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SUMMER

3

2022

Engaging  
people in  
conservation


# NatureMatters

**FOREVER  
NATURE  
FUND**

See P. 2 →



**Nature**  
Foundation



## Join us at the launch of the **Forever Nature Fund** with special guest and keynote speaker **Chadden Hunter**

Our ambitious target is an investment of **\$20m by 2030** to enable **land acquisition** at a scale that provides **high impact** and **sustainable nature conservation**

Habitat loss and land clearing has caused the extinction of 62 Australian terrestrial species. Between 2000 and 2017 over 7.7 million hectares of land habitat was cleared in Australia. Humans depend on nature for life sustaining services including provision of food and water, regulation of climate, cultural connection and wellbeing\*.

Nature Foundation currently protects over 500,000 hectares in Australia and to have a meaningful nature positive impact we aim to double that amount.

The Forever Nature Fund has been created for the purpose of raising capital to purchase and manage areas of critical habitat, that are prioritised using data driven scientific and environmental assessment tools.

Join us on  
**Wednesday 14 December 2022** at the  
**National Wine Centre**  
5.00pm – 9.00pm  
Dress – Smart Casual  
Cost – \$50  
Canapés and drinks included

**Book online at**  
[events.humanitix.com/forever-nature-fund-launch](https://events.humanitix.com/forever-nature-fund-launch)



Dr. Chadden Hunter is an Australian wildlife biologist and filmmaker who has spent much of the last two decades working alongside Sir David Attenborough.

After completing a PhD on gelada baboons in Ethiopia, Chadden worked with National Geographic and Discovery Channel, filming everything from tribal ceremonies in Africa to snow leopards in Pakistan.

On the BBC series Planet Earth he became known as 'the guy covered in bat poop', and whilst filming arctic wolves for Frozen Planet learnt that minus 40C was cold enough to freeze his eyes shut.

His television series, including Wild Arabia, Planet Earth 2 and most recently Seven Worlds—One Planet have won twenty Emmy and Bafta awards. Chadden will join us to share his inspirational story.

Dr Chadden Hunter appears by arrangement with Saxton Speakers Bureau.

\*DCCEEW 2021 Australia State of the Environment



**Together we can  
protect nature now,  
for the future,  
and forever.**





Weir overflowing at Beltana

## From the Chair Jan Ferguson OAM



We have also been blessed with rain at Beltana. Our local dam is full, and the weir is a beautiful sight when it overflows. We are enjoying the various birdsongs that come with having a full dam.

I was pleased to be invited to Canberra as the after-dinner speaker at an event celebrating the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions' (CISS) initial investment of \$20 million into research on how to deal with invasive species, both pests and weeds.

This event was an opportunity to look back on all that has been achieved over the last five years by the incredible collective of researchers. It also provides a chance to look into the future and consider the impact and legacy that the Centre's Portfolio No.1 will make to the management of invasive species across Australia.

The invite gave me an opportunity to reflect on the amazing conservation work Nature Foundation does. After showing the emotive photos of dead cats, I was able to outline our efforts in managing feral pests, recording our work for compliance purposes and the success we are starting to see as a result of maintaining this work as nature rains on us.

The engagement afterwards by the nation's best research scientists in understanding the work we do was wonderful. It is clear that our science monitoring is equal to any in the nation. None of this occurs without the wonderful team we have of staff and volunteers.



## From the CEO Alex Nankivell



Three months into my appointment as CEO so much has already happened. The old saying that when it rains, it pours can be taken in its most literal sense, with the heavens opening in what is shaping up to be the wettest years since 2010, particularly at Witchelina and Hiltaba, which have both exceeded their average annual rainfalls.

Witchelina has made it to 2<sup>nd</sup> on the top 10 wetter-than-average sites across Australia, as was published recently in The Guardian, recording rainfall that is 238% above its annual mean.

The rain has provided excellent conditions across the state, with nearly all species capitalising on the boom. For the first time in a while, we have had to juggle the conditions, with many planned activities rescheduled due to access issues. We were looking forward to undertaking several large-scale biological surveys to measure the booming wildlife. We will now run these surveys next year. Kids on Country camps, fencing works, and the Witchelina working bee have all had to be postponed. We will never complain about too much rain here in South Australia. It is a brilliant time to be out and about observing our wildlife.

In other news, the staff team has continued to succeed in their grant writing and has recently been awarded several significant grants supporting Nature Foundation's vital projects. These grants include:

- Ian Potter Foundation to support the Kangaroo Island Feral Cat Eradication Program over the next four years.
- Disney Foundation to assist with our Mt Lofty Ranges Southern Emu Wren conservation efforts at Watchalunga Nature Reserve.
- Bennelong Foundation to support several additional camps for our Kids on Country program.

I have been busy contributing to various interstate meetings with the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) and the federal government concerning the emerging biodiversity certificate market. Time will tell if this new initiative realises new revenue opportunities for land managers interested in achieving improved biodiversity outcomes across the country.

Patrick Mentzel and I attended a forum in Melbourne hosted by ALCA with the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN) and the US Global Stewardship Exchange. The forum shared experiences from the Global Stewardship Exchange on how to increase collective impact and capacity and the role of philanthropy in supporting private land conservation in achieving its objectives to secure biodiversity across the country. This was an incredibly insightful day with many takeaway messages that we will seek to introduce into our work at Nature Foundation.

In closing, I have been balancing my new role with continuing my work on Wedge-tailed Eagles at Witchelina. Although I have been thoroughly thwarted by rain this breeding season, I am pleased to report that it has been the most successful breeding season on the reserve since we began the surveys in 2018. This year we have observed 11 active eagle nests, with most of these young having fledged or nearing fledging in the next couple of weeks. While there is a range of prey being taken by adults to feed their young (e.g., young roos, the occasional young emu or crow, even the odd cat), the overwhelming majority of prey items at nests are Bearded Dragons. Bearded Dragons are booming. They are everywhere and provide a glut of food for young eagles. At some nests, there are so many dead dragons that the young literally can't eat them all. As a result of the rain, we have only managed to get one GPS tracker on a young bird. She hasn't taken flight yet, but we look forward to monitoring her journey into adulthood which we will share with you all. In the coming months, I will continue working on getting more trackers on birds.

That's all from me, and I look forward to seeing you all at the launch of the Forever Nature Fund.





# Nature Reserves

## An update on Murbpook



**There has been a lot of activity at Murbpook Nature Reserve this year. An array of camera traps has also been set up across the property to monitor the effectiveness of our feral animal control. So far, these cameras have detected rabbits and foxes at several sites and are providing valuable information that will inform our site management. We have also picked up some great footage of natives, including kangaroos, emus, wombats, and echidnas!**

The Murbpook northern wetland received the first environmental watering in April of this year. We have established a regular monitoring program to record the vegetation response to environmental watering. This long-term data set will enable us to track, over time, the recovery of the riverine habitat, such as River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* ssp. *camaldulensis*) and Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*), which is used by Regent Parrots, a nationally Vulnerable species.

In addition to monitoring the health of the Regent Parrot habitat, we are also developing a long-term monitoring program to understand better how Regent Parrots use the habitat at Murbpook. We have recently collaborated with ANU researchers and Murraylands & Riverland Landscape Board to gather information in this area. This exciting new research will inform management actions on the reserve and contribute to the conservation of the species in the region.

A group of 3<sup>rd</sup>-year students from the Ecosystem Monitoring course at UniSA recently visited Murbpook Lagoon to carry out water quality studies, with samples collected from the central lagoon, the northern wetland, and several groundwater bores. Collaborations with local universities allow us to engage with environmentally-

minded students who gain the opportunity to work with industry partners and contribute to valuable datasets that help inform the site's management. The data gathered on this field trip have provided valuable insight into

the vegetation response to the environmental watering in April and the prolonged flooding we are currently experiencing on site.

The high river flows reported across the Murray Darling Basin have also impacted Murbpook Lagoon. The high flows of the River Murray filled up the central lagoon, flooding the northern wetland. This connection was established in July this year, and the river levels have continued to rise following each rain event!

The current high river flows are forecast to peak at 175 gigalitres a day (GL/day) in early December, with a second peak at the end of December of at least 185GL/day. This prolonged inundation will provide a much-needed drink to the vegetation on the floodplain, which hasn't received water in several years! Watch this space as we monitor not only the water levels but the response of the vegetation.

The prolonged inundation has also impacted aquatic fauna at Murbpook, with lots of frog activity being recorded in recent months! We are currently analysing data collected from recent frog surveys, which used an AudioMoth to record frog calls. The nationally Vulnerable Southern Bell Frog was recorded at Murbpook Lagoon in 2010, and we are keen to see if the species has moved back following the floods.



## Electro-fishing at Watchalunga



Huge carp removed from Watchalunga Nature Reserve, credit: Aquasave/Nature Glenelg Trust

After the last fish survey at Watchalunga we recorded a decline in native fish numbers and an increase in introduced species.

We are not sure what might be causing this. It could be due to a catchment-wide change in management or conditions, or it could be a localised occurrence. In response, we decided to try electro-fishing, a novel way of reducing alien fish abundance, to see if it influences native fish populations. Alien fish, mainly carp and redfin, decrease water quality and habitat conditions and, in the case of redfin, predate directly on native fish species.

The Nature Glenelg Trust team travelled around the reserve by boat, stopping at intervals using electrical current to stun the fish in the immediate vicinity for a few seconds. Using nets, they collected as many fish as possible, and any native fish caught were returned to the water. 79 Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) were captured and removed, with the heaviest weighing a whopping 4.02kg! Three redfin perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and one Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) were also removed during the exercise.

Control of these alien species is critical to maintaining the abundance and biodiversity of our native species, including nationally and state threatened species such as the Murray Hardyhead (nationally listed as vulnerable, state listed as critically endangered), Yarra Pygmy Perch (nationally and state listed as vulnerable) and Southern Pygmy Perch (state listed as endangered). We hope to see this alien species management positively impact our native fish numbers in this year's annual fish survey!





An enclosure at Baptiste's study site at Bush Heritage's Boolcoomatta Reserve & Baptiste processing lizards, credit: Baptiste Wijas



## Student Grants

In 2020, Baptiste Wijas received a Grand Start grant to assist him with his PhD studies at the University of New South Wales. He has now completed his PhD and submitted his thesis titled, *Kangaroo Overgrazing Impacts on Termites and their Small Vertebrate Predators in Arid Australia*.

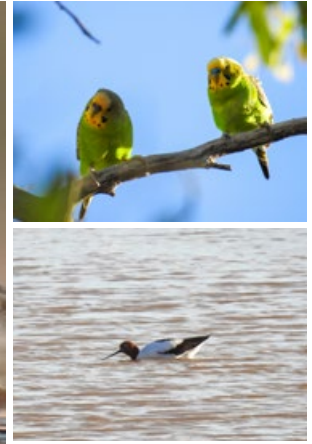
The aim of Baptiste's project was to assess the impacts of kangaroo grazing on vegetation, termites, small mammal, and reptile communities. To do this, he compared the cover of vegetation, the abundance of termites and their predators inside one-hectare herbivore exclosures and nearby control plots. He found that kangaroo grazing reduced the cover of living and dead vegetation. Similarly, kangaroo grazing also reduced termite abundance and the abundance of small vertebrate predators that feed on termites.

Small vertebrate communities, including lizards, are adapted to living in desert conditions and are highly diverse compared with other larger organisms and participate actively in the transfer of energy throughout these ecosystems. Baptiste's study provides evidence that consumption of plant material by kangaroos can disrupt the functioning of ecosystems by reducing the flow of energy from plant biomass to termites which in turn translates to reduced abundances of small vertebrates that feed on termites. His findings have implications for conservation and management because they shed light on the previously unconsidered influence of kangaroos on termites and small vertebrate communities by disrupting the flow of resources through the ecosystem.





# Science & Knowledge



*Minagoona Lake overflowing, Zebra Finches, Budgies, Red-necked Avocet, Brown Falcon and Orange Chat. Credit: Alex Nankivell, Jenny Hiscock*

## Birds are booming across our reserves

**Over the last few years, we have been establishing long-term annual bird monitoring programs at most of our reserves to track changes in populations of species and community composition. These long-term datasets are invaluable in assisting us in understanding how we are going with our management, monitoring seasonal conditions and the potential impact of climate change.**

Birds are excellent indicators of the environment's overall health as they are sensitive to changes in ecosystem conditions and function, both natural and human-induced. In some cases, they may also reflect trends in other animals and plants with which they coexist.

In recent months surveys have taken place at Witchelina, Hiltaba and Murbpook Nature Reserves. In May and October, Birds SA assisted by rotational managers conducted autumn and spring bird surveys at Witchelina. Twenty-five sites across all landscapes were surveyed, and bird species diversity was at its highest since 2014, when 91 species were recorded. Surveyors were overjoyed to record a flock of approximately 30 Painted Finches, usually an occasional southern visitor from further north, and not recorded on the property since 1980. One of South Australia's rarest birds, the Chestnut-breasted Whiteface, was also observed.

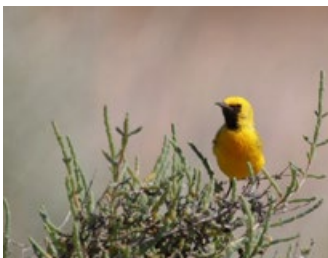
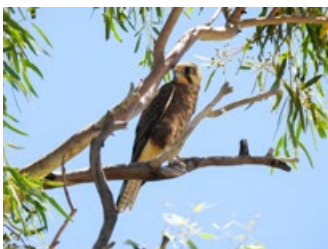
In addition, Thick-billed Grasswren survey results showed that the population was recovering and was present at 70% of monitoring sites across its distribution. At Witchelina, the current population estimate is a minimum of 790 pairs – up from 180 in 2019.

It was Hiltaba's turn in July. Birds SA, assisted by rotational managers, surveyed 20 sites across

different landscapes and recorded 54 bird species. The top 10 most abundant birds were Yellow Throated-miner, White-front Chat, White-browed Babbler, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Australian Ringneck, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Singing Honeyeater, Weebill, White-fronted Honeyeater and the Grey-fronted Honeyeater. This survey will now be added to the annual monitoring program.

At Murbpook Lagoon, we have established ten bird survey sites and begun targeted Regent Parrot surveys this September. The property was surveyed in line with monitoring protocols developed by the Regent Parrot Recovery Team, including recording River Red Gum trees with hollows across the site as potential Regent Parrot nesting habitat and looking out for evidence of breeding activity. The exciting news is that breeding activity was confirmed on the reserve!

And a quick update of good news from Watchalunga: a group from Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning (GWLAP) sighted emu-wrens in an area of revegetated Lignum bushes where they have not been seen previously. This is an excellent indication that our habitat restoration efforts are providing additional suitable habitats for the population!





Kids on Country participants enjoying the diverse activities that a camp at Witchelina Nature Reserve offers.



# Kids on Country

The calendar year for the 2022 Kids on Country team has seen some challenges with the Queen's passing and La Niña impacted weather this year.

Eight camp programs were scheduled for the 2022 school year; to date, the team has only been able to run five. John Pirie Secondary School (planned for the time of the Queen's passing when all school camps were cancelled) and first-time participating Para Hills High School (unable to proceed due to wet weather) unfortunately had to postpone their participation until 2023. Katie and Warren found making the decision to reschedule these camps difficult but are still hopeful that the last program of the year will go ahead without disruption.

On a positive note, the program is gaining an excellent reputation within the Department for Education, with many new schools expressing interest in attending the program. New schools interested include Willunga High School, Mount Barker High School, Seaview High School and Seaton High, all metropolitan schools. This is a testament to the importance we place on our 'culture first' approach and the transmission of Aboriginal knowledge, stories and practices throughout our activities to improve well-being, teach life skills, build self-esteem on country and spark further interest in caring for Country.

Nature Foundation has successfully gained several grants, with 75% of camps fully funded for the 2023 calendar year. One of these is from the Bennelong Foundation, which will enable 30 young Aboriginal high school students from two high schools to each participate in a pre-camp workshop, access and support for the E-learning course and a 5-day on-country camp that we hope will inspire careers in conservation and land management, strengthen cultural learning and support ongoing engagement in broader education systems.

Another notable grant that facilitates our essential work is the Wyatt Trust collaboration grant. This will enable Nature Foundation to partner with Youth Opportunities, Bikes Palya, Workabout Centre and Operation Flinders and enable the Kids on Country team to provide a professional development program to partnering organisations on connection to Country and culture, and also offer a KoC camp program to clients of the Workabout Centre.

Several new directors were elected to the Board at the recent annual general meeting. On behalf of the Board, we would like to congratulate and welcome Phil Barron, Claire Fuller and Phil Cole to the Board.

We would also like to thank Angela Hazebroek. Angela has capably served the Board and was chair of the Engaging People in Conservation Committee over the last four years.

Phil Barron  
Claire Fuller  
Phil Cole

## BOARD DIRECTOR PROFILES



Phil Barron

Phil has over 30 years of experience in the natural resource management and habitat/ecological restoration fields in much of SA and a passion for helping save threatened species and ecological communities, especially via practical hands-on and capacity-building methods. He has worked for and on behalf of private individuals, schools, companies/industries, community groups, local and state agencies, and NGOs.



Claire Fuller

Claire has two decades of experience in Natural Resource Management. Her areas of knowledge include biodiversity conservation, landscape/pest management, soil health, landholder/stakeholder engagement and extensive project management skills. She has worked across various sectors, including Soil Conservation Board, State Government, Environmental NGO, and Not-for-profits.



Phil Cole

Phil has held senior roles in State and Commonwealth Government, based in Loxton, Lenswood, Adelaide and Canberra, leading agriculture, water and salinity management programs. This includes service delivery, implementing major projects, developing policies and strategies, high-level representation of State interests, community engagement, and financial management.





**Hugh McGregor**  
*Field Ecologist*

**STAFF PROFILE**

**What have you been doing prior to joining the Nature Foundation?**

For the last 12 years, I have been researching feral cats. I have travelled Australia studying how to reduce their impacts on native wildlife. This has involved testing how cats respond to fire in northern Australia, attaching video cameras to cats to look at the hunting of rabbits in central Australia, and studying their movements around Night Parrot habitat. Feral cats are a major threat to our wildlife, and as yet, there are no easy answers for controlling them in open landscapes.

**How did you come to Nature Foundation?**

I have wanted to move into direct conservation work, and Nature Foundation has been a wonderful opportunity. I started in 2021 as a part-time field ecologist, focusing on monitoring feral predators and their prey. I live in Roxby Downs, which is only a few hours drive from some of Nature Foundation's remote reserves.

**In your role, what sorts of things do you do and what do you enjoy most?**

My field ecologist role gets me out and about in magnificent landscapes like Witchelina Nature Reserve. Here I am helping monitor the threatened plains mice and populations of feral predators. One of the main methods is using remote cameras, and it is endlessly fascinating coming back from a field trip and going through images of wildlife. You get some great surprises. We recently discovered a new population of threatened plains mice.



**What is exciting in the work of nature conservation now?**

So much of wildlife conservation in arid Australia revolves around the weather. It can be very challenging to understand the results of conservation work during drought. We have just emerged from a terrible drought which has been quite depressing. But now in 2022, the rains have come, and the landscape is springing back to life. I am very excited to watch and record how our wildlife will respond to this, along with the land management of Nature Foundation.

**Do you have any other interests?**

In my spare time, I make a lot of art using leather to try and capture many of the wonderful patterns I see in nature. I make a variety of things ranging from belts with wildlife tracks, bags with Ediacaran fossils, and bark panels of my favourite trees.





# Vision for Nature

## Gift in Will of KI property



Top: View across the property. Left, Richard with his insect collection, credit: Jasper Savage

### Careers and home are intimately connected with newly bequeathed property

Thirty-five kilometres from Kingscote, along a dirt road on the wild south coast of Kangaroo Island, is a 242-hectare property. One of the owners, artist Janine Mackintosh, describes it as 'our own National Park'. Janine and her partner, Dr Richard Glatz, are bequeathing this special piece of land to Nature Foundation.

"Although we are only 51 and 52 and hope to stay here for decades, a friend's death made us think about what we wanted for our property. We don't have any children to leave it to, and we like the idea of it going to an organisation that can actively manage it for conservation."

Janine and Richard bought the property in 2012 as their permanent home.

The property comprises mostly mallee heath, some melaleuca swamps and the critically endangered EPBC-listed vegetation community, Kangaroo Island Narrow-leaved Mallee (*Eucalyptus cneorifolia*) woodland. It is also home to the endangered EPBC-listed Small Flowered Daisy Bush (*Olearia microdisca*) and EPBC-listed fauna species, including Southern Brown Bandicoot, Kangaroo Island Echidna, Kangaroo Island

Striated Thornbill and Kangaroo Island Crimson Rosella.

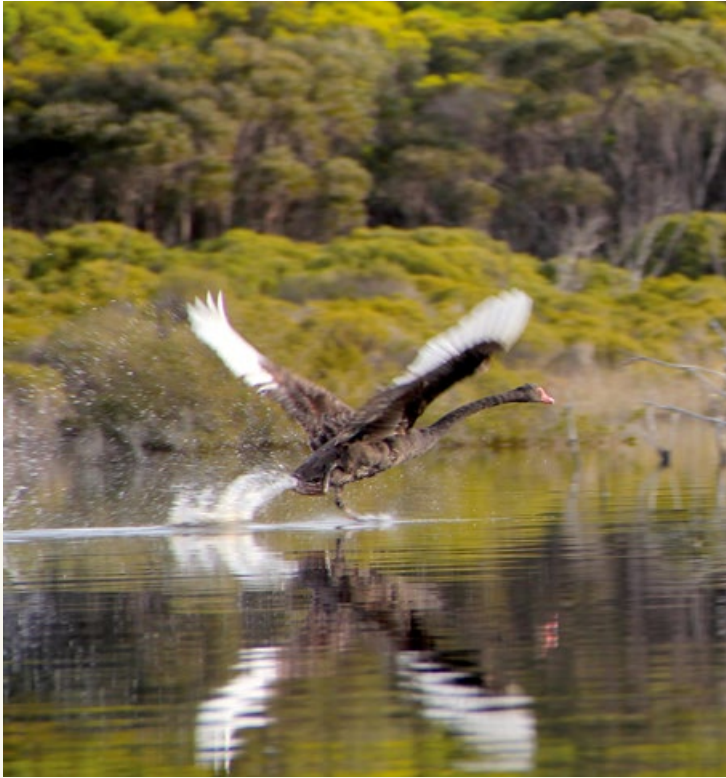
Each in their own way, Janine and Richard are collectors, and their collections are closely tied to this precious property.

With a design background, Janine uses the property as a palette and inspiration for her assemblage artworks. Her art practice grew from the study of the plants on a property they own on Dudley Peninsula. To record the plants, she used traditional preservation techniques of museums and herbariums and now uses the same techniques to create artworks that draw attention to nature.

"I feel that to see the beauty in the Australian bush; you need to look at the details – the tiny flowers, the patterns on the leaves that the insects have made... People have been too interested in clearing the bush and planting foreign things – this is my way to help the bush."

Her partner, Dr Richard Glatz, collects things, too - insects. He runs his entomology and science business and is the Chief Editor of *Austral Entomology*. A subject at university required making an insect collection, and 25 years later, his collection is 70,000 strong, mainly from Kangaroo Island! His work has resulted





in the discovery of a new family of moths (the Enigma Moth), a new genus of wasp, and the publication of many papers. His collection is of national importance and includes many new species and some paratype specimens. Consequently, he is building a bunker to protect it.

“The collection can’t be re-done. I’ve only seen some of the species once or twice in 20 years.”

Janine and Richard are driven to study the property and learn how to best look after it. This involved developing connections with the science and conservation communities, allowing them to use their property for ongoing research. This includes establishing a plant enclosure (with the SA Seed Conservation Centre from the Botanic Gardens of SA) for some local EPBC-listed species. They also have a TERN (Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network) vegetation quadrant and a Birds Australia survey site on their property.

When they can no longer care for this property, Janine and Richard believe that Nature the Foundation fits the bill to care for it because of its experience managing

diverse reserves and its focus on managing ecosystems for conservation.

“We can see how the property and its infrastructure have many possibilities for Nature Foundation staff and volunteers for accommodation and research. We want to hand over everything we learn to Nature Foundation so they can continue to care for the property.”

One of the Nature Foundation’s strategic goals is to expand the area of high conservation value landscape protected. Nature Foundation welcomes gifts of land to help achieve this.

More information about making a gift of land is available on our website: [naturefoundation.org.au/how-to-help/make-a-bequest](https://naturefoundation.org.au/how-to-help/make-a-bequest). You’ll also find general information on making a bequest or leaving a gift in your Will in our new brochure and Bequest Legal Guide on the same page.

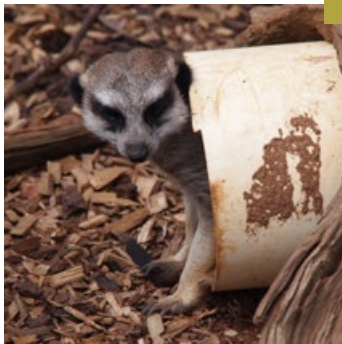


*Black Swan on lagoon, Black-beaked Duck Orchid, Janine collecting plants (credit: Dragan Radocaj), Rosenberg Goanna digging into a termite mound, and Temognatha mitchellii on a Prickly Tea Tree*



# Vision for Nature Events

Kangaroo Island to Monarto Safari Park



*Group photo: Attendees with Peter Hastwell at Nature Foundation's in-house Vision for Nature presentation, Giraffes relaxing and those mischievous Meerkats, credit: Patrick Mentzel*

Several Vision for Nature events are held each year, and attendees are members who have confirmed or are considering leaving a bequest to Nature Foundation. In October, Nature Foundation offered two Vision for Nature events.

On Tuesday, 18 October, an in-house presentation took place where Nature Foundation member Peter Hastwell spoke on several conservation focussed topics. These included providing information about his and James' Heritage Agreement property on Kangaroo Island, the valuable role of citizen science (Echidna and Glossy Black-Cockatoo monitoring, Frogspotter, Land for Wildlife movement cameras, iNaturalist and Feral scan apps), the effect of larger populations on limited resources and what an individual can offer to make a difference in the field of conservation. The eight attendees enjoyed the informative talk so much that it ran overtime as there were many stories and questions to ask.

On Wednesday, 20 October, Nature Foundation hosted ten members on a day out at Monarto Safari Park. The new visitor centre was an ideal way to start the trip, followed by the Zuloop bus that took the group to six different stops where they could hop off and on.

Particular highlights amongst many on the day were the cheetahs, white rhinos, adorable meerkats, giraffes, zebras, lions and, of course, the Yellow-footed Rock-Wallabies. It was a fascinating day with lots of information provided by volunteer guides and Safari Park Keepers along the way.

The group enjoyed the day at Monarto Safari Park and recommended it to others interested in seeing wildlife close up. There is plenty of information on the website: [monartosafari.com.au/visitor-information](http://monartosafari.com.au/visitor-information)







## Artists in Residence

Art meets Nature at  
SALA exhibition  
*Nature's  
Foundations*

A very successful showing of three artists' work inspired by Nature Foundation's Nature Reserves took place in August this year. Through Nature Foundation's Artist Residency program **John Whitney, Alison Binks, and Jane Rusden** spent time at either Hiltaba or Witchelina. Their resulting work reflected their perceptions and experiences on the nature reserves.

The exhibition was part of the 2022 South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival. Held at Mrs Harris' Shop in Torrensville, an intimate gallery with an interesting history including time as a neighbourhood general store, a shoemakers' studio, and a warehouse is run by Jo Harris and her husband, Kim. They generously made their gallery available to Nature Foundation during the exhibition.

At the well-attended opening night, Jane Rusden, who had spent two weeks at Witchelina Nature Reserve in May 2022, said, "It was fascinating seeing how three individuals, all artists in remote outback locations at either Hiltaba or Witchelina, responded to the environment they were in."

The exhibition featured landscapes by Alison Binks and John Whitney, and Jane's images of birds and was open for the entire month of SALA.

Proceeds on sales of works from the exhibition have been kindly donated to Nature Foundation. Some artworks are still available for sale. For more information contact the Nature Foundation office on 8340 2880.

We are also grateful to Bec Hardy for the sponsorship of wines enjoyed at the events associated with the exhibition.



*Clockwise: Jane Rusden's work, L-R- Barry Savva, John Whitney and Carmelo Scavone, Alison Bink's work, L-R- Alex Nankivell, Jane Rusden, Angela Hazebroek (Nature Foundation Director), Geoff Gibbons, Millie Nicholls (Nature Foundation Director), Lange Powell, John Whitney.*

Volunteers getting their hands dirty, Pre-planting, and the pre-planting briefing.



## Successful planting days

### As a result of two winter planting events, Tiliqua Nature Reserve is 800 plants richer!

Facilitated by Nature Foundation, 450 iron-grass plants, *Lomandra multiflora* ssp. *dura* (Stiff Mat-rush) and *Lomandra densiflora* (Pointed Mat-rush) were planted by volunteers and staff from the organisations associated with the project over two days in June.

The remaining 350 were planted on an additional planting day in early August. A unique part of the August planting day was a visit by Ngadjuri representatives who performed a Welcome to Country.

Rotational managers Chris and Maria Reed and Adam Matthews worked hard during the August planting day to erect protective fencing around all the plantings. Sheep are grazed on the property, which is necessary for managing the pygmy bluetongue habitat.

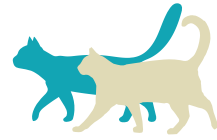
These planting days are part of a larger project to improve the condition of the critically endangered Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Australia ecological community. The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board led the project in partnership with the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, Mid Murray Landcare SA and Greening Australia through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare program.

### And more habitat for Watchalunga!

In July, fifty keen volunteers planted 1,750 rushes and sedges at Watchalunga Nature Reserve on National Tree Day. These infill plantings in the existing Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren (MLRSEW) habitat are designed to improve the habitat. This productive day was facilitated by Nature Foundation and Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Group (GWLAP). GWLAP undertook site preparation (weed control and auguring holes) before the planting day.

In other exciting news, Nature Foundation staff visited a neighbouring landowner south of Watchalunga Nature Reserve to assess the potential of participating in the Watchalunga Biosphere Project. The Watchalunga Biosphere is an idea that aims to gather adjacent landholders who have emu-wrens or suitable emu-wren habitat and an interest in helping to secure and improve their habitat in the Finnis and Tookayerta creek catchments surrounding Watchalunga Nature Reserve.





# Feral Cat Eradication event

## Nature Foundation garners support for feral cat eradication on Kangaroo Island.

In exciting news, Nature Foundation recently secured a grant worth \$1.25 million from The Ian Potter Foundation, which will support the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board's Feral Cat Eradication Program over the next four years.

The project will create a permanent haven for the endangered Kangaroo Island dunnart and Southern Brown Bandicoot, and other EPBC-listed species, such as the KI echidna and hooded plover, by eradicating feral cats from the Dudley Peninsula, a 384 km<sup>2</sup> area of mixed bushland, coastal and agricultural landscapes at the eastern end of Kangaroo Island. The peninsula will be isolated from the remainder of the island by a cat barrier fence built across the narrow isthmus to prevent re-invasions from the west.

CEO Alex Nankivell announced the successful grant funding at the Kangaroo Island Cat Eradication Showcase held at Adelaide Pavilion in Adelaide on 11 October. Other keynote speakers included Leon Bignell MP, Dr Fiona Fraser – Threatened Species Commissioner and Professor Chris Daniels – Green Adelaide Presiding Member.

The momentum for recreating a Kangaroo Island free of feral cats is building. Feral cats are recognised as a significant threat to native species, particularly small mammals and ground-nesting birds. In addition, they are known vectors of parasitic diseases which have substantial economic impacts on the island's sheep industry.

Although this grant represents a substantial contribution, an additional \$2 million is still required to eradicate feral cats within the Dudley Peninsula. For more information, see [naturefoundation.org.au/how-to-help/donate/feral-cat-eradication-program](http://naturefoundation.org.au/how-to-help/donate/feral-cat-eradication-program).

L-R- Alex Nankivell, Dr James Smith (Kangaroo Island Landscapes Board), Julie Quinn (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, DCCEEW) and Fiona Fraser (Threatened Species Commissioner, DCCEEW)





## Inspired by nature

Nature Foundation products available online!

**Our full range of beautifully branded products is now available for purchase online – there’s something for everyone! They all make fantastic gifts and help raise awareness of our vital work for nature conservation.**

For young ones, or young at heart, there are vibrant Kids on Country Bandanas in a choice of three colours. Printed with Shane Mankitya Cook’s stunning artwork they go well with a Kids on Country sun-safe bucket hat – perfect for days at the beach or bushwalking.

We also have some handy items for use at home, all designed to be planet friendly: biodegradable cleaning cloths; a clever double layered stainless steel Bento Box, to take your lunch or dinner anywhere you want; and organic cotton tea towels with our lovely Eucalyptus design.

Available are also stainless steel straws; practical cotton produce bags in a choice of prints; and a dish and laundry stack – a 200gm block of handmade green tea and lemongrass scented dish and laundry soap, with its own reclaimed wooden soap dish.

And of course there are our stainless steel water bottles that have been tried and tested far and wide including at Hiltaba, Witchelina and in Western Australia! These come in black, white and bright green, but if you want to add a bit of colour to life, hot pink and bright yellow are available too. These plastic-free, double walled bottles keep contents cool for 24 hours or hot for up to 12.

Head to [naturefoundation.org.au/how-to-help/nature-shop](https://naturefoundation.org.au/how-to-help/nature-shop) to find gifts for those discerning friends and family members. Or you might even like to buy something for yourself!






# Upcoming Events

We are excited to announce the following upcoming event!

## **14 December** Forever Nature Fund

[See page 2 for details](#)



*Please note all dates are indicative, subject to COVID, with confirmation and further details closer to the time. Keep an eye on our website for the latest updates!*



### **VOLUNTEERS**

We are currently seeking people to assist in various capacities. Phone 08 8340 2880 if you can help!

### **BUSHLAND FOR SALE**

Have you dreamt of owning your own natural wonderland? Our Blanchetown Bushland Estate provides a unique opportunity to purchase a 900 ha block of mallee woodland just minutes from the River Murray and alive with native flora and fauna. We have one allotment remaining.

For more information contact Caroline Nefiodovas on (08) 8340 2880 or [caroline.nefiodovas@naturefoundation.org.au](mailto:caroline.nefiodovas@naturefoundation.org.au).

### **ITEMS NEEDED – CAN YOU HELP?**

If you are able to donate, fund or loan any of the following items, or provide the funds to acquire them, please phone 08 8340 2880 or email [info@naturefoundation.org.au](mailto:info@naturefoundation.org.au)

- 1 weather station for Hiltaba and 4 for Witchelina to enable us to match changes in vegetation health with rain, temperature and other measures. Thank you to those who have donated so far.
- Land for nature conservation
- Acoustic monitoring devices for bats and birds.



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Do you follow us on [LinkedIn](#)?  
If not we'd love you to follow our  
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out about the amazing work we  
do for nature in South Australia!

We are also very active on  
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Hope to see you  
online soon.

#### Nature Foundation Ltd

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