



2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Rottnest Foundation

Conserving the essence of Rottnest

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Rottnest Foundation
Conserving the essence of Rottnest

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Cover image courtesy of Rottnest Express.
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Graphic Design by Trenna Kerr.

ROTTNEST FOUNDATION INC

Conserving the essence of Rottnest

Rottnest Island is a unique A-Class reserve that deserves our care and stewardship.

Our Island requires support beyond current government contributions if it is to be sustained for future generations.

Since established in 1985, the *Rottnest Foundation* has provided the opportunity for Western Australians to contribute to '*Conserving the essence of Rottnest*'. It plays a key role by securing additional funding and sponsorship from government, corporate and philanthropic sectors, together with our own fundraising activities.

OUR VISION

To conserve and enhance the unique environmental, cultural and heritage assets of Wadjemup (Rottnest Island).

OUR PURPOSE

To develop relationships and raise funds for projects which support the sustainability of the Island for generations to come.

OUR ESSENCE

Everything we do is motivated by our passion to sustain and conserve Wadjemup to ensure its longevity as a unique destination for all who visit.

OUR VALUES

Innovative: We welcome opportunities for projects which conserve the essence of Rottnest.

Collaborative: We work in partnership with the Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) to achieve our purpose. We invite the corporate sector and community to support our projects.

Practical: We have a proven record in delivering conservation projects for the Island that are sustainable.

OUR PLAN

Supporting conservation projects: The Rottnest Foundation will continue to work with the RIA to identify and support the delivery of conservation projects that align with our vision. Our current projects include;

- Wadjemup Bidi – supporting ongoing infrastructure upgrades.
- Wadjemup Aboriginal Burial Ground – supporting the memorialisation of the site.
- Rottnest Island Settlement Greening Plan – supporting the rehabilitation of native vegetation/habitat in and around visitor precincts.
- Containers for Change – engaging with the public and businesses to donate the cash in eligible containers to the Foundation to support the island’s sustainability.

Secure partner contributions: The Rottnest Foundation will continue to collaborate and seek greater engagement with funders, the corporate and philanthropic sectors and the Western Australian community to support the ongoing sustainability of Rottnest Island.

Build organisational capacity: The Rottnest Foundation will work to achieve Our Plan by strengthening our relationships with our major partners, improving governance and seeking to increase operational funding.



THE ROTTNEST FOUNDATION ACKNOWLEDGES AND RESPECTS THE WHADJUK PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF WADJEMUP (ROTTNEST ISLAND)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2019/20 was a successful year despite COVID-19 impacting on some of our planned activities. I would like to personally thank everyone who supports our Foundation and the conservation of Rottnest Island.

During the reporting period, the Rottnest Foundation contributed towards a number of conservation projects on Rottnest, made possible with support from grants, Rottnest and mainland businesses, our members and volunteers.

Foundation members continue to enthusiastically participate in our annual tree-planting and rehabilitation programs on the Island. Approximately 1,500 salt-lake species were planted along the edge of Garden Lake and rehabilitation work was undertaken at Marjorie Bay and Narrow Neck to stabilise the dune system and minimise beach erosion.

During the year we were successful in securing a Federal Government Community Environment Program Grant that will be used to support the implementation of the Rottnest Island Settlement Greening Plan, a staged 6-year program to rehabilitate native habitat within the settlement precincts.



Rottnest Foundation
Conserving the essence of Rottnest
 LONDON CHAPTER

I would like to acknowledge our hard-working Rottnest Foundation London Chapter, who have committed funds to upgrade the beach access at the northern end of Thomson Bay on the Wadjemup Bidi walk trail. These works will commence in early 2021.

The Aboriginal Burial Ground remains an important project for the Foundation. A steering committee chaired by the Foundation and comprising of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Reconciliation WA and the Rottnest Island Authority, has been established and will continue to work to support the project in collaboration with the Aboriginal community.

ROTTNEST IS A strong relationship with the Rottnest Island Authority, which is responsible for the management of the Island, is integral to the Foundation achieving its objectives and delivering on key projects. The Foundation has welcomed the introduction of monthly meetings with key RIA staff. These meetings have streamlined communications between our two organisations, resulting in an increase in grant funding submissions and delivery of projects that align to the Authority's Management Plan (RIMP) and assist in achieving conservation KPIs. I would like to thank all management and staff for their support.



The Rottnest Island Chamber of Commerce is also an important partner, with Chamber members contributing to many of our fundraising initiatives. I would like to congratulate the Chamber on their annual *Rottnest After Dark* event which provides a platform to network and collaborate to achieve common goals in support of the Island.

The Foundation continues to be supported by a number of mainland businesses who value the unique natural attributes of Rottnest Island and generously donate to our conservation projects. Our relationships with these external partners and other Rottnest Island Volunteer Groups is important. We meet with them regularly throughout the year to provide updates on our current and future activities.

I would like to thank the Rottnest Foundation Board members who volunteer their time to ensure the organisation delivers on its objectives, maintains strong governance and provides a platform for the Western Australian community to contribute to the Island's conservation. The Board recently reviewed its objectives and developed its 2020-2024 strategic plan that will guide the organisation's activities over the next four years. I would also like to acknowledge our Patron, Janet Holmes à Court AC for her ongoing support.

Both our Founder, Pat Barblett AM and long-standing member Courtney Wheatley retired from the Board during 2019/20. Pat has made an outstanding contribution to the Island and our Foundation and her legacy will be long-lasting. Courtney's contribution to the Foundation has been no less significant and for many years he has monitored the health of the island's birdlife, frogs and reptile species. I would like to sincerely thank them both and look forward to their continued support of the Island and our Foundation. It is fitting that they have both become inaugural Life Members of the Foundation.

In closing, special thanks go to our members and the Western Australian community who love the Island and support us in our role in *Conserving the essence of Rottnest*. Support of our fundraising initiatives and participation in our volunteering days is greatly appreciated. Rottnest Island belongs to us all and we have a responsibility to ensure it is conserved for future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff King', written in a cursive style.

Jeff King
Chairman



OUR MAJOR PROJECTS

REPLACEMENT OF THE BEACH ACCESS ON THE GABBI KARNINY SECTION OF THE WADJEMUP BIDI



Rottnest Foundation
Conserving the essence of Rottnest
LONDON CHAPTER

As a major partner in the development of the Wadjemup Bidi, the Foundation is committed to the improvement and upgrade of the trail as funds are secured.

With funds donated by the Rottnest Foundation London Chapter together with our own fundraising, the Rottnest Foundation will contribute up to \$75,000 to replace the beach access at the northern end of Thomson Bay. Works will commence early 2021.

GABBI KARNINY
BIDI – DISCOVER
THE SALT LAKES
9.7KM LOOP



OLD STAIRS



VISUAL RENDER OF NEW STAIRS

The Rottnest Foundation is proud to be a major partner in the development of the Wadjemup Bidi. The 45km walk trail, made up of five sections, is an important environmental initiative to manage visitor impact on the fragile environment, whilst offering a new recreational experience for visitors.



WADJEMUP BIDI TRAIL HEAD, THOMSON BAY SETTLEMENT



WARDAN NARA BIDI – RELAX ON SALMON BAY
10KM ONE WAY

ROTTNEST ISLAND SETTLEMENT GREENING PLAN 2020-2026



Australian Government
**Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science**
Community Environment Program Grant

The Rottnest Foundation was successful in securing an \$18,000 Federal Government Community Environment Program Grant.

The grant will support the protection and rehabilitation of unique saltmarsh habitat adjacent to Lake Herschel near the Thomson Bay settlement. Works will include the collection and propagation of endemic salt-marsh species by Rottnest Island Nursery Volunteers, erection of quokka exclusion fencing and planting of an estimated 6,400 seedlings by Foundation members during the winter planting program, commencing in July 2020.

Rottnest's salt lakes are listed as 'Wetlands of National Importance'. The overall aim of the project will be to increase habitat for migratory



LAKE HERSCHEL

shorebirds, improve wetland buffer functions and deter pedestrian/cyclist access, which is a key threat to the microbial communities that are supported by the salt lakes.

WADJEMUP ABORIGINAL BURIAL GROUND

The Rottnest Foundation is committed to supporting the respectful memorialisation of the Aboriginal Burial Ground on Wadjemup. A steering committee has been established to support the project in collaboration with the Aboriginal community. It is chaired by the Rottnest Foundation and includes representatives from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Rottnest Island Authority and Reconciliation WA.

A Lotterywest grant secured by the Foundation has funded statewide Aboriginal engagement that provided input into the development of a conceptual landscape design and identified the desire to create a cultural framework to facilitate ceremonial healing and truth-telling as part of the reconciliation project.



NEW BURIAL
GROUND SIGNAGE

RECONCILIATION
CEREMONY

OUR FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

A major role of the Rottnest Foundation is to secure funding and support for conservation projects on Rottnest Island. The Foundation would like to acknowledge the following funders, sponsors and community supporters for their contributions throughout the year.

MARGARET RIVER CHOCOLATE CO DONATES \$10,000



The Rottnest Foundation was presented with another \$10,000 donation from the Margaret River Chocolate Co (MRCC) at the inaugural Quokka Birthday Party held in September 2019. The event was the idea of Martin Black owner of the MRCC and was successful in raising awareness of the importance of the Island's quokka population, how to respectfully engage with them and the need to support the conservation of their habitat. The MRCC generously donates part proceeds from the sale of 'Chokka the Quokka' merchandise to the Foundation to support quokka research and conservation and have donated \$20,000 to date.



LEFT TO RIGHT: MARTIN BLACK, JOHN LANGOULANT, JEFF KING, MICHELLE REYNOLDS

ROTTNEST CHANNEL SWIM



The Rottnest Foundation welcomed a new partnership with the Rottnest Channel Swim Association. The Foundation became one of three beneficiary charities to receive donations through the event registration process. The 2020 event held in February raised \$3,260 and the Foundation looks forward to growing this partnership into the future.

MAKE AN IMPRESSION QUOKKA GREETING CARDS



This cute quokka greeting card was painted by retired art teacher Edwinda Carre. Her family have been visiting Rottnest for many years and when the idea to incorporate her painting onto a greeting card was formed, they were keen to see part proceeds go back to the Island. Due to popular demand it is now produced by 'Make an Impression' greeting cards and the Foundation receives a donation from each print run of the cards. To date this cute card has raised \$400 to support the Foundation's projects.

THE WINE THIEF - RI GIN

Damien Clement and Nicola Matthews, creators of RI Gin and owners of the boutique liquor store 'The Wine Thief', also generously donate part proceeds from the sale of their RI Gin to support the Rottnest



Foundation's conservation projects. To date they have donated \$400. The gin is produced from sustainably sourced native Rottnest botanicals, the Rottnest Daisy being the signature botanical and is crafted to create all the things you love about Rottnest.

OUR FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

Our annual raffle and calendar continue to be important fundraising initiatives for the Foundation. We would like to thank all the businesses, our members and the Western Australian community who get behind these programs.

2020 ROTTNEST FOUNDATION CALENDAR

Our 2020 calendar has been the most successful to date, raising \$26,498 for conservation projects. In addition to generating important revenue, the calendar provides a year-long promotional tool for the Island and participating businesses.



The 2020 calendar saw the inclusion of the Noongar six seasons, explaining what each season brings to the Island. The Foundation would like to thank calendar sponsors who underwrite the production and Vanguard Press for assistance in increasing mainland

stockists, including a number of Farmer Jacks and IGA stores. Of course, the calendar would not be a success without the beautiful Rottnest images. We would like to thank Cale McMillen of Wadjemup Dreaming, the Rottnest Island Authority, Leighton de Barros of Seadog International TV and board members Melissa Beresford and Jeff King for their contribution.

The Foundation first published the calendar in 2016 and since then it has raised \$111,976.

2019 ROTTNEST FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Through the generosity of the Rottnest Island Authority, the Rottnest Island Chamber of Commerce and now a large number of mainland businesses, the annual raffle prize pool continues to grow.

A big thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and congratulations to the lucky winners.



ROTTNEST FOUNDATION LONDON CHAPTER

The Rottnest Foundation London Chapter hosts an annual event for Australian expats living in London to come together to celebrate all things Rottnest and share their holiday memories. The 2019 event, that was held in May resulted in a \$22,000 donation to the Foundation's



conservation projects. In December 2019 the Foundation hosted Chapter representatives on Rottnest to provide them with a tour of current projects.

To date this enthusiastic group of Rottnest lovers have raised \$49,185 to support conservation on Rottnest. We would like to acknowledge the dedicated team led by Sandy Barblett and Simon Williams. Unfortunately, COVID-19 impacted on the Chapter's 2020 event.

CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE DEPOSIT SCHEME

The Rottnest Foundation registered to participate in the State Government's *Containers for Change* scheme and was successful in receiving a small grant to assist with the production of a purpose-built deposit cage to be located on the Island.

The scheme, to be launched on 1 October 2020, will generate funds for the Foundation's conservation projects and will help to keep recyclable containers out of landfill.

The WA community can also donate the cash in their containers to Rottnest Island by using the Foundations ID Scheme No: C10267961 at mainland deposit points.



OUR MEMBERS

The Foundation would like to sincerely thank all our members. Their passion and support for the Island contributes greatly to the success of our Foundation.

The Foundation was pleased to award Life Membership to our Founder Pat Barblett AM and Courtney Wheatley in recognition of their outstanding contributions and long-standing support for the Foundation and Rottnest Island.

VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Once again, a big thank you to those enthusiastic members who travelled to the Island to participate in our annual volunteering program which takes place during the winter months from July through to August.

On 6 July a small group braved winter weather to plant ~1,500 salt-lake species to improve the wetland habitat along the edge of Garden Lake.

On 3 August, twenty-one members undertook revegetation planting at Marjorie Bay west of Narrow Neck. Once established the rehabilitated site will mitigate against future beach erosion by stabilising the dune system and will also deter visitors from getting too close to a large osprey nest.



GOVERNANCE

ROTTNEST FOUNDATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-24

Throughout the year the Rottnest Foundation Board developed 'Our Story – Our Plan', a strategic plan to guide the Foundation's activities over the next four years.

The plan focuses on three core objectives;

- to identify a suite of projects that align to the Foundation's objects and the Rottnest Island Authority's Management Plan;
- secure project partners and grow community stewardship for the Island; and
- secure the organisation's capacity and improve governance.

The Foundation would like to thank Mark Webb, Director-General of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and John Langoulant, RIA Chairman, for their input into the plan's development.



BUILDING ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

A review of the current skillset of the board was undertaken to identify the expertise required for the Foundation's Board of Management. As a result, a recruitment procedure has been established to assist the Foundation to achieve and fill these targets.

The Rottnest Foundation has migrated its files onto the cloud to improve security of its information and facilitate remote access to documents.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY & STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cheque Account	\$2,384.79	\$1,881.49
BankWest Cash Management	\$104,295.47	\$43,463.00
BankWest Telenet Saver	\$219,115.13	\$194,659.21
BankWest Telenet Saver – BHP Funded Project	\$2.21	\$2.19
BankWest Telenet Saver – Tourism WA Funded Project		\$21.05
TOTAL ASSETS	\$325,797.60	\$240,026.94
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
GST Payable / (Receivable)	(\$356.00)	\$1,861.96
NET ASSETS	\$326,153.60	\$238,164.98
TOTAL EQUITY	\$326,153.60	\$238,164.98

The Rottnest Foundation has once again had a steady financial year. Our net profit for the year, excluding grants, totalled \$68,600.

As a not for profit and tax-deductible conservation fund, we are required to report to the following agencies:

- Register of Environmental Agencies
- Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission
- Charitable Collections
- Associations Online

*The financial statements have been audited
by Brodie Wood at Alymore & Associates.*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY & STATEMENTS

PROFIT & LOSS

	2020	2019
INCOME		
Calendar 2019		\$27,150.54
Calendar 2020	\$37,256.85	
Container Deposit Scheme	\$1,360.00	
Raffle 2018		\$16,830.00
Raffle 2019	\$8,830.00	
Art Exhibition	\$1,139.55	\$62,779.27
Art Exhibition Raffle	\$880.00	\$2,640.00
Donations	\$31,131.55	\$25,102.60
Donation – London Chapter	\$22,012.23	
Donation – Margaret River Chocolate Co.	\$10,000.00	
Entertainment Book	\$540.91	\$280.00
Grants – Lotterywest		\$150,096.69
Grants – Community Environmental Program	\$18,000.00	
Membership	\$2,804.58	\$3,522.27
Merchandise	\$284.66	\$549.99
Interest	\$812.23	\$1,762.89
Interest – TWA Grant	\$0.06	\$21.05
TOTAL INCOME	\$135,052.62	\$290,735.30
EXPENDITURE		
Advertising & Fundraising	\$260.05	\$1,080.00
Art Exhibition	\$4,499.54	\$52,975.41
Audit / Insurance Fees	\$1,080.00	\$1,020.00
Bank Fees		\$10.00
Strategic Planning Facilitation	\$10,000.00	
Calendar 2019		\$6,119.78
Calendar 2020	\$10,454.48	\$286.20
Computer	\$418.18	\$837.44
Staff	\$10,091.40	\$11,008.00
Entertainment Book	\$350.00	
Miscellaneous	\$584.98	\$274.98
Grants – Lotterywest		\$150,096.69
Grants – TDDI Tourism WA		\$5,087.34
Grants – Westpac Community Grant		\$9,090.91
Internet	\$394.99	\$379.08
Merchandise	\$115.00	\$192.98
Merchant Fees	\$1,061.05	\$2,010.84
Wadjemup Bidi - Gabbi Karniny Beach Access	\$5,400.00	
Postage	\$130.77	\$118.18
Quokka Monitoring		\$10,000.00
Raffle 2018		\$1,446.90
Raffle 2019	\$1,352.03	
Superannuation	\$871.53	\$950.76
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$47,064.00	\$252,985.49
NET OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$87,988.62	\$37,749.81

OUR KEY PARTNER, PATRON & STRUCTURE

OUR KEY PARTNER **ROTTNEST IS**

OUR PATRON



Janet Holmes à Court AC

OUR STRUCTURE



Jeff King
Chair



Pat Barblett AM
Deputy Chair



Pauline McMullan
Executive Officer

Board Members



Kate Atkins



Melissa
Beresford



Sue Campbell



Denise Hilsz



Courtney
Wheatley

OUR SUPPORTERS

PAST & PRESENT



2020 CALENDAR SUPPORTERS



2019 RAFFLE SUPPORTERS

