



Friends of Grasslands - special bulletin 2022 No. 2

Supporting native grassy ecosystems

03 June 2022

Dear Friends,

Will you help to conserve the last populations of our endangered grassland flora and fauna?

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to Friends of Grasslands' Public Fund by June 26th. As President, I will match every donation received from you by this date with a donation of up to \$5,000.

The grassy ecosystems of south-eastern Australia have been reduced to only a few percent of their former extent. This critical habitat is home to a number of Australia's most threatened species, ranging from the Grassland Earless Dragon, Monaro Golden Daisy to the Button Wrinklewort.



Since 1994 Friends of Grasslands (FOG) has been a champion for the conservation of grassy ecosystems, and associated threatened species and their habitats, through education, research, on ground work and advocacy. And this coming year, 2022-23, will be critical year as the fate of critical grassy ecosystem remnants is determined by the ACT, New South Wales and Federal Governments.

This is the year that the Federal Government will decide whether to develop houses on the 145 hectares of grasslands at North Lawson or conserve this critical habitat. This is the year that the ACT Government will decide on the planning laws and the programs that we hope we can achieve appropriate conservation and management for dozens of crucial grassland and grassy woodland sites that remain outside Canberra Nature Park. This is also the year that the NSW Government needs to decide how seriously it will conserve grasslands on the Monaro.

FOG needs to step up its efforts if fauna like the Grassland Earless Dragon is to survive. We are employing a part time Project Officer to expand our advocacy work and enhance our communications with members, the governments and the community for conservation of grassy ecosystems. Every \$50 raised will fund another hour's work for conservation. Your gift to FOG is needed to sustain and expand this crucial advocacy and communications work.

Further, FOG is providing Grassy Ecosystem Grants of up to \$1,500 each to fund strategic projects by researchers and community groups for the understanding, conservation and management of grassy ecosystems.

Since 2017 we have supported 21 [projects](https://www.fog.org.au/supportedprojectslist.htm) (<https://www.fog.org.au/supportedprojectslist.htm>) that are providing critical impetus for conservation of grassy ecosystems. For instance, our grant of \$1,500 to PhD candidate Sarah Bates to assist her research enabled her to determine the effects of weed invasion on native grassland soil microbial communities and the conservation implications for several key native grass species. A further example is our grant of \$1,500 to Friends of Bass Gardens to aid strategic weed control work to conserve a remnant patch of Natural Temperate Grassland in suburban Canberra that is also habitat for the endangered Golden Sun Moth. FOG's grants committee experts oversee this catalytic funding. Your gift to FOG can enable us to support another scientist and another community leader to conserve grasslands.

Because of the urgent need to conserve grasslands, as President I will match every donation received from you by June 26th with a donation of up to \$5,000. This will double the impact of your tax-deductible gift to FOG.

Can you give \$200 and I will match it to extend our Project Officer's work for a day? Can you give \$500 and I will match it to ensure that another grassland conservation project can be funded? Can you give \$1,000 and I will match it to ensure governments are strategically engaged for another week to conserve grassland habitats.

Thank you for supporting Friends of Grasslands. Thank you for recognising the importance of conserving our grassland flora and fauna. Thank you for joining me and considering further support with a gift to protect grassland habitats.



Prof. Jamie Pittock

President, Friends of Grasslands



Donations can be made with an indicated preference for use (eg. Project Officer, Grassy Ecosystem Grants) or without a preference. However, by law the final decision on use of tax-deductible donations to the Public Fund rests with FOG's Public Fund Management Committee. All donations of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible.

Please make a tax-deductible donation to the Friends of Grasslands Public Fund by June 26th by:

- **Direct debit:** account name "Friends of Grasslands Public Fund", BSB 633000, a/c 153493960 (Bendigo Bank). Please include your name and notify our treasurer - treasurer@fog.org.au –

to receive your tax-deductible receipt and to advise your preference for use, if any.

- **Cheque:** payable to "Friends of Grasslands Public Fund". Mail to Treasurer, Friends of Grasslands Inc., PO box 440, Jamison Centre, ACT 2614. Include your name and postal address to receive your tax-deductible receipt and also include your preference for use, if any.