

**Field Naturalists Society of South Australia Inc.**  
***Lirabenda Endowment Fund* RESEARCH GRANTS**

## **GUIDELINES**

### **LEF RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS 2023**

**Closing date – Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

The Field Naturalists Society of South Australia Inc. (FNSSA) established the Lirabenda Endowment Fund (LEF) with the intention of making available research Grants to:

***Encourage and promote research into the biota and natural environment of South Australia.***

The Lirabenda Research Grants Committee considers all applications for grants from the Lirabenda Endowment Fund with this intention in mind.

The following General Guidelines provide applicants with information on:

***Projects that the Lirabenda Endowment Fund is likely to support.***

- 1. Projects that increase knowledge and understanding of native species and their habitats within South Australia.*
- 2. Projects relating to management and conservation of South Australian species and their environment.*
- 3. Projects that investigate factors relating to declining or threatened species of animals, plants and fungi. We note that research that includes a focus on species that are endemic to South Australia may prove especially valuable to the protection of those species.*
- 4. Projects leading to improved management of species that cause environmental damage in South Australia.*

Applications are invited from any person engaged in research that fits the criteria for selection: including those from research institutions for supervised project funding at the Honours Degree, Masters Degree and PhD levels; projects conducted by researchers at South Australian Universities, Research Institutes or within Not-for-Profit organisations; and, projects conducted by independent researchers.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

Please read carefully before submitting your application for a Lirabenda Research Grant as applications which do not fit the Guidelines will not be considered for funding:

- (a) Application forms should be signed by the applicant (who must also be the person who will undertake the research project) and a supervisor or manager (as/if required). Applications should be lodged by email by sending signed copies to the two email addresses provided on the application form **by 6.00 pm on the closing date Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.**  
**Receipt of applications will be acknowledged:** by return email or by COB Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. If this acknowledgement is not received the applicant should email the LEF co-ordinator immediately.
- (b) **Lirabenda Endowment Fund grants are for one year only.** If the research proposed is part of a larger study the applicant must describe a project for funding that can be completed within a one-year time-frame and that sits within the larger the research program. While it is generally assumed the project will be carried out during the Calendar year of application,

Students enrolling to commence a project in July can apply to conduct the project between July of the application year and June of the following year.

- (c) Funds are primarily to cover field expenses for researchers to pursue their study. Expenses involved in laboratory work to consolidate data collected will also be eligible for funding. Items of equipment (e.g. tools and apparatus) may be funded at the discretion of the Committee but salaries and attendance at conferences will not be considered.
- (d) Applicants should clearly indicate the parts of their project for which they are seeking LEF support. Any funding that is being sought from another grant-giving body must be declared on the Lirabenda Endowment Fund application form.
- (e) It is a condition of the grant that successful applicants will either provide FNSSA with:  
a summary of the results of research projects by agreeing to give an oral presentation at a **General Meeting** of the FNSSA, (date arranged by mutual agreement);  
**or**, by submitting a summary paper to be published in the FNSSA journal *The South Australian Naturalist* on a particular aspect of the project.  
FNSSA members greatly value hearing about the research outcomes of the projects we have helped to fund, value the extra benefits of publicising new SA research to a wider audience and the experience that doing so, gives researchers.
- (f) FNSSA reserves the right to publish general short summaries of the results of research conducted by LEF recipients on its website and successful applicants will also have an opportunity to promote their projects on the website by arrangement if they wish to do so.
- (g) The LEF Committee will keep in touch with all successful applicants. Recipients are expected to inform the LEF Co-ordinator or LEF Secretary of any difficulties in carrying out/completing their project in a timely manner. Reasonable extensions and adjustments can easily be made if FNSSA is kept fully informed. As seen in COVID conditions of 2020-2021 and 2022, unexpected things can happen and FNSSA will make all reasonable efforts to assist recipients to successfully acquit their project obligations.
- (h) Research conducted on vertebrate animals will require approval from an SA based Animal or Wildlife Ethics Committee. All research requires an appropriate Permit to Undertake Scientific Research from the SA Department for Environment and Water (DEW) before undertaking any research in a National Park, Conservation Park, Recreation Park, Game Reserve, Regional Reserve or Wilderness Protection Area or on any species of plant or animal protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.
- (i) All project leaders and researchers must ensure contact is made with the relevant District National Parks and Wildlife Manager before beginning research in a National Parks and Wildlife Act or Wilderness Protection Act reserve and maintain liaison with nominated regional and district staff when undertaking fieldwork. Similarly, written permission to conduct research on private land is required from private landholders and terms and conditions of entry onto private property must be worked out with each landholder.
- (j) **Applicants will be advised** of their success or otherwise in late February. All successful Lirabenda Endowment Fund Research Grant recipients must enter into an agreement with FNSSA that confirms the conditions of the Grant.
- (k) When a signed Letter of Agreement is received by the Society, the LEF Grant will be paid in full to the institution or organization stated in the Application Form. In special

circumstances (as detailed in the application form), a grant may be paid to an individual, private researcher.

- (l) Following completion of the Project and no later than 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 [unless special circumstances have been approved] a financial report showing how the Grant was spent and disclosing any unspent funds, must be forwarded to the LEF Co-ordinator by email [see address below]. Students enrolling to commence a project in July can be granted an extension to report at the end of June the following year.
- (m) All publications and public presentations must acknowledge the FNSSA Lirabenda Endowment Fund contribution to their research.
- (n) Successful student applicants will receive one free year's membership of the Field Naturalists Society of SA.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES**

- The maximum amount available for all grants in any one year will be determined by the FNSSA Council before applications are called.
- For 2023 individual grants cannot exceed \$2,500.
- Late applications will not be considered.
- Successful applicants and their institutions will be notified by email in late February 2023 and must return a completed and signed Letter of Agreement by email or post by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 or they may forfeit the grant.
- The decisions of the Lirabenda Research Grants Committee will be final and no further discussion with unsuccessful applicants will be entered into by the FNSSA Council and Committee.
- Previous applicants are encouraged to apply again but for projects shortlisted and deemed of equal merit/value by the Lirabenda Research Grants Committee, preference will be given to a project that has not previously received a Lirabenda Endowment Fund Grant.
- The LEF Research Grants Committee may decide to make no awards in a particular year.

**Final signed applications in Word (with a copy in PDF) on the appropriate form should be emailed with subject: 'LEF Grant Application 2023' & your name to:**

**The LEF Co-ordinator, Janet Pedler**

Email: [jpedler@senet.com.au](mailto:jpedler@senet.com.au)

**And also to**

**The LEF Secretary, Peter Matejci**

Email: [pmatejci@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pmatejci@bigpond.net.au)

***For General Enquiries contact Janet Pedler***

Email: [jpedler@senet.com.au](mailto:jpedler@senet.com.au)

Post: LEF Grants, FNSSA

GPO Box 1594 Adelaide SA 5001