floodplain wetlands along the southern Murray-Darling Basin, including the headwaters of the Great Dividing Range; basin floodplains and rain-fed wetlands (not connected to rivers).
- We shall achieve these goals by:
 - Facilitating greater community awareness of wetland values and management requirements in Murray-Darling Basin wetlands.
 - Utilising the latest research and best management practices to protect and restore wetlands.
 - Developing functional links with other wetland and river management organisations.
 - Encouraging community involvement in cooperative rehabilitation projects of wetlands in cooperation with government agencies and key land managers.
 - Identifying sources of funding and seeking sponsorship for implementing wetland programs for basin wetlands.
 - Promoting management-oriented research and recognition of research priorities for wetlands throughout the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lower Darling River catchments.
 - Expanding interstate liaison and cooperation by fostering links with other agencies and wetland rehabilitation organisations.
 - Recognising the importance of local and regional landscape management and private wetlands, by taking a systems approach.

Our Governance

As at 30 June 2022, the Company Board comprised the following directors:

NAME	POSITION	BACKGROUND	DATE OF SERVICE
Mr Ian Davidson Wangaratta, VIC	Chair	Natural resource management	2013 - current
Ms Kathryn Ridge Sydney, NSW	Deputy Chair	Lawyer	2012 - current
Ms Judith Frankenberg Howlong, NSW	Board member	Beef farmer, ecologist (retired)	2009 - current
Mr John Pettigrew Shepparton, VIC	Board member	Irrigation and horticultural industries (retired)	2016 - current
Mr David Harriss PSM Narooma, NSW	Board member	Public service (water and natural resource management)	2018 - current
Mr Nick Lilley Melbourne, VIC	Board member	Financial specialist	2016 - current
Mr Adrian Wells Leneva, VIC	Board member	Education, community engagement, communication	2016 - current
Mr James Forbes Sydney, NSW	Board member	Philanthropy, fundraising	2019 - current
Mr Jamie Woods Hay, NSW	Board member	Natural resource management, water delivery	2021 - current



The Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd. is an Australian Public Company limited by guarantee with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission (Australian Company Number: 137 010 658).

The company was registered under the Corporations Act 2001 on 8 May 2009. The Working Group is governed by a board of directors with experience in water and natural resource management; farming; irrigation; community engagement; legal; finance; economic; science and governance.

Board meetings

Four ordinary board meetings were held during 2021-22.

The number of meetings and attendance by each of the company's directors are set out in Appendix 1.

2021 Annual General Meeting

The company's annual general meeting was held via Team meeting due to COVID restrictions' on November 17th 2021.

Chief Executive Officer

Dr Deborah Nias continued as the company's Chief Executive Officer during the year and continued as the board's Company Secretary.

Staff

- Sascha Healy, Senior Environmental Water Manager – Mildura
- Ali Borrell, Environmental Water Manager – Albury
- Sarah Ning, Environmental Water Manager – Albury
- Jane White, Environmental Water Manager (commenced May 2022) – Katunga
- Nick Kohlhagen, CSU student work placement for three months - Albury

Work, health and safety

The company's Work, Health and Safety Committee reported no work, health or safety incidents during the year.

Managing our finances.

The Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group is a company limited by guarantee and is required to adhere to stringent governance and reporting procedures.

The Working Group has a strong financial governance system in place that includes:

- A Finance Audit Risk and Governance Committee comprising three board members skilled in financial management. The committee reviews financial reports quarterly, ensures accountability for project expenditure, has an internal audit process, and oversees the independent financial audit.
- Working Group policies that govern the use of all funds.
- The Working Group engages an independent external bookkeeper to maintain account records, reports BAS, controls payroll and liaises with the auditor.
- The Working Group is independently audited each year.
- The Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Public Fund reports annually to the Department of the Environment and Energy, detailing how money (and/or property) donated to the Public Fund is used, and how this contributes to the Working Group's principal purpose.

During 2021-22, members of the Finance Audit Risk and Governance Committee were Mrs Judith Frankenberg, Ms Kathryn Ridge and Mr Nick Lilley.

The annual financial accounts are not included in the annual report. Copies of audited financial statements are available to relevant organisations upon request.

Our major activities during the year.

The MDWWG delivered ~3764.4 ML of water which was comprised of 3244.6ML Environmental Water Trust donation, ~114.8ML carryover from 2020-2021 and ~405ML of CEW holdings. Seventeen wetlands across NSW and VIC benefitted from watering in 2021-2022 where a diversity of wetland types encompassing approximately 818 Ha was inundated -equivalent to 409 Melbourne Cricket Grounds! The EWT donation also contributed to Barmah-Millewa spring flows and wetland inundation in the NSW lower Murray between Locks 15, 7 and 9 delivered in partnership with CEWO.

Water was also delivered in partnership with private landholders, NGO's, First Nations, local councils, sporting clubs, water authorities, and other state agencies. The Annual Watering Plan for 2021-22 aligned with the five-year Strategic Plan objectives and desired outcomes and was accepted by the Environmental Water Trust in September 2021.

Wetland watering was successfully managed despite the challenges that COVID-19 restrictions placed on movement and activities and the continuous high river and unregulated flows that occurred along the NSW Murray in 2021-22.

ENVIRONMENTAL
Water Trust



Wetland Connections - The Ian Potter Foundation Funding in Action



17 priority wetlands - nearly double the volumes delivered in 2020-21



The Ian Potter Foundation (IPF) is a major Australian philanthropic foundation that provides grants nationally to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a wide range of sectors including environmental science.

The Ian Potter Foundation provided the MDWWG with a generous three-year grant to help grow our organisational capacity through the appointment of a senior environmental water manager in March 2021. We are very pleased to report that the MDWWG has continued to deliver record volumes of water in 2021-22, delivering a combined 3764 megalitres to 17 priority wetlands - nearly double the volumes delivered in 2020-21.

With The Ian Potter Foundation funding, the MDWWG continued to strengthen partnerships and created new working collaborations with private landholders, non-government organisations and local, state and Commonwealth agencies. The Ian Potter Foundation funding supported projects that improved water quality and perceived value of wetlands through monitoring and the provision of enhanced walking tracks and interpretive signage (Coomealla Golf Course Lagoons), enhanced recruitment of the endangered Murray hardyhead fish and the southern bell frog at Wingillie wetlands NSW (in partnership with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH), NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and NSW Department of Planning and Environment (Ecosystems and Threatened Species (EATS)), and at several locations in VIC working with the Wetlands Revival Trust.

We helped re-established cultural connections, values and learning on Country through environmental water delivery and outcome monitoring and reporting at Fletchers Creek in partnership with Barkindji Maraura Elders Environmental Team (BMEET). The senior environmental water manager provided practical support to five BMEET Indigenous Rangers to obtain a nationally recognised NRM qualification via TAFE NSW in 2021-22.

In 2022-23, we anticipate further expanding our wetland connections with private landholders in VIC, NSW lower Baaka and the Murray Irrigation area of operation between Berrigan and Moulamein NSW. We intend to investigate water delivery opportunities in South Australia on the lower Murray.

new informative signs installed at the Coomealla Golf Course lagoons (top). Coomealla lagoons sunset (bottom)

Our Growing Victorian Wetland Family

Eight Victorian wetlands were watered successfully this year.

These wetlands provided a diverse range of habitat types for waterbird foraging area around the Mid-Murray, whilst also improving and supporting overall wetland health and condition. Increases in aquatic plant cover were observed across wetlands.

The success of these wetland waterings over the past five years has raised interest in the wetland watering program with neighbouring property owners and more landholders. A collaborative partnership with Wetlands Revival Trust has developed and we anticipate that 2022-23 will see more sites added to the program for MDWWG to assist landholders to support and improve their wetlands and surrounds!



Circle T Wetland received environmental water for the first time in November 2021, supporting black box and lignum vegetation.

NSW DPI Fisheries caught ~ 90,000 Murray hardyhead of varying age classes which was the largest haul on record!

MHH the little fish that could! 2021-22 Update



Recovery efforts for the nationally endangered Murray hardyhead fish were supported through water delivery partnerships with the Commonwealth and NSW government. The only NSW subpopulation was translocated from managed wild locations in the Riverland region of South Australia to the far West site in NSW in 2018 and in 2021. The MDWWG has managed three flow events since 2018 to support fish recruitment. The Murray hardyhead experienced a population boom in 2021-22. NSW DPI Fisheries caught ~ 90,000 fish of varying age classes which was the largest haul on record! The continued successful breeding and recruitment of the Murray hardyhead in 2021-2022 and beyond is consistent with the Basin-Wide Environmental Watering Strategy where the Murray hardyhead is listed as a key species.

Yadabal Lagoon and Walthours Swamp.

During 2020-21 and 2021-22, the MDWWG developed and implemented a wetland remediation plan for Yadabal Lagoon (Werai Forest) and Walthour's Swamp (Millewa Forest) for Murray Local Land Services (LLS). The MDWWG also designed and implemented a monitoring program to enable the detection of changes over time in the availability of suitable habitat for Australasian bitterns.

The Yadabal and Walthour's Wetland Remediation Plan was required to be developed with consideration of recognised actions and activities to protect Australasian bittern and their habitat including input into specific environmental water requirements in long-term environmental water plans to maintain and restore habitat and develop or upgrade infrastructure to support environmental water delivery to priority bittern habitat areas.

To compliment the development and implementation of the remediation plan, Murray LLS have undertaken on-ground activities. These activities include fencing and fox baiting to reduce the impacts of pest animals such as foxes, deer and pigs at Yadabal Lagoon. These activities have been delivered in partnership with Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation (Yarkuwa) who together with the Werai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation are a key partner in improving the condition of Yadabal Lagoon and Walthour's Swamp for the Australasian bittern.



Four vegetation enclosures were established within Yadabal Lagoon and planted with wetland vegetation to assist with the wetland's rehabilitation for Australasian bitterns and other waterbird species.

Strengthening partnerships between NGO's and state agencies – southern bell frog recovery efforts in NSW and VIC.

Recovery efforts for the nationally vulnerable southern bell frog were supported through water delivery via EWT donation and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder in NSW and in collaboration with Wetlands Revival Trust in VIC.

In 2021-22, the Working Group delivered ~140ML EWT donation to two VIC wetlands and 563ML EWT donation (and 225ML CEW) to three NSW wetlands on the lower Murray known to support the bell frog. Furthermore, the MDWWG advocated for unregulated flows at two additional bell frog sites located on private property nearby. As such the NSW lower Murray continued to be a stronghold for the southern bell frog in 2021-22 and supported high numbers of calling males, numerous fecund females, and a multitude of tadpoles and metamorphs.

The NSW Government's Saving our Species Team and the MDWWG continue to work together to help secure the long-term future of the bell frog through strategic delivery of environmental water to privately owned priority wetlands in NSW and monitoring and reporting on outcomes.

Staff deployed call recorders and remote cameras, undertook nocturnal frog surveys, and contributed to the SoS reporting of outcomes in 2021-22. The Victorian wetlands supported high numbers of calling males and young recruits.

Efforts by MDWWG staff will increase in 2022-23 to identify southern bell frog occupancy at other priority wetlands in NSW in partnership with the NSW Saving our Species Program and in VIC in partnership with CMA's, private landholders and the Wetlands Revival Trust.

Although the southern bell frog is well documented in the lower Murrumbidgee and the middle NSW Murray catchments, there remains a lack of information on population dynamics for this iconic species in the NSW lower Murray and the Working Group is helping the NSW Saving our Species Program to fill this information gap!



The nationally endangered southern bell frog – female identified at a Wingillie wetland.
CREDIT: DPI Fisheries, Jimmy Walker

Our public fund.

The Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd was established the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Public Fund in May 2014. The fund and is registered with the Register of Environmental Organisation (administered by the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy). The Register of Environmental Organisations is a Commonwealth tax deductibility scheme for environmental organisations enabled under Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. It allows eligible organisations to be endorsed as Deductible Gift Recipients by the Australian Taxation Office. As such, donations to the Fund are tax deductible for the donor. To be eligible for entry to the Register of Environmental Organisations, organisations must have a principal purpose of either:

- the protection and enhancement of the natural environment or of a significant aspect of the natural environment; or
- the provision of information or education, or the carrying on of research, about the natural environment or a significant aspect of the natural environment.

The Public Fund assets are used solely to support the Working Group's environmental purposes. The Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd reports annually to the Department of the Environment and Energy, detailing how money (and/or property) donated to the Public Fund has been used, and how this contributes to the Working

Group's principal purpose.

How to contribute to the fund

You can donate directly via our secure website mdwwg.com.au/donate/

Or you can donate directly to the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Public Fund bank account via EFT. All quoted dollar amounts and transactions are processed as Australian currency (\$AUD). Simply transfer your 100% tax-deductible donation (\$2 or more) to:

Bank: Westpac, Mitcham SA Account Name: Murray Darling Wetlands

Working Group Public Fund
BSB: 035 044
Account Number: 182352

Please use your surname as the reference. For a tax-deductible receipt, please email your name and postal address details to: deb.nias@mdwwg.com.au

Cheques, made payable to Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Public Fund, can be sent to:

Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Public Fund

PO Box 7016
East Albury NSW 2640

Our engagement with key stakeholders

During the year, the company's directors and chief executive officer engaged regularly with the following organisations:

- Aquasave - Nature Glenelg Trust
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
- Gayini Nimmie-Caira Consortium
- Kilter Rural
- Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations
- Nari-Nari Tribal Council
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- NSW Environmental Trust - Sydney
- OzFish Unlimited
- The Environmental Water Trust
- The Nature Conservancy Australia - Melbourne
- The Nature Conservancy Global
- Water NSW

Saving Our Species at Gayini.

Saving the Australian painted snipe and other wetland dependent threatened species in Gayini wetlands.

During 2021–2022, approximately 400,000 megalitres was delivered to Gayini, which is more than double the amount of water than the previous year. This was due to high flows being received down the Murrumbidgee River. This marks the largest flows that Gayini has received since the project began, and since the 2016 spring floods. An area of 47,277 hectares was inundated which is over 3 times greater than the previous year. The widespread flooding meant that there was lots of wetland area appropriate for waterbird foraging and breeding. However, the floods also hampered survey effort meaning that more waterbirds were likely present than observed.

Fifty four water bird species and over 22, 500 individual waterbirds were recorded through surveys. This is four less waterbird species recorded than last year and a 25% increase of waterbird observed.

Highlights from the survey include an Endangered male Australian Painted Snipe sighting and forty-four Endangered male Australasian Bitterns heard calling.

The Australian Painted Snipe was detected by a remote camera and is the first confirmation of the species presence since the project began, and the first record at the site since 2010. There was a large amount of habitat made available across the site for foraging and potential breeding purposes for the APS. Furthermore, species with similar habitat requirements to

the APS, being the red-kneed dotterel and the black-winged stilt, were recorded across the site and the season, with breeding confirmed and immatures recorded. More individuals were likely using the site and we could anticipate higher numbers in future years.

The number of Australasian Bitterns recorded was ten times more than the baseline recorded in year one, and three times more than the previous year. This implies that providing breeding habitat in consecutive years has positive outcomes for the species.

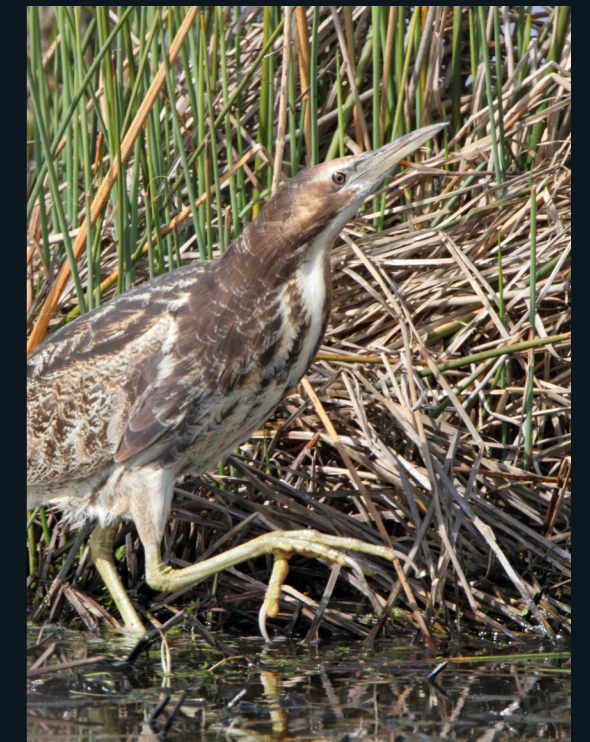
Endangered southern bell frogs also had a bumper year, calling across all sites for most of the year with researchers recording successful breeding and recruitment.

All project partners worked closely to deliver these outcomes. The Nari Nari Tribal Council managed water levels using the infrastructure to create extra habitat for Australian painted snipe and to maintain appropriate water levels for nesting waterbirds. The Nari Nari Tribal Council and the University of NSW were integral in providing advice on water levels and managing waterbird nesting.

Funding for this project was provided by the NSW Environmental Trust's Save our Species program.



Australian painted snipe
CREDIT: © Chris Tzaros, Birds, Bush and Beyond



Australasian Bittern
CREDIT: © Chris Tzaros, Birds, Bush and Beyond

Our valued supporters.

During the year, the company was supported in its work by the following. We thank them for their valued advice, help and encouragement during 2021-22:

- Aquasave - Nature Glenelg Trust
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
- Gayini Nimmie-Caira Consortium
- Kilter Rural
- Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations
- Nari-Nari Tribal Council
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- NSW Environmental Trust - Sydney
- OzFish Unlimited
- The Environmental Water Trust
- The Nature Conservancy Australia - Melbourne
- The Nature Conservancy Global
- Water NSW
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- Trentham Estate Winery - Trentham Cliffs, NSW
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Office - Canberra, ACT
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority - Shepparton, VIC
- Goulburn Murray Water - Tatura, VIC
- Hazel L Henry Farmland Nature Refuges (Wingillie Station)
- Jamie McMaster - Yambuna, VIC
- Murray Local Land Services - Deniliquin, NSW
- North East Catchment Management Authority - Wodonga, VIC
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- - Huntly, VIC
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- O'Kane family - Burramine, VIC
- Caldow family - Nathalia, VIC
- Toll family - Gunbower, VIC
- Jim Thompson - Dhurringle, VIC
- Michael O'Brien - Murrabit West, VIC
- Parks Victoria
- Petaurus Education Group Inc - Albury, NSW
- SA Water - Adelaide, SA
- SunRice Australia Pty Ltd.
- Trust for Nature Victoria - Melbourne, VIC
- Victorian Environmental Water Holder - Melbourne, VIC
- Victorian Fisheries Authority - Melbourne, VIC
- Western Local Land Services - Buronga, NSW
- Barkindji Maraura Elders Environment Team
- The Nature Conservancy
- Jo and Don Hearn, Restdown Winery - Thule, NSW
- Watson family - Thule, NSW
- The MacDonalds- Thule, NSW
- Wetland Revival Trust - VIC
- Gol Gol Community Reference Group - Gol Gol, NSW
- Bottle Bend Reserve Land Manager- Paringi NSW
- DPI Fisheries - Buronga, NSW
- DPE SoS (EATS) - Albury, NSW
- Charles Sturt University - Thurgoona, NSW
- Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre - Deniliquin, NSW
- Werai Aboriginal Land Council - Moama, NSW

The company also thanks the many other private landholders without whom we could not have achieved what we did during the year.

Our employees

NAME	POSITION	DATE APPOINTED
Dr Deborah Nias	Chief Executive (SA) – Adelaide	2009
Sarah Ning	Environmental Water Manager (NSW) – Albury	2012
Ali Borrell	Environmental Water Manager (NSW) – Albury	2018
Sascha Healy	Senior Water Manager (NSW) – Mildura	2021
Jane White	Environmental Water Manager (VIC) – Katunga	2022
Nick Kohlhagen	CSU unpaid work placement, three months (NSW) – Albury	2021

people are our biggest resource.

Our employees are the most valuable assets an organisation has. It's their abilities, knowledge, and experience that can't be replaced.

They truly care about our Basin, stakeholders, improving the entire community in which we are involved, and the value of freshwater to the future of Australia.



Our publications.

Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd (2021) 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd, November 2021.

Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd (2022) 2021-22 Annual Environmental Watering Report 2021-2022.

Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd (2022) Yadabal and Walthour's Wetland Remediation Project, Final Project Report 2022.

Ellis, I. Walker, J. Whiterod, N. and Healy, S. (June 2021). Monitoring of translocated Murray Hardyhead in Little Frenchmans Creek, Wingillie Station NSW Final Report 2021, Commonwealth of Australia.

Ellis, I. Walker, J. Whiterod, N. and Healy, S. (June 2022). Monitoring of translocated Murray Hardyhead in Little Frenchmans Creek 2020-2022, Wingillie Station NSW Final Report 2021, Commonwealth of Australia.

Ellis I Walker, J. Whiterod N, Healy S (2022) Reintroduction of threatened Murray hardyhead to a managed wetland in southwest NSW, Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference 2022, Brisbane Australia.

Trethewie J., Watts R.J., Healy S., Allan C. (2021) Edward/Koety-Wakool System Environmental Flows Newsletter, Issue 7. Charles Sturt University.

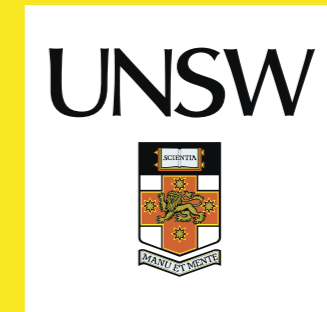
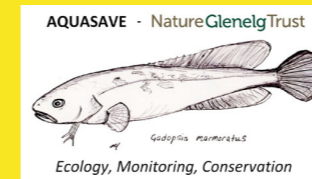
Trethewie J., Allan C., Minato W., Winkle S., Frazier P., Healy S., Watts R.J. (2021) Edward/Koety-Wakool System Environmental Flows Newsletter, Issue 9. Charles Sturt University.

Watts R.J., Liu X., Healy S., McCasker N., Trethewie J. (2020) Edward/Koety-Wakool System Environmental Flows Newsletter, Issue 6. Charles Sturt University.

Robyn J Watts, David Crew, Luke Egan, Paul Frazier, Thom Gower, Tracey Hamilton, Sascha Healy, Xiaoying Liu, Nicole McCasker, Leticia Ross, Andre Siebers, John Trethewie, Shjarn Winkle (2022). Edward/Koety-Wakool Flow Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Project 2021-22: Werai Forest Research Report. Report prepared for Commonwealth Environmental Water Office. Commonwealth of Australia.

Waudby HP, Dyer J, Healy S, Maguire J, Conallin A, Amos C, and Childs P (2021) Saving our Species southern bell frog (*Litoria raniformis*) monitoring report: 2020/21. NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Albury, NSW.

Our valued partners.



Appendix 1

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

The directors of Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd. are experienced and dedicated members of the community. They include people with farming, irrigation, legal, community engagement, governance, scientific, financial and conservation backgrounds. Their depth of experience, technical skills and networks is used to guide and manage the Working Group's strategic activities.

IAN DAVIDSON

Ian's background and extensive experience in natural resource management has plenty to offer the Working Group. Since 2002, he has run an independent environmental consultancy company in north-east Victoria, identifying conservation values and assisting land managers to maintain and enhance the environment and those and undertaking various research projects. His clients include local, state and commonwealth governments. Ian's work has included wildlife management issues, research on remnant vegetation and recovery of endangered native birds. He has also worked with Greening Australia, running one of the first fencing incentive programs in Australia.

NICK LILLEY

Nick is a corporate finance professional with over a decade of experience in

raising capital for renewable energy projects in Australia and internationally. He has experience in the impact investment sector, having worked on the development of the Murray Darling Basin Balanced Water Fund. Nick's focus is on the renewable energy and conservation sectors.

JUDY FRANKENBERG

Judy has been involved with the group since its first meeting in 1992. A retired ecologist with expertise in floodplain and wetland management (and also a farmer at Howlong), Judy maintained her involvement with the group because she saw it as 'worthwhile'. In 2013, she explained that being involved with the group gave her great opportunity to make a difference and do something, not just talk or write about things. Until early-2018, Judy served as deputy chair of the company.

KATHRYN RIDGE

Kathy has a long association with wetlands and water quality. Raised in New Guinea, Ridge developed a life-long commitment to protecting and conserving culture and nature. She began her career as a marine biologist but gained a law degree and started working with Aboriginal elders to protect parts of coastal NSW from mining. In 1999, as executive officer of

the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Kathy began to take a more active interest in inland wetlands and rivers, through member groups Inland Rivers Network and the Coasts and Wetlands Society. She is currently the principal of Ridge and Associates, a legal firm in Sydney with a strong interest in environmental issues.

ADRIAN WELLS

Adrian retired from work in 2015 after 46 years of work in the Murray-Darling Basin in horticultural research and extension; the media; community development; rural education; and Local Government. As part of his jobs, he served on various local, state and commonwealth natural resource management committees and working parties. Adrian has an interest in communication, community engagement and history. Adrian currently chairs the Petaurus Education Group and is a member of the Landcare NSW Executive Committee and State Council.

JOHN PETTIGREW

John has a long history within the Goulburn Valley fruit industry as a grower and director of SPC Ltd. He served on various industry advisory boards and water service committees. In 2002, John was appointed to the boards of Goulburn-Murray Water and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. He has a keen interest in the environment and resource management and has extensive water policy experience.

DAVID HARRISS PSM

David joined the board after a long career in the NSW public service. In 1989, Harriss was offered a position as a resource manager in south western

NSW after completing a post-graduate qualification in water management. David was the first chair of the Murray Wetlands Working Group between 1992 and 1995.

At the same time, he rose through the key land and water agency in NSW to become the head of the NSW Office of Water. David retired from the public sector in 2014 and became a consultant.

JAMES FORBES

James is currently CEO at the Jane Goodall Institute Australia. Prior to this he held senior marketing and fundraising roles with the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, Nature Conservation Trust of NSW and WWF-Australia. Along with operating his own consulting business, Forbes Philanthropy & Marketing, James is a Senior Associate with Global Philanthropic, a leader in philanthropic fundraising with offices in Europe, Asia, Oceania and North America.

JAMIE WOODS

(appointed November 2021)

Jamie is a Nari Nari man living on his Country at Gayini (Nimmie-Caira) in NSW. Jamie is a Nari Nari Tribal Council Delegate, Chair of Mawambul Co Management and member of the Hay Local Aboriginal Land Council Board. Jamie has extensive experience in water management, including the use of environmental water on Gayini and Toogimbie.

The Nari Nari Tribal Council also owns and manages irrigated farmland, under the regenerative agriculture philosophy.

Board member attendance

The number of board meetings and attendance by each of the company's directors are set out below:

DIRECTOR	ATTENDED	HELD
Mr Ian Davidson	4	4
Ms Judith Frankenberg	4	4
Ms Kathryn Ridge	2	4
Mr Jamie Woods	1	3
Mr Adrian Wells	4	4
Mr John Pettigrew	4	4
Mr Nick Lilley	3	4
Mr David Harriss	4	4
Mr James Forbes	4	4

The number of Finance, Audit, Risk and Governance Committee meetings and attendance by each of the company's directors are set out below:

DIRECTOR	ATTENDED	HELD
Ms Judith Frankenberg	4	4
Ms Kathryn Ridge	4	4
Mr Nick Lilley	3	4



Appendix 2

Our awards

Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group has received numerous awards. Below are some of the more significant awards made to the group and its individuals.



Contact

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Auditor
Findex Albury, NSW

Insurance Policies

Association Liability Insurance, Voluntary Workers Insurance and Public Liability Insurance.

Charitable status

The Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd. is considered a not-for-profit organisation by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group Ltd. is also registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) as a Charity. It has Deductible Gift Recipient Status (DGR) and is registered on the Australian Commonwealth Government Register of Environmental Organisations. It has a Board of Directors and Members from the wider community, including scientists, landholders and conservationists.

www.mdwwg.com.au