



SAVE OUR BUSH

VITAL WORK APPEAL

The Blanchetown Bushland Estate
PHOTO: JIM MCHUGH





President's Letter | David Moyle AM



I write this after conducting a day of field trips for 150 first year students at Mawson Lakes campus of UniSA. Many were having their first contact with nature conservation and environmental reconstruction as we walked through the now mature *Melaleuca halmaturorum* shrubland at Greenfields wetlands near the Salisbury Highway. The

accompanying picture shows these future conservationists in the wetlands.

This thriving wetland with some 160 bird species resulted from the inspiration of a few people many years ago who set about reconstructing dry cow paddocks into reedbeds that were once extensive in the region. The wetland now cleans a significant percentage of stormwater that once polluted the shallow marine systems and mangroves at the mouth of Dry Creek. This water is then being injected back into the underground aquifer to counter saline intrusion from past overuse of ground water.

The message here is that **it is possible** to make a difference in nature conservation with limited funds, good science and plenty of commitment. The City of Salisbury is to be congratulated for its efforts in this regard over the past 25 years.

Since 1981 I have seen Nature Foundation SA also make a substantial difference to the conservation and rehabilitation of our natural environment. Funds are always limited, but we have dedicated staff, generous volunteers, unlimited commitment and a large background of wildlife research sponsored by the Foundation that is guiding conservation programs.

Your continuing support is critical to extending our programs in a number of areas, including **endangered species recovery, habitat reconstruction and more recently wetland recovery along the River Murray**. The June appeal is a very important one for the Foundation and we thank you for your continuing support despite difficult financial times. Remember the Salisbury lesson that every individual action ends up making a difference in the long term.



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Letters, articles and wildlife photos are welcomed
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BOB SHARRAD'S TRIVIA QUESTIONS

- 1 Which famous Australian explorer was born in 1888 at Mount Bryan?
- 2 Name the large feature bearing Sir Hubert's name that has been in the news lately.
- 3 Australians say that wombats are the largest burrowing mammals! True or false?
4. How many toes do camels have?
- 5 Do squid have hearts?
- 6 How many kangaroo species live within 100km of Adelaide? Name them!
- 7 What did Captain Collet Barker have on his head when he swam the Murray Mouth in 1831?
- 8 What does a malacologist study?
- 9 Which of the following might have a structure called a petiole: eucalypts, wasps or ants?
- 10 On which continent would you not find sundews?

(Answers below)



The Fox and the Child

THE NATURE FOUNDATION IS GIVING TEN LUCKY READERS THE CHANCE TO WIN A DOUBLE PASS TO THE PREVIEW OF A NEW NATURE FILM IN EARLY JULY.

The Fox and the Child recounts the story of a magical, life-changing encounter between a wild fox and a young girl. Played out against a breath-taking mountainside wilderness, the story portrays their impossible friendship.

Astoundingly beautiful, **The Fox and the Child** is shot in the Ain region of France (near the Alps) and the Abruzzo National Park in Italy. Nature has the ability to teach us more about life than we can ever imagine.

To win a double pass to this movie, simply be one of the first ten callers to our office on 8340 2880. We hope that when you call, you may also take the opportunity to donate to our Vital Work Appeal.

Answers
1 Sir Hubert Wilkins. 2 The Wilkins Ice Shelf. 3 The Ardvaark of Africa is actually larger! 4 Two on each foot. 5 Yes, three in all: two "branchial (gill)" hearts and a "systemic" heart. 6 Three: Red, Western Grey and Euro. 7 A compass. 8 Molluscs. 9 They all do - the leaf stalk of plants and the constricted waist of ants and wasps! 10 Antarctica.



HUGE BUSHBANK CONSERVATION ESTATE LAUNCHED

ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY ALEX NANKIVELL

Nature Foundation SA through its Bushbank SA operation has created a major new community titled bushland conservation precinct near the River Murray at Blanchetown, recently launched by Minister for the Environment, The Hon Jay Weatherill.



A previous pastoral property has been converted into a 10,300 ha conservation estate based on a property-wide Nature Foundation Heritage Agreement and Management Plan. The estate plays a significant role in contributing to the State's Nature Links program (River Murray Coorong corridor).

Eleven owners will share responsibility for maintaining the remnant mallee bushland habitat. No fences will be placed on property boundaries to allow natural movement of wildlife through the entire precinct.

The Blanchetown Conservation Estate is an innovative, market-based approach to building the conservation estate in South Australia, linking remaining corridors of habitat and bringing conservation minded owners to manage the bushland.

Bushbank SA is pleased to acknowledge support from the South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage and the Federal Government.

BIRD SPECIES OF CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE

- Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)
- Chestnut Quailthrush (*Cinclosoma castanotus*)
- Striped Honeyeater (*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*)
- Gilbert's Whistler (*Pachycephala inornata*)
- Spotted Nightjar (*Eurostopodus argus*)
- White Winged Cough (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*)

MAMMAL SPECIES OF CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE

- Southern Hairy Nosed Wombat (*Lasiorchinus latifrons*)
- Common Dunnart (*Sminthopsis murina*)
- Fat-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*)
- Short-beaked Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)

BIOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 102 native plant species
- 81 native bird species
- 10 native reptile species
- 8 native mammal species

PLANT SPECIES OF CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE

- Green-flower Emubush (*Eremophila subfloccosa* ssp. *Glandulosa*)
- Cotton Bush (*Maireana aphylla*)

Project Highlights

- The estate is approximately 10,300 ha comprising of eleven, 900 ha allotments governed by a community conservation scheme.
- The majority of the estate, excluding 1 ha building envelopes for each allotment and community road ways, will be placed under a Nature Foundation SA Heritage Agreement with management plan.

- The estate will complement several existing protected areas, including the Brookfield Conservation Park, to form a 28,010 ha mosaic of mallee woodland protected for conservation.

Enquiries from prospective purchasers of the eleven blocks are now being welcomed by the Foundation. Call **Alex Nankivell on 08 8340 2880** if the idea of having your own 900ha bush paradise appeals.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

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

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

Please give generously and remember that all donations over \$2.00 to Nature Foundation SA are fully tax-deductible.



Coming Events

Laratinga Wetlands & K1 Cellar Door Tour

Thursday, 10th September 2009 – Cost \$79.00 includes travel, morning tea, wetlands tour, fabulous lunch and fine wines.

NFSA Annual Threatened Species Art Exhibition AGM

Burnside City Council Atrium

Launch Wednesday 14th October 2009 @ 5:30pm – Cost: \$20.00 cover charge which includes canapés and refreshments.

Nature Foundation SA Annual Dinner

Back at the Zoo by popular demand. Friday 6th November 2009 @ 6:00pm for Twilight Tour of the Zoo – All inclusive cost \$89.00.

Arid Land RESEARCH PROJECT

ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY DR RUSS SINCLAIR

Nature Foundation SA has supported a very long-running vegetation monitoring project on The TGB Osborn Vegetation Reserve, situated in the middle of Koonamore station, a sheep property in the NE pastoral zone of South Australia.

It was established in 1926 on an area (4 square km) then overgrazed and degraded, which was fenced to exclude stock and hopefully rabbits. Records began to see how the vegetation would recover when grazing pressure was removed. We now have over 80 years of data, which makes this the longest-running data set of its kind in Australia, and one of the longest in the world.

Although sheep were excluded from the start, rabbits were not completely eradicated, and their numbers increased during the first 50 years. Since the mid 1970's vigorous rabbit control has reduced them, so we have records of 50 years without sheep, then 30+ years without either sheep or rabbits. The beginning of rabbit control coincided with record rains; changes in the vegetation have been dramatic, but complex.

Saltbush increased greatly almost immediately, but many tree populations (including mulga) showed little change until the 1970's, when many seedlings grew in response to the wet years and survived as they were not attacked by rabbits during the next dry spell. Other species (including bluebush, a common shrub in the area) have shown hardly any change over the entire 80 years of recording. Such long-term records are rare, but are very valuable for understanding how this vegetation responds to its harsh, variable climate. They may become even more valuable for helping predict the consequences of future climate change.



A group of student volunteers being "briefed" by Russ Sinclair in 2007, before going out to work

Some of the most interesting points about my work:

- Rabbits can have a devastating effect on tree populations in arid areas, by eating seedlings so preventing regeneration.
- Some arid zone plants may only reproduce successfully once per decade or longer, when conditions are right.
- Some arid zone shrubs may live for well over a century.
- Small seedlings of some species, if protected from grazing, may survive extraordinarily dry conditions for long periods.
- Being able to see how the data reveal changes in the vegetation over a very long time-span, in response to the variable climatic events of the dry and unpredictable Australian outback climate.
- Also, the fun of introducing the many student volunteers who have worked on the reserve over the years to the fascination of outback vegetation.

Photos taken 80 years apart - much has changed in that time



Quadrat 100 in 1926



Quadrat 100 in 2006



HOGWASH BEND LAUNCH

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY ANGELA HAWDON



Our Hogwash Bend Project was successfully launched on World Water Day 22nd March. The Nature Foundation President, David Moyle was pleased to be able to thank all those involved in this exciting project, which is really a testimony to team work.

A small number of Nature Foundation SA supporters donated funds to each purchase 1 ML of water (6.8 ML in total), to be delivered by the Riverland West LAP Assoc to thirsty River Red Gum trees at Hogwash Bend. Ian Preston, Eugene Grant, Anne Preston and Kate Buckley, representing the donors, travelled to Waikerie on World Water Day to see the watering of the River Red Gums and were lucky enough to see some Regent Parrots! Also on hand was Claire Treblis, the DEH Threatened Species Network Manager for the Murraylands. She provided the 25 assembled guests with a description of the ecology and the threats facing the remaining population of Regent Parrots in the SA Murray River corridor. Meeting and being shown the watering sites and extensive sprinkling system with the dedicated volunteers from the Riverland West LAP Association, who are providing all the on-ground assistance with the project, was inspirational.

These trees support the largest nesting site for the threatened Regent Parrot, of which, there are less than 500 breeding pairs left in SA. The birds nest in the hollows of River Red



PHOTO: CHRIS TZAROS/
BIRDS AUSTRALIA

Gums within 60 metres of the water and at Hogwash Bend they have shown a preference for trees with a healthy leaf cover. By watering trees we hope to increase their leaf cover and keep the trees alive for longer and continuing to provide a food source for the birds during their nesting period from August to December each year. The birds only fly over vegetated areas, and while they are known to forage over 12km inland in Mallee areas, this has become more difficult

for them with increased clearance of vegetation. As a result, they can be seen more regularly at Hogwash Bend where it is believed they forage more locally.

A very positive environmental outcome is being achieved at Hogwash Bend by a number of individuals and groups that have come together at just the right time to be effective. The project seems to be delivering some hope to all those involved. The donors now sense they can make a difference to the River Murray environment, even though they lived in suburban Adelaide and the local volunteers, suffering through this long drought, can witness the difference their efforts have made to the now greening and re-sprouting flora.

Monitoring of the Red Gum Tree health will continue over the next few months, but the initial signs of a positive response from the trees are very encouraging. All the donors and volunteers felt it was a project worthy of celebrating.

BREAKING NEWS:

Angela recently visited Hogwash Bend to assist the moving of the watering system to the third watering site. She almost got lost amongst the new vegetation that has sprouted and greened up thanks to our watering, and the Regent Parrots were still about! Some bad news is that Roger and Shirley Schmitke, who live over the river and have been refueling the pump night and morning, had their boat stolen. A major blow to these dedicated volunteers and a resulting slow down in the watering of the second site. With the help of a borrowed boat, the watering of the fourth site should be close to completion by the time this goes to print.



Dene Cordes & Eliza Bagley
help out

friends working bee IN THE NATURE FOUNDATION GARDENS

The Nature Foundation's gardens at our Hindmarsh Headquarters recently received some very welcome TLC from our dedicated band of Friends for Nature volunteers. Pruning and planting tasks were interspersed with story-telling, a healthy lunch and a drop of Geoff Hardy wine supplied by Geoff's proud mum, Barbara. The Friends always welcome new members to help with a range of Nature Foundation activities and events. Call Jenny on 8340 2880 if you have an occasional hour or two to offer!

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Annabelle Homer



NFSA Fundraising & Marketing Committee Member & ABC Country Hour Presenter

The Nature Foundation has some wonderful volunteers on our various committees. Here we profile Annabelle Homer who grew up on a cattle station outside Moura in central Queensland.

From as early as 11, all she ever wanted to do was to head to the big smoke. She never thought she'd end up working in rural radio.

After six years at boarding school in Brisbane and completing her Bachelor of Communications degree majoring in Journalism and Screen Production, she got her first gig on ABC TV's Landline.

A year later, she ventured to Channel Seven and worked as a researcher/producer on a couple of local travel programs and thought she'd do some travelling herself and ventured overseas for a year.

On her return, she tried her hand at being a rural reporter. She enjoyed it so much three years later she's still doing it.

She began her whirlwind trip working in Rockhampton, Mackay, Port Pirie, Renmark and Horsham and now Adelaide.

She is now the presenter of the ABC's Country Hour and loving every minute of it... and thrives on the challenges the program brings everyday!

Jim Hondros



Our newest NFSA Councillor

I am delighted to welcome Mr Jim Hondros to membership of the Council of Nature Foundation SA.

Jim comes to us from Victoria where he was Chair and Trustee of Trust

for Nature (Victoria) which is an organisation somewhat similar to our own. Jim and his family have moved to South Australia recently as a result of his work as an environmental and indigenous heritage consultant. Apart from his voluntary work for Trust for Nature, Jim was also a founding director of the Parakeelya Foundation which assists in the development of Aboriginal business ventures.

Jim comes to us with extensive business experience and a great interest in making a positive difference to the active management and conservation of the natural environment. We welcome him to the Council and wish his family well in South Australia.

**David Moyle AM,
President Nature Foundation SA**



Tales of Tails at the Zoo

Dr. David Schultz: Guest Speaker at our Annual Dinner - 6 November 2009

Join us for a Twilight Tour of Adelaide Zoo and the opportunity to hear Dr. David Schultz regale us with his tales of tails as Senior Veterinarian at the zoo.



David joined the Adelaide Zoo on a part-time veterinary basis in 1984, partly because he had developed an allergy to the ringing telephone in his veterinary practice and partly because the practice was not satisfying his conservation philosophy. He became the Zoo's first full-time veterinarian in 1986 and is still employed part-time by the zoo where he mainly attends to projects connected with release to the wild components. David has travelled to East and South Africa and Northern Borneo as a tutor for WEA conducted tours.

David's main areas of expertise and interest include zoo and wildlife medicine, particularly avian health; conservation program veterinary support; accelerated breeding of marsupials; and wine appreciation.

This year's Annual Dinner will be held in the Lyrebird Conference Centre at the Adelaide Zoo on Friday the 6th of November and will include a "twilight tour" of the Zoo. With so many changes at the Zoo, this tour is always informative. Book your places early as seating is limited.

One of the biggest changes at the Zoo has been the preparation for the arrival of Wang Wang and Funi from China. To cope with the challenge of feeding these fussy eaters over their stay of the next ten years, the Zoo has begun the Bamboo Project. You can help them feed the pandas by letting them know about the bamboo you may have growing in your garden. Contact the Zoo or register your interest on their website at zoossa.com.au.

Book your Zoo Dinner tickets now by calling 8340 2880 or returning the enclosed Events Coupon to the Foundation.

JOIN US AT THE NATURE FOUNDATION'S THREATENED SPECIES ART EXHIBITION

Kathleen Cain



Kevin Stead



Matthew Welsby



Rosie Douglas



Julie Morris



Brenda Holden

Mandy Foot



Janet Ayliffe

Dave Kovac



Wendy Jennings

Wendy Jennings



By ten of South Australia's leading wildlife artists

From Wednesday 14th October—Friday 30th October, 2009

Burnside City Council Atrium, 9am-5pm weekdays

Here are artwork examples from our featured artists who are: Wendy Jennings, Matthew Welsby, Dave Kovac, Janet Ayliffe, Rosie Douglas, Brenda Holden, Kevin Stead, Kathleen Cain, Julie Morris and Mandy Foot

The Curator of the exhibition is Wendy Jennings.

Birds of our reserves & open spaces

POOGINOOK

ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY DR DAVID HANSMAN

Pooginook is a 2,851 ha reserve in the Murray mallee, on the road between Morgan and Renmark. From Adelaide Pooginook is reached by crossing the Murray River at Waikerie, then travelling 12km from Taylorville. From Renmark the reserve is approximately 20km west of Overland Corner. Near the entrance the vegetation is open; regenerating from earlier clearing (this section was once a wheat farm). The internal track runs north into well-



preserved fairly dense mallee, with red, ridge-fruited and white mallee eucalypts on low parallel ridges of sandy soil.

The reserve is often rich in birds, which include mallee fowl (illustrated) and a variety of honeyeaters, including brown-headed, singing, spiny-cheeked, striped, white-eared and yellow-plumed. Other passerines are golden rufous whistlers; pied and red-capped robins; brown and restless flycatchers (brown flycatcher, also known as jacky winter, illustrated), grey fantail and willie wagtail. A crested bellbird may be recognised by its distinctive call. Dusky, masked and white-browed woodswallows visit Pooginook, as does the beautiful rainbow bee-eater. Parrots include blue bonnet, mallee ring-necked, mulga and red-rumped parrots.



Lower left: Mallee fowl on nest

Upper left: Brown Flycatcher on nest

DONATING TO THE NATURE FOUNDATION IS NOW EVEN EASIER ON OUR WEBSITE

A snapshot of our donation page online 



 Donate

You can donate to the Nature Foundation SA in the following ways:

- Make a one off donation online securely by credit card (Below)
- Download a [donation form](#) and post a cheque or money order
- Phone the donations line: 1300 366 191



Your donation will Help Us Help Nature.

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