

# From the editor

PAUL ADAM

This issue is the second containing articles based on presentations at the successful 2016 Melbourne conference. We were privileged at the conference in having the opening address presented by the Commonwealth Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews, so it is a pleasure that this issue commences with a summary of his talk and the full list of the thirty plant species that are priorities for action over the next few years to save from extinction. (This is not to say that the many other threatened species will be ignored or neglected, but the flagship species will certainly raise public interest and concern for threatened plant species more generally and, it is to be hoped, this will translate into more action and further conservation actions.)

The other articles admirably demonstrate the diversity of approaches to new conservation challenges and opportunities. Having enjoyed a mining boom, Australia is faced with the long term challenge of rehabilitating what is in total a vast area of land, spread across the diverse environmental conditions of a continent. Nic McCaffrey and colleagues describe how industry is addressing the problems.

With the rapid increase in urbanisation in many parts of the world, there is global interest in the need to promote conservation in urban areas – with advantages both for the species concerned and through connecting humans with nature. Pamela Spencer points to exciting possibilities of developing wildlife habitats on the roofs of city buildings.

Maurizio Rosetto shows that obtaining the necessary data for modern conservation approaches can be achieved efficiently and relatively inexpensively – and provide opportunities for challenging fieldwork! Brian Bainbridge shows how volunteers can collect population data systematically over time – a great example of citizen science in action. Peter Stronach describes a Tasmanian initiative for providing funding for on-site conservation, an approach worthy of consideration elsewhere.

Although the ANPC makes extensive use of volunteers and actively seeks sponsorship to assist in keeping costs down, there is no doubt that in this time of budget stringency and, given the tyranny of distance which often translates to high travel costs, attendance at conferences is a challenge for many potential participants. It is therefore a particular pleasure to be able to reproduce Lorraine Perrins' report to the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Hobart. Firstly it demonstrates the benefits that can be gained through participation in conferences, but also it provides a further opportunity to extend thanks to the Friends for providing funding which enabled Lorraine to attend.

The issue also contains regular items – News from the Seed Bank Partnership, a workshop report from the latest of our Project Manager's field events in inland NSW (and in a summer of extreme weather in much of eastern Australia, admiration is due both to Martin and the workshop participants for their fortitude), News, and the always informative Research Roundup.

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