

## Anouska Pillai

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**With about 70% of land in the Margaret River region privately owned, local residents are vital to help protect biodiversity. Anouska Pillai is one who has heeded the call.**

Osmington landowner, Anouska Pillai, and her family are a great example of locals helping protect biodiversity on their land. Anouska explained the family’s approach: “We are all custodians of the land and our aim is to enhance the habitat for our native species, whilst also operating as self-sufficiently as possible using natural and regenerative land management approaches. We want our children to grow up respecting the land and the natural environment, and encourage as many native flora and fauna to reside on our little patch as possible.”

The Pillai family purchased a 225-acre property in the agricultural zone of the Margaret River catchment. And they sought advice and support from Nature Conservation to address environmental issues.

“We have been lucky enough to own our farm for the past four and a half years, and to have high conservation values that we are keen to protect. But the property had significant blackberry infestation which covered approximately 30 acres and was encroaching and strangling the creek line. Through advice and support from Nature Conservation, we have been able to achieve control of 90 % of the blackberry on the property, stopping its spread into surrounding native bushland,” said Anouska.

*“We hope to get everyone involved in protecting our special biodiversity for our future.”*



"Nature Conservation has also been fantastic in education, ideas and funding assistance to help eradicate other invasive species such as Blackwood", she added.

Nature Conservation's Executive Officer, Caroline Hughes said the group assists landowners by giving them the inspiration, knowledge and confidence to undertake conservation action on their land.



"We believe knowledge particularly is the key to landowners getting involved and so we have recently developed new bushland management web resources aimed at providing landowners with the practical information they need to get started. We have also developed resources aimed at getting our urban residents helping nature in their gardens. We hope to get everyone involved in protecting our special biodiversity for our future," she said.



Nature Conservation's Gardens For Nature, Bushland For Nature, and Habitat For Nature information sheets are available to download from the [www.natureconservation.org.au/for-nature-knowledge/](http://www.natureconservation.org.au/for-nature-knowledge/) and they are full of useful tips on a range of bushland management issues including revegetation, weed and feral animal control, marri decline, and managing streams and wetlands, plus tips on creating your own native garden and attracting birds, insects and wildlife.

Landowners are also urged to visit our website and join Nature Conservation or subscribe to our network to learn about our activities and events. Plus, you can contact Nature Conservation on 9757 2202 or [info@natureconservation.org.au](mailto:info@natureconservation.org.au) for advice or assistance with conservation matters.