

THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN LANDSCAPE RESTORATION



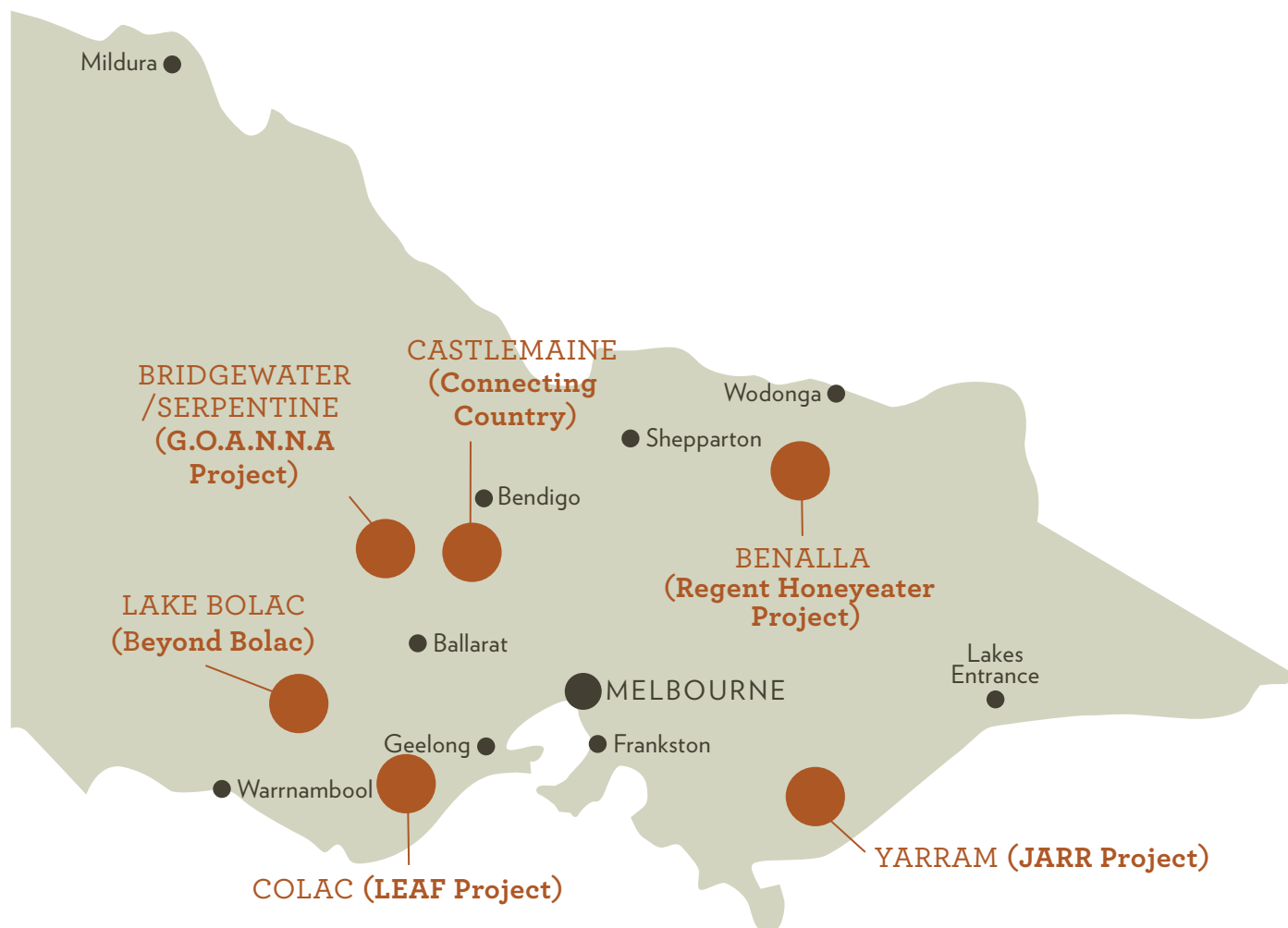
THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION is focused on looking beyond the allocation of physical resources, to promoting a cultural shift in values so that people work and live sustainably within their landscape.

For communities to move towards a different future, first they have to be able to imagine it. Consequently, the Foundation offers funds for vision-building so long as the process encompasses all the different land management interests within a landscape. Once such a grassroots vision for landscape restoration is produced, the Foundation will provide second stage funding to support prioritising and implementing identified strategies.

We have six projects under our ‘umbrella’. All are being driven by the community groups whose members are living and working within a project’s particular landscape. We are wedded to each of these projects and liaise closely with them to reach targets, to share knowledge, and to provide support.

NWF is not interested in removing people from rural landscapes and creating yet more reserves. Ultimately, we have to find ways for rural people to live within the limits of their particular place. We are therefore seeking to foster the creation of partnerships across landscapes, which (at the very least) maintain or (at best) enhance the natural living environment.

NWF PROJECTS



CONNECTING COUNTRY

The Connecting Country Project began in 2007 and became an incorporated organisation in 2009. Connecting Country is a project that aims to link up people, communities and the landscape. It involves a group of around 20 community and agency representatives who come together to plan linkages across the Castlemaine area in central Victoria, focusing on natural regeneration and Yellow-box Woodlands.

JARR PROJECT

Run by the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network in Gippsland, this project's objective is to produce a coordinated approach to improving the environmental health and productivity of the Jack-Albert Sub-catchment and the Nooramunga Corner Inlet. Issues include nutrient management, water quality, fish, native vegetation, seagrass, productivity, and soil conservation.

The overarching objective is to create landscape linkages between the Strzelecki Ranges and the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park.

BEYOND BOLAC

Fiery Creek, Salt Creek, and Lake Bolac are sub-catchments of the Glenelg Hopkins River region, to the west of Ballarat. They are identified as H11 and H12 and this was the original name of the community group formed to take action in the catchment in 2007. After a strategic planning process, they renamed their project Beyond Bolac. The long-term commitment of the group is to improve stream health, to implement restoration actions in the landscape to stop the increase of salt and silt discharging from Fiery Creek and Salt Creeks, and to reduce overall salinity and silting in Lake Bolac. The overall vision is for a biodiverse, productive, resilient and safe catchment supporting vibrant communities and land managers.

LEAF PROJECT

LEAF stands for Linking Environment and Farms and is a project being run by the Otway Agroforestry Network and the Upper Barwon Landcare Network. Both groups have a solid history of leading community projects. This joint initiative aims to create and enhance multipurpose biolinks using an extensive program of landholder education and innovative land management techniques, delivered through focus farm groups and a peer group mentoring program.

G.O.A.N.N.A PROJECT

G.O.A.N.N.A as set up in 2010 to undertake a connectivity project in North Central Victoria. This will be achieved through vegetation corridors, cultural heritage trails and sustainable farming practices. The network provides a critical mass of like-minded people in a defined geographic area who are provided with greater

opportunities to share information, and take part in research, monitoring, and on-ground activities.

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation has provided support for this outstanding project since the Foundation's inception in 1997. This project aims to enhance both the quantity and quality of remnant vegetation, and to provide improved habitat for threatened species such as Regent Honeyeaters, Squirrel Gliders, Grey-crowned Babblers and Brush-tailed Phascogales. Results from annual nest box monitoring and bird surveys provide solid evidence about the need for high density planting to ensure the safe return of many woodland birds. In the ultimate vindication of the project, after 14 years, Regent Honeyeaters are finally returning.