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WINTER

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2022

Engaging
people in
conservation

NatureMatters

Hillbaba landscape by Chris Warrion

**VITAL
WORK
APPEAL**

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**Nature
Foundation**



Vital Work Appeal

You can help us magnify the incredible impacts of the significant rain that fell at Witchelina earlier this year: a massive 176.2mm – the highest January rainfall since records began!

This rainfall has resulted in the inundation of parts of Witchelina including Minagoona Lake. This usually silent, dry lake-bed has been transformed into a magnificent 1200 hectare expanse of water which has come to life with an almost deafening chorus of cicadas, frogs, and budgies. It's not only water birds loving the mudflats, there are also quails in their hundreds, and Orange-chats and Songlarks in the long grass. Terns hunt through the surrounding Samphire and waders, Red-kneed Dotterels, ducks, and swans are in their hundreds.

This rain has not only affected Witchelina but is part of a significant national scale breeding event. When the water dries up and the chicks mature into adults, the birds will disperse across the country in greatly replenished numbers. This highlights the value of arid refuges like Witchelina for entire populations of species.

With declines in biodiversity and reduced ecosystem resilience evident across the globe, it's never been more important to act locally to secure healthy ecosystems that are critical for human health, and for food and fire production.

Nature Foundation is dedicated to protecting our community, economy and environment from climate change impacts. We recognise that through active management our nature reserves are critical refuges during these wet times, contributing to an Australia-wide renewal of populations.

Because this is such a rare event, it's even more important that we support this boom. Property fences damaged by floodwaters need repairs to protect rejuvenating habitat and fragile wetlands, and ensure feral species such as goats, foxes and cats don't impact native species. To effectively manage these important and beautiful places we need increased financial resources to implement the programs that achieve results.

Please join us in amplifying this boom in our own backyard by making a donation to our Vital Work Appeal Funds raised will be used for:

- Targeted feral predator programs
- Threatened species monitoring for the Plains Mouse and Thick-billed Grasswren
- Infrastructure repair
- Weed control – specifically managing Buffel Grass
- Undertaking a biological survey in spring

Thank you for your support!



From the Chair

Jan Ferguson OAM

Some exciting news from the Birds SA survey team who recently conducted

the 6-monthly bird survey at Witchelina Nature Reserve. A small flock of Painted Finches (*Emblema pictum*) has been recorded at Termination Dam. These birds are common in the north of Australia, occasionally migrating as far south as the Flinders Ranges during wetter seasons, and were last recorded on Witchelina in 1980.

This is a significant finding for the survey team and Nature Foundation. In total, 90 bird species were recorded during the survey at Witchelina, the most since 2014. The recent significant rainfall and the resulting increase in migratory birds have contributed to this wonderful species diversity.

It is pleasing to see that the recently elected South Australian government has hit the ground running. Of particular importance to Nature Foundation is the considerable status afforded to the environment, with the Deputy Premier also the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. We are actively seeking to meet with Minister Susan Close to discuss a range of matters relevant to Nature Foundation.

It is a great relief to see the Pastoral Bill proposed by the former government soundly rejected by the newly elected government. In addition, they have pledged a \$1 million increase in funding to the Pastoral Board to facilitate the land condition assessments needed to give certainty to leaseholders so that the vast 40 million-hectare rangelands region in SA's north remains sustainable. The new government has also pledged that the pastoral team will be adequately funded and returned to the environment portfolio.

The new government has also promised to increase funding to non-government organisations, support community-led science projects, and create a new unit within the Department for Environment and Water to work with researchers on the management of the environmental impact of pests, weeds and abundant species. They plan to introduce a new Biodiversity Act, adding legislative teeth to biodiversity conservation across the state.

We also look forward to the appointment of the new Albanese ministry following Labor's recent win in the Federal election. Nature Foundation has a vital role to play to enable the conservation outcomes our natural environment and community depends on.

I want to say a huge thank you to those of you who have already donated to our Vital Work Appeal. This Appeal remains open, so if you have not yet contributed, please consider doing so. You may like to encourage your networks to contribute so we can help halt and reverse nature loss in South Australia.

Your donation enables our daily activities to continue so that together we can achieve amplified conservation outcomes for our precious state. There has never been a greater need for this work to continue than right now. Together we can have a more significant impact!

Finally, we wish Hugo all the best in his retirement and thank him for his significant contribution to conservation through the work of the Nature Foundation over the last six years.

In the short term, Alex Nankivell will act as CEO whilst we commence a national recruitment process for a new Nature Foundation CEO.



From the interim CEO Alex Nankivell

I hope this edition of Nature Matters finds you well!

Recently Nature Foundation had the pleasure of spending time with members of the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) and GreenCollar on Gawler Ranges National Park and Hiltaba Nature Reserve.

We continue to build strong relationships as we seek to activate carbon farming and move to a deeper and broader partnership with GRAC. You can read more about this in the article by Chris Warrior, Director and the Deputy Chair of GRAC.

Warm congratulations to the Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia team for their honourable mention in the recent State Landcare Awards. This program has worked very hard over the past two years to support private land conservation across South Australia. Thank you to all the property owners, community groups and stakeholders who continue to engage with the program.

There is always much happening on our nature reserves, and we hope you enjoy reading the updates in this edition on Watchalunga, Tiliqua and Murbpook. Aerial surveys using thermal imagery have also recently commenced at Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves, thanks to a grant from NAB Foundation which has partly funded highly specialised equipment to make this possible.

The recent rainfall has seen populations of threatened fauna across our reserves benefit. Thick-billed Grasswrens at Witchelina have bounced back after several challenging years of drought; Plains Mouse at Witchelina have also proven to be resilient through the dry times. Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies at Hiltaba have experienced growth and are now utilising hills nearby their core population. Numbers of Short-tailed Grasswren at Hiltaba and Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren at Watchalunga have remained stable at both reserves.

The end of the financial year is the perfect time to support our Vital Work Appeal. Every dollar you donate helps protect more landscapes, manage our threatened fauna and mitigate the effects of climate change.

As always, thank you for your support in so many ways. Please tell friends, family and colleagues about us, as with your help we can do more.



The CEO Hugo Hopton has retired after over six years' service with Nature Foundation.

Throughout his career Hugo has worked with communities and industries in land conservation, primary production, native vegetation management and water management and built relationships with Nature Foundation's multiple stakeholders.

Just a few highlights of Hugo's time at Nature Foundation include hosting ALCA's national Private Land Conservation conference in 2019 and shepherding the Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia program for existing and prospective Heritage Agreement Owners. Hugo is known to be a passionate advocate for nature on behalf of the environmental sector.

On behalf of everyone at Nature Foundation and our members, supporters, partners and sponsors, we wish Hugo well in retirement.

Time to connect and recharge on Country and learn about the Hiltaba Carbon Farming Project

By Chris Warrior

My family is one of the foundation families that make up the group known as the Gawler Ranges people. The Country of the Gawler Ranges, where Hiltaba Nature Reserve is located, is very important to the laws, customs and cultural identity of our people.



Above: Hugo Hopton, Chris Warrior, Wilum Warrior, Jono Schutz and Caroline Nefiodovas. All images courtesy Chris Warrior.

The Gawler Ranges People are recognised as the traditional owners of this Country, attaining native title in 2011. We are a distinct group of foundation families made up of some, but not all, of the Barngarla, Kokatha and Wirangu People. The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC), of which I am deputy Chair, is the Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) for the Native Title Determination Area.

GRAC, Nature Foundation and GreenCollar have been talking for some time about the opportunity for Carbon Farming in the Gawler Ranges. Due to COVID and border closures over the past couple of years it's been challenging to meet up properly in person, but in March this year our three

organisations spent five days together in the Gawler Ranges. The group comprised Leslee Warrior and I representing the GRAC Board; Green Collar's Jono Schultz and Marian Wilson, and Nature Foundation's Hugo Hopton, Caroline Nefiodovas and Liam Crook. We were joined by David Turner from GRAC, and Chris and Maria Reed, Nature Foundation's Property General Managers.

Leslee and I invited Nature Foundation and GreenCollar to join us for the first couple of days at the Gawler Ranges National Park, staying in the Paney Shearers Quarters. For Aunty Leslee and I, this time was to connect and recharge on Country and meet with the team of Aboriginal Working on Country Rangers. We took the opportunity to show Hugo, Caroline and Marian some of the beautiful and important cultural and historical places in the park such as rockholes, the Old Paney Homestead and the famous Organ Pipes.

Driving from the park to Hiltaba, we travelled through Yardea Station and saw the creek lines where Aunty Leslee and her family would go camping when she was a child. At Hiltaba we stayed in the Homestead which has been beautifully restored and maintained by Nature Foundation volunteers. The Homestead is nestled at the foot of granite hills and from the front

continued from previous page



Left: Leslee Warrior and Wilum Warrior

veranda you can see several Major Mitchell cockatoos coming in for water.

We spent two days at Hiltaba in meetings and exploring the beautiful landscape and some of the cultural sites. We learned from Hugo about the conservation management actions Nature Foundation is undertaking to care for the native plants and animals, and the value they place on community partnerships. We learned about technical aspects of Carbon farming from Jono, who showed us the condition of the trees and how the work Nature Foundation is doing to reduce the grazing pressure is helping to sequester and store Carbon. With Caroline and Marian, we talked about opportunities that investment through Carbon Partnerships with GreenCollar can bring for Native Title Holders.

As GRAC directors, to spend time on Hiltaba and be able to see what a Carbon Project looks like and discuss the benefits, was the best way for us to learn about Carbon farming and communicate the opportunities for community back to our Board.

From a personal perspective, this trip back to Country was particularly special for me because I brought my young son Wilum. Thank you Nature Foundation for your hospitality and sharing an amazing experience together on Country. It was a great group of people to be around, and we loved every day. This trip is going to be something Aunty Leslee, Wilum and I will share a core memory about and we can't wait to go back again with family.

Palya

Chris Warrior is a director and the Deputy Chair of GRAC. He is also the owner and content creator for Wiru Media and a self confessed Drone Nerd. Our readers are welcome to hop on over to **Wiru Media Instagram** account to view some of the amazing drone imagery Chris captured during his trip to the Gawler Ranges.



Taking thermal imagery to new heights at Witchelina and Hiltaba

Science & Knowledge Program Manager Alex Nankivell being interviewed; Claire Fuller

We were delighted to host Ross McEwan (CEO) and Joe Paparella (Regional Customer Executive SA/NT) from NAB at Prospect and Para Woodlands Nature Reserve to discuss how we are achieving the best biodiversity outcomes on our nature reserves. An NAB Foundation grant will help fund a remotely piloted aircraft fixed with thermal cameras to detect native and pest animals at Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves.

This will be the first time Nature Foundation has been able to conduct surveys at this scale, covering an area larger than Kangaroo Island.

Aerial surveys will be a huge help in validating our on-ground management strategies – this highly specialised technology provides the precision and accuracy to increase our knowledge and understanding of the distribution of animals. We are devising a comprehensive monitoring program that will enable us to manage both native and pest animals in a much more coordinated way.

With more frequent and severe droughts predicted, our reserves are at a high risk of being disturbed, allowing pest animals to colonise more easily – so we need to become resilient to negative environmental changes. This will also benefit the surrounding pastoralist community through the management of pest species that would otherwise negatively impact their businesses and livelihoods.

Our thanks again to NAB Foundation for this grant funding!

With your help we will soon be harnessing data from Wedge-tailed Eagles!



Thank you so much to everyone who donated to our Raptor Appeal – now we can begin to solve the mysteries of journeys of the majestic Wedge-tailed Eagles at Witchelina Nature Reserve.

Since 2017, there has been significant turnover in the Wedge-tailed Eagle population at Witchelina Nature Reserve, going from approximately 75 birds to 15-20 birds. Many of the birds sighted in 2017 may have been juveniles that have since migrated from Witchelina and may never return. This turnover raises questions for us as Witchelina's conservation managers including: Are the same pairs resident in particular territories? Do new birds move into territories? How do territories interact with each other?

During this project we aim to capture at least 12 adult Wedge-tailed eagles, ensuring that their well-being is maintained, and to harness a GPS tracker around their sternum. The trackers have a three-year lifespan that will provide vital data about where the birds travel and spend time. This methodology has been widely tested around the world and here in Australia and our raptor experts, Ian Falkenberg and Nick Mooney, are highly experienced using this technology.

This project will allow us to gather accurate information on:

- Annual movements
- Nesting sites and behaviour
- Home range sizes
- Dispersal
- Immature animal movements
- Survival, mortality and threats

As part of this project, we will be designing and building a walk-in eagle trap so that we can trap the birds safely to attach the tracker. The trap will need to be lightweight so it can be easily assembled and disassembled.

We look forward to reporting on this project in the future. You can help us to continue managing Witchelina so that it remains an important refuge for these majestic raptors. Every donation makes a difference!

First watering at Murbpook!



Jenny Grace-Giles,
Steve Clarke and
Lucy Clive



It was a momentous day when Nature Foundation was able to start the recovery phase for the northern wetland at its Murbpook Nature Reserve on Ngaiawang country.

This particular wetland has not been full for five years. Gum trees around the wetland are badly stressed, and much of the vegetation you would typically see at a healthy wetland is missing. By filling the wetland with Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder water we expect to trigger some positive changes for the wetland and improve habitat for threatened species like the Regent Parrot and Southern Bell Frog.

There to help out and witness the start of the recovery phase were two representatives from the First Peoples of the River Murray Mallee Native Title Claimant Group 2 – Jenny Grace-Giles and Steve Clarke, along with Nature Foundation's Natalie Stalenberg and Lucy Clive.





What's happening at Watchalunga Nature Reserve?

Work at our Nature Reserves happens all year round.

For example if you had been down at Watchalunga Nature Reserve, near Finniss on the Fleurieu Peninsula, in October last year, you would have witnessed Nature Glenelg Trust Aquasave (NGT-Aquasave), carry out the reserve's fourth annual native fish survey. Not only did NGT- Aquasave catch fish in traps to sample what species were present, but they also carried out innovative eDNA sampling.

Regular surveys like this allow us to record the abundance of the different species present over time.

Eight sites were sampled across Watchalunga and 258 fish were recorded, across 13 species including 10 native species and three alien species. The total number of fish recorded was slightly lower than the 2020 survey (286 fish) with an increase in the number of non-native fish caught (2021: 54; 2020: 22).

In addition to fish, two species of turtle were captured including two Eastern Long-necked turtles and one Murray Short-necked turtle. Both species were recorded in the 2020 survey.

This is the second year that environmental DNA (eDNA) techniques were used at Watchalunga. eDNA techniques are increasingly being used as cost-effective, non-invasive strategies for collecting information on fish from water samples without having to catch the fish. eDNA approaches at Watchalunga were looking to detect three regionally rare species: Murray

Hardyhead, Yarra Pygmy Perch and Southern Pygmy Perch. The eDNA sampling did not detect any of the species in the 2021 survey, which was disappointing after the 2020 positive result of Murray Hardyhead at one of the eight sampling sites.

The Science and Knowledge team are working with the Nature Glenelg Trust to develop strategies for Nature Foundation to increase the abundance and diversity of native fish species, and control non-native fish species including common carp and redfin perch.

As well as surveying the waters of Watchalunga, birds were also being surveyed, specifically the endangered Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren (MLRSEW), *Stipiturus malachurus intermedius*. This is the fourth round of annual monitoring in this stronghold for this threatened species.

In September 2021, during the pre-breeding survey, a total of five individuals (including one pair) were recorded in the revegetated areas, in lignum planted approximately 2-3 years ago. This is fantastic news and evidence that our restoration efforts to enhance the Emu-wren habitat are successful. Hopefully next year, we will see more Emu-wrens using the revegetated habitat, and we look forward to seeing breeding activity in this area soon!



Pygmy Blue-tongue update from Tiliqua Nature Reserve



Tiliqua Nature Reserve was purchased in 2010 when a Pygmy Blue-tongue *Tiliqua adelaiensis*, (PBT) lizard population was located on it. The reserve subsequently became dedicated to protecting this species and regularly hosts researchers focused on this goal.

In addition to supporting considerable academic conservation research of the Pygmy Blue-tongue, Nature Foundation monitors the PBT population at Tiliqua to ensure our management actions are helping the population remain stable, if not increasing. This monitoring is vitally important when protecting and conserving a specific, single population.

The first PBT population monitoring survey was recently carried out to understand the distribution of the lizards on the 85-hectare property and to identify where the most densely populated areas are. Information on the spider burrows and data on the tussock vegetation was collected and will assist us in better defining the best quality PBT habitat in the reserve.

Monitoring this population annually will allow us to track how the lizards, and the spiders at Tiliqua, respond to seasonal environmental conditions such as rainfall and temperatures.

Research suggests that climate change is the biggest threat to the species, after agricultural processes such as ploughing, so these surveys are important to keep track of the overall size of our population each year. It is also important to monitor the spiders as, without them, the lizards have nowhere to live!

In addition, other research that is being undertaken involves Nature Foundation partnering with Flinders University in a Pygmy Blue-tongue lizard translocation ARC linkage grant lead by Mike Gardner. The aim of the project is to test the success of a trial translocation to thoroughly understand how to safely move these lizards to mitigate climate change risks in the future.

Mike and his team will test if lizards from different geographic locations do equally as well as each other or if there are differences in their response to the translocation due the difference in their genetics and other aspects e.g. thermal biology and inherent behaviours.

With an increasing understanding of this species, their future looks bright on Tiliqua Nature Reserve.



BOARD DIRECTOR PROFILE

Professor Phil Weinstein

Philip Weinstein is a Professorial Research Fellow in the School of Public Health at the University of Adelaide. Prior to his current appointment he was Head of School in the School of Biological Sciences. He holds dual qualifications in ecology (PhD) and public health medicine (MBBS, FAFPHM).

Phil has lectured zoology at James Cook University, was Professor of Public and Environmental Health at the University of Queensland, and Head of School of Population Health at the University of Western Australia. He has over 300 publications on the relationship between healthy ecosystem and human health, including water-borne, mosquito-borne, and microbiome-mediated disease.

He was a member of the Board of Review Editors for the global Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, served as Co-Chair of the International Medical Geology Association, is immediate past President of the Australian Entomological Society, and Chairs the Nature Conservation Committee at Nature Foundation.

How did you become involved with Nature Foundation?

I am a researcher, and work in the area of ecosystem health: I ask, how does the health of ecosystems affect the health of the populations dependent on them? One of the themes that keeps emerging

from this work is that we need to keep the environment healthy in order to look after our own health – and Nature Foundation looks after the environment, so it was a natural fit for me to try to contribute to that effort.

What inspires you to volunteer your time on Nature Foundation’s Board and committees?

When you work in conservation, you often start out planting trees, helping vegetation restoration, volunteering hands and time to support threatened species programmes... Then opportunities may arise to help on a bigger scale, by coordinating, supporting, and seeking funding for the wonderful people who do these things. That is where I am at now, I am trying my best as Chair of the Nature Conservation Committee to inform our conservation management on our reserves for maximum impact with limited resources. In that role I also sit on the Board, but I am not the best with paperwork – so I’m very grateful to the people who support me and other Board members by getting those things right.

What do you find most rewarding about your involvement?

There is a lot of effort that goes on behind the scenes, from counting critters in the remote reaches of the Outback, to getting the governance of the organisation right. It is most rewarding when those

things come together, and you can see measurable evidence of having helped a threatened species or ecosystem – changing the negative trajectory of a collapsing population or deteriorating environment into something positive, healthy, and thriving.

What is your vision for nature conservation?

Firstly and foremost, to keep doing what we are doing, because we are doing it well – ecological disaster areas are being rehabilitated into happy places where endangered species can thrive. But I would also like to see all conservation organisations coordinate better to make sure that different species in different ecosystems all get the same opportunity to be better managed and conserved.

What are some of your other interests?

That is a dangerous question to ask a multidisciplinary researcher! I can be drawn down just about any rabbit hole, there is an infinite number of interesting projects to undertake – just not enough time or money to cover everything I would like to! I split my time between dabbling in ecology and dabbling in public health, and always enjoy working on things that land in the intersection between the two.



Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia program honoured

Congratulations to the Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia team, who were honoured to accept an Encouragement Award in the category of Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare, at the Landcare Association of SA Awards.

A huge thank you to all partners for making this program a success and bringing much needed support to private land conservation across South Australia.

And of course thank you to all the property owners, community groups and stakeholders who continue to show support for the program.

[Nature Foundation](#) | [Nature Conservation Society of South Australia](#) | [Conservation SA](#) | [Trees For Life \(SA\)](#) | [Livestock SA](#)

Building landscapes together



Top: Burrowing frog; *Neobatrachus pictus*. Centre: *Ningauai yvonneae*. Bottom: Dr Peter Cale.

Article and all images courtesy Rebecca O'Leary.

South Olary Plain is a significant conservation area, of which Calperum, Taylorville and Gluepot Heritage Agreements cover over 386,587 hectares. These property owners are working together to build on previous conservation and volunteer efforts to change the landscape.

Through a Revitalising Private Conservation SA (RPCSA) Linking Landscape grant, long-term environmental outcomes are being achieved. The grant funding is conserving natural and indigenous values by restoring hydrology systems through dam decommissioning, and returning water into the landscape that has been unavailable for decades. Identified through the Living Landscape Conservation Action Planning process, this action will benefit habitat for threatened bird species, such as the Malleefowl.

Manager and senior ecologist of the Australian Landscape Trust, Dr Peter Cale explains “Returning the water flow across the land will increase the resilience of the ecosystem, especially in periods of drought and unpredictable rainfall. The hydrological restoration work is also reducing total grazing pressure through restricting available surface water and therefore impacting feral goat and kangaroo populations and movements.”

Landscape SA and Department for Environment and Water worked in partnership with managers to use earth moving equipment to modify the dams and restrict their long-term water holding capacity. Follow-up revegetation of the sites is required to stabilise the soil and reduce possible erosion, provide competition for any

weeds species and increase habitat.

Support and input from volunteers is also a factor to changing landscapes, with a number of activities planned to assist in successful restoration and building of knowledge.

RPCSA Outreach Officers recently participated in Gluepot Reserve's first working bee with a number of conservation activities ranging from bird surveying, in particular monitoring declining woodland birds such as the White-browed Treecreeper; pitfall trapping and electric fence maintenance for feral goat control. Calperum Station will also be engaging volunteers to assist in revegetation efforts and all of these experiences build the functionality and personal connection with the landscape.

The greatest conservation outcomes are achieved when partnerships, communities and volunteers are working together. This is clearly demonstrated in the conservation efforts on the South Olary Plain.

Keep updated on the Program, projects and opportunities for private conservation through the RPCSA Facebook Page @ [RevitalisingConservationSA](#) and Instagram @ [private_land_conservation_sa](#)

Participants at a Kids on Country camp; Katie Perry



“

The program is fantastic, I love being involved. My favourite part is hearing about the young people’s experiences, watching the changes in the young people – their confidence grow within their peer group and with the facilitators.”

Chris Fulton Community Engagement Officer Eyre region Landscape Board – Arid Lands.

Kids on Country

2021 Review and Future Planning meeting

A group of seven passionate industry experts gathered in Port Augusta recently for the Kids on Country Team 2021 Review and future planning day with members of the Landscape Board – Arid Lands Community Engagement Team, one of our designated Aboriginal Elders and Key Stakeholders Leslee Warrior and the Kids on Country team including Katie, Warren, Natalie and Helen.

Purpose

The Kids on Country 2021 Review included a summary of the year that was, with plenty of opportunities for open discussions.

Reflection

Katie and Warren shared some highlights of the previous year and invited participants to share their thoughts and ideas on the KoC program and activities including our successes and challenges.

Independent Evaluation Findings

Nature Foundation commissioned an independent evaluation of the program as part of Commonwealth funding requirements.

The Kids on Country Leadership program provides Aboriginal young people the opportunity to participate in on-country camps, where they have the mental and physical space to develop, nurture, and grow their ambition to pursue further study and evaluate career opportunities. The camps have a culture-first approach,

where participants are afforded the opportunity to grow under the mentorship of senior Aboriginal people, whilst engaging in practical on-country studies in conservation and land management. Objectives include:

- To strengthen cultural identity and pride.
- To strengthen engagement with cultural knowledges and skills.
- To enhance ongoing engagement in education.
- To inspire future careers in conservation land management.

The group was very pleased with the independent review of Kids on Country, with most in attendance having been interviewed as part of the process. The evaluation found there are multiple ways in which students are positively impacted by preparing for and having an on-country experiences led by experienced cultural facilitators and program staff.

- 94% of participants confirmed the on-country experiences helped them

feel more connected to culture and country.

- 84% strongly agreed that the on-country program increased their connection to culture, country and conservation.

The Independent Evaluation also found that positive impact for participants is consistent with recent research on the cultural determinants of health as part of the “Mayi Kuwayu: National Study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Well-being”, led by Professor Ray Lovett.

Future Directions

The KoC team shared their ideas and invited participants to collaboratively discuss actions and plans for further resourcing and activities for the program.

- KoC 5 year strategic plan – shared with partners
- Expansion of program
 - Murbpook Reserve
- Funding Opportunities
 - Program Logic
 - Theory of Change



Far left: Dr Peggy Rismiller. Left: Peter Hastwell and James Barnes. Below: Julie Moyle. All photos by Anne Clark



Member Tour to Kangaroo Island

Beautiful March weather saw 12 Nature Foundation members escorted on a tour to Kangaroo Island to visit our co-managed reserve Cygnet Park and our supported conservation projects.

Guest and Leaders boarded the Sealink ferry for a smooth ride to KI where the group settled into Penneshaw for the first 3 nights, followed by 2 nights in Kingscote. Mornings began for the keen with walks or yoga. Guests met Dr James Smith to hear about the Feral Cat Eradication Project. One couple on board Alun and Kathleen, were very keen to see the result of their donated camera trap. The IT and camera advances in this area are absolutely incredible and certainly fascinated the guests with the thermal images captured and the 360 degree cat tracking systems now possible.

A fun, scat identifying activity and presentation from Dr Peggy Rismiller and Mike McKelvey from Pelican Bay Research Centre, on their research on the endemic KI echidnas and Rosenberg's goannas, kept everyone enthralled. The group are now all able to identify echidna scat and Peggy welcomes anyone to join Echidna CSI to help pull together data on echidnas across Australia.

A morning spent at Seal Bay raised awareness of the challenges facing the Sea Lion population and the incredible research being undertaken to ensure the survival of this species. Guests also had the opportunity to hear from Tanya Rosewarne, one of Nature Foundation's grant recipients and her study of Sea Lions.

Guests visited Cygnet Park with Michelle Haby and saw the beginnings of a new development for a native seed bank, heard about the challenges and successes for the Glossy Black-Cockatoos from Karleah Berris, and the work of Veronica Bates at the KI Native Plant Nursery in assisting with the revegetation of Kangaroo Island. Some 57,000 plants have been propagated and are awaiting delivery to landholders across KI.

Everyone was blown away by the revegetation and new growth in the fire affected areas of Flinders Chase. Here we were treated to a very informative talk from the KI Dunnart Recovery

Team headed up by Paul Jennings with Chantelle, Claire and Kelly, and heard about the work they are doing with monitoring, camera traps and learning more about this small but vitally important marsupial.

Another highlight was to have lunch with James Hastwell and Peter Barnes and explore Caerdroia, a property owned by them near Western Cove. Peter and James are Nature Foundation Members, and they showcased the revegetation work they have undertaken as recipients of a Revitalising Private Conservation Grant. We were surrounded by the peace and beauty of the bush for an enjoyable lunch.

Guest also got to have a few stops along the way to take in some of the KI highlights – Baudin Conservation Park and walking trails (complete with two Glossy Blacks and a large Tiger Snake), Admirals Arch, Remarkable Rocks, Browns Beach, Vivonne Bay, Antechamber Bay, Pennington Bay, Little Sahara and the Raptor Domain. Some took the opportunity of extra evening activities and went to the Penguin Research Centre to see penguins return to their burrows or went scorpion spotting by blue light torches.

Our thanks to all the wonderful staff from the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board, National Parks and Wildlife staff and our guest presenters for their time, enthusiasm, passion and dedication to preserving the ecosystems and wildlife of such a special place as Kangaroo Island.

Thank you also to our tour guests who have made donations to these valuable projects. If you would like to donate, or know more, please visit our website or contact our office staff.

Photo by Andy Rasheed at the Hiltaba Working Bee

Andy Rasheed Eyefood Photography

BUSINESS SUPPORTER PROFILE

How did you become involved with Nature Foundation?

My friend Oli Scholz the architect was involved in a project at Witchelina [Nature Reserve] and invited me along. I had no idea of what to expect but it was a great introduction to Nature Foundation and we had an amazing little adventure.

Why did you decide to donate time/ services?

Initially, I was just keen to get to be out bush but that first trip was eye-opening. It clearly illustrated the amazing work the Foundation does and I'm very much in support of trying to help bring attention to that work. Photography is a great way to engage people. And I still get to go out bush...

What do you do to help Nature Foundation?

My primary role is as a photographer. I have run photographic workshops and documented the working bees. The workshops are a lovely way to share with people and connect. They also refresh the skillset of budding photographers who can then shoot their experiences and share them with the Foundation. My documentation includes the nature reserve's assets, activities and the environment. I've shot portraits and merchandise too.

I tend to gravitate to where the food is, so I have ended up being an unofficial kitchen hand too...

How have you found your involvement? What do you find most rewarding about working with Nature Foundation?

The sense of community at the working bees is exceptional. I find it immensely uplifting to fully engage with these events. I have met lovely people who share a passion for the land and who want to engage too.

What are your future aspirations?

I'd love to see places like Witchelina after 20 years of consistent regeneration. I hope that my images can help bring other people into the journey. My work also becomes a snapshot of what the properties are like at this point and the folk who are engaged in the process now.

What are some of your other interests?

I design and build musical instruments from super high-grade plywoods. I have been working on designs to extend the functionality and ergonomics of acoustic lapsteel guitars and percussion instruments like the cajon and bongo drums. I write and record a bit of music too.

smalldrumrevolution.com.au



Nicki & Pete Crawford Volunteer Profile

How did you become involved with Nature Foundation?

We were looking around for organisations that would enable us to put time and effort into environmental activities outside of Adelaide. Our search led us to Nature Foundation, which seemed a good fit for our skills and interests.

What inspired you to volunteer with Nature Foundation and how long have you been volunteering?

We liked the organisation's broad scope and its friendly yet professional approach. We became members early 2019, immediately signed up to the Witchelina working bee and were delighted with the overall experience. From there, we helped out at a Bunnings sausage sizzle and Watchalunga tree planting on a very wet June weekend, before responding to a call for admin assistance in the office. I (Nicki) started a day per week shortly before its relocation to Prospect – not long before Covid changed lots of things. I was very fortunate to be involved as the office locked down and staff worked from home.

What do you do in your role with Nature Foundation?

Together we assist with members tours, which have been to Witchelina, Hiltaba and Kangaroo Island. Our role includes driving, catering, tour guiding and general help around the group plus, in Peter's case, giving geological talks.

Can you tell us a bit about your background?

Nicki worked in the State Government's economic development agency, facilitating major resource projects and as executive officer of several funds.

Peter worked in secondary education, ending his career as Principal at Waikerie and Victor Harbor High Schools, and beforehand assistant Principal at the Australian Science and Maths School.

We then spent two years working in Chinese schools, where Peter led a senior secondary unit preparing students for tertiary study in English speaking countries, and Nicki taught English in primary school. Not ready to retire, we then spent three winters in Mt Hotham managing ski lodges (glorified cleaners) and enjoying Australia's alpine environment.

What do you find most rewarding about volunteering with Nature Foundation?

Lots of variety in a dynamic organisation – in the activities we get involved with, the people we meet and always learning about nature conservation.

What are some of your other interests?

We are active sports people – at Blackwood Golf Club, on the tennis court, bike riding close to home and hiking out of the city. And keen travellers around SA and further afield, especially with three sons living between Adelaide, Canberra and Oslo.



Need wine? Available here!

The five-star Bec Hardy Wines Nature Foundation Shiraz?



We were excited to learn that the Nature Foundation McLaren Vale Shiraz, created by Bec Hardy Wines to celebrate our 40th anniversary, recently won 5 stars in Australia's oldest wine publication *Winestate Magazine!*

Yet another great reason to purchase some superb wine and raise a glass to Nature Foundation's 40 years of working to conserve, restore and protect nature in South Australia!

Featuring a stunning label design with an image of Hiltaba Nature Reserve by Bill Doyle, this delicious wine features the following elements.

Nose: complex aromas of plums, dark fruits, dried herbs and hints of mint.

Palate: bright and textural with dark berries, plums and subtle spices, complemented by an elegant and lengthy finish.

Pairing: Try with venison loin dry rubbed with juniper berry and lavender served on braised cabbage with a blueberry and red wine glaze.

Oak maturation: 15% new French and American oak for 18 months.

Enjoy the very best South Australian wine and help nature at the same time – \$3 from every bottle sold is donated directly to Nature Foundation's conservation programs.

Purchase here: bechardy.com.au/our-wines/bec-hardy-wines/nature-foundation-40th-anniversary-shiraz

The Great Wealth Transfer

We are currently experiencing the largest intergenerational wealth transfer in our history. Looking ahead to 2040 it is expected that trillions of dollars will be passed from baby boomers to generations X, Y and Z.

Subsequently, conversations are occurring amongst family members regarding donating and inheriting wealth. Have you thought about how your family can best manage and grow inherited wealth?

Not-for-profit organisations are increasingly being considered as beneficiaries of wealth. With good estate planning and establishment of a private trust with a registered wealth management organisation you really can make a significant difference to a cause close to your heart.

Being able to both uphold family values and distribute family wealth can help ensure the wellbeing of future generations and the wellbeing of organisations that help to deliver positive outcomes for our community and the natural environment.

Foundations have different legal limitations depending upon their legal structure and trust deed. As a general guideline, foundations are only permitted to fund organisations that have one or both of the following charitable endorsements from the ATO:

- Endorsement as a Deductible Gift Recipient
- Endorsement as an income tax-exempt charitable entity OR notice of endorsement for charity tax concessions

To find out more information about how to set up a trust or foundation please contact a trusted lawyer or wealth advisor. If you would like to know more about bequests to Nature Foundation, please contact Patrick Mentzel on 08 8340 2880.





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.

Recently we have added to the online store stunning artwork from our 2021 artist in residence Jane Rusden, who spent time at Witchelina and produced beautiful work inspired by the Arid Lands.

Head to 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 events!

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!

27 July

Mid-year Member Update /
Welcome to New Members

12–17 September

Witchelina Member Tour

6–16 October

Nature Festival events TBC

27 October

Annual General Meeting

VOLUNTEERS

We are currently seeking people to provide executive support to some of our committees or working groups. 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 three allotments remaining. For more information eldersrealestate.com.au/rural/sale/lots-2-9-and-11-bushland-estate-blanchetown-sa-5357-23333122

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

- 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.
- Water entitlements to assist our Water For Nature Program
- Land for nature conservation
- Acoustic monitoring devices for bats and birds.
- Funds to replace the roof on the renovated Hiltaba woolshed.



**Nature
Foundation**

VOLUNTARY POSITIONS

Patron & Donor Liaison
Patron
Patron
Chair
Deputy Chair
Directors

Dr Barbara Hardy AO
Dick Smith AC
Reg Nelson
Jan Ferguson OAM
Professor Phil Weinstein
Anne-Marie Barbaro
Bec Hardy
Angela Hazebroek OAM
Mervyn Lewis OAM
Millie Nicholls
Douglas Ransom
Sharon Starick
Chris Reed
Ric Williams

General Property Manager
Friends of Nature Foundation President

STAFF

Interim Chief Executive Officer
Deputy CEO
Science & Knowledge Program Manager
Community Engagement Program Manager
Corporate Services Program Manager
Regional Conservation Programs Manager
Nature Solutions Development Manager
Marketing & Communications Manager
Philanthropy Coordinator
Science & Engagement Project Officer
Science & Knowledge Project Officer
Youth Programs Coordinator
Youth Programs Officer
Administration Manager
Administration Officer
Offsets Program Coordinator
Executive Assistant and Board EO
Communications Officer
Field Ecologist
Field Ecologist

Alex Nankivell
Mark Ashley
Alex Nankivell
Claire Fuller
Georgie Fiedler
Natalie Stalenberg
Caroline Nefiodovas
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Patrick Mentzel
Kelly Arbon
Lucy Clive
Katie Perry
Warren Milera
Anne Clark
Rebecca Clark
Liam Crook
Jane Cooper
Rosemary Argue
Hugh McGregor
Rick Barratt

Get social with Nature Foundation!



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

We are also very active on
Facebook [@NFSAI](#), Instagram
[@naturefoundation_sa](#) and
Twitter [@naturefsa](#)!

Hope to see you
online soon.

Nature Foundation Ltd

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