



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 AM and Mrs Margie Mitchell

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In the November 2017 Friends of Parks eNews, I spoke about your Board's role in 'advocacy' where it concerned matters in our Parks system.

It was recently brought to our attention that a developer on Kangaroo Island had wanted to purchase a 2km stretch of Crown Land at Pelican Lagoon to enable the development of an 18 hole golf course to be built closer to the water.

Notice of an eight-week public consultation process was forwarded to all our FOP's Groups, to give them the opportunity to make individual submissions against the proposal.

All but five of the 780 submissions received in this consultation period raised significant concerns about ongoing public access to the land and the protection of native flora and fauna, including the white-bellied sea eagle and endangered southern brown bandicoot.

The result was that the Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Minister Ian Hunter, considered the social, economic and environmental aspects of the proposal and declined to sell the waterfront land for this development.

This is a great win for the environment and it indicates how advocacy, when utilised at the correct time and circumstances, can achieve great things. I am not aware how many FOP's Groups sent in submissions, but I know a number did, and I thank all those who were concerned enough to act.

On the 30th April 2018, the FOP AGM will be held at the Morialta Resource Centre, Morialta Conservation Park. This is a great opportunity to meet friends from all corners of the State in an atmosphere of great fellowship and to enjoy good food. It is also a time to learn about the various projects that our various Groups undertake and in particular, give some consideration to your closer involvement with your FOP Board.

We are an active group that is always looking to inject 'fresh' enthusiasm to Board matters and we welcome your interest. To see a copy of the "Role Descriptions" for Board positions, visit the FOP website at: <http://www.friendsofparkssa.org.au/home>. In particular, we are looking for a person to lead our Marketing Sub-Committee, which is a great opportunity to make a contribution to our beautiful SA Parks by promoting the work and achievements of our environmental volunteers.

Our FOP website just gets better and better and now includes a section: "Highlights of the Month" that allows you to keep up-to-date with current news.

A reminder that the Friends of Parks Awards nominations are now open, and they close on 30/6/2018. Our 2018 Educational Scholarship Program is also open and submissions close on the 2/3/2018.

Your Board has agreed to provide a 50% subsidy for members of Friends of Parks Inc. groups who may wish to attend the Gluepot Reserve 2018 Environmental Education Courses. These courses (up to 13 x two day courses) have been running at Gluepot for the past 15 years. Please see the FOP website for details.

Congratulations to Kaz Herbst who has been honoured in this years Australia Day Honours with an (OAM) Medal in the Order of Australia in the General Division for services to natural wildlife conservation in South Australia.

Kaz is a member of two FOP's Groups and is a life member of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA). He has worked closely with a number of DEWNR departments and has won a wide range of awards for his environmental work. Please refer to an article on Kaz in this newsletter.

A reminder about the 2018 Friends of Parks Forum to be held on the 14-16th September at Stenhouse Bay. I can assure you that this Forum will be something special (there is an incredibly efficient Committee working on the Forum preparation) and the Stenhouse Bay environment is something you will never forget – a place of great beauty and abundant wildlife.



Duncan MacKenzie OAM
President
FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.

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Notice

Friends of Parks Inc AGM 2018

30 April at Morialta Resource Centre*
9.30am for 10am start.

Documentation available on the [Friends of Parks website](#)

* from the Morialta /Stradbroke Roads intersection entry point to the park, follow the left slipway (just before a boomgate) 300m from the entry point, which leads to the two lower parking areas

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 Innesston.

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.

Items from our member groups newsletters, supplied literature and information

The Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary (AIBS) National Park – Winaityinaityi Pangkara draft management plan is now open for consultation!

[Message from Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary team in email of 2 February 2018, subject "AIBS national park draft management plan - have your say"]

"It's time to celebrate. After 3 years of establishing and growing strong community partnerships and working together to protect the future of some of the world's most precious migratory birds, we now have a draft management plan that will successfully guide the ongoing development of the national park that sits within the broader Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

This park plan is coupled with the Collective Plan, and captures our shared visions of a unique area that knits together the deep and enduring culture of the Kurna people, the annual journey of spectacular shorebirds and nature-based learning experiences for local communities and visitors from around the globe.

We invite you to download your copies [<http://naturalresourcesadelaide.mtloftyranges.cmail19.com/t/j-l-blykiut-zydidtdm-d/>] of both the park plan and collective plan and join us in the journey to create a park where people and nature are thriving. "

Follow AIBS on Twitter [@birdsanctuarySA](https://twitter.com/birdsanctuarySA), visit AIBS's [National Parks website](#) and consult '[Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary](#)' and other Facebook pages for information on how to get involved in bird sanctuary events.

For information on how to become a project partner, and other AIBS information, contact:

[Ms Arkellah Irving](mailto:arkellah.irving@sa.gov.au) [arkellah.irving@sa.gov.au], Community Involvement and Planning Coordinator, Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary, DEWNR. Ph. (08) 8463 7131 | 0409 426 371

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2017 Adelaide Shorebirds Festival - a great success

[from [Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary](#) newsletter of December 2017]

More than 3000 people attended events held in and around the Bird Sanctuary at the 2017 Adelaide Shorebirds Festival and Park of the Month celebrations.

In 2015 and 2016 the Shorebirds Festival was held as a one day event, but this year festival organisers chose to adopt a multi-event format with a program of activities spreading across the entire month of November. The festival also coincided with Nature Play SA's Park of the Month celebrations.

The combined program included 18 events and activities sponsored by 14 organisations, including Friends of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary, Birds SA, Birdlife Australia, City of Salisbury, Gawler Regional Natural Resource Centre, Discovery Circle, DEWNR, Adventure Kayaking SA, and Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries.

Festival goers and Bird Sanctuary visitors enjoyed snorkelling at Port Gawler, kayaking around Bird Island, and guided walks at Thompson Beach. Events such as the Sustainable Living Festival, St Kilda BioBlitz, and the St Kilda Family Funday organised by the City of Salisbury, attracted strong community participation.

The festival was launched on board the Dolphin Explorer on 4 November, with 300 guests enjoying a cruise of the Port River including the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary and the southern part of the Bird Sanctuary. Senior Ranger Tammy Leggett and Dolphin Sanctuary Conservation Officer Nikki Zanardo provided commentary on points of interest within both sanctuaries, and Kurna elder Aunty Lynette Crocker shared interesting insights into the Kurna connections with the area.

One of the highlights for festival organisers was the involvement of the Kurna community in seven of the activities, providing an opportunity to further develop the linkages between the traditional custodians of the land on which the sanctuary is situated and those of us who have come to care about it more recently.

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Bushfires and Biodiversity summary report

[information contained in an email of 23 Aug 2017 to Pam Smith (VPSU), this eNews editor, and dozens of others]

This report is part of the Australian Research Council Project, "Bushfires and Biodiversity: Optimising conservation outcomes in peri-urban* areas at risk" (LP130100406).

The key project objectives were to:

- identify perceptions of local residents regarding both the growing risk of bushfires and the need to conserve biodiversity in peri-urban areas;

- develop understandings of the relationships between perceived vulnerability to bushfire risks and people's demographic and geographical situations, as well as their level of knowledge of fire, conservation management and biodiversity;
- critically examine planning and policy goals in relation to bushfire and biodiversity conservation, identifying successes and limitations to determine best practice and pitfalls; and
- recommend directions for future planning and policy, by developing a response framework to best retain environmental value and mitigate risk for peri-urban spaces.

A total of 988 households responded to a postal questionnaire survey, providing information about their experiences, values and preferences related to bushfires and biodiversity impacts they had observed. Some 505 additional participants also provided feedback via focus groups, follow-up surveys and interviews.

The summary report has been prepared by Dr Emily Moskwa (Postdoctoral Fellow, University of South Australia and The University of Adelaide) on behalf of the research team. A copy of the report, filename B&B Summary Report (final edit Aug 2017).pdf (5MB), is available on the Friends of Parks website at www.friendsofparossa.org.au/literature_176167/Bushfires_and_Biodiversity_report. It is clearly of broad environmental interest, but may be of great personal interest to those of us who live in peri-urban areas.

The research team leader, Professor Guy Robinson, states "We would welcome any comments or queries you may have, which will help us produce a more considered final report in due course."

* Google offers definitions of peri-urban including as follows: the landscape interface between town and country, or the rural—urban transition zone.

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Community Monitoring Project

[from a 21/12/17 email from Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association (MMLAP) with embedded News Live blog of December 2017]

We (MMLAP) are still running our citizen science web page Community Conservation Cams.

Community Conservation Cams is an online citizen science forum where community members can share or view wildlife images taken from motion sensing cameras. This interactive webpage will display photos and videos of wildlife captured by citizen scientists using automated cameras as part of landscape scale monitoring programs. Forum users and visitors can also participate in discussions on the data collected.

The MMLAP has been working with SA Mallee farmers on malleefowl monitoring using automated cameras for many years. Whilst this event will focus on community malleefowl monitoring data, information relating to other bird species, native mammals, reptiles and introduced animals will also be included.

The forum welcomes contributions from wildlife citizen scientists everywhere.

The web page address is <https://www.malleefutures.org.au/forum/>

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Flora of Australia

[from Natural Resources Northern and Yorke YAKKA eNews of 13 Dec 2017]

[Flora of Australia](#) is available on a new digital platform that makes Australia's plant taxonomic information more accessible and user-friendly. It has information on the names, characteristics, distribution and habitat of Australian plants—14,000 profiles are already available online, with more on the way. While the main audience is botanists, Flora of Australia will also be useful for conservation and land managers, government/policy makers, researchers and members of the community with an interest in Australian plants. The new digital Flora of Australia was a joint project of the Australian Biological Resources Study, the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria and the Atlas of Living Australia.

The [Flora of Australia](#) [<https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa>] is a synthesis of present taxonomic knowledge of the country's flora. It has been designed for use by anyone wanting authoritative information on the names, characteristics, distribution and habitat of Australian plants. The website's home page offers the following approaches:

Search ... by name to find species, subspecies and higher taxa. Or find profiles by keyword search.

Browse ... the taxonomic hierarchy to find a profile, or enter a name in the Quick browse to see relevant taxa.

Identify ... plants based on their characteristics.

Filter ... tba

Library ... Access background information relating to Flora of Australia.

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Ken The Kopper

[light-hearted extract from the Friends of The Innamincka Reserves (FOIR) newsletter No7, 2017, page 7. Author not specified]



Photo: Erik Dahl



Photo: Kate Buckley

What a year it has been in Innamincka for "Law and Order"! There has not been a Policeman in Innamincka since the 1940s, and it is "thanks" to the generosity of the Sager Family, Victoria, that we again have a resident Policeman – but not without some disturbing "hi-jinx" on Ken's part. Ken 'went to pieces' on the journey up the Strzelecki to Innamincka. Steve and Judy Golley kindly offered to escort Ken on this trip. In the evening of the second day into the journey, Judy had reason to go to the wardrobe in their caravan. Steve, tending the fire outside heard Judy's shrill screaming and rushed inside to find Judy shaking and pointing to an arm that was protruding from the wardrobe....!!

Soon after Ken took up residence in the AIM building two Policemen visited Innamincka. For one, it was a farewell journey prior to retirement. They met with Erik in the Pub and after a few hours had transpired Erik told them that Innamincka again had a resident Policeman, so they wandered over to the AIM building to introduce themselves. They found Ken to be very stand-offish and non-responsive! It was only after a return visit the following morning that they fully understood 'Ken's position'.

Then there was the dreadful incident when Katheryn caught Ken with his trousers down!!! The FOIR took this incident seriously and Jan Hutchinson decided she would look into the matter. Once Ken was again safely attired, Gloria Paterson took the opportunity to discuss historical injustices.

Ken is an imposing presence and catches everybody by surprise when entering the AIM building. He is conscientious and never leaves his post, so you will be able to meet Ken when you are next in Innamincka.

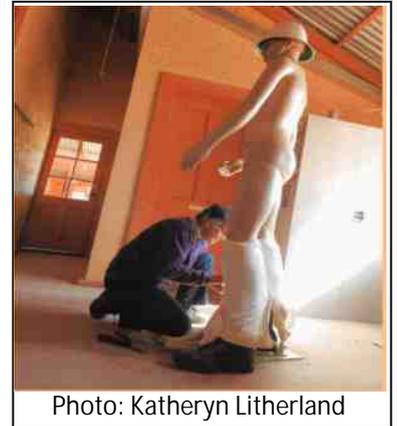


Photo: Katheryn Litherland

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Burke, the questionable hero!

[another extract from the Friends of The Innamincka Reserves (FOIR) newsletter No7, 2017, page 11. Author not specified.]

We have all long been 'fed' the heroic story of Burke & Wills and their tragic end on the Cooper Creek, from starvation. I have questioned the cause of their death for some years, given that the YY people seemed to be managing quite well in the same environment, and that King survived, albeit in the care of the YY – then why not the other two?? Was it their arrogance and refusal to eat what was obviously good food – or was there another story.....

Upon reading the marvellous book, "Dark Emu Black Seeds" by Bruce Pascoe, on pg 44 he quotes "King, on the doomed Burke and Wills expedition, found a store of grain in an Aboriginal house, which he estimated at four tons. John Davis, a member of one of the search parties for Burke and Wills, reported on the vast quantities of nardoo seed waiting to be harvested on the dry floor of Lake Coogicoogina in the Strzelecki Desert, reminding us that 'desert' is a term Europeans use to describe areas where they can't grow wheat and sheep". Pascoe's book clearly shows that Aboriginal people in all regions of Australia did harvest and store food. In the summer of 1874–75 a squatter made a trip to the Innamincka area accompanied by 'a native of Cooper's Creek'. The squatter visited the site of Burke and Wills' Depot. He moved further down stream to Innamincka Homestead, Aboriginies living there showed him the site where Burke died. An old woman told the squatter she had been there when Burke died, and told him what she saw. In the words of the squatter: "An old gin whom I spoke to recollected the explorers, and helped them to cover Burke's body with bushes after his death. She also affirmed that Burke had not died from starvation, but had been shot by 'nother one white fellow'! (pg 171 "The Aboriginal Story of Burke and Wills" edited by Ian D Clark and Fed Cahir).

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Tips for rescuing injured or orphaned wildlife

[extract from Good Living (minus the numerous pictures) of 24 November 2017]

Found an injured or stranded animal? Here's what you can do to help until you've got the experts on hand. If you came across an injured animal, would you know how to help it?

Wildlife carers have the special knowledge and permits needed to look after injured and orphaned native animals. But even if you are inexperienced, there are some things you can do to improve an animal's chances of survival until you can get it expert help.

First off, take note of these general guidelines:

Be aware of traffic

Never put yourself or other people at risk by stopping on a busy road, or swerving or braking suddenly, and remember that it is illegal to stop on the freeway. Always call the police if there is a threat to public safety, as they can direct traffic or contact traffic control to organise for things like lowering the freeway speed limits in order to rescue an animal safely.

Wear gloves

Most native animals have sharp claws, teeth, beaks or spines and will do their best to defend themselves if they feel threatened. Remember, they don't know you're trying to help.

Get help fast

Seek expert advice or get the injured animal to a vet or wildlife carer as quickly as possible, as this will improve its chances of survival.

Deliver if you can

Most wildlife carers will find it difficult to come to you, so if you can, be ready to bring the injured animal to them.

Choose a suitable container

If you do need to transport an injured animal yourself, ideally use a suitable-sized pet carrier or a cardboard box with holes punched for good ventilation.

Line it with something soft like an old towel, and make sure it can be sealed, as the last thing you want is a scared animal loose in your car while you're driving.

If you're in the car, you can improvise with something like an esky and a picnic rug. Remember that injured, orphaned and sick animals are stressed, so the darker and quieter the travelling arrangements, the better.

Call a vet

Most vets will accept injured native animals and birds, or be able to refer you to a practice that will. They may provide medical treatment, then pass the animal on to a wildlife carer.

Get the temperature right

Cold can kill, especially with baby animals that are used to their mothers' body heat, so wrap them up gently in a towel, blanket or jumper. For joeys, something pouch-like, like a pillow case or even a sock for tiny animals like baby possums, is ideal.

In cold weather, a hot water bottle full of warm (not hot) water can also be a great help, or just place the box in a warm spot. If the weather is hot, make sure you keep the animal in the shade, or ideally in an air-conditioned environment.

Don't try to feed them

Offer water but not food. Most native animals have very specific food requirements that human or household pet foods simply cannot meet. By feeding them, you may be creating a stomach upset, which makes matters worse.

Bear in mind that different species need to be cared for in different ways. Here are the basics:

Koalas

Call the Koala Hotline on 1300 KOALAS (1300 562 527). If you need to pick up a koala, lift it firmly under the front legs from behind, using a towel, blanket or thick jumper to protect you from its claws. Remember koalas can also inflict quite a nasty bite so handle with care.

Bats

Never handle bats, whether dead or alive, as all species can carry Australian bat lyssavirus, a rabies-like disease that can be fatal. Contact [Adelaide Bat Care](#) or [Fauna Rescue](#) for assistance.

Marsupials with joeys

If you find a dead marsupial like a kangaroo, wombat or possum by the road, check to see if it has a pouched young, as a baby may survive an accident even if the mother is killed.

If there is a joey, carefully remove it from the pouch, keep it warm and protected and do not feed it milk. Marsupials need a special lactose-free formula, so if it is going to be a few hours before you can get help, offer water to prevent dehydration but nothing else. If it is very young, you may need an eye dropper to carefully place water in the pouch of its cheek.

Birds

For adult birds, put the bird in a box and take it to a vet or a wildlife carer who specialises in birds.

If you see a baby bird on the ground with all its feathers and no obvious injuries, it may not need to be rescued. It may just be in the process of leaving the nest, so stand back and give mum and dad the space they need.

If it is at risk of attack, move it to a safe spot nearby where pets cannot get to it. The baby will call out when it's hungry, and the parents will be able to find it.

Marine mammals

If you see an injured or entangled seal, sea lion, whale or dolphin, call the nearest Natural Resource Centre (ph.8204 1910). Do not try to approach or assist an injured or entangled animal, as this is dangerous both for you and the animal.

Be aware that some seal and sea lion behaviour may look alarming, but is actually quite normal. Seals will lie on their sides in the shallows with one fin in the air – a practice known as fin surfing. They are not in need of help, but rather having a rest and using the fin in the air to regulate their body temperature.

Seal and sea lion mothers will also leave young pups alone on the beach while they go fishing for two to three days at a time. If a pup is removed from the beach, the mother will not be able to find it again. If a pup's ribs and spine are not easily visible, and it is not obviously injured, then it is probably fine.

All other animals

Call the RSPCA, a native wildlife rescue organisation or a vet for advice.

Where to go for help

For more help, try:

Adelaide Bat Care [<http://www.adelaidebatcare.com.au/>]

Australian Marine Wildlife Research and Rescue Organisation [<http://www.amwrro.org.au/>]

Fauna Rescue [<http://www.faunarescue.org.au/>]

Native Animal Network [<https://www.facebook.com/nativeanimalnetwork/>]

Minton Farm Animal Rescue Centre [<http://www.mintonfarm.org/>]

RSPCA [<http://www.rspcasa.org.au/>]

Note that this is not a comprehensive list. There are many regional rescue groups, some of which specialise and others that can assist with a variety of animals. An online search for "wildlife rescue" and your region should offer some options.

If you'd like to know how you can help native animals in hot weather, check out the GOOD LIVING blog [<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2017/12/Hot-weather-2>].

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What to do if you see a snake in the wild

[from GOOD LIVING blog for 21 December 2017]

Make sure you know how to deal with [snakes](#) as they make their reappearance in the warmer months. Here's the basics.

After a long winter sleep, snakes are on the move with two things in mind – finding food and finding a mate.

Snakes live all over South Australia and are common in the suburbs and at the beach, so don't think you'll never see one.

Eastern brown snakes are found everywhere, but each region has its local specialty – and they're all venomous.

- Adelaide Hills: red-bellied black snake
- River Murray and South East: tiger snake
- Eyre and Yorke peninsulas, especially near the coast: death adder
- Kangaroo Island: copperhead
- Northern SA: mulga snake

If you see a snake

- Leave it alone. Snakes are not likely to chase you, so it's best to leave them be.
- If you see a snake inside, get all people and pets out of the room immediately. Shut the door and fill the gap underneath with a towel, then call a professional snake catcher for assistance.
- If you see a snake outside, watch where it goes. If it's heading for the bush or an open paddock you probably won't see it again. If it disappears into a shed or under a vehicle, then you may need to call a snake catcher.

Tips for avoiding a snake bite

- Never try to catch or kill a snake yourself. This is when most bites happen.
- Remember that even little snakes can be dangerous. Baby brown snakes have venom right from the egg.
- Stick to the trails in national parks and reserves, and make a bit of noise when you walk.

- Keep your yard clear of long grass and rubbish so snakes have nowhere to hide.
- Rats and mice are a snake's smorgasbord, so clean up after the chooks and control rodents on your property.

If you are bitten

- Always assume the snake may be venomous.
- Sit quietly, as this will reduce the speed that the venom can move around your body.
- Call an ambulance.
- If you have a first aid kit, wrap a compression bandage tightly around the bitten limb, starting just above the fingers or toes and moving upwards on the bitten limb as far as can be reached.
- Remember what the snake looked like so you can tell the doctor.

Remember

- Snakes are protected native animals. It is illegal to kill them unless there is a direct threat to human life.
- Snakes have an important place in our ecosystem, especially in controlling rats and mice.

For more information on maintaining your property to reduce the likelihood of attracting snakes, visit [Living with Wildlife](#).

(This story was originally published in September 2015)

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Swamps, Tea Bags and Climate Change

[a post by [Tessa Roberts](#) of the Nature Glenelg Trust, reported in the NGT newsletter of January 2018]

So what do tea bags have to do with swamps?... and climate change?



Tea bags ready to go in, on private land in the Fleurieu Peninsula

A group of international researchers, with the help of citizen scientists, are using the humble tea bag to gain vital information on the global carbon cycle. This information will help them to create a global soil map and improve climate modelling!

NGT recently participated in the project, in association with Deakin University's Blue Carbon Lab, and we buried several hundred tea bags in swamps in south-west Victoria and also the South East and Fleurieu Peninsula regions in SA. These tea bags will be dug up at intervals over the next three years to see how much carbon our swamps are storing.



NGT's Ben Taylor burying and labeling tea bags

How do tea bags tell us about soil carbon?

Tea bags are filled with organic matter (tea leaves). These are buried in the soil for varying durations, and the before and after dried weight recorded to see how fast the tea has decomposed in the soil. When organic matter decays, it releases both nutrients and carbon dioxide. When organic matter decays slowly, carbon is stored in the soil.

Including swamps in this project will help us understand the role of our unique swamps in the global carbon cycle and their importance for mitigating climate change; putting our swamps 'on the map' and helping advocate for their protection and restoration.

For more information and how to be involved as a citizen scientist visit the [Tea Bag Index website](#).
<http://www.teatime4science.org/about/the-project/>

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Trees for Life Activities

[from information conveyed to VPSU by Trees For Life, then forwarded to Friends by email of 10/1/2018]

Bushcare Days

These are a practical way to give back to SA's bushland with no commitment to join. Activities are 9am–3.30pm onsite, half days welcome. Catch our bus from Brooklyn Park or at designated pick-up points, or meet us onsite.

Activity locations are decided according to weather conditions.

Bushcare Days during March are: Saturdays 3, 17 and Wednesdays 7, 14, 21 and 28.



Registrations essential via ph.8406 0500 or email randallb@treesforlife.org.au. There is no charge.

Introductory Bush Regeneration Workshops 2018

Learn the skills you need to take action for the land you love. Learn about

- the diversity of our native vegetation and basic ecology
- bush regeneration principles, strategies and method for improving bushland health
- minimum disturbance bush regeneration techniques
- working safely in the bush.

Book to reserve your place via ph.8406 0500 or email bfl@treesforlife.org.au.

Charges: \$55 full, \$25 concession, members no charge.

Ask about a 'Come & Try Bushcare' day if you'd just like to try it first.

Workshop Dates for 2018

March 8 at Marion

April 11 at Nuriootpa, 26 at Mount Barker

May 10 at Port Noarlunga, 26 at Modbury

June 5 at Strathalbyn, 21 at Port Adelaide

July 13 at Aldgate, 25 at Adelaide

August 11 at Elizabeth, 24 at Burnside

September 10 at Gumeracha

October 13 at Mitcham

November 19 at Victor Harbor

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William Creek Weather Station goes live

[from [Natural Resources SA Arid Lands](#) e-bulletin, Issue 79 December 2017]

The new William Creek weather station received its first rainfall reading of 8.2mm on 30 November.

William Creek has long been a weather monitoring blackspot but thanks to a joint initiative by the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and the Outback Communities Authority (OCA), it now has its own weather station.

The Marla Oodnadatta Natural Resources Management Group lobbied for the weather station to fill a gap in weather data and forecasting in the region, with the closest weather stations in Oodnadatta, Coober Pedy and Marla. With the weather station now live, pastoralists and residents in the region can access the real time data through software. This is an interim measure while BOM prepares software and programming to link the weather station data to the BOM site which is expected to be completed within 12 months.

A water and weather workshop was held to coincide with the station's official opening on November 24. The weather workshop looked at the current forecast and what might be expected from a weak La Niña over the summer months. Darren Ray from BOM and Susan Carn talked about some of the climate drivers for the region and some of the long range indicators for the seasons.

The current review of the Water Allocation Plan for the Far North Prescribed Wells was presented by [David Leek](#), Principal Policy Officer (details in the CURRENT CONSULTATION section of the above-mentioned issue of the e-bulletin).

SA Arid Lands NRM Board Presiding Member Janet Brook said purchasing the \$14,000 weather station is part of the Board's commitment to climate change initiatives in the region and is a great partnership with the Outback Communities Authority, and also the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) which will make the data available on its website within 12 months. [READ MORE AND DOWNLOAD WEATHER STATION SOFTWARE](#). (See also a [YouTube video](#) describing more on the background leading to this great accomplishment. Editor).

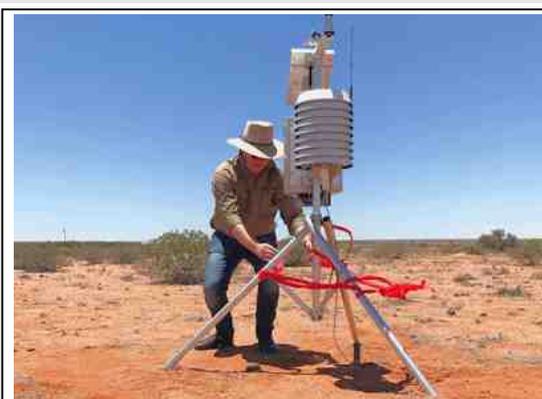


Photo: Mark Sutton General Manager of Outback Communities Authority officially opened the weather station at William Creek on November 24.

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Environmental Education Courses 2018 - Gluepot Reserve

At the 1 February 2018 Friends of Parks Inc. Board meeting, the Board's business plan sub-program, 'capacity building' for members of Friends of Parks was discussed.

The Board discussed the excellent Environmental Education Courses being offered by Gluepot Reserve (64 km north of Waikerie) during 2018.

The attached brochure has ten very interesting courses on offer (see link below):

- Getting to Know Reptiles, 10-11 March
- The Bats of Gluepot Reserve, 17-18 March
- An Introduction to Scientific Botanical Illustration 14-15 April
- GPS and GIS Workshop, 25-26 August
- Painting Nature 8-9 September
- Introduction to Birds and Birdwatching 22-23 September
- Cathemeral Kids Campout 29 September to Monday 1 October
- An Introduction to Bird Banding 13-14 October
- An Introduction to Nature Photography 20-21 October
- A Beginners Guide to Mallee Vegetation at Gluepot 3-4 November

It was decided that the Board will offer to subsidise half the cost for twenty (20) spots on these courses for members i.e. \$50 per person.

If you wish to register for any of the courses, please fill in the registration form (see below), and forward to Pam Smith, VSPU, as soon as possible, or no later than one month prior to the course date.

Your booking will then be confirmed, and you will be given a special code to make your booking online and pay the remaining \$49/course. The cost of each two-day course includes morning and afternoon teas, camping fees, and any course hand-out materials.

You can camp at the Reserve in one of the three camping grounds, but you will need to be fully self-sufficient in regard to your camping equipment, water, and food supplies (see the attached brochure for more information).

If you wish to register, please use the attached form, and send via your Friends Group Secretary/President for endorsement before sending to Pam.

If you have any questions about the courses, please call Danielle Packer on 0417 853 373.

 [Gluepot Reserve - Environmental Education Courses 2018 \(222 KB\)](#)

 [Gluepot Reserve - Registration form - Education Courses 2018 \(12 KB\)](#)

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Using Hoverflies to Understand how the Nervous System Codes Visual Information - 3rd April [from Butterfly Conservation Newsletter No.63 of January 2018]

Despite being equipped with low-resolution eyes and tiny brains, many insects show exquisite abilities to detect and use visual information. For example, male hoverflies are highly territorial and chase away conspecific males who enter their territories, whereas females are pursued for mating.

Hoverflies are not only interesting for their visual behavior, but are also one of our most important wild pollinators, which is important for our food production.

Associate Professor Karin Nordström did her PhD in the Lund Vision group, supervised by Professor Dan-Erik Nilsson, and a post doc with David O'Carroll at Adelaide University. Nordstrom then spent 6 years as a Research Fellow at Uppsala University, Sweden. She relocated to Flinders University in 2015 where she holds a position as Associate Professor in Anatomy and Histology.



Nordström's research is funded by grants from the ARC and the US Air Force. Her main passion lies in understanding how small brains, such as those of insects, manage to perform exquisite visual tasks. For this purpose she is investigating hoverflies, using a range of techniques, including electrophysiology, quantitative behavior, modelling, and extensive field work.

Nordström has published over 40 papers (many in high ranking journals) has supervised about 30 PhD, Masters, Honours and undergraduate students, many of whom are still in science. She is the state representative of the Australasian Neuroscience Society.

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Items contributed by members - to whom special thanks

Some Notes from Dene Cordes, Friends Founder, Patron, and Life Member

Friends of Old Government House

The group has recruited many new members and is in a strong position at present. The Gardening Group has done wonders with the grounds and the rejuvenation of the heritage gardens. Heritage Roses have been pruned and identified by the Rose Society of SA. The complex is open on the first Sunday of each month. Weddings are again being accepted in the grounds and group visits mid-week have increased in popularity.

A lot of publicity has seen increased visitation and promotions. The group held a very successful Christmas Brunch in December, when people enjoyed the food, the garden, and a look inside the Vice Regal Summer Residence of yesteryear.

National Parks Heritage Committee

The Annual General Meeting was held at the restored Commissioners' Shack in Belair National Park in December, and was well attended. A lunch was enjoyed and the weather was fine. Members were pleased to see the renovations that had been made and which were funded by the Committee.

Positions of office were elected as follows:-

President – Dene Cordes

Secretary- Treasurer – Geoffrey Chapman

Historian – Debbie Jeisman

The members all serve as the Committee.

Regret was expressed at the death of Minute Secretary, Dianne Cordes, on 25th May. She had been an untiring worker, a founding member, and a keen attender at events.

Death Of Val Conry

Val Conry, a former leading member of the Friends of OGH passed away on January 25th, 2018, at the Helping Hand, Ingle Farm. She was the beloved wife of David Conry who was a past President of the group for several years, and was very well liked – as was Val. Because David and Val were living in the north-east suburbs of Adelaide, it was a long drive to O.G.H. so they bought a campervan which they would place outside of the complex, and would stay several days at a time when doing work at O.G.H. David used to maintain and repair the interior of the Cellar.

Val was in charge of exhibits, while David was good at small maintenance, as well as being a thorough President. They put in a huge number of voluntary hours at O.G.H.

They were a friendly, happy couple who were very well liked. David passed away some years ago. Val continued on with her many interests including quilt-making at Tea Tree Gully. Contact became lost in the past several years, and she had moved into Helping Hand.

Val was the mother of Merrilyn, Shane and Leah, their families that included grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Val's funeral service was held on Friday, February 2, at 10.30 a.m, in the Harrison Funeral Chapel at Ridgehaven. We express our gratitude for the amazing work that the Conrys did at Old Government House.

Death of Garry Thompson

Garry Colin Thompson was born on February 23, 1938. He passed away at age 79 years on December 4, 2017. He was the dearly loved husband of Jenny, and the much loved father and father-in-law of Elizabeth and John. He was a cherished Poppa of Ellen and Nathan, Courtney, Brendan and Ashlea, Seirha and Nick, and a Great Pop of four.

Garry was a popular and well respected President of the Friends of Simpson Desert Conservation Park, which group grew and prospered under his leadership in the early 1980s. Garry and Jenny moved from Adelaide to Quorn where they continued with their conservation interests, especially the FOS group. When the group hosted the State Forum of Friends Groups in about 1994, Garry was a driving force for its success. Held in the District Hall at Hawker, every possible seat was taken up with the huge attendance. The Forum was memorable and greatly successful

Garry loved nature and sharing it with others, and he always spoke fondly of the Forum at Hawker. He always liked to go into National Parks Headquarters for a chat to the staff.

Condolences are extended to Jenny and her family from the many Friends Groups across the State.

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KI Friends Celebrate 20 years

[contributed by Colin Wilson, on behalf of Friends of KI Western Districts and Cape Gantheaume. Photos by Deb Laver.]

In 1986 Dene Cordes, then Community Liaison Officer with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, chaired a meeting in Kingscote to form a Friends of Parks on Kangaroo Island. It started enthusiastically but over time it gradually ran out of momentum. According to Garth Jackson who was one of those early volunteers it was sometimes difficult getting members to show up to working bees if there was a good surf running!

Then in June 1997, Dene came back to KI to facilitate a second, more focused attempt to establish Friends of Parks here. It was deemed more realistic to have two groups covering different parts of the island. The Friends of Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park group first met on 18 June 1997 at Murray Lagoon Park Headquarters and on the following evening Friends of Parks KI Western Districts met at Gosse Hall.

Over the years, the Friends of Cape Gantheaume have completed the D'Estrees Bay self-drive tour, protected Wright's Ruin and the Threshing Floor and managed weeds at D'Estrees Bay, undertaken revegetation at Murray Lagoon, constructed a viewing platform at Bald Hill, maintained the Timber Creek Walking Track, upgraded and maintained the walking trail at Beyeria Conservation Park, and completed numerous flora and fauna surveys.

Friends of Parks KI Western Districts have built and maintained the Return Road Hike, kept Flinders Chase and Kelly Hill Caves largely free of bridal creeper, contributed to the eradication of feral goats, carried out many flora and fauna surveys, revegetated the old access path to Admiral's Arch, rediscovered an 'extinct' butterfly, cleared remote beaches of washed-up rubbish, produced a guide to KI fungi, and are currently revegetating the decommissioned Shackle Road airstrip.

Between them the groups have received many financial grants to assist with their work programs, won many local and state awards recognising their endeavours, and run two Friends of Parks forums.

In December the two groups got together for a commemorative bus tour of their respective regions to celebrate some of their achievements. A visit to D'Estrees Bay and Murray's Lagoon to view projects undertaken by the Friends of Cape Gantheaume was followed by morning tea at Bales Bay where a number of people not on the bus tour joined the party. Several members received various long-service awards from DEWNR Regional Director Damian Miley, including Garth Jackson who has surpassed 40 years of dedicated volunteering for the organization. The bus continued out to Flinders Chase for lunch, the commemorative cake cutting and eating, and presentation of a few more long-service awards.

The day ended with a journey out to the Shackle Road airstrip to view the western group's restoration program and to collect more eucalypt seeds. These will be grown in tubes and planted out across the old airstrip this winter.

There are now four Friends groups on Kangaroo Island and a good number of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who look forward to another 20 years of service to our park estate.

For further information on Friends of Cape Gantheaume refer to <http://www.communitywebs.org/capeganth/> and to view the Friends of Parks KI Western Districts Facebook page go to <https://www.facebook.com/FPKIWD>.



Friends, volunteers and staff celebrating 20 years (in some personal cases up to 30 years) of Friends of Parks Cape Gantheaume and KI western districts



President of FOP KI Western Districts - Rick Andrews - and President FOP Cape Gantheaume - Daniel Rowley - cutting their 20 year Birthday Cake (made by Michelle Haby and decorated by Wendy Penhall)

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Award of OAM to Kaz Herbst

[information provided through George Sobolewski, Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA), Conservation and Wildlife Management, from text and photos provided by Kym McKenney, also of SSAA Conservation and Wildlife Management]

Kaz was honoured this Australia Day 2018 "For service to natural wildlife conservation in South Australia". On the surface that does not really tell of the untold hours of selfless dedicated gratis service provided to many organisations over the last 25 years. But as Kaz said, "It was a labour of love, I have enjoyed every moment of the journey".

Kaz was a founding member of the then Hunting & Conservation Branch (now Conservation and Wildlife Management CWM) way back in 1992 and has been heavily involved ever since, serving with H&C/CWM variously over time as President, Vice President, Secretary, Councillor, Range Officer, Advocate, Delegate, Coordinator, Team Leader, Team Member, Mentor, and in his own inimitable way, Agitator.



Kaz Herbst

To see Kaz without his bulging lever arch file of paper work is to see Kaz almost naked!

Recognition for effort has come from other areas as well, and these include a pair of Certificates of Appreciation from Nature Foundation SA; Operation Bounceback letter 'thanking you for your contribution'; Natural Resources Community Connect Certificate of Appreciation for 'enthusiastic and thoughtful contribution'; a finalist in the Rotary Club of Glen Osmond Volunteer of the Parks Award; an Australian Sports Medal for 'services to shooting' with the citation signed off by no less than PM John Howard. Oh by the way, Kaz is a life member of CWM as well.

Kaz has been involved with culls throughout the State and they include the Vulkathunha-Gammons Ranges NP, Ikara-Flinders Ranges NP, Witjira NP, Dutchman Stern, Bimbowrie CP, Boolcoomatta Rsrv, Gawler Ranges NP, Pest-Cam at Chowilla, Narrung, Witchelina, Washpool, South East, Bunkers Reserve, Morialta, Willunga, Adelaide Hills orchards, Coonalpyn, Para Wirra, Onkaparinga Gorge and Yankaninna.

Throw into the mix continual attendance at meetings and conferences throughout this State and Victoria/New South Wales over 25 years and one can imagine Kaz would almost need directions to get home.

In the early days, H&C used to spend a week in the Flinders, we then headed north to the Gammons for a further week. Limited refrigeration in those times meant an interesting menu selection: this tin or that tin of food and how many Imodium tablets to go with them! One hand-held CB radio per team and a midday radio sked call from the nearest highest peak and only paper maps available all helped develop lasting memories.

A round trip to the Gammons/Witchelina is about 1600 km give or take, and Witjira on the Northern Territory border is about a 2000 km round trip.

Attending meetings at Hawker, Port Augusta and Oraparinna certainly proved Kaz's commitment to the cause of conservation of Australian flora and fauna. Add a few trips with the Outback Consultative Committee across the Simpson Desert, the Riverland and Innamincka and you begin to understand why the trusty Suzuki had so many kilometres on the odometer.

Kaz's favourite location is the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges. His worst moments involve flat tyres and getting bogged at Nature Foundation SA Nature Reserve, Witchelina occasioning a 10 km pitch black night walk back along a boggy wet clay track.

And from the [SSAA National website](#)

From vital feral goat control that was pivotal in restoring the diminishing Flinders Ranges, to protecting new populations of previously extinct western quoll, SSAA member Kaz Herbst has been on the frontline of conservation for more than 25 years. Now, his many trips to outback South Australia, countless volunteer hours and dedication to protecting our native wildlife has been recognised with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the 2018 Australia Day Honours List.

Kaz's list of voluntary roles is inspirational. He has served as President of the SSAA SA Conservation and Wildlife Management (SSAA SA CWM) branch, educated newcomers to our recreation as a mentor, fulfilled the role of Range Officer and coordinated many much-needed cull activities. In his typical modest fashion, Kaz described how he was "surprised at the nomination", saying his involvement in a myriad of conservation initiatives "wasn't much of a sacrifice as I've enjoyed it all!"

The OAM, for service to natural wildlife conservation in South Australia, pays tribute to a legacy of conservation work by Kaz, who was one of the first members of SSAA SA CWM when it was formed to combat feral goats in the Flinders Ranges in 1992. This led to Operation Bounceback, which saw SSAA SA CWM members target foxes, feral cats, rabbits, donkeys, and feral goats.

Today, Bounceback has paved the way for the resurgence of the western quoll and yellow-footed rock-wallaby, with Kaz also serving as Vice President of the Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby Preservation Association Inc. Of his award, Kaz paid tribute to SSAA SA CWM and the key role his fellow members played in Bounceback. "I'm only

one person, SSAA SA CWM is a big organisation, as is the Sporting Shooters," he said. "If it wasn't for SSAA, none of this would be possible."

Fellow SSAA SA CWM founding member Gil Hartwig was awarded an OAM for his service and role in Bounceback in 2007.

Along with his involvement in SSAA SA CWM, for which he has been awarded life membership, Kaz has sat on consultative committees for the South Australian Government, helping guide the management of National Parks. He is a member of two key National Parks Friendship Groups and a founding member and past-president of the Monarto Pistol and Shooting Club.

Today, Kaz is still a passionate shooter. He continues to participate in state government-sanctioned feral and pest animal shooting activities in the National Parks and enjoys attending the State Shooting Range at Monarto. He will be presented the OAM at a ceremony to be held at Government House in Adelaide in April. Learn more about SSAA CWM groups, including how to join.

From [The Governor General's website](#)

The Medal (OAM) of The Order of Australia in the General Division has been awarded to Mr Kazimierz Herbst for service to natural wildlife conservation in South Australia.

Services include

Founding Vice President, Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby Preservation Association (Bunkers Conservation Reserve), since 1997.

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA): Founding Member, Activity Coordinator and Team Leader, Conservation and Wildlife Management, South Australia Branch, since 1992. Past President and Secretary. Life Member.

Co-ordinator, 'BounceBack' Program, South Australia National Parks, since 1992.

Co-ordinator, 'Feral Predator' Program, Flinders Ranges National Park, for over 20 years.

Nature Foundation South Australia. Member since 2000.

Inaugural Member, Friends of the Nature Foundation Committee, since 2008.

Member, Nature Reserve Management Committee, since 2009.

Former Feral Animal Control Expert, National Parks and Wildlife Outback Consultative Committee, Department of Environment and Natural Resources South Australia, 1990s.

Member, National Park Heritage Committee, for many years.

Member, Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park, current.

Member, Friends of Flinders Rangers National Park, current.

Founding Member and Past President, Competitive Pistol and Shooting Club, Monarto.

Founding Member, Porsche Club of South Australia, since 1974 and past Committee Member, Magazine Editor and Life Member.

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Breakfast on the Beach teaches local dogs to share

[News release provided by Charlene Riley, Media and Communications Coordinator, Natural Resources SE, DEWNR]

Local dogs and their humans got together recently to enjoy a breakfast on the beach at Dogs' Breakfast events across the coast.

Part of Natural Resources South East's Coastal Connections program, the Dogs' Breakfasts were held at Robe, Kingston and Port MacDonnell.

Friends of Shorebirds SE Secretary, Maureen Christie, said the breakfasts, now in their 8th year, were a fun and informal way for dog owners to learn about how to share the beach with local wildlife.

"We had a great turnout at each event this year," Ms Christie said.

"In particular we wanted to raise awareness about the small Hooded Plovers who lay their eggs in the sand just above the high water mark."

"These birds and their nests are especially vulnerable to disturbance, so it's important that pet owners are aware of these birds and that they know how to ensure that pets, vehicles and other beachgoers don't have a negative impact on this habitat."

"This year Sharn Lucas also demonstrated positive training techniques with the help of her Australian Collie, Mya."

"It was lovely to have so many people and their pets share this message at each breakfast."

Despite some wet and blustery conditions at Kingston, 26 people and 18 dogs crowded into the Lions Park rotunda for the session. With more comfortable weather at Robe, 50 people and 35 dogs attended, and 42 people and 23 dogs made their way to the Port MacDonnell breakfast.

"We couldn't run these events without the time and input from local Vets – Kingston Vet Clinic, Gambier Vets, and Millicent Vets, and the support of local councils and the South East Animal Welfare League. It was great to also offer micro-chipping this year."



Caption tba

Dogs' Breakfast events are organised by Friends of Shorebirds SA and supported by Natural Resources South East and the Limestone Coast Local Government Association, funded by the Australian Government through the Limestone Coastwatchers project. The events were run as part of Natural Resources SE's Coastal Connections program for the first two weeks of January 2018. It is hoped to repeat them again next year.

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Extended Field Trip 2017 - Friends of Private Bushland

Contributed by Eleanor Handreck, Friends of Private Bushland

In mid-September, 2017, Friends of Private Bushland embarked on a six day camping trip to visit bushland properties and reserves in the Mallee.

Our first visit was to a property (appropriately called Allt-Y-Maen, which is Welsh for 'Hillside of Rock') in the dry-stone-wall country in the eastern Hills. The landscape is classified as Lomandra Grassland. The owners have used lots of recycled materials to build a very interesting house, which they have creatively constructed around the ruins of the old homestead. They also own a second property – a bushland block - which is gradually being covered in regenerating vegetation.

We camped the first two nights at Meldanda Community Garden, which straddles the River Marne. During both nights, we were serenaded by an enormous chorus of banjo frogs. We were woken at the end of the first night there by a very strong and squally wind change.

That morning, we visited a nearby Cambrai property whose owner showed us the on-ground results of his rather controversial views on the management of grazing land. The previous evening, he'd explained his ideas relating to pasture-management. He also spoke about his ideas for conserving wombats.

In the afternoon, we returned to Meldanda for a guided walk (in some gentle rain) around the property, which was gifted to the town's school by a local landowner. It provides a variety of local vegetation and fauna educational opportunities and outdoor recreational activities. There is a seed orchard that produces seed of local plants. Meldanda is also part of the project (from cuttings) to propagate the highly endangered Spiny Daisy (*Acanthocladium dockeri*). In addition, the Mid-Murray Landcare SA and its involvement in the management of Meldanda is seeking international accreditation to become a "Night Sky Reserve". Due to the very low night-sky light pollution, viewing of the solar system at this and surrounding areas will be welcomed by the Astronomical Society of SA and other interested parties.

That evening, a very enthusiastic young lady talked about the Yookamurra Sanctuary, a 1100-ha area of old-growth mallee. A fox- and cat-proof fence protects at-risk native mammals that include burrowing bettongs, woylies and numbats. Other Yookamurra residents include hairy-nosed wombats, mallee fowl and painted frogs. Sixty-five reptiles and 118 bird species have been recorded there.

The next day was spent at a 188-acre mallee bushland property which the owners had purchased about 5 years ago. With 141 native plant species (including what they believe is the largest Red Mallee in the world), and 88 bird species - plus numerous invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, fungi and lichens - it is a 'rich' area. There are some herbaceous weeds, but they are being systematically removed. An interesting, off-grid house made of recycled materials and repurposed items is being constructed there.

We spent the next morning at the excellent Swan Reach Museum. Its displays included aboriginal artefacts and early European memorabilia.

After lunch beside the mighty Murray, we visited Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park. This 49-ha Park, which is jointly managed by the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association and the SA Government, consists of high cliffs that drop down to the River.

During our visit, we were taken along a boardwalk to the cliff-top. (In the past, the cliff-top acted as a lookout for when neighbouring groups came to trade food supplies for rocks.) Along the way, we saw ancient mussel-shell-strewn campsites that are believed to be up to 5000 years old. On a lower path, we visited the men's camp, where we saw sea-shells that were imbedded in the cliffs as well as rock-carvings. A short distance away, at the

women's camp, where there were more rock carvings, one of which reminded the men that, if they returned late from a hunting trip, they weren't allowed into the women's and children's camp until after sunrise.

The next day's property visit took the group to a bushland area that included both stony and sandy areas. On the rocky areas, there were quite widely-spaced trees and a variety of shrubs, whereas on the sand-dunes, the understorey was dominated by a *Triodia* sp.

That afternoon, we called in at Bakara Conservation Park, where we inspected a fenced-off area of vegetation. Some years ago (figure unknown), the area inside the fence had had its vegetation cut. The eucalypts have coppiced, and the shrubs have regrown. Progress of the plants is being monitored. The fence excludes rabbits - and possibly kangaroos - from the area. The Park provides habitat for mallee fowl.

We spent that night at a property that has a 500-m river and lagoon frontage. Away from the river, the owners are doing some grassland restoration work.

The final morning of the trip was spent at a 125-ha property which has a large area of wombat warrens. The owner estimated that the wombat population there was 250 – 300 animals. Such a large population meant that all the grass in the vicinity had been eaten. In addition, large areas had been 'ploughed up' by the wombats in their search of the bulbs of the non-natives Lesser Guildford 'Grass' (*Romulea minutiflora*, which is actually an iris and not a grass) and Thread Iris (*Moraea sedifolia*). Groups of a colourful *Maireana* sp. (what looks like 'flowers' are actually *Maireana* fruits) were close nearby.

There were two bushland areas on this property. Decades ago, the eucalypts in the first one had been, for many years, cut for firewood. We saw some interesting lichens between the understorey shrubs. The second area had been left undisturbed, so was of very high quality.

In the afternoon, we visited the Moorunde (the aboriginal word for 'big river') Sanctuary. The Sanctuary boasts some very attractive but sturdy descriptive signs which had been paid for with money that our group had donated to the Sanctuary. During our leisurely walk around the Sanctuary, we saw many wombat paths, but we didn't see any active warrens.

At the end of the trip, members of Friends of Private Bushland thanked John Bouilly for having organised and led a very successful trip.



Ngaut Ngaut - Murray River and cliff.

Photo: John Bouilly



'Sun' rock carving in women's camp at Ngaut Ngaut CP.

Photo: Chris Thompson



One of the interpretative signs at Moorunde Reserve paid for by FOPB.

Photo: John Bouilly

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Friends of Cobbler Creek (FOCC) Report for Friends of Parks 2018

[provided by Stephen Rogers, President Friends of Cobbler Creek Recreation Park]

Cobbler Creek Recreational Park (CC) continues to be much appreciated by the local community. The park is surrounded by urban development. It is public space where people can come and connect with the nature. The developments of the bike trails and the Kites and Kestrels playground are continuing to attract visitors. It is very important to have enough natural space nearby in our modern connected era. We are thankful to the people who had the wisdom to protect the park from urban development years ago, when it was threatened. As the world changes around the park's border the future generations will thank them too. Also, we remember the Kaurna People who are still connected to the land, the wind still blows through the leaves of the trees that shaded the ancestors.

FOCC is recognised as voluntary custodians of the natural space and we have the impact of showing a way to sustain the park for future generations. We carry out various activities and always willing to pass on wisdoms to educate, as well as to conduct conservation activities.

Cobbler Creek land has lots of weeds and FOCC are engaged in trying to prevent the whole park becoming a massive weed seed bank. We conduct regular working bees each month. It is a good time to catch up, do some great work and leave the park knowing we have helped. To increase the scope of weeding we have developed a voluntary custodian plan called the Mellor Plan, named in commemoration of past FOCC member, the late John Mellor. We train volunteers on weeds and removal techniques then equip them so they can come into the park at a time that suits them to conduct weeding patrols. They are modern custodians and can wander around removing weeds or they can establish themselves a patch that they can work on over time. This has proven to be effective

in clearing areas of weeds and it is a pleasure to watch nature work its magic as the endemic plant species naturally return. As the plants establish themselves then the insects return. Shake a ruby saltbush in seed onto a plastic sheet and see the bugs that exist there. The chain of life evolves and it is wonderful to be part of positive impacts.

Education is very important for the future so FOCC have engaged in local schools to come and visit. We have an established relationship with Golden Grove High School whose Yr 8's come and do some planting and weeding for a school day. Last year Shanelle Palmer, FOCC education and working bee coordinator, conducted a school program that had many surrounding schools come and visit the park last year. Our hope is that local schools will adopt a patch and maintain a presence within the park over the years. It would be difficult to conduct these activities without the support of FOP, DEWNR, NRM Education, grants, and talented volunteers.

Each March for many years we conduct a Clean up Australia Day (CUAD) in the park and surrounding roads. This year the date is set Sunday 4 March, unless it is unsafe to do so. The [CUAD website](#) has all the information. Tea Tree Gully and Salisbury Councils are also assisting with the collection of the bagged rubbish off the easements. We link up with Golden Grove Lions Club along The Grove Way. It is great to be partners with other organisations, all contributing to a better world. It is always disappointing to see how much accumulated rubbish each year that is left by people. However, it is a very positive feeling to remove their traces from the way.

FOCC has received a grant to develop an interpretive garden next to the new Kites and Kestrels park. It is aimed to show visitors different native plants that are in the park and entice them to go and discover them in the surrounding bush. We expect to begin work this year. We have wonderful people and a wonderful area. We have time to make a real difference in this little part of the world. Together we can change the world for future generations.

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[Supporting Nature along our walking trails](#)

Walk for the Heysen 2018

Bridgewater Oval – Sunday 29 April 2018

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

This year we have moved to Bridgewater Oval, to be closer to the city in order to attract more participants and supporters. Once again, there will be a number of guided walks from the oval, and a BBQ lunch will be provided by the Adelaide Hills Kiwanis Club.

Details will be available on the Foundation website (wbheysentrailfoundation.org.au) and social media.

John Wilson
Secretary



WARREN
BONYTHON
HEYSEN TRAIL
FOUNDATION

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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. We apologise for any omissions. Please let Pam Smith, VSPU, know of anyone who should be added to the list.

Collin Griffen
Betty Klau
Garry Thompson
Val Conry
Cyril Davis
Harm Folkers

Friends of Onkapringa Parks
Friends of Telowie Gorge Conservation Park
Friends of Simpson Desert Conservation Park
Friends of Friends of Old Government House
Friends of Telowie Gorge Conservation Park
Friends of Telowie Gorge Conservation Park

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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.friendsofparksa.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 510 '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.

For workshops and events for 2018 organised by Adelaide and Mt Lofty Natural Resources visit <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidentloftyranges/education/landholder-education>.

Consider participation in the [Earth Hour](#) [24 March, 8.30pm local time], the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment.

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).

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

(30 Nov 2017 GOOD LIVING hint) Many parks have interactive maps available through [Avenza Maps](#) which you can download to your smartphone. With GPS switched on you can see yourself as a moving blue dot on the trail.

Watch the Friends of Scott Creek CP informative 9 minute [YouTube](#) video which reports on the splendid ongoing effort by the Friends on park maintenance and conservation of remnant native vegetation called the Almada Project. Much to learn from this video.

(reference to the video is sourced from the Sedge Snippet of December 2017)

Possibly a different bushwalking experience - the River Murray Walk - might appeal to some walkers. Sample the organiser's website first on its [Gallery page](#) for what you might see and experience, then explore the website's other sections according to interest.

[[this reference sourced from the GOOD LIVING 25 January 2018 issue]

Landholder Education

"Manage your land more sustainably...there are many exciting events to choose from!" ... says Jemma van den Bos, Sustainable Agricultural Officer, Adelaide and Central Hills District, Natural Resources Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges, Parks & Regions, DEWNR, who suggests visiting <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftryranges/education/landholder-education> to find out more.

Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management Magazine now available online at <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/landcare-magazine/>

ON TRACK 2010-2017 [5th edition (pdf, 6.3MB)]

Delivering natural resources management in the SA Arid Lands region
Produced on behalf of the SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board, On Track is a report to our community on the progress made in delivering the 10-year SA Arid Lands Regional NRM Plan.
Click [here](#) to download.

Keep up with all the latest from the Botanic Gardens of South Australia.
Visit the websites of [The Botanic Gardens of South Australia](#), or of the individual gardens: the [Adelaide Botanic gardens](#), the [Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens](#), and the [Wittunga Botanic Gardens](#).

Consider the invitation appearing in the Friends of Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks Newsletter No.198 to participate in the 'EYES ON EYRE' COASTAL SURVEY that has been requested by Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula. The survey can be completed online at - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BJ76P6G>.

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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.