

Your support will mean the world to

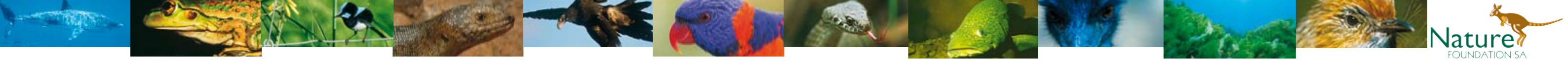


End of Financial Year Vital Work Appeal

(see page 3)

Save protect restore





President's Letter

Greetings to all our loyal members and supporters!

It would be easy to become overwhelmed by the task we face of reversing some of the desperate problems facing the natural environment in South Australia.

Only recently we have heard that the Eyre Peninsula Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo is again in dire straights following the loss of food plants and nesting hollows as a result of the Southern Eyre Peninsula bushfire. This beautiful bird is struggling with the common problem facing many endangered species in South Australia: fragmentation and loss of habitat. Your generous donations are being applied directly on the ground to this situation by replanting key native species, fencing precious remnants and experimenting with supplementary feeding.

The same is the case with the Pygmy Bluetongue lizard that our recent appeal



will assist with valuable funds. The Red-tailed Black Cockatoo of the South East of South Australia, which depends on shrinking remnants of Buloke and Stringybark woodland, has similar problems.

I am fortunate to keep some balance in all these matters by working with young people in the environmental courses at our three universities, and particularly at the moment, with the University of SA Mawson at Lakes. The above photograph shows my weekly lecture group of about 180 students as we tackle the current environmental issues involving water, energy and biodiversity. It is encouraging to find a vital and dedicated concern for the environment in many of these young people who will be the conservationists and environmental carers of the future. Do not despair the future is in good hands!

Best wishes to all, David Moyle AM

Nature Trivia Questions

- Question 1:** If you see an emu with its chicks – what is the gender of the adult?
 - Question 2:** Which of the following has gills? A butterfly, a millipede, or a slater?
 - Question 3:** Which insect has the greater number of wings? A louse, a blowfly or a mayfly?
 - Question 4:** Which of the following is most closely related to humans? A squid, a sea urchin or an abalone?
 - Question 5:** Do sleepy lizards get bigger or smaller from southern SA to northern SA?
 - Question 6:** Which of the following is a native Australian butterfly? The Monarch, the cabbage white or the common brown?
 - Question 7:** In nature which is the largest bovid cow-like species?
 - Question 8:** Do crows live in the Adelaide area?
- See page 7 for answers

Pygmy Bluetongue update



▲ PYGMY BLUETONGUE RECOVERY TEAM MEMBERS USE AN OPTISCOPE TO LOOK DOWN A BURROW.

Thanks to over \$15,000 being raised in the Nature Foundation's Summer Appeal, the future looks brighter for this iconic South Australian species. Since the rediscovery of the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard in 1992, 22 populations have been discovered. Although two PhD's and several scientific studies have been undertaken on different aspects of this lizard's life history and ecology, the area encompassed by each population is still unknown.

The funding from the Nature Foundation will enable members of the local community to be actively involved in learning how to search and identify Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard holes. They will also be trained in the use of an optiscope to look down the burrows to find the Lizards.

The knowledge gained from this project will contribute significantly to the species' management. Once the physical dimensions of each population is known, it will be possible for landholders and local councils to implement favourable land management practices, thereby ensuring the continued survival of the lizards.

Native freshwater fish crisis

Native fish in South Australia's Murray-Darling Basin, Adelaide and Mount and Lofty and South East regions have been doing it tough in the current drought. The prolonged dry conditions have been particularly devastating for threatened fish populations which are already under pressure from the long term effects of altered water flow and other threats resulting in declining distributions across their former ranges.

Fish at risk in South Australia include the endangered Southern Purple Spotted-Gudgeon (pictured) and Southern Pygmy

Perch, and the nationally-threatened Yarra Pygmy Perch and Murray Hardyhead. Some local extinctions of threatened fish populations have already occurred, and urgent action is required to help prevent further losses.

Recent rescue operations have been underway in an attempt to save populations of threatened fish that have been marooned in shallow and drying pools of water as their habitat dries up. Native Fish Australia (SA) has rescued a number of Yarra Pygmy Perch and Southern Purple Spotted-Gudgeon, and is holding

them in captive facilities in an attempt to keep the fish alive until habitat conditions improve when they can be released back to the wild. Further capture efforts, holding facilities, translocations and localised habitat management may be required if water levels drop further.

For further information contact Dr Michael Hammer (a recipient of Nature Foundation research funds) at Native Fish Australia (SA): michael@bold.net.au

Vicki-Jo Russell
State Coordinator
Threatened Species Network (SA)



Your support will mean the world to



Vital Work Appeal

The Nature Foundation seeks your support to continue all the work that we do in saving threatened species, protecting our precious natural environment and supporting revegetation projects.

Much of our work is unglamorous but gives vital behind-the-scenes support to those in the field that are working so hard to Save, Protect and Restore our precious natural environment.

Please give as generously as you are able and remember that all donations to Nature Foundation SA are fully tax-deductible.

Members events

Please call 8340 2880 to book into any of the following:

Thursday 28th June 1.00pm-3.00pm
Antarctica! - \$25

Talk & slideshow by Barbara Hardy over light lunch at the Nature Foundation

Sunday 8th July 9.30am – 4.30pm.
Monarto Zoo Bus tour - \$45

Lunch and a tour of Monarto Zoo including morning tea at Callington's Lavende

Tuesday 18th Sept 10.30am – 2.30pm
Botanic Gardens Tour - \$25

Meet at Plane Tree Drive Entrance for Tour and light lunch

Thursday 18th Oct 9.30am – 4.30pm
Wetlands/Winery Bus Tour - \$55

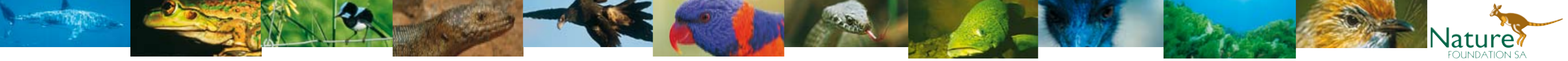
Visit Mt Barker's Laratinga Wetlands and enjoy lunch at Kuitpo's scenic K1 winery.

Friday 9th November – **Annual Dinner at the Adelaide Zoo** - \$79

Will sell out – book now to avoid disappointment.



▲ BANROCK STATION TOUR PARTICIPANTS TAKE A BREATHER DURING THEIR WALK ACROSS THE DRYING WETLAND. ALANNA MITCHELL IS AT FAR RIGHT.



Vital research continues

On this page we describe four research projects that have been financially supported by the Nature Foundation SA.

The more donations we receive the more research and hands-on conservation work we can fund.

Research Title: The effect of population fragmentation and isolation on the reproductive biology, genetic status and population viability of two species of wombat in South Australia conducted by Elise Sparrow from the Royal Zoological Society

The results of this research study so far have suggested that wombats from an isolated population (with possibly low genetic variation) may be associated with a change in the reproductive parameters of males which could affect the fertility of these animals. More information will be known about this when the reproductive status of female wombats are examined later this year. The study will also examine what impact artificial barriers and wildlife corridors have on the migration and outbreeding of fragmented wombat populations in the southeast of SA.



Research Title: Transfer of the nationally endangered western-barred bandicoot to the Arid Recovery Reserve

The Friends of Arid Recovery is planning to conduct a transfer of the nationally endangered western-barred bandicoot into the Arid Recovery Reserve near Roxby Downs. The aims of the project are to increase the genetic diversity of the western-barred bandicoot population in Arid Recovery, and establish a viable population of bandicoots in the reserve in the hope that the future of this nationally endangered species can be secured.



Research Title: Risks associated with the invasive tick *Amblyomma triguttatum* and strategies for management.

The ornate kangaroo tick *Amblyomma triguttatum* is a parasite of livestock and wildlife in QLD WA and SA. The species is invasive in SA with several populations now established on southern Yorke Peninsula. The tick can cause considerable damage to human and animal health, biodiversity, and the economy, particularly in rural areas where it prevails.

Previously we have funded an Honours Student, Helen Waudby from the University of SA and now we will support a larger project over the next three years by Sophie Petit of the University of SA. This research aims to identify the risks associated with the kangaroo tick infestation on public/ animal health, and the rural economy including tourism and the biodiversity of native animals. It will also develop a plan for minimising contact between livestock, humans, native wildlife and ticks based on

their ecology. The plan will also raise public awareness of the tick.

Research Title: Resolution of the taxonomy and conservation status of the nationally endangered mound spring endemic *Eriocaulon carsonii sensu lato*

This important research work was conducted by Flinders University student Rick Davies on the species complex *Eriocaulon carsonii* (Pipewort) in the mound springs of central and eastern Australia. This complex consists of rare perennial mat-forming forbs endemic to these particular mound springs that occur across a range of over 1500 km and are associated with the Great Artesian Basin.

The study has concluded that the complex consists of five distinct taxa including three subspecies of *E. carsonii* and two new distinct species. All taxa are nationally and critically endangered according to IUCN criteria except for one species which is vulnerable. The researcher concluded that these springs contain populations that are unique and thus deserve a high priority when considering the allocation of conservation resources. The capping of bores near these springs and their legal protection is also of the highest priority.

The Nature Foundation SA is supporting research over the next three years on the aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates in this ecologically diverse area and Andy Austin from the University of Adelaide will conduct this research.



New Era for Philanthropy



The Nature Foundation recently invited John McLeod, a Director of Goldman Sachs/JB Were, to share some thoughts with us on trends in philanthropic giving in Australia and the new concept of a Prescribed Private Fund. Here is an excerpt of what he shared with us.

After several decades of financial prosperity, Australian family wealth has grown strongly, especially where families are having fewer children, later in life. A huge wave of intergenerational wealth transfer has also started, possibly amounting to \$600Billion over the next 20 years. Concerns about global and domestic social problems plus a

desire to have some say about how taxes are spent, are also contributing factors for individuals in seeking smarter ways of managing this wealth transfer.

In some situations, the establishment of a private charitable foundation may be a sensible option for families wishing to support worthy causes. Recent changes to Government legislation have greatly simplified the establishment process for these foundations. The Australian Taxation Office has a model Trust Deed available on its website (www.ato.gov.au/nonprofit) under Deductible Gift Recipient, Prescribed Private Funds).

These Prescribed Private Funds have proved very popular over the last 5 years

with around 600 being established and donations to them totalling almost \$1billion. They have also given away over \$150million to a wide variety of charities. There are also a number of other philanthropic vehicles available which may be more suitable depending on donor's particular requirements but overall, the trend towards larger and more structured philanthropy in Australia is growing rapidly.

Nature Foundation members seeking information on Prescribed Private Funds, making a bequest or other ways to best structure their donations to charitable causes are invited to call Brian Haddy at the Foundation office on 8340 2880 for a confidential discussion.

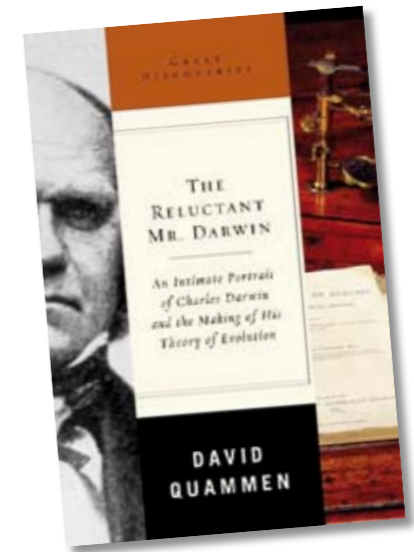
The Reluctant Mr. Darwin

Book review by guest reviewer, Allan Holmes

An intimate portrait of Charles Darwin and the making of His Theory of Evolution by David Quammen. Atlas Books - W.W.Norton 11:17 AM Co.

David Quammen is one of my favourite natural history writers and his *The Song of the Dodo* is one of the great books on evolution. Quammen has produced another masterpiece with *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*. It is best described as a short biography of Charles Darwin but it is much more.

Quammen's writing is accessible, concise and interesting. With his background as a student of evolution, he brings an authority and a breadth of knowledge. What you will get from this book is an appreciation of Darwin's genius and his ordinariness. You will also understand how Victorian society allowed Darwin's heresy and how persistence was his greatest attribute.



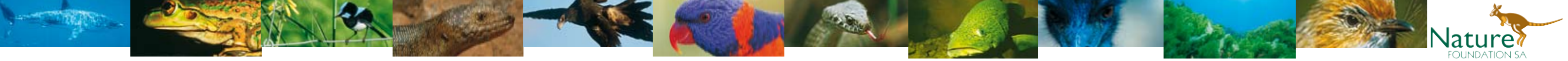
Darwin's life is a fascinating one. The journey of a lifetime in the Beagle as a young man, followed by a stay at home, almost reclusive remainder of his life, Darwin was content to ponder, investigate, and write. His great work on natural selection was not beautifully written but nevertheless one of the great scientific works. It was

precipitated by Alfred Wallace, exploring in the Malay Archipelago, sending him a paper outlining Wallace's independent work along the same lines. After procrastinating for more than a decade, Darwin was forced to respond quickly. Rather than be gazumped by Wallace, he read Wallace's paper and one of his own to the Royal Society. He then set out to complete and publish his masterpiece.

Quammen is a class act. He writes in the style of Bill Bryson and Tim Flannery but I enjoy his writing more.

Allan Holmes is Chief Executive, Department for Environment & Heritage and former Council Member, Nature Foundation SA





Para Woodland Reserve



▲ ELIZABETH LAW-SMITH

The Nature Foundation manages a 400 hectare property near Gawler known as the Para Woodland Reserve that is being converted from farming use to an open woodland wildlife habitat. This is possible through the donation of land and ongoing generous financial support from Elizabeth Law-Smith who the Nature Foundation invited to write the following article on the background and future plans for the project.

The concept of the Para Woodland Reserve arose in 2001. My late husband David always loved the bush and was

adamant that he didn't want his farm to be subdivided for housing. However, as the property is only five kilometres east of the rapidly expanding town of Gawler it was inevitable that this would occur unless other steps were taken.

So it was decided to donate a 118 hectare strip of land adjacent to the South Para River, the western boundary of the property. It was also decided to eventually create a walking trail along this boundary in memory of David and that the Nature Foundation SA Inc would be the future owners and managers of this section of the property.

Dr David Paton, a well know ornithologist is very concerned about the destruction of habitat for birds in the Adelaide Hills. In 2001 he went to see the then Minister for Environment to seek the setting aside of large blocks of land for threatened

birds. The SA Government responded by acquiring a further 200 hectares of the Para Woodland property.

It is proposed to restore the whole area to open woodland, similar to what it would have been before farming commenced in the area around 1850.

It is a large project and under the direction of Dr Paton from the Adelaide University, ongoing research is now being conducted into the conversion of fertile farm land to native bushland. This research will also help other farmers convert land that has been subjected to pesticides to once again support native flora and fauna.

Apart from extending habitat for wildlife, we all need open space for our wellbeing, and the challenges of climate change indicate that such projects may well become a necessity in the future.

Bushbank SA update



▲ MT MARY BUSHLAND

Bushbank SA is a revolving fund, set up by NFSA to buy, protect and then on-sell areas of significant vegetation. Land parcels are carefully selected and given Heritage Agreements before they go to their new owners. Net proceeds are returned to Bushbank SA to fund further purchases.

The first four months of 2007 has been an exciting time in the life of the BushbankSA program. Contracts on two properties have recently been signed; one at Mt Mary, the other at Yatina.

Mt Mary

On 6 March, the Foundation entered into a contract to buy 10,200 hectares of Mallee adjacent to and north of the Brookfield Conservation Park.

The property is a pastoral property in fine condition with very few weeds.

The plan is to divide the property into a number of quite large unfenced allotments and resell them as part of a large conservation estate. Each allotment will have a site for a house.

Given the size of this project, the Foundation

has engaged a project officer to coordinate the various processes necessary for its success.

Yatina

On 16 April, the Foundation signed a contract on a 329 hectare property in the Southern Flinders Ranges at Yatina just south of Orroroo.

The property was referred to BushbankSA by DEH who saw the need to conserve an area of the poorly protected Peppermint Box vegetation but could not take on the area as an addition to the reserve system.

The area comprises some really attractive Southern Flinders hill country with one steep sided gully in the north and the head of a small catchment further to the south.

Jim McHugh
CEO, Bushbank SA

Barbara's visit to Antarctica



During February 2007, I was fortunate to visit Antarctica with 19 members of the Australian Museum Society. We flew from Sydney to Buenos Aires, then to Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego, the most southerly city in the world. There we boarded a Russian, ice-strengthened ship, MV Orlova, sailed gently through the Beagle Channel and then out into Drake's Passage.

We sailed for two and a half days across a fairly rough Drake's Passage which brought us to the **Antarctic Peninsula** where the waters were calm and the scenery magnificent. Although very cold, it was sunny most of the time and there were no blizzards.

We made 9 landings via zodiac, some on the continent, and others on small islands including Port Lockroy, a former whaling port now a British museum.

The wildlife was fantastic – in many places large numbers of very friendly penguins feeding their grey fluffy young. The Antarctic seabirds were spectacular

including wandering albatross, skuas, petrels, shearwaters and cormorants – and some of us saw whales near the ship, humpback and minke, and the occasional beautiful iceberg...

Barbara Hardy AO

Editor's Note: Barbara has agreed to share her Antarctica experience over lunch at the Nature Foundation with a brief talk and a slide show on Thursday, 28th June, at 1:00pm.

A light lunch will be served for interested Members and friends of the Nature Foundation. A \$25.00 donation at the door will be put toward the Foundation's End of Financial Year Vital Work Appeal. To book your place simply call Jenny on 8340 2880.



Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo update

As a prelude to the Nature Foundation's spring appeal for the red-tailed black cockatoo RTBC Jim McHugh and I visited the cockatoo's South Australian territory in early autumn. From the most recent bird count, 1076 of the threatened sub-species **graptogyne** survive. Although once much more extensive, the range is now restricted to the eastern part of SA's south-east, centred on Naracoorte, and the extreme west of Victoria, centred on Casterton. The range extends from Keith and Bangham in the north to the Lower Glenelg National Park in the south, and from Natimuk in the east to Lucindale in the west.

In S-E SA enormous tracts of woodland have been cleared for agriculture, pasture and for exotic pine plantations. For example only 3% of the original area of buloke woodlands remain in SA and Victoria.

Despite widespread clearing in the RTBC's territory, small areas of good habitats are protected currently either in national parks or on private land with heritage agreements. A priority should be to negotiate the purchase of blocks with intact stringybark woodland, preferably with buloke as well. Preference should be given to blocks either adjacent or close to existing reserves. Bushbank acquisition and outright purchase could be complementary activities.

David Hansman

Nature Trivia Answers:

1. A male
2. The Slater
3. The Mayfly (two pairs),
4. Sea Urchin
5. They get bigger
6. The Common brown,
7. The Guar Indian Bison
8. No – we have Ravens



Nature

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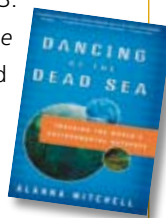
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Banrock Station tour

A busload of Nature Foundation members enjoyed a fabulous day out at Banrock Station in mid-April. A special briefing by ecologist Ruth Coates on site helped us understand how the draining of the wetlands has been managed, an event that will now take place during the first half of every second year. A boardwalk stroll and then walking on the wetland bed itself were highlights of a fascinating tour. An additional bonus was that our tour group was joined by Alanna Mitchell, a Canadian journalist-turned-author whose research and articles had her voted as the world's leading environmental journalist in 2003. Her first book, *Dancing at the Dead Sea* won critical acclaim and she is now undertaking research for her next book which links climate change to dramatic changes in marine ecology.



Barbara's 80th Birthday



▲ BARBARA HARDY WITH HER SON GEOFF HARDY AT HER 80TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

On Sunday 1st April, some 300 of Barbara's family and friends gathered at the Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club to celebrate her 80th birthday. Barbara insisted that she didn't want any presents but asked guests to consider a donation to the Nature Foundation - and over \$12,000 was raised for our nature conservation work!

In response, Barbara said she was simply overwhelmed by the kind words offered by so many people...and then, as she has done so many times before, implored us all to take greater care of our natural environment. Winemaker son, Geoff Hardy offered guests a specially labelled wine for the occasion and son Tom announced a special limited boxed offer of 500 bottles of a **magnificent 2005 Barossa Valley Shiraz** - see the order form enclosed - Tom is donating \$35 to the Nature Foundation for each bottle sold. **Hurry before they are all sold!**



This June/July, The Nature Foundation is rewarding all renewing Members with two FREE one-year Membership Gift Certificates to pass on to family or friends who you think may share our concerns about threatened species and wildlife habitat. Provision will be made on your membership renewal form to nominate who you would like us to send the Gift Certificates to and we will do the rest!

I care about conservation in South Australia.

My tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.

I would like to become a Member of the Foundation...

Single (\$25) / Couple (\$44) / Family (\$55) - please circle

I would like information about

Making a bequest / Volunteering / GreenCard Mastercard - please circle

Name _____

Address _____

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Mobile _____ Email _____

cheque enclosed / paying by credit card - please circle

Bankcard / Mastercard / Visa / Amex / Diners - please circle

Expiry date _____ Total amount: \$ _____ Signature _____

Pay by phone: 1300 366 191, Fax to: (08) 8340 2506

Post to: Nature Foundation SA Inc PO Box 448, Hindmarsh SA 5007