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

GUIDELINES

LEF RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS 2024

Closing date – Friday, 14th February 2025

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, who can provide appropriate referees.

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 9.00 pm on the closing date Friday, 14th February 2025.** **Receipt of applications will be acknowledged:** by return email or by COB Wednesday 19th February. If acknowledgement is not received by this time 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, e.g., PhD project, the applicant must describe a sub-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:** eligible field expenses for researchers to pursue their study, e.g., travel and accommodation costs, survey, monitoring and test costs, AND/OR, expenses involved in laboratory work to consolidate data collected. Items of equipment (e.g. tools and apparatus) can 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 (noting content of any SAN article can be general/summary so as not to compromise any other planned publications).**
- NB: FNSSA members greatly value hearing about the research outcomes of projects FNSSA helped to fund, understand the benefits of publicising new SA research to a wider audience and how speaking at a public meeting can provide valuable experience to new 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 early March.** All successful Lirabenda Endowment Fund Research Grant recipients (and Institution/Org. contact) will be emailed a Letter of Agreement and must enter into the 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. Where the applicant in

special circumstances (as detailed in the application form), is and individual, signing the Agreement Letter will enable allow the grant to be paid to the individual researcher.

- (l) **Following completion of the Project and no later than 13th March 2026** (unless special circumstances have been approved by FNSSA) 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 2025 grants cannot exceed **\$3,000**; noting applications under that amount are welcomed.
- Late applications will not be considered.
- Successful applicants and their institutions will be notified by email in early March 2025 and must return a completed and signed **Letter of Agreement** by email or post by a date in March 2025 specified in the Agreement Letter or the grant may be forfeited.
- 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 successful applicants are encouraged to apply again in future years, noting that 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 any particular year.

FINAL, SIGNED APPLICATIONS IN WORD (with a copy in PDF) on the form provided should be emailed with subject: 'LEF Grant Application 2025' with your name added, to:

The LEF Co-ordinator, Janet Pedler

Email: jpedler@senet.com.au

And also to

The LEF Secretary, Peter Matejci

Email: pmatejci@bigpond.net.au

For General Enquiries contact Janet Pedler

Email: jpedler@senet.com.au

Post: LEF Grants, FNSSA, GPO Box 1594 Adelaide SA 5001