



Friends of Parks eNews

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Patrons and Life Members - Dr Barbara Hardy AO Mrs Jean McLaren
 Hon. David Wotton AM Mr Dene Cordes PSM

Life Members - Mr Brian and Mrs Noeline DuBois
 Mr David and Mrs Margie Mitchell

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

If we are worried about the amount of current government expenditure in our wonderful Parks and Reserves (this year at \$145 million) then one way to increase that expenditure is to entice more people to enjoy and become active in our Parks.

As a result of community workshops held in Adelaide, McLaren Vale, Gawler, and five SA regions (including additional online surveys), a nature-based tourism survey report has been produced. These workshops obtained feedback from Friends of Parks groups, environmental groups, local government and a wide variety of interested community groups including indigenous communities. The result is the 'Nature Like Nowhere Else' nature based tourism strategy. It looks at boosting nature based tourism in at least 18 parks, gardens and heritage sites.

Guidelines and protections (including indigenous) have been set in place for the development of these sites, and if the following two experiences can be used as a benchmark for development, we can expect some world class experiences in our National Parks in SA.

In October 2016 I attended the opening of the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail. The trail extends 61 km from Rocky River to Kelly Hill Caves through Flinders Chase National Park and takes five days.

The KI Wilderness Trail is a wild place that is rich with cultural heritage and natural habitats that support a unique array of life. You travel through landscapes formed over 100s of millions of years, sculpted and carved by the forces of nature in a process that will continue for eternity. Aboriginal people lived here for many thousands of years, drawing on a deep knowledge and awareness of the land and its waters.



The Trail enables you to experience the changing moods of the sea and sky, the roar of the Southern Ocean as the waves crash on remote beaches and spectacular rugged cliffs. Your senses awaken with the warm rays of the sun, the chill of a bracing wind or the sting of rain in your face. Your senses tune into the smells of the ocean, of dampened soils and aromatic coastal vegetation.

Undertaking this magnificent walk will allow you to reconnect with yourself, your companions and the earth and replenish your spirit and restore your soul. You will immerse yourself in the many facets of nature on KI and be reminded of the value of wild places.

This walk truly is a world-class trail and already has come in third on Lonely Planet's New in Travel 2017 Top 10 places to visit in the world.

The Trail took 9 years of hard work to construct and the State Government contributed \$5.8 million towards the cost of building the trail. The Trail was designed by internal DEWNR staff led by Grant Gable and construction was by Dirt Art, DEWNR staff and volunteers. The campgrounds along the trail were designed by Shannon Architects and constructed by Harold and Kate.

The Trail is now one of the most popular walks in Australia and is heavily booked. To 'add icing to the cake', National Parks SA have produced extremely detailed maps, a 'Treasure Map' and a magnificent 135 page full colour spiral bound booklet that details all the features of the walk including the history (both ancient and modern) where the wild things are (the wildlife in detail) and walking descriptions for each of the five days.

Having walked a small segment of the KI Wilderness trail and experienced just a little of the magnificent scenery, I thought that it would be difficult to find another new 'Parks venture' to match this!

However, I was very wrong!

Closer to home, at Morialta Conservation Park, I was recently transported back to my childhood, when as a youngster living in Geelong (not far from the Barwon River) I spent endless hours climbing the large river red gums, wading through swamps, bird watching and swimming in the Barwon River. I sometimes despair, that these days we over protect our kids and deprive them of experiences in nature that they would never forget. So what if we occasionally broke a bone, suffered cuts and bruises and nearly drowned when caught up in a bit of broken branch hidden under water in the river. I don't remember permanently losing any of my adventurous mates in our outdoor activities but the good times we had will forever be etched in my memory.

So, what got me so excited at Morialta. Well, it's the most exquisite, exciting, fabulous, beautiful and awesome children's playground in Australia and possibly the world! Called Mukanthi, it is thanks to National Parks South Australia and a State Government cash injection of \$900,000 that the nature playground came into being. The design process was the result on input from a large number of community members including the Kurna indigenous community, DEWNR staff, the design consultants (Climbing Tree and Peter Semple Landscape Architects), and in students from the Linden Park Primary School.



Designed for children aged 5 – 15 years, the nature playground covers a large area and is based around five themes including elements from Aboriginal culture. The Eagles Perch is a 7 metre tall nest and has rope ladders, walkways, 'fireman's' sliding poles, and a giant metal slide.

Nearby there is a giant 'snake' that kids can walk through, climb over and under with one tunnel leading to an underground exit. There is Frog Island and a number of Birds Nests that are constructed from timber and rocks.

There are cubby houses, large climbing boulders and kookaburra nests. Additionally there are paths, rock walls and climbing trees and a few meters away, a shallow creek with stepping stones provides children with an entirely different experience.

All elements of the playground have been superbly designed and crafted and there are no plastics to be seen. No trees were removed from the play area prior to construction and all timber used was reclaimed from trees that had naturally fallen - a large number of the timber boughs are mallee, and these were brought in from the Riverland. Even the stone used was reclaimed. Sharp timber and rock edges have been gently sanded and there are a number of Aboriginal artworks.

The playground includes BBQ's, toilets, shaded tables and bench seats and other undercover areas.

This is a playground that will stretch the limits of every child's imagination providing a 'dream element' for kids of all ages. With over 5,000 visitors a day Mukanthi playground gives all of us the opportunity to escape back to nature and find real adventure. For parents it might be the memory of what was and for our children and grandchildren, the excitement of what might be.

These and other changes proposed for some of our parks (such as the upgrading of some trail systems) are, I believe, a genuine attempt at creating new activities that will improve our experiences with nature and importantly, encourage the next generation to spend more active time in our parks.

Friends of Parks volunteers are very much 'hands on' when it comes to involvement in our parks. Occasionally, however, your Board is called on to act in an advocacy roll and this we do when it is within the realms of our experience, expertise, time and practicality. Two recent 'events' are good examples of the type of advocacy for which we are eminently suited.

With the development of Nature Based Tourism in some of our parks, the development of shared use trails was a cause of concern to some of our members. A letter was sent to the SA Environment Minister expressing these concerns and suggesting some initiatives that could overcome members concerns.

A few weeks later the Minister replied, providing us with information on how compliance and monitoring of the trails would be undertaken and stating that DEWNR would provide an annual update to the FoP Board on how the shared-use system is functioning and to answer any questions we may have – an excellent outcome.

The second concerned possible disturbances at feeding grounds in the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS). The migratory waders that arrive at the AIBS each year, stay for six months and importantly during that time, must ensure that they build up their fat supplies to enable them to fly back to the northern hemisphere to breed. Crabs and cockles for instance, form a staple part of their diet, and any disturbances in these feeding areas can cause birds to be below a satisfactory departure weight when they are due to head back to the northern hemisphere. We have written to the Minister expressing our concern and the Minister now has his Department looking into possible solutions.

In areas of advocacy that are beyond our capabilities we rely on being an active member of a number of environmental conservation organisations such as the Conservation SA (CSA). These organisations work closely with both State and Federal Governments and their aim is to advocate for the environment, 'across the board'. A member of the FoP Board, Andrew Winkler, represents us on the CSA Board.

Your Board works very closely with DEWNR and in particular, we are always invited to provide input to Draft Management Plans, amendments to management plans and other plans that concern the environment.

In each case, a copy of the draft plan(s) are always sent to the FoP Group concerned with the park in question. These draft management plans have been developed to facilitate community input into the development of the final plan. Comments received from your group and others, in response to the draft plan, are used to help develop the final management plan.

Just a reminder that the Friends of Parks 31st Forum will be held on the 14th – 16th September 2018 in the Innes National Park at Stenhouse Bay – a truly beautiful part of the state with stunning scenery and an abundance of wildlife.

Many of our groups have celebrated achievements – in many cases 20, 25 and 30 year birthday celebrations. I try to attend as many of these as possible but there are invariably clashes with dates and I do apologise if I can't make it to all celebrations.

Your Board is forever grateful for your individual and group efforts during 2017 – you do make an enormous difference to the health and wellbeing of our parks and I am sure that 2018 will bring with it new and exciting challenges that each of you will look forward to and meet head on! It's these new challenges that help keep us 'young'!!

Christmas is now very close and I do wish all members of the Friends of Parks 'family' a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. May the year ahead bring you and your family good health, and every happiness and may your interest in our wonderful parks be re-energised!



Duncan MacKenzie OAM
President, Friends of Parks Inc.

Friends of Parks 31st Forum

14th – 16th September 2018

Theme: Innes! Preserving our Past and Protecting our Future

Venue: Stenhouse Bay Hall, Innes National Park – Stenhouse Bay



Programme

Friday night:

4.30 pm onwards: Registration opens

5.30 pm Welcome to Country and Fire and Smoking ceremony

6pm Light Evening meal

7.30 pm Introduction – Duncan MacKenzie and Minister to open the Forum
Speakers to inform re Innes National Park and its Heritage

Saturday 15th September - 9 am - 4.30pm

Speakers: Rewilding the Yorke Peninsula and Marine Mammals, Friends of Troubridge Island, and Friends of Althorpe Islands

Packed lunch followed by guided tours:

1 pm - 4.30pm Cultural tour and Historic Inneson.

Saturday evening – Stenhouse Bay Hall

6.30 pm for 7pm: Dinner, Presentation of awards, Live music – Amber Poulton

Sunday –

8 am Bacon and Eggs breakfast

9.30- 12.30pm Speaker – Birds of the Southern Yorke Peninsula followed by a Q&A panel discussion.

For your diary now! Cost will be \$125.00 to attend all sessions and enjoy the meals and entertainment provided. In the New Year, registration forms will be available including details of fees and tours, and payment will be sought then.

Accommodation available: Innes National Park – Caravan and Camping – book online, 5kms from the Park – Marion Bay Caravan Park 08 88544094, Marion Bay Motel 08 88544044 and more rental accommodation on line.

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Items from our member groups newsletters, supplied literature and information

Butterfly Conservation SA Inc. Public Talks Program for 2018

These talks occur on the first Tuesday of the month March to November at 6.15 pm for a prompt 6.30 pm start, at the Clarence Park Community Centre 72-74 East Avenue, Black Forest, which is well serviced by public transport.

Meetings should conclude by 8.30 pm. At the start of each meeting a ten minute presentation on a 'Butterfly of the Month' will be given by a BCSA committee member.

For further information contact: Jan Forrest 8297 8230.

The program comprises:

- 6 March: Bitterbush-blue Butterfly Recovery Plan
- 3 April: Using hoverflies to understand how the nervous system codes visual information
- 1 May: Know and understand mosquito ecology to regain your sanity
- 5 June: The Great Victoria Desert
- 4 July: The story of Ants
- 1 August: Ediacara
- 5 September: (6.30 pm BCSA AGM 7.00 pm Public Talk) How the afghan camaleers shaped our state
- 3 October: The importance of symbiotic relationships between flowers, insects and microbes for pollination and development.
- 7 November: Creating a butterfly garden.

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Cleland breakfast experience

Message of 27 October 2017 issued by Hon. Ian Hunter MLC, Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, contained in email to VPSU of 30 October 2017

Bird-lovers can feed the birds, then themselves in new Cleland breakfast experience

Cleland Wildlife Park has introduced a new animal experience that bird lovers will flock to: breakfast with the birds.

The experience offers exclusive access to Cleland's aviaries and main lake before normal opening hours, allowing guests to get up close and personal with the park's feathered residents when they are at their most active.

It includes a tour with the bird keeper, the chance to take photographs in a quiet and uncrowded setting and the opportunity to help feed the birds.

After the tour, guests enjoy a delicious breakfast in the Cleland café or packed as a picnic to take into the park grounds.

Background

The experience start on 13 November and must be booked in advance at www.cleland.sa.gov.au.

Breakfast with the birds costs \$90 for adults and \$80 for children, with discounts for members.

Just 20 minutes from the CBD, Cleland Wildlife Park is an Adelaide tourism icon.

More than 125,000 people visited the park in 2016-17, including 50,000 overseas travellers.

Other special wildlife experiences on offer include koala holds and feeding, reptile holds and night walks.

Quotes attributable to Environment and Sustainability Minister Ian Hunter

Cleland is the perfect place to get up close and personal with Australian native animals, and this new special wildlife experience is a fantastic opportunity for bird watchers.

On this special tour, you'll be able to see and hear orange-bellied parrots and regent honeyeaters, two species that are critically endangered and very difficult to spot in the wild.

You'll also get to chat to a keeper and learn just what it's like to work with these special native birds.

We're launching this new experience just in time for Christmas; why not consider giving a fun and unique memory to your bird-loving friend this year?

Media Contact: Tanalee Smith 0408 377 584 (communicate by texting).

Refer to www.environment.sa.gov.au/clelandwildlife/cleland-experiences/Breakfast_with_the_birds for further information and conditions that apply.

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Handy tips for collecting firewood

[from DEWNR's [GOOD LIVING](#) blog of 2 June 2017]

Keep the home fires burning, but make sure you collect your firewood the right way. Here's how, and why it matters.

As the nights get colder, nothing is as comforting as settling down in front of a crackling fire (or glass fronted wood stove, or pot belly stove. Editor).

The only problem is that buying wood from the hardware shop or getting a delivery from the local wood yard can be expensive.

No-one will mind if you just collect a bit for free in a national park, right?

Wrong.

It's illegal to take wood from national parks and reserves, even if the wood is dead or fallen.

If you are caught, you face penalties of up to \$1000. You can also have your equipment seized. In the past, rangers have confiscated chainsaws and other gear from people caught illegally taking wood in parks.

The same goes for all public land, including reservoir and forest reserves.

Why are dead trees and fallen wood so important?

Dead trees and fallen branches provide vital habitat for a range of native species, including birds, possums, reptiles, insects and even other plants and fungi.

Tree holes and hollows in particular are extremely important, but they can take many years to form.

Once they do, they provide nesting and sleeping places for brush-tailed possums, goannas, and birds such as yellow-tailed black cockatoos, kookaburras and rosellas.

Some native bird species cannot breed without the right sort of holes or hollows to nest in, so the reduction in the number of old trees in the landscape has had a serious impact on their numbers.

Fallen wood can also provide hiding places and food sources for small animals such as echidnas, bats, dunnarts, pygmy possums, geckoes and other lizards.

Where can I collect firewood?

There are a few ways to collect firewood legally:

By agreement on private land. Know someone with a rural property with lots of trees? If you ask nicely, they might let you help yourself to some dead wood.

On some road verges, if you have a permit from the council. Check with the council to find out their policy on firewood collection.

In some ForestrySA plantation forests, but only by agreement with the ranger.

Still unsure? Contact your local council regarding the removal of trees on private property or the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources 'Native Vegetation Unit' for further information.

This story was originally posted in GOOD LIVING in May 2016 (and while that now seems way out-of-date and out-of-season, supplies from woodyards in Adelaide towards the end of the past 2017 winter season became seriously short. So some ideas on alternative sources might be welcome? Editor)

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Endangered grass gets new lease of life at Mintaro

[from Natural Resources Northern & Yorke YAKKA newsletter of 27 July 2017]

A private property near Mintaro is the latest site for the translocation of the endangered Spalding Blown Grass (*Lachnagrostis limitanea*).

The project, undertaken by the Spalding Blown Grass Recovery Team and headed by Trees For Life's Threatened Flora Officer Erica Rees, has involved 178 seedlings being planted at three locations on the property.

Spalding Blown Grass is listed as Endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999) and the SA National Parks and Wildlife Act (1972).

Spalding Blown Grass is a shortlived, blue-green, tufted perennial grass up to 45cm tall, flowering in spring to autumn. It occurs in permanently moist drainage lines and is highly susceptible to grazing. Seeds are small (less than 2mm) and easily spread by wind. The entire seed head also readily breaks off and can be dispersed as a unit.

[Read more](#) in the latest edition of ReLeaf, the Trees For Life quarterly newsletter.

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Citizen Scientists wanted to solve echidna mysteries

[partial extract from <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/news/news94682.html> (prompted by the article "Have you seen echidna scats in Aldinga Scrub?" appearing in the October 2017 edition of the Friends of Aldinga Scrub newsletter)]

" The Australian public is being called on to help better understand and conserve our iconic native echidna, by collecting echidna scats (poo) and taking photographs wherever echidnas or scats are spotted.

University of Adelaide researchers are launching a new citizen science project to address important questions about echidna numbers and distribution and to obtain material for molecular analysis.

The Echidna Conservation Science Initiative or EchidnaCSI researchers have developed a dedicated mobile phone app for instant upload of photos and location, and input of details of the immediate environment and the state, size and activity of the echidna.



The researchers would also like people to use the app to log the scats, then bag and post them to the University research team for molecular analysis.

The app, Echidna CSI, has been developed by Alan Stenhouse, PhD candidate in the School of Biological Sciences. It can be found on the [App Store](#) and on [Google Play](#). Further information and links to the app can be found at <http://grutznerlab.weebly.com/echidna-csi.html>

"

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Kersbrook Landcare Group focus on flora

[from AMLR Sedge Snippet newsletter of August 2017]

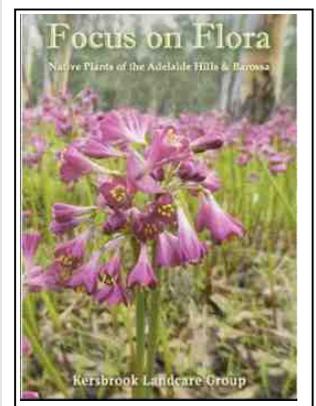
A new book showcasing 230 plants of the Kersbrook-Barossa region, Focus on Flora, was recently launched by The Kersbrook Landcare Group.

It lists plants of the Kersbrook-Barossa region and the most common Adelaide Hills species with images of the flower, fruit and habit for easy recognition. A brief description of habitat, flowering times and where the plant is commonly seen is also provided.

The book has been in development for 6 years, starting its life as a useful resource for local landowners and native plant enthusiasts.

Congratulations to the group!

[Purchase this valuable resource today!](#)



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Goat Cull in the Onkaparinga National Park.

[notice shown in the Friends of Onkaparinga Parks newsletter of November 2017]

Acting Senior Ranger Coral Marsden has advised of the following details of the goat cull:

- Goat Control Plan has been approved and signed off by Grant Pelton – Director of Regional Programs
- Park Closure Gazettal has been approved and signed off by Grant Pelton – Director of Regional Programs
- Shooters for the control program have been nominated and confirmed – Members of Sporting Shooters Association Australia Conservation and Wildlife Management SA Inc.
- Dates set for the control program are 4 to 8 December 2017
- The whole of the Onkaparinga National Park will be closed while this program is going ahead from 4 to 8 December 2017. No park visitors, members of the public, volunteers, contractors, etc. are permitted within the park during the operation
- A meeting will be held for the Shooters in November to familiarise them with the park and the operational requirements for the control program
- DEWNR is receiving continual data from the Judas Goat – 'Kelly Anne'. The tracking collar on this goat has supplied accurate information about the movements of the goats. This information is vital to the operation and will assist the shooters in their efforts on the day when the program is to go ahead in December. 12 months of data is required in order to fulfil the requirements for the sign off of the operational plan. From the data collected by the Judas Goat we have a good idea of the movements of the herd within the national park and on adjacent private land. This has given us good logistical information on their behaviour. Consequently we have produced maps to show this information.



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Grow Me Instead guide

[from Natural Resources Northern & Yorke YAKKA newsletter of 27 July 2017]

Have you seen the latest 'Grow Me Instead' guide?

The handout and website provide alternatives to common invasive garden plants, in an effort to protect the environment from invasive plants and give people the confidence to invest in appropriate plants for their gardens.



The guide includes an updated list of invasive weeds commonly grown in urban gardens, taking recently declared plants into account, and revised non-invasive alternatives for each.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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Great Tracks Crew cleans up

[Extract from the September 2017 edition of Across the Outback e-bulletin*]

It's been one of the biggest clean ups yet for the Great Tracks Cleanup Crew, collecting a record 548 tyres and travelling more than 2200 kilometres.

In early July, the Crew began a nine-day journey from Quorn to Birdsville, Innamincka and return, collecting 63 tonnes of rubbish. In the 11 years since the Great Tracks Cleanup started, volunteers have removed an amazing 629 tonnes of rubbish from outback areas and have contributed 25,800 volunteer hours at an estimated value of \$584,000.

*The Across the Outback e-bulletin, prepared and edited by Natural Resources SA Arid Lands on behalf of the SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board. [Back editions](#).



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Vital importance of Fungi

[article appearing in Black Hill & Morialta newsletter of October-November-December 2017]

Recently members were able to attend a fabulous talk and subsequent forage hosted by the Vale Park Our Patch group and the UniSA Discovery Circle team.

Dr Sapphire McMullen-Fisher took us through a fascinating journey of discovery. Some of the stand out things learned were:

- Mycorrhiza is a symbiotic association between a fungus and the roots of a vascular host plant. 80 – 95% of Australian native plants are believed to require a beneficial mycorrhiza in order to thrive. Discoveries in how to successfully propagate native orchid species over recent years a great insight into that.
- Healthy soils (i.e. those with a healthy fungus population) store 70% more carbon than the trees above them. Mind blowing!
- The plants and animals in our eco systems are only 7% of the total diversity. Yes that includes the insects! There are so many undocumented life forms, including fungi, it is a whole new world of discovery.
- Fungi are susceptible to disturbance and can take 15 years to recover. Highlighting yet again the importance of minimal disturbance bush care practices.
- Limit the use of Fungicides. There are far more good fungi out there than bad ones! Be careful what you target.



There is an entire not-for-profit citizen science project you can get involved with which is documenting Australian Fungi. When photographing fungi make sure you get a shot of the gills (underneath) which has the spores, a mirror can help with that. You can learn more about submitting data here:

<https://fungimap.org.au/index.php/submit-a-record/record-fungi>

If you'd like to know about more Citizen Science events hosted by the Discovery Circle you can see upcoming activities and sign up for their newsletter here: <http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/>

... article author: Liz Milner

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Loan equipment available



Does your group need an auger, tree popper, Hampilton planter, cordless drill or brushcutter to do on-ground works? How about binoculars, anabat bat detector, sound recorders, GPS or camera trap to monitor the fauna at your site?

The Community Group Action Program has a range of equipment available for loan to volunteer groups within the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region. Conditions apply. Please contact your local Volunteer Support Officer to find out more. Contact the [AMLR team](#).

... from the AMLRNR Snedje Snippet Community Group Action Newsletter of July 2017

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Map Reading and Introduction to GPS – 2 x Workshops – 7th and 8th December, 2017

[Notified in email from VPSU of 6 October]

The Friends of Parks Inc. Board has received feedback about proposed training needs for members, and has been pleased to offer the following:

A one day course, from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, to be held on Thursday, 7 December and Friday, 8 December, 2017, and at the Brukunga CFS Training Centre, Pyrites Road. There is a maximum of sixteen (16) participants per day. This course is free (but note that at the time of publishing this eNews, the course has been fully subscribed).

The course covers:

Map Reading:

Provides attendees with the knowledge and skills required to use and interpret maps.

- Understand Map Characteristics
- Understand and apply map scale to measure distances
- Understand datum and grid systems used on maps in order to determine a location
- Determine the shape of the ground by interpreting contour lines
- Calculate gradient and understand its significance.

Introduction to GPS

Provides trainees with the knowledge and skills to operate a GPS receiver to assist with navigation and in the collection of field data.

- Understand the components of the GPS satellite based navigation system
- Understand GPS receiver use
- Set up a GPS receiver
- Operate GPS receiver to load waypoint, save waypoints, navigate between waypoints, determine distance and heading, calculate area and perimeter.

Overnight accommodation is available on request, and all meals are included.

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Another* App to assist visitors to the Flinders Ranges

[emailed message of 8 November 2017 from [Vince Monterola](#), President, Friends of Ikara-Flinders ranges]

Dear Friends,

A moment to savour - the app Discover the Flinders Ranges is now available from both Apple Store and Google Play. If you are unsure, the Apple Store suits iPhone and iPad, while the Google Play is for phones and tablets using Android. You can download for free right now from either of the URLs:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/discover-the-flinders-ranges/id1252160121?mt>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mytoursapp.android.app1235>

We are greatly indebted to Bob Geary for achieving this milestone. Without his willingness to share his IT knowledge and skill, and his preparedness to devote more than 800 hours of his time to this project, the app would never have been developed. It is a unique contribution made by volunteers to benefit a national park and the people who visit it. Bob is the first to acknowledge the support provided in the app development by a number of other members. These include Julie Owen, Peter and Robyn Trezise, Athol Jackson, Meredyth Geary, Helen Monterola, Terry Krieg, Anthea and Carl Hudson, Victor Gostin, Frank Williams, Tony Bott, Jan, Dave, Carmel and Maria. Publications of tours by Tony Bott provided much of the material used in the tours included in the app. If we add to Bob's time, the hours these folk contributed to the project, we have well in excess of 1000 volunteer hours.

Already there are intentions to add further to the app over time with more tours and more guides. We are keen to include Adnyamathana culture and tours, and information about campgrounds and other park features too.

We hope that you enjoy looking through the app and finding time to use it in the park.

Please take every opportunity you can to tell relatives and friends that the app is available, and encourage them to download it then visit the Flinders Ranges.

* See also the Flinders Ranges Walks app on Google Play and Apple Store produced by our Walking Trails Support Group.

New GPS survey system improves water security in Lower Murray

A new GPS system was used to carry out the latest levee bank survey along the River Murray, accurately assessing the levee banks' height and helping prioritise maintenance.



Operations Engineer Said Khelwaty and Flood Management GIS Officer Gaby Eckert set up the GPS base station

Levee banks play a vital role in ensuring water security, supporting farming practices and preventing properties from flooding during high flows, so each year DEWNR surveys the height and condition of levees between Mannum and Wellington to ensure they meet the 1974 flood levels.

This year, specialised equipment was attached to the front of a 4WD vehicle that sent signals to a GPS base station as it was driven along the levee bank, accurately measuring the elevation.

Infrastructure Operations Manager Richard Brown explained the levee banks have a number of important roles, including defining the main river channel, protecting intensive irrigation properties

and facilitating gravity fed irrigation practices in the area.

'The new differential GPS system allows River Murray Operations Branch to accurately monitor the relative risk of inundation during high flows or storms,' Richard said.

'The surveys, along with regular inspections, give insight into the state of the levees and help to effectively prioritise and plan future maintenance.'

Maintenance work had been done on the embankments in preparation for the River Murray high flows at the end of 2016, and the latest survey has identified where any further maintenance is needed.

... from The Weekly DEWNR staff newsletter of 21 June 2017

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Help build a seed orchard to save South Australia's threatened plants

[message/appeal from Dr Lucy A. Sutherland, Director, Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium under the heading Plant a Pea in our Seed Orchard]

South Australia's native peas are a beautiful and delicate group of plants, but they can be difficult to find. Some are only found in one small region, and many face threats from habitat loss and competition with introduced species.

We have been working hard to ensure our native species survive. Over 70% of SA's threatened species are currently safely stored as seeds, preserved in our Seed Bank at sub-zero temperatures. But for some of our native peas our seed storage levels are critically low.

We need to move beyond just safe seed storage into actively boosting our native seed supply so we have a better chance of repopulating areas where the species has been lost.

The solution to this problem is a Seed Orchard. A dedicated area inside the Botanic Gardens, growing threatened SA plants, from which we can harvest even more seeds.

[A gift from you today](#) will help build a seed orchard to save our threatened plants."

... extract from email circulated in June 2017 from Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation Inc.

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Rare spider orchids discovered



Image courtesy of Leo Davis

Several significant orchids have recently been discovered in the Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB) region by dedicated orchid enthusiasts.

Restoration Ecologist Kylie Moritz said three rare spider orchids have been discovered at three different locations by volunteers and landholders.

'Passionate and knowledgeable volunteers spend hundreds of hours each year searching the bush for native orchids to photograph, monitor and to simply enjoy,' Kylie said.

The nationally endangered common comb spider orchid was discovered this season at Kinchina Conservation Park,

Monarto by orchid enthusiast Leo Davis, who is in the process of building a data-base of sightings, flowering times and plant measurements.

Leo and fellow enthusiasts also found the striking dark red, daddy long legs spider orchid at Ferries McDonald Conservation Park.

'Though not endangered, this orchid is uncommon in SA and this discovery provides some remarkable insights into the distribution of the species,' Kylie said.

In addition to this season's finds, a local Hartley landholder also made an exciting spider orchid discovery.

'The landholder found a really significant population of more than 600 coloured spider orchids on their property,' Kylie said.

The Hartley area is home to more than 90 per cent of the world's known population of this nationally endangered orchid, which is thought to be only 5,500 plants.

'A number of the plants had been pollinated which is important as it proves the necessary native wasp pollinators are present.' Kylie said.

Natural Resources SAMDB, with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, is working with a number of Hartley landholders to manage threats to the native orchid population including grazing by rabbits and kangaroos and weed threats such as boxthorn, bridal creeper and perennial grasses.

... from The Weekly DEWNR magazine of 28 June 2017.

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Managing dieback in river red gum communities



Lerp (psyllid insects) is not a new problem, having occurred for thousands of years, however the impact of the insects is compounded by other stresses such as lack of water, increased water salinity and bird damage.

Lerp target stressed trees, which have higher levels of nutrients in their sap.

Higher humidity in summer, and lower than average rainfall in the traditional rain-producing months result in the ideal climatic conditions for insect breeding.

The primary cause of dieback in red gums in the region is water stress and the reduced number of bird predators on lerp, owing to the loss of shrub habitat from the landscape.

Trees with sufficient resilience will survive, but recovery from severe lerp attack takes around 3–4 years, replace the lost leaves and start the cycle from buds to fruit and seed, which takes 2 years.

A major issue for river red gums is the shortage of younger trees to replace the old trees as they die.

The most useful action that can be undertaken by the community is to protect young seedlings and saplings from harm caused by grazing or machinery by using tree guards and controlled grazing methods.

Additionally, natural control of insect numbers can be achieved by increasing the number of native shrubs along watercourses, thereby increasing the number of insect-eating birds that use the shrubs for travelling and habitat.

The combination of these actions will help ensure that the tree communities will be sustained for the long term.

Further information about the river red gums can be found on the [Natural Resources Northern and Yorke website](#) plants-and-animals page.

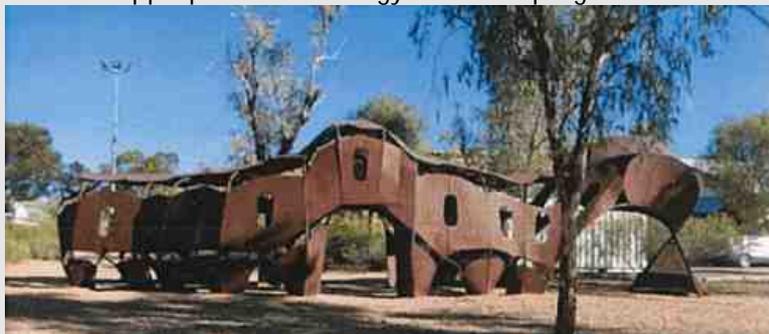
... from Natural Resources Northern & Yorke YAKKA newsletter of 27 October 2017

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YEPERENYE SCULPTURE and EMILY GAP ROCK PAINTINGS, ALICE SPRINGS NT by Jan Forrest OAM, Butterfly Conservation SA Inc

During my recent trip to Alice Springs I visited the Araluen Cultural Precinct. Of particular interest was a metal sculpture of what was unmistakably the caterpillar of a hawk moth (Family Sphingidae). On further investigation I discovered that this three-metre high sculpture, the Yeperenye Sculpture as it is called, celebrates the Yeperenye (pronounced Ayepe-arenye) caterpillar, the most important of the three caterpillars that are the major creative ancestors of Alice Springs.

The sculpture is a collaborative public artwork. It was developed by metal artist Dan Murphy and students from the Centre for Appropriate Technology's ATWork program.



On entering the Yeperenye Sculpture you find information and artworks on the caterpillar's habitat, life cycle and cultural significance. The caterpillar is decorated with panels created at workshops with local artists and school children.

This project was created by the support of the Grand Circle Foundation. Each year the foundation brings American visitors to Alice Springs. Money raised from their travels contribute to community projects all over the world.

Next day, on a drive to the East MacDonnell Ranges we also visited the Yeperenye Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Parks. At Emily Gap you can see a large rock painting depicting the Yeperenye or caterpillar dreaming.



These two small gaps in the Heavitree Range are important spiritual sites to the Eastern Arrente Aboriginal people. Many places in the surrounding landscape are associated with the same caterpillar Dreamtime story, and forms 'Dreaming Trail' or 'Song Line' through the region.

Emily Gap is a significant sacred site where the caterpillar beings of Mparntwe (Alice Springs) originated. These caterpillars formed Emily Gap and many of the topographic features around Alice Springs, then radiated out to the edge of the Simpson Desert. The first European sighting of Emily and Jessie Gap was in 1871. It was thought that the names Emily and Jessie were chosen after the daughters of Sir Charles Todd, but this was found to be untrue. The basis on which the names are derived is unknown.

... from Butterfly Conservation SA Inc Newsletter of September 2017

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Our New Identifications

These magnetic car door stickers and hi-vis vests were being organised in June 2017 and are no doubt available now.

... as notified in email circulated 26 June 2017



Wild Dogs Unwelcome



A bait needling day was held at Quorn, where landholders made 3,163 baits in conjunction with Natural Resources Northern and Yorke as part of the Living Flinders project. These baits will enable local farmers to cover a larger baiting footprint.

The occurrence of wild dogs continues to concern many landholders, with a dog recently shot at Koolunga. Staff in the Upper North district are continuing their good work with landholders in providing training for trapping and the provision of baits, plus mapping locations of dog sightings to best direct effort. We are also working with our colleagues in SA Arid Lands Region with their Bite Back program which targets wild dogs.

...extract from article in Natural Resources Northern and Yorke YAKKA publication of 7 June 2017, authored by Trevor Naismith, Regional Director, Natural Resources Northern and Yorke

Items contributed by members- to whom special thanks

Walking Trails Support Group

from Sue and Rob Marshall, Walking Trails Support group

We continue our efforts at providing information about the landscape, and details of the country that walkers are experiencing. The trails are merely a means to the end. Visitors tell us the information adds meaning to the walk.



One of our work parties in North Flinders

Since establishment in 1999, we have always been a group of modest size. Nevertheless, there have always been strong and willing walkers able to carry out the physical work.

Others use their particular skills behind the scenes developing and updating leaflets, the web, maps, photographs etc — recording the changes. There have been some in our 18 years of operation. Technology has changed too.

This year we substantially upgraded our website and developed an App covering the notes for the 16 Flinders walks the Group looks after, now available from App Store and Play Store. This is clearly dependant on the availability of WiFi — but access to technology is improving — and in the meantime our leaflets will continue to be available in the field for some years yet and always on the website.



New WTSG web home page banner

Again this year we replaced some infrastructure items which have suffered from being out in the elements for long periods. Some are as good as the day they were put in 24 years ago, so over the years we have learnt

what is best. Ongoing maintenance of tracks and particularly signage is critical to encourage visitor use which is often a single time or occasional, without the benefit of location familiarity. Visitors give us very positive feedback.



A simple post explains a feature of the Barossa Goldfields walk – enough space for a few words



A faded map plate about to be replaced in I-FRNP

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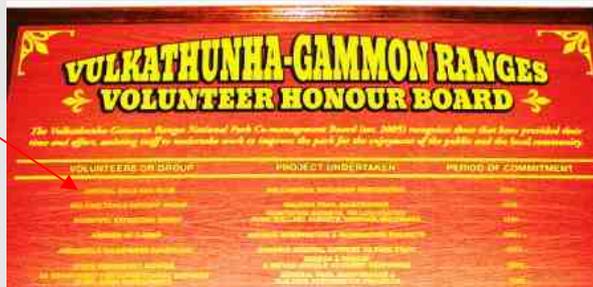
Central Hills 4WD Club working bee at Balcanoona October 2017

[article provided by Ian McDougall, Central Hills 4WD Club Inc, Environmental Officer, and Newsletter and Facebook Editor]

The time had come for another Central Hills 4WD Club working bee at Balcanoona in the Vulkathunha - Gammon Ranges National Park, where we have almost finished reconstructing all the weathered and termite ridden stockyards associated with the famous shearing shed located there. This project has been underway since our first event there in 2007. The club is a registered Friend of all Parks in this State.

We all travelled up to Balcanoona on Sunday 8th – small numbers this time (8 individuals), but still over a third of our small club. Basing ourselves at the shearers’ quarters, we set up and then discussed our work for the following week.

We were very pleased to see a new Honour Board in the common room, and proud of the fact that our club has the top listing.



Next morning, Ranger Sian Johnson arrived early, and we walked around the stockyards with her to plan our projected work. Senior Ranger Arthur Coulthard was also with us for some of the time we were at Balcanoona. He and I did discuss volunteer projects post 2018 Balcanoona – possibly in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.

One of the first jobs was to remove the old swimming pool type fence beside the shearing shed and replace it with a more authentic post and rail structure. Then we removed the old wire from all fences to be demolished, and replaced. Where fence posts were rotten, they were extracted, and much of the feral weeds and loose rocks were raked up. Other small tasks undertaken was a clean out of the kitchen area, repositioning a loose bench vice, repairing/lubricating bolt cutters and fencing pliers, and cleaning shower heads.

On Friday 13th, one couple left, and the remainder kept working. On Saturday, we went for a drive around part (south east) of the Park, then we cleaned up generally, and sat down to a pizza night – to raise money for a club member who is participating in the 2018 Variety SA 4WD Challenge (to raise money for children’s charities) and had his Car 34 Pizza Night that same evening back in Adelaide.



On Sunday, we remaining weary workers departed for home. Altogether our small group had worked for 368 hours (to add to the many thousands of hours already worked there by our members), with another 47 hours approximately spent travelling. Our total mileage was about 7200 kms.

Our next working bee at Balcanoona in mid-2018 will see the completing of our project – re-fencing most of the old stockyards and re-flooring the delightful old shearing shed.

If we commence new projects in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park in 2019, we will meet with the local ranger/s and discuss appropriate work that the club may be prepared to undertake.

[A more comprehensive report of this October 2017 working bee is available on request to [Ian McDougall](#)]

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Friends Of The Coorong Celebrate 30 Years

The Friends of the Coorong celebrated their 30th anniversary on Saturday, 14 October.

The event began at Salt Creek where everyone gathered by the replica oil rig before setting off on a 4WD tag-along tour of Martin Washpool Conservation Park. Around 60 people travelling in more than 20 vehicles took part, a clear indication of support for the work of the Friends.

Community Engagement Officer for the South East Flows Restoration Project, Matt Honner came along as our guest speaker. At several stops during the tour, he spoke about the work currently being undertaken to manage water flows in the Upper South East.

The project area extends 93.4 kms from the existing Blackford Drain to the Salt Creek outlet into the Coorong South Lagoon. It will assist salinity management in the South Lagoon, enhance flows to wetlands and reduce drainage outflow at Kingston.

Following a stop for a picnic lunch in a very pleasant bush setting overlooking the Morella Basin, the group completed a circumnavigation of the park and proceeded to Cantara Homestead.

Upper South East Parks Team Leader, Tim Hartman, traditionally welcomed the group to Country and to Cantara, where a comprehensive display of memorabilia and photographs of the homestead and the Friends Group had been assembled.

We heard first-hand about life at Cantara from Don Cameron, who lived there as a boy, and from his daughter, Leanne Rowley. Cantara is, of course, now a wonderful heritage asset thanks to the comprehensive restoration work that has been undertaken.

On a slightly more formal note, President Sam Blight read letters of congratulations the Group had received from Minister Hunter and DEWNR Chief Executive, Sandy Pitcher.

Individual letters of congratulations from the Minister and Certificates of Appreciation for 30 years of membership were awarded to founding members Margaret and David Dadd, Vicki Natt, Leta Padman (absent) and Don Ransom (absent). Fred Jeuken (absent) also received recognition for his 20 years of membership milestone.

Everyone then enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea, including a cake made by our President using berries from the Muntrie bush (*Kunzea pomifera*), traditional bush tucker.

The day was a great success and held in perfect spring weather. Much credit goes to the organisers, including Sam Blight, Chris Thompson and Jo Flavel, as well as to DEWNR itself for its work in managing the mighty Coorong National Park.

To complete the event a small group took the opportunity to camp overnight at Cantara before returning home.



Celebration attendees on the verandah at Cantara Homestead



Picnic lunch spot overlooking Morella Basin



Tag-along 4WD tour through Martin Washpool CP

... article sent by Joanne Flavel, Administration Officer, Natural Resources South East
Photos by John Boundy

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The Garden at Old Government House

Text and photos from Tina Gallasch, A/Secretary, Friends of Old Government House



2017 has seen some very big changes at Old Government House in the Belair National Park. There has been a complete change of administration and under the leadership and guidance of Dene Cordes as President, we are moving forward.

Possibly the biggest change has been in the Garden. It has been neglected for many years, and a complete renovation/restoration is now under way. It was once known for its fine collection of heritage roses, but sadly many of these have now died or have reverted to root stock.



The Rose Society of South Australia have been incredibly supportive, and came in to do the pruning in August, and came back in November to help identify the roses we have left.

The plan is now to restore and rebuild. A very special project is to be called Dianne's Garden, in memory of Dianne Cordes who sadly passed away earlier this year. We are continuing the theme of heritage roses, and with that in mind will plant an avenue of "Little White Pet" (see left) leading from the gates to the Wedding Lawn. The garden bed will be split into four quadrants, with a bird bath at the centre. In the middle of each quadrant will be a red standard rose (Red was Dianne's favourite rose colour).

In many ways, taking on this garden project has been a real joy. The garden is an evolving, living thing, and one of the best bits is researching which plants will be appropriate to grow in an 1860's garden. The Victorians were passionate gardeners, and embraced every new gardening trend with a real passion. With roughly an acre of land, there's plenty of room to try different things. The soil is highly alkaline, so it's a challenge to grow the acid loving plants such as rhododendrons and camellias.

We are working towards offering the garden as a venue for weddings once again – all-important for fund raising; gardens on this scale do not come cheap.

We have a strong team of six willing volunteers who turn up without fail every Saturday morning and put in two hours or more clearing, weeding and planting. The difference is really beginning to show. Several members of Friends of Belair National Park have joined in with Friends of Old Government House to take on this challenge. The Garden provides a safe haven for those who still want to work with their hands but are no longer able to contribute to Bush Care projects. If there are more people out there who want to contribute to a very worthwhile project, either give me a call (08) 8178 0688, or email friendsofogh@outlook.com for details.

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HELP SAVE GLENTHORNE FARM - WE NEED YOUR HELP – PLEASE SIGN OUR [PETITION](#)
and ASK YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND FRIENDS GROUP MEMBERS TO DO THE SAME

Appeal from Alan Burns, Secretary / Treasurer, Friends of Glenthorne Inc.

Dear Friend,

Many of you would know of the long-term struggle of the [Friends of Glenthorne](#) to save Glenthorne Farm for the people and the environment. Now is the time to save it once and for all, as the March 2018 election approaches.

The State Liberal Party has proposed the Glenthorne National Park plan and we want the State Labor Party to match this plan or better it.

A brief summary of the history is as follows

- First settled in 1839 by SA's first Police Commissioner and Magistrate, Major Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran.
- Evidence of that settlement and other buildings and structures remain on the property to this day and are heritage listed, including historical Osage Orange (Bow-Wood) trees.

- Army occupation from 1913 to 1947 as the No.9 Remount Station, supplying thousands of horses to the WWI war effort and mules to the WWII effort.
- CSIRO research station from 1947 to 1996.
- 1996 to today – Monumental political struggle by the Friends of Glenthorne to save this property from urban development over 21 years – housing, shopping centre and business precinct – as proposed more than once by the owners, the University of Adelaide.

What is Glenthorne Farm and why is it so important?

- This property was purchased by the University of Adelaide in 2001 with \$7.0M of State taxpayer money, our money.
- The State Government and the University of Adelaide signed a Deed of Sale, promising the Federal Government and the local community that it would never be developed. The Deed of Sale is contractually strong and must be enforced.
- The property, just 17 kms south of Adelaide, is 208 hectares (over 500 acres) of undulating hills, ephemeral waterway and numerous dams. This property is part of an important wildlife corridor linking the Mt Lofty Ranges to the southern coast of Adelaide. It is home to over 100 species of birds, ancient remnant Grey Box trees (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) and unique heritage assets. It is a property of unique value and natural beauty and has great potential.
- We believe that the property should be returned to native habitat (Grey Box grassy woodland) to partially reverse the trend of continual loss of habitat in and around Adelaide and the Adelaide Hills and to protect our endangered woodland bird species.
- Assoc. Prof. David Paton talks of the extinction debt we are all currently facing, and species will become locally extinct unless native habitat is restored quickly. Locals are already seeing a dramatic decline in many common native bird species.
- This property is in the middle of a number of open space areas in this region, including the Happy Valley Reservoir, the O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park, the Field River, the Hallett Cove Conservation Park and the Marino Conservation Park and as such, is crucial to linking these areas for wildlife as well as community recreation, education and research.
- The State Liberal Party is proposing one large national park, which can be viewed at www.Glenthorne.com.au provided they win the 2018 State election.
- The Friends of Glenthorne are an a-political, environmental group. Despite our best efforts, we are met by silence by both the State Government and the University of Adelaide and we fear that developmental plans are being drawn up. The U of A has proposed housing once before, back in 2008 / 2009, and the Messenger newspaper revealed via a Freedom of Information request in January this year (2017), that there were new plans for development.
- This is a natural asset which we must save for future generations, as well as our disappearing wildlife and a National Park is the best way to achieve this.
- We are supported by the community, local schools, Dr Barbara Hardy AO and Sophie Thomson as well as the State Liberal Party and we need your help to make the State Government act now.

What do the Friends of Glenthorne want?

- A National Park proclaimed to protect the entire property.
- We want large-scale restoration of endangered Grey Box Grassy Woodland – habitat to protect wildlife and for the community to enjoy.
- Increased community access for activities which will improve the health and well-being of all of those who use it, including recreation, education and research.
- An overarching management plan to effectively maximise the environmental, heritage and community outcomes.
- Consideration given to connecting to open spaces surrounding this property to maximise the wildlife corridor opportunities as well as recreational activities such as cycling and walking.
- Community and environmental expert involvement in the management and decision-making processes to see this property develop into a site of State significance.

What can you do to help?

- Like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GlenthorneSA> and make a comment.
- Sign our electronic petition at <http://chn.ge/2gZyEsM>
- Check out our web site at www.FriendsOfGlenthorne.org.au
- Sign our [paper petition](#) which you can print off from our [web site](#). We will present this to the State Government in Parliament in early 2018.
- Watch MP David Speirs' recent Glenthorne National Park speech in parliament on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/David4Bright/videos/1468630263253216/>
- Talk to your family and friends and help us save Glenthorne by maximising the voice of the people against political inaction and the greed of the University of Adelaide. Ask them all to sign our petition.
- Thank you for supporting our ongoing fight which is now into its 22nd year.

Interpretive Sign Unveiling in Belair National Park

[submitted by [Carol Parrott](#) (treasurer/membership secretary. Friends of Belair National Park)]

The Friends of Belair National Park recently hosted an event to unveil two new interpretive signs in the park which the group had designed and commissioned as a permanent reminder of the 125th anniversary of the park. The parliamentary act declaring the National Park was given assent on 19th December 1891, making it South Australia's first National Park.

On a delightful sunny morning a group of about 30 of our members assembled at the site of one of the signs together with Mayor Glenn Spear from Mitcham Council and three other distinguished guests – the Honourable Member for Davenport, Sam Duluk, Councillor Jane Bange, and senior ranger AMLR Jen Pitman. Mayor Spear was invited to perform the unveiling ceremony because Mitcham Council had generously provided the funding for the project from their Community Grants Program, (Special Events and Projects). After welcoming everyone and acknowledging that Belair National Park is part of the traditional lands of the Kurna people and expressing our respect for their spiritual relationship with their country, Alan Raine provided some historical context for the signs. Mayor Spear was then invited to respond and to perform the unveiling. This sign is situated on The Valley Road walking trail, opposite to Walnut Paddock.

Each of the two signs describes a small part of the history of the development of the railway through the hills to Nairne and eventually on to Melbourne. The railway was important in opening up the Hills area as well as subsequently bringing parties of picnickers and families to enjoy the Park facilities and open spaces. The historical back story on each sign was researched and developed by Pam and Ron Tamblyn, both passionate historians and members of our group. The signs are illustrated with stunning photographs. "The Old Road to the Gullies" with images sourced from historical documents and old postcards, and "Echo Tunnel" with new images of the embankment and Lower Waterfall beyond, taken by Bevin Scholz.

This second sign has been installed on Echo Track, just below Echo Tunnel.

After the formalities everyone then went along to the Volunteer Centre to enjoy socialising over a delightful morning tea.

The Friends of Belair National Park encourage everyone to enjoy these additions to the park.

Sam Duluk MP,
Jen Pitman,
Senior Ranger
Cr Jane Bange,
Mitcham Mayor
Glenn Spear



Snakebite emergency treatment

Message from Alex McLeod, Friends of Moana Sands CP (ph.83270925), who says ...

"I am involved with a southern environmental, community volunteer group, which involves working in bushland and sand dunes, and hence snake habitats. We are in a season of snake activity as they emerge from their winter torpor. For the preparedness of our volunteers and visitors we are providing instructions for First Aid and a guide for emergency options, specifically regarding snakebite.

It is my advice that each group and volunteer should have an action plan based on the circumstances of their operations, for instance, in regard to what to do if alone, or if no phone is available, and to have decided beforehand where vehicles and First Aid box are, and which hospital to attend.

In making your action plan, make enquiries, but expect that your local GP or local hospital (e.g. Noarlunga) does not service snakebite emergencies.

Also, consider decisions for being alone and having to walk/drive to assistance; and going to hospital even if you are unsure you have been bitten.

For comprehensive information on snakes visit Sydney University's informative website

<http://www.anaesthesia.med.usyd.edu.au/resources/venom/snakebite.html>. It explains, amongst much else, that patient movement and time are critical factors in the effects of venom on a victim. The first 30–60 minutes is

a high risk period for developing very serious symptoms with Brown Snake bites (perhaps our most obvious local venomous reptile. Tiger and Black snakes are a serious concern also due to fang size and venom volume).

It is my contention that, where the circumstances permit, the quickest way to get a patient to hospital is by private transport, as vehicles may be on site with the volunteers. Prior knowledge about which hospital to attend is then essential.

Where the private transport option is not available, 000 could be called if there is a phone, placing reliance on the timely arrival of an emergency vehicle (ambulance, helicopter, other?) for conveyance. However, for our group's situation, I estimate the time from bite to hospital for an ambulance (to Flinders Medical Centre) would exceed 60 minutes, but be 20–30 minutes by private car.

Some other issues for consideration include -

- If Flinders Medical Centre is the designated emergency admission for the Southern Lofty region, what then, is a viable radial distance to service a southern retrieval of the patient from an off-road bushland and conveyance to hospital?
- Are ambulances permitted or able to go off road or on sand-drift tracks, or the beach? If not, in our situation, a stretcher retrieval from the gate could well add 30 minutes to rescue time.
- Would the CFS or SES be called for vehicle access to the patient?
- If the rescue helicopter is used, who pays the cost? "

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SSAA - Conservation & Wildlife Management (SA) Inc

The conditions for the inception of this organisation arose from a sequence of events beginning with Sir Mark Oliphant, who, being a friend of Reg Sprigg (founder of Arkaroola Sanctuary), raised the matter of the need for feral goat control in the adjacent Gammon Ranges National Park, with the then Minister for Environment Susan Lenehan, at a dinner hosted by the State Governor Dame Roma Mitchell.

Following a visit to the Park, the Minister directed that National Parks and Wildlife Service (NP&WS) take action to control feral goats in National Parks. The Government of the day required assistance in controlling a dominant feral goat population in the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park, in the northern Flinders Ranges.

The issue became a subject of discussion on an Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) program, between the program host (Murray Nicoll), Reg Sprigg, the Director of National Parks and Wildlife Service (Bruce Lever) and the National Director of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) Keith Tidswell who offered the services of SSAA member volunteers to undertake the task.

The establishment of a Hunting and Conservation Branch (H&C Branch), now Conservation & Wildlife Management SA Inc (C&WM SA) including all associated legal, organisation, training and accreditation processes were undertaken under the leadership of Gil Hartwig OAM during 1991.

Through undertaking feral and pest animal control programs we have contributed to the restoration and preservation of Australia's stressed ecosystems. We assist public and private land-managers by providing a species specific, no cost option for removing predators, pests and problem animals. We also contribute to wildlife and vegetation surveys, research, rabbit warren destruction, revegetation and restoration of historical sites.

Our work has contributed to the dramatic reduction in feral goats throughout the park, and many others, enabling ground cover and shrubs to regenerate, waterholes to remain clean and Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby populations to recover.

The continued cooperation between the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and C&WM has resulted in us being heavily involved in the 'Bounceback' program and similar initiatives in national parks, as well as public and private lands throughout the state.

We are contributing to the western quoll and brush-tailed possum re-introduction program in the IFRNP, through undertaking predator control programs, as well as undertaking malleefowl monitoring at Karte CP.

Our activities are undertaken across a range of reserves such as: Ikara-Flinders Ranges and Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges NP; Gawler Ranges NP; Karte, Peebinga and Brookfield CPs; Bimbowrie CR, Dutchmans Stern, Telowie and Mt Brown CP; Morialta and Belair CP.

We have been an active member of the Friends of Parks since October 2001, as well as having an association with; the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby Preservation Association, Nature Foundation SA, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Birdlife Australia, Bush Heritage Australia, and Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

2017 celebrates 25 years for Conservation & Wildlife Management (SA) Inc, a milestone achievement we are very proud of.

... article provided by Rob Parkes – Secretary - SSAA Conservation & Wildlife Management (SA) Inc.



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WARREN BONYTHON HEYSEN TRAIL FOUNDATION

from John Wilson, Secretary, Warren Bonython Heysen Trail Foundation

Walk for the Heysen Event – Sunday 29th April 2018 - Bridgewater

In 2013 the Council of the Friends of the Heysen Trail (the Friends) agreed to establish the WBHT Foundation. There were two main objectives:

As a Memorial to C Warren Bonython AO, well known South Australian Bushwalker and environmentalist, whose efforts led to the establishment of the Heysen Trail, and who was the Patron of the Friends from its inception in 1986 until his death in 2012 and;

To operate as the fundraising arm of the Friends. In order to be more attractive to donors, the Foundation has established the Warren Bonython Heysen Trail Public Fund. The Fund has been endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) by the Australian Department for the Environment and the Foundation has been listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations. Gifts to the Fund may be claimed as a tax deduction, and will be used to enhance the natural environment adjacent to the Heysen Trail and other significant walking Trails in South Australia.

To date, the main fundraising activity of the Foundation has been to conduct a series of guided walks incorporating the Heysen Trail, and for the last two years these have been held around the Mt Crawford forest.

In 2018, it is proposed to hold a similar event based at the Bridgewater Oval Sports and Social Clubrooms on Sunday 29th April, with several guided walks being planned in the area. Details will be available on the Foundation website (wbheysentrailfoundation.org.au) and social media.

The main activity of the Foundation has been to plant and maintain over 1000 trees along the Heysen and Lavender Federation Trails. Future projects under consideration include further tree planting, re-vegetation and measures to control noxious weeds.

About The Foundation

The Foundation is co-located with the Friends of the Heysen Trail in Suite 212, Epworth Building. 33 Pirie Street Adelaide, SA 5000.

The Foundation is an all volunteer organisation. Membership involves a one off payment of \$20 (not tax deductible) and members will be provided with regular updates of our activities by email.

The Foundation is seeking to establish relationships with organisations with similar objectives with respect to the natural environment.

CONTACT. The Foundation may be contacted at the Pirie Street address listed above or by emailing info@WBHeyenTrailFoundation.org.au.

See also our website at wbheysentrailfoundation.org.au

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Departed Friends

At each Forum we have a memorial table with a list of all Friends who have passed away since the previous forum, and a posy of flowers. But for this newsletter we provide a simple list of names, sufficient for you to make your own enquiries, of those who have departed since the previous newsletter, although we offer a special recognition of Roxeanne Cattermole, Friends Of Telowie Gorge. We apologise for any omissions. Please let Pam Smith, VSPU, know of anyone who should be added to the list.

Roxeanne Cattermole
Lindsay Best
Jim McLafferty
Collin Griffen

Friends Of Telowie Gorge
former Senior Wildlife Management Officer/Director NPWS
Friends of Angove
Friends of Onkapringa Parks

Vale Roxeanne Cattermole

Roxeanne Cattermole passed away 18/7/2017. Roxeanne was a valued member of the Friends of Telowie Gorge group and was a gold pass holder who had contributed 15 years service to the local environment. Roxeanne also volunteered with Meals on Wheels, Port Pirie Hospital as a patient assistant, the local garden club and orchid club and was a keen member of the crafty ladies group. Roxeanne will be sadly missed by a lot of people and is a big loss to the environment.

.... words by Jeff Helmers (secretary, Friends of Telowie Gorge)

FRIENDS OF PARKS INC. GIFT FUND

Do you want to make a donation to the work of Friends of Parks?
If so, do it through the Gift Fund.

Friends of Parks Inc. operates a Gift Fund which is on the Australian Government's Register of Environmental Organisations which means that donations are tax deductible. Receipts can be provided for tax purposes. There are many reasons for people wanting to give a donation, e.g. after experiencing a wonderful time in the park, people may wish to donate towards that park. It should be noted that although a donation cannot be specified for a particular park or project, donors may indicate to the Gift Fund Committee that they enjoy a particular park or project.

To donate please forward your donations to:

Treasurer, Gift Fund, Friends of Parks Inc., 1 Pacific Avenue, ROSTREVOR SA 5073

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LINKS

[Friends of Parks Website](#) www.friendsofparke.org.au



'Like' us on Facebook - Friends of Parks SA now has a [Facebook](#) page! This was launched on 6 October 2016 and now has had over 445 'Likes'. Simply visit and 'Like' the page to receive regular notifications.

[Instructions appearing on the Friends website](#) which have been prepared by the Treasurer, Friends of Parks Inc., for when your group needs to approach the Treasurer to obtain successful grant funding. No member login is required to access this information.

NGT- the [Nature Glenelg Trust](#)

Explore the activities of this industrious group, which has been established as an environmental organisation ...

- to protect and enhance the natural environment, with a particular emphasis on wetland conservation and restoration activities in the Focal Region*, supported by the Habitat Restoration Fund.
- to generate and provide high quality scientific information that enhances management of the natural environment.
- to support and undertake key conservation ecology research predominantly within, but not limited to, the Focal Region.
- to promote public awareness of nature through education, and involving the community in the activities of the Trust.

* Focal Region includes the NRM regions situated between Melbourne (Victoria) and Adelaide (South Australia).

A sample of its activities is [the sharing the restoration plans for Square Waterhole Swamp](#) (in Hesperilla CP, just south of Mt Compass, a small remnant portion of the originally much larger Square Waterhole Swamp).

For recent news visit <http://natureglenelg.org.au/news/>

Keep abreast of [happenings](#) at the [Adelaide Botanic Gardens](#) and its [various blogs](#)

Keep an eye on the [Invasive Species Council](#) activities. Their mission is to Keep Nature Safe from Dangerous New Invaders (such as weeds, feral animals, diseases).

Looking for other opportunities to volunteer?

Explore the [WeDo](#) app introduced in [Office for Volunteers](#) newsletter [The State of Volunteering Online](#) #241

DEWNR has a staff newsletter -[The Weekly](#) - but non-staff can have a look at it too.

The DEWNR monthly publication [GOOD LIVING](#) offers splendid viewing of high quality pictures and interesting articles.

[FUNDAssist](#), a toolkit developed by Flinders University, designed to help non-government organisations anywhere in Australia to prepare, plan, and write funding application.

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Editor and Design: Hugh Lambert © Friends of Parks Inc. 2014
Many thanks to those who have provided articles for this eNews. Editor

The eNews

A practice that we'd like you to adopt for the eNews is for you to send in articles of your own on subjects that you think will be of interest to the wider Friends community (6000+ of us! ... and please don't wait to be asked), rather than group-specific information such as working bee timetables that you put in your group newsletter for information of just your own group. We will continue to draw on your group's newsletter sent to Friends of Parks Inc. Secretary, Pam Smith in the VSPU, as a major source of information for eNews.