

naturematters

ENGAGING PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION

Qualco South Australia.
Credit: Renee Thompson

PLEASE DONATE
NOW TO THE VITAL
WORK APPEAL

..... SEE PAGE 2

Vital Work Appeal

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A landscape photograph showing a wide valley with rolling hills and mountains in the background. The foreground features a riverbed with large, reddish-brown rocks and some sparse vegetation. The sky is clear and bright.

VITAL WORK APPEAL

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect our lives, we hope you and your loved ones are safe and well.

Many of us in South Australia are privileged to be self-isolated near or in beautiful natural environments that provide both stimulation and solace. One thing that the global response to the pandemic has provided for many is more time to enjoy nature – in a sense ‘permission’ to slow down and appreciate its rhythms, cycles and beautiful detail.

It has also given us pause globally to consider the similarities between the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, and to read and explore how we might rebuild in a more environmentally friendly and sustainable way.

During this challenging time, Nature Foundation’s dedicated Board, staff and volunteers remain completely focused on conserving, restoring and protecting South Australian landscapes, flora and fauna to ensure their survival. In doing this, we are working hard to keep the Nature Foundation community safe and connected, while continuing our vital work for South Australia’s wildlife.

As an amazing Nature Foundation supporter we know you’re passionate about protecting and restoring the natural environment that sustains us all. Collectively, we need substantial investment in the guardianship of nature – our landscapes, plants and animals. There is already a great deal of work being done but there is so much more to do.

Our conservation work has never been more critical and together we can and are making a big difference to nature, with much we can achieve in the short term.

At this time every year we launch the one appeal where we can generate untied funds to provide crucial financial support for Nature Foundation’s general operations – the Vital Work Appeal. These untied funds enable our organisation to be really effective, flexible and responsive in a rapidly changing environment.

Without funds for staffing, administrative needs, rates and operational costs, vital conservation work and property maintenance activities on our precious nature reserves cannot take place.

Your generous support enables our daily activities and overall efforts to continue to achieve the conservation outcomes our natural environment depends on. We ask you to consider making a donation to our Vital Work Appeal, if you are in a position to do so.

Nature needs our help now more than ever. Please donate to Nature Foundation’s Vital Work Appeal.



From the Chair Jan Ferguson OAM

How the world has changed and so rapidly. I trust you are all able to stay well and safe during these challenging times.

Like many other organisations Nature Foundation has had to fundamentally change how we run the organisation, to assist in controlling the spread of COVID-19 throughout our community. We all need to minimise the risk to ourselves, staff and volunteers, friends and supporters and business partners. Please stay safe.

Our staff have all moved to working from home; a number of events in the first half of the year have been cancelled or moved online and our nature reserves are now closed to visitors until at least 30 June 2020. We will keep our membership and supporters informed as the situation evolves and respond to government directions and advice. We understand this is disappointing for many of you who do so much for Nature Foundation and we will miss seeing you. We are particularly sad to not be able to show you the new Nature Foundation offices. The move went very well, barring the odd technological hitch! Our staff are delighted with the new space which they were able to enjoy briefly. When the current crisis abates we look forward to welcoming you to the new office.

We also have important conservation work to get on with, and we are finding new and innovative ways to get things done and keep in touch!

The Board recently met using Zoom and for our first attempt it went very well. We considered amongst a packed agenda, the Wildlife Recovery Fund; the increased funding for heritage agreements; and the nominations panel that will assist in the recruitment of new Board Members. This year the Nature Foundation Board will be focusing on the implementation of our Strategic Plan in a challenging environment.

The meeting was tinged with a sense of sadness as Suzanne Ridding resigned as a Board member to focus on her business. I would like to personally thank Suzanne for her significant input to Nature Foundation as a valued Board Member and as Vice-President on the former Council. We wish her all the best in her sustainability consultancy business, the success of which demands increasing amounts of her time.

Kind regards

Jan Ferguson OAM

Board Chair



MEMBERSHIP 2020

Nature Foundation greatly values your membership, which helps us to plan for the future and provide opportunities for you to enjoy.

Our membership runs on the calendar year so we encourage you to join, renew or continue your membership now. Thank you to all those members who have already renewed their membership for 2020 – please let your friends and family know! Nature Foundation membership makes a great gift.

Membership benefits include newsletters, event updates, 10% discount on event fees, annual report and voting rights at the AGM.

Membership Plus benefits include Membership benefits plus up to \$40 discount (\$50 for couple/families) off any accommodation and nature drives at Nature Foundation Nature Reserves on any visit throughout the membership year.

For more information or to join online please visit www.naturefoundation.org.au/support-us/membership or contact the Nature Foundation office on 08 8340 2880 or NatureFoundationSA@nfsa.org.au



From the CEO Hugo Hopton



First and foremost, thank you for your support and patience during this extraordinary time – your messages have lifted our spirits enormously.

Just a short time ago we moved into our new office at the City of Prospect and 22 days after that we began the transition to working from home, as so many businesses and fellow not-for-profits have done. In an effort to reduce the devastating impact of COVID-19 on people, communities and businesses the world over, governments and health authorities have been rapidly responding and regularly adapting to this very grave threat.

Nature Foundation acted quickly and responsibly to keep our people and communities safe by cancelling and postponing events such as the Hiltaba Grand Working Bee and Bequest Society events. It has also closed Hiltaba and Witchelina Nature Reserves to visitors, staff are working from home and all of us are becoming rapidly adept at using technology to conduct our business.

We look forward to connecting with you in new ways during this period, for example through online events such as webinars, to keep you updated about our nature conservation work.

COVID-19 has dominated in recent weeks. However, the extraordinary task of protecting species and ecosystems continues. Drought continues to grip much of northern South Australia. Witchelina remains beset by the driest period on record, with severe impacts on wildlife and plants. There was a blessed 32 mm rainfall in February and this incredible country responded instantly with plants germinating, insects and birds breeding and some species setting seed. Much more rain is needed.

Over summer bushfires ravaged more than 300,000 ha across nearly all regions of South Australia, with the most severely impacted being Cudlee Creek, the South East and Kangaroo Island.

I am sure you will join me in acknowledging the incredible efforts of not only the first responders, but also the small army of people who have helped others whose properties burnt, mobilised to rescue wildlife and then progressed into protecting at-risk species which include mammals, birds, monotremes, reptiles insects and plants.

Soon, Nature Foundation in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service will call for grant applications large and small from the Wildlife Recovery Fund. This grants round is made possible through the generosity of donors both locally and internationally – from kids' lemonade stalls in New

Zealand and here in South Australia, through to companies such as Patagonia and Tasmania's Saffire Resorts. The fund is for projects that will help medium to long-term recovery of plants, animals and habitats.

Nature Foundation is an active member of the South Australian Nature Alliance and the Australian Land Conservation Alliance. Both are working with State and Commonwealth Governments for programs that will help bushfire recovery.

They are also working on very significant post-COVID-19 stimulus programs, together with 80 other farming and nature conservation organisations. Proposed is investment in a job-rich conservation and land management program, as part of broader economic stimulus measures. This presents important opportunities for safe, meaningful and socially beneficial work during the period of economic crisis, while leaving enduring benefits for the environment, tourism and farm businesses.

With significant and growing interest in nature, societal wellbeing and economy, I encourage you to encourage others to support initiatives such as these.

Like many organisations we are working out how best to deliver on our current nature conservation plans while keeping our people employed and our wonderful supporters and volunteers strong. We are mindful, however, that many nature conservation organisations will experience a significant drop in funds with cancelled fundraising events, nature-based tourism opportunities and people uncertain about their own future, meaning that we will have less to do more when this is over. We ask at this time you think about how we can collectively do more to make a positive difference to our amazing biodiversity! If you are able, one of the immediate ways you can help us help nature is by making a donation to our 2020 Vital Work Appeal.

My best wishes to you and your families for staying well and staying connected during this time and thank you again for all of your support – together we can make a huge difference.

Hugo Hopton

Chief Executive Officer

MURRAY HARDYHEAD FISH BREEDING SUCCESS!



Main: Natural Resources SAMDB Welland Project Officer Stephanie Robinson brings in the nets used to survey for the threatened fish. Credit: N Stalenberg

Below: A pregnant Murray Hardyhead (*Craterocephalus fluviatilis*) fish. Credit: N Stalenberg



It is confirmed! A threatened species found in only a handful of South Australian Riverland locations has been successfully bred in a local lagoon!

Nature Foundation and its partners – the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, Berri Barmera Landcare, and Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB) – have been successful in breeding the Murray Hardyhead (*Craterocephalus fluviatilis*). The good news was confirmed at a fish survey at the Riverland lagoon in March 2020. During the survey, Natural Resources SAMDB ecologists caught a total of 2,519 Murray Hardyhead of all different sizes, including smaller juveniles and large adults. This demonstrates a massive increase from a fish survey conducted by Aquasave Nature Glenelg Trust in spring 2019, which first identified the presence of the fish by catching a total of just 82 Murray Hardyhead.

The Murray Hardyhead is a small and short-lived freshwater fish, up to 9 cm long, that was once widespread across the Lower Murray River and Lower Lakes but currently survives in a handful of locations. The fish is under considerable threat with only a limited number of known populations in the Riverland – it has been listed as

nationally endangered since 1999. The biggest threat to the species is a lack of water, exacerbated during drought, that impacts on food resources, as well as levels of oxygen, salinity and pH.

Over the last four years Nature Foundation's Water For Nature program has been delivering water for the environment to the lagoon to improve its habitat. Since discovering the Murray Hardyhead at the lagoon last April management of the lagoon has been focused on triggering a breeding event. This involved finding a balance in the salinity of the water, fresh enough to trigger spawning and enable the survival of juveniles, but salty enough to keep the numbers of other fish species low. Nature Foundation's partners Berri Barmera Landcare provided support with salinity readings and managing water levels throughout the watering season (September 2019 to March 2020). Water to the lagoon is delivered using Central Irrigation Trust infrastructure. This is a fantastic example of how well a threatened species population can do when you work together as a team

to manage the environment. Thanks to everyone who was involved in the survey and who has been involved throughout the duration of this partnership project to date.

Another big thank you to all who donated to the Water For Nature appeal in early 2019, funding from this appeal has helped to deliver this project.

You can watch the video on the Murray Hardyhead survey via the Nature Foundation Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/NFSAI

Nature Foundation's Water For Nature program has been working with Riverland and Murraylands communities since 2008 and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder since 2012, to restore wetlands and floodplains from Renmark to Milang.

With thanks to the Melliadora Fund, Nature Foundation provides funding to support Berri Barmera Landcare's involvement in salinity monitoring at the site and other water for the environment projects in the Riverland.



A HELPING HAND

for Kangaroo Island's Glossy Black-Cockatoos



Top: Glossy Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus*) pair at Cygnet Park on Kangaroo Island. Credit: Eleanor Sobey

Above: Glossy Black-Cockatoo feeding on Sheoak.

Thanks to generous support from around the world, the recovery of Kangaroo Island's unique population of endangered Glossy Black-Cockatoos is underway after devastating bushfires last summer.

Nature Foundation's Glossy Black-Cockatoo Rescue Fund has raised more than \$132,000 since the recent bushfires and donations will support the species' Recovery Program, coordinated by our long-term partners at Natural Resources Kangaroo Island.

Guided by an experienced Recovery Team, the Recovery Program had grown the population of Glossy Black-Cockatoos on the island from less than 200 individuals in 1995 to at least 373 birds prior to the 2019/2020 bushfires.

However, with almost half of Kangaroo Island burnt, the endangered birds have been significantly impacted. Five of the seven main flocks of the cockatoos had almost all their known feeding and nesting habitat within the burnt area. Natural Resources Kangaroo Island estimates around three quarters of the Glossy Black-Cockatoo population lived within the fire-affected area and almost 60% of Drooping Sheoak woodland – the cockatoos' primary feeding habitat – was burnt. In addition, 74% of all known nests, including many artificial nest boxes, were impacted.

The national Wildlife and Threatened Species Bushfire Recovery Expert Panel has recognised the significance of these impacts and included the Kangaroo Island Glossy Black-Cockatoo subspecies on a list of priority animals requiring urgent management intervention. An

important workshop was also held on the island in late February and brought together experts to identify key threats and recovery actions for wildlife including the Glossies.

Glossy Black-Cockatoos are notoriously fussy eaters and a combination of the recent bushfires and past land clearance means their highly specialised diet of Drooping Sheoak seeds is limited. Food availability is currently the primary concern for Glossies on Kangaroo Island as it will take many years for remnant sheoaks to regenerate.

Nature Foundation's Glossy Black-Cockatoo Rescue Fund will enable sheoak trees to be planted on private properties across the island. Plantings will be spaced apart to ensure the development of good seed crops in about half the time taken for sheoaks that are naturally regenerating after fire.

WWF-Australia has also provided short-term funding to enable replacement of artificial nest boxes, nest protection from possums, and surveying the population in September/October.

We are so grateful for the many donors and creative fundraisers held by artists, researchers, businesses and the general public – your contributions are so important to the survival of Kangaroo Island's iconic Glossy Black-Cockatoos – a subspecies found nowhere else in the world.

INSECTS RESPOND TO RAIN AT WITCHELINA

In early 2020 much-needed rain finally fell at Witchelina Nature Reserve, providing relief for wildlife and native plants that have experienced extremely dry conditions over the last two years.

The thirsty River Red Gums along Station Creek were soaked with 38 mm of rain over three days, easily exceeding the entire 2019 annual rainfall of only 25 mm! Soon after these significant rains our Conservation Programs Manager Alex Nankivell travelled to Witchelina with entomologist Andy Young to see if fauna, and particularly invertebrates like insects and spiders, had responded to the rain.

The arid landscape at Witchelina is a pulse ecosystem – it experiences boom and bust cycles. Recent dry years at the nature reserve have resulted in a decline in wildlife including mammals, birds and invertebrates. However, this landscape, which is often reliant on cyclonic rainfall in central Australia, will boom again.

The response of invertebrates after rains is a key driver in arid ecosystems. The invertebrates ultimately become

food for many insectivorous and omnivorous species.

As part of Alex's PhD research, he and Andy sampled the invertebrate response after this summer's rain. Insects flying at night were attracted to a light trap where they were captured for counting and identification.

Termite plots which had largely been inactive for five months suddenly showed signs of activity. Termites are a major ecosystem engineer in arid environments and drive many major ecosystem services like nutrient recycling, infiltration and energy for other fauna.

Alex and Andy also developed methods for long-term invertebrate sampling to provide a measure of ecosystem productivity. This measure may be a useful indicator of other processes within the ecosystem and will give further insight into the overall biodiversity at Witchelina.



Entomologist Andy Young checking the light trap used to sample invertebrates at Witchelina Nature Reserve.

Hawk Moth (*Sphingidae*) caught in the light trap at Witchelina Nature Reserve.



Signs of termite activity after rains at a sampling plot on Witchelina Nature Reserve.

Conservation Programs Manager Alex Nankivell.



BUILDING BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

with our Traditional Custodians

Main: Traditional Custodian Warren Milera with participants.
Inset: Caroline Nefiodovas, Beverly Patterson, Katie Perry and Helen Palmer.

Nature Foundation’s Kids on Country (KoC) program offers a culturally safe and inclusive learning environment for Aboriginal young people to learn about nature conservation and country. The program’s success comes from the emphasis and time we spend fostering and building relationships with our Traditional Custodians.

Engagement is undertaken with an understanding of the historical, cultural and social complexity of local or regional Aboriginal contexts to support successful participation from young people. The Youth Programs Coordinator established an advisory group that includes several Aboriginal people, to provide guidance and advice for the KoC program.

A priority for the program is to work inclusively and respectfully, creating ownership by the community of the program.

Measures we take include:

- Demonstrating respect. Showing an awareness of, sensitivity to and respect for Aboriginal culture and knowledge and values of Aboriginal people
- Using appropriate language, choosing the right words and forms of address
- Coming from a grass roots, ground-up approach that knits together local knowledge with KoC objectives
- Demonstrating honesty and integrity
- Taking responsibility for learning
- Tailoring the program to needs of individual communities
- Investing in and supporting local Aboriginal leadership
- Providing opportunities for communities at a local level to have a say
- Providing Elders an opportunity to share their experiences that enable the transfer of knowledge between generations

Telling the Aboriginal Story – Warren Milera

“Kids on Country provides an insight into Adnyamathanha Kuyani culture, knowledge and country. Cultural elements are an important aspect of being an Aboriginal person in this country.

“The program brings out qualities in participants that could easily be missed in a mainstream setting, for example, some demonstrate strong leadership skills and aptitude for nature conservation and working on country.

“Working on Kids on Country has shown the positive ways of working and thinking from Nature Foundation wanting to help better the lives of Aboriginal kids. The KoC team see this program as a steppingstone for Aboriginal kids to help create a grounding and some direction in the way they care for country. It also provides an opportunity to learn and take hold of their lives in accordance with Aboriginal ways of working and living.”

Learning on Country

In February 2020, the Kids on Country Team had four days at Witchelina Nature Reserve to design and map new activities and learn more about the property. As part of this trip Beverly Patterson, our Adnyamathanha Kuyani Traditional Custodian, joined the team at Witchelina. It is a privilege to listen to stories and learn on country. The time spent with Beverly was such a valuable experience and the new perspectives gained will be implemented into the program.

Beverly commented, “You need to jump on these young ones who live here (Adnyamathana Kuyani country). The kids that are from this country that don’t want to go away. If you can show them when they are young at school, they will know that there are jobs and a future here. Kids on Country can do this for them.”

Into the Future

Through Kids on Country, Nature Foundation provides support and a place to come together on Country, build and heal relationships, and share knowledge and culture. Genuine engagement is about building relationships and trust and takes time to develop. Nature Foundation is committed to further building of our relationships with Traditional Custodians now and into the future.

Katie Perry

Youth Programs Coordinator



staff profile

NATALIE STALENBERG

Water For Nature program manager

Natalie Stalenberg has been Nature Foundation's Water For Nature program manager for nearly four years. She has over 16 years' experience working in natural resources management both nationally and internationally in policy, community engagement, and project management.

How did you come to Nature Foundation?

I saw the Water For Nature (WFN) program manager position advertised and I'd been working in water for a long time in resource management, policy and community engagement.

It was exactly what I had been looking for – in addition to the above it included hands-on work getting water into wetlands and working on the River Murray, which is really important to me.

What do you enjoy most?

There is such variety in the role – I can be out on the road for two days; for example I've just been out in the field exploring a new watering site working out where the water is going to go and talking to the local community.

Yesterday I was talking to someone who's been working with the WFN program for a couple of years now and seeing the changes on his floodplain with a stand of river red gums coming back from the brink, which is very exciting.

It's also the mix of being able to liaise with different government departments and other Landcare organisations, and community groups. We're all in it together and trying to achieve the same thing. I see part of Nature Foundation's role as bringing people together to work for the health of the River through facilitating and coordinating that process and helping community groups that might not have funding to do these sorts of projects.

We've also started creatively expanding our

community engagement such as a recent art project working with school kids at Milang on the Latham's Snipe project.

What is exciting in nature conservation?

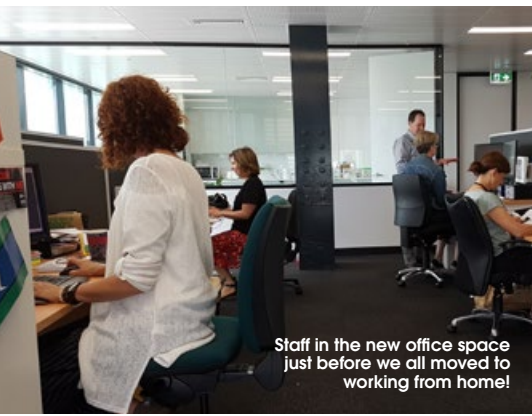
Following the recent bushfires there seems to be a far greater mainstream awareness that we need to do something about the environment and I hope this is the impetus all of society and nature needs.

Community response to the bushfires has been so very positive – it's been amazing to see the support for the Wildlife Recovery Fund that we established (in partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia) but also for many other funds established.

I think this is a great opportunity to get some positive things happening – not only to restore habitat that's been lost but also to protect any remaining habitat and more broadly to think about that in terms of climate change adaptation, and protecting threatened species. It's a chance to stop and reevaluate the value of the habitat around us, whether that's your local community park and trees in your street, your own back yard or a national park or a wetland.

Other interests?

Creative pursuits like cooking, gardening, artwork and acting in theatre productions! Also getting out into nature.



Staff in the new office space just before we all moved to working from home!



Baden Teague, the Hon Steven Marshall MP, Jan Ferguson OAM and Hugo Hopton



Baden Teague and Jan Ferguson OAM

MOVE TO NEW OFFICE IN PROSPECT

Just a short time ago we were moving into our wonderful new office Payinthei, planning a welcome event and getting to know our new 'neighbours' – the City of Prospect staff.

There was a buzz and an excited hum to the office ... just weeks later we are left slightly shocked and amazed at the rapid global changes to the way our world operates!

With the wonders of modern technology, the Nature Foundation Board and staff teams are now all working from home and connecting with each other regularly to keep our conservation programs and many other activities going.

We look forward to rescheduling our welcome event to invite all of our members and supporters to visit, as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime we will keep in contact by phone, email, social media and our website.

In addition, we look forward to connecting with you in new ways during this period, for example through online events such as webinars, to keep you updated about our nature conservation work.

Stay tuned for details!

NATURE FOUNDATION HOSTED BY THE PREMIER

On Wednesday evening 4 March 2020 a splendid Reception took place at State Parliament House.

SA's Premier, the Hon Steven Marshall MP welcomed thirty 'ambassadors' from Nature Foundation. Our Chair, Jan Ferguson, and CEO, Hugo Hopton, were special guests too. Drinks and delicious finger food were served in the Old Chamber.

These ambassadors are members of Nature Foundation's 'College of Nature Champions'. They included former Minister for the Environment, Hon David Wotton; one of our three Patrons, Reg Nelson; an apology from our former Premier, Hon Rev'd Lynn Arnold; Emer Prof Rodney Wells (recently awarded an AM) and, all the way from Arkaroola, Doug Sprigg and his partner, Vickie Wilson.

Steven Marshall's purpose was to welcome Nature Foundation's representatives to this happy occasion. He applauded the excellent work that Nature Foundation has done in conservation (especially on nature reserves such as Witchelina and Watchalunga), in delivering water for the environment to about 80 endangered River Murray localities, in giving research grants to senior university projects, in foundational monitoring of species, both fauna and flora, and in motivating wonderful groups of volunteer environmentalists.

The Premier noted that Nature Foundation's good record goes back almost forty years. This record of achievement shows how very valuable work to preserve our environment depends on non-government initiatives which build through well-intentioned and well-directed organisations like Nature Foundation. He wanted to see Government and non-government

efforts working together to make a huge positive difference.

One 2020 environment project of cooperation between the Government and Nature Foundation is the transitional habitats needed for fire-ravaged fauna on Kangaroo Island.

This urgent new activity is being facilitated by the Environment Minister, the Hon David Speirs. The Minister had hoped to attend this Reception but apologised that he needed to be part of a ministerial meeting interstate.

The Premier especially acknowledged the lifetime of environmental leadership given by Nature Foundation Patron and Founder, Dr Barbara Hardy AO. During this same month of March, Barbara had her 93rd birthday. Everyone wished her well. We were sorry that Barbara was unable to attend this event. The Hon David Wotton supported the Premier's thanks to Barbara, especially acknowledging that Barbara (as a volunteer) was crucial in her advice to him when he was setting up SA's Ministry for the Environment 40 years ago.

Dr Susan Close MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition (also representing the Leader, Peter Malinauskas MP) attended this Reception and demonstrated how Nature Foundation maintains strong links with both sides of our Parliament. Also attending was the Chairman of the Parliament's Natural Resources Committee, Josh Teague MP, Member for Heysen. In earlier years, Josh served as a Nature Foundation volunteer giving legal and governance advice.

Dr Baden Teague

leader, Nature Foundation College of Nature Champions



CEO Hugo Hopton with Minister David Speirs
at Porters Scrub. Credit: Department for
Environment and Water

WILDLIFE RECOVERY FUND UPDATE

Nature Foundation and National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia would like to say a huge THANK YOU everyone who has donated to the Wildlife Recovery Fund – **100% of your funds will go directly to priority recovery activities.**

The total funds raised is now at \$410,000 a fantastic result so far for threatened species recovery.

We will soon be calling for applications for funds from local landholders and community groups in fire-affected regions across South Australia to assist recovery through activities including feral animal and weed control, and fencing. Funds will also be directed to restore habitat for threatened species in fire-devastated national parks – especially on Kangaroo Island.

A recent national wildlife recovery workshop identified post-bushfire strategies for species most affected by the fires, including the Kangaroo Island Dunnart, KI Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Green Carpenter bee and KI Echidna. Priority strategic actions include monitoring programs to assess the current status of species post the fire, as well as vegetation protection and restoration and the control of cats and feral pigs.

The State Government has established a [Wildlife and Habitat Recovery](#)

[Taskforce](#), chaired by Felicity-Ann Lewis, to play a lead role in the environmental response to the bushfires. The Taskforce will ensure a coordinated approach across all levels of government and non-government organisations, and develop recovery plans for wildlife and landscape-scale recovery projects in bushfire-affected areas.

Our CEO Hugo Hopton recently filmed two short videos with Minister David Speirs to promote the Wildlife Recovery Fund and opening of the grant round, coming very soon!

FAREWELL NATASHA HARPER



Farewell and thanks to Natasha Harper

Nature Foundation expresses sincere thanks to Natasha Harper for her (almost) eight years of hard work and dedication to nature conservation in the role of Office Manager and Events Coordinator.

During her time with Nature Foundation, Natasha was involved in numerous milestone events including the launch of Watchalunga Nature Reserve and the opening of Hiltaba Nature Reserve. She also organised a wide range of events including AGMs, Grand Working Bees, Citizen Science activities at Tiliqua and inaugural events such as Circus Oz, the Treasure Hunt for Nature, Barbara Hardy 90th Birthday Dinner and Hiltaba Walking Trail launches. Natasha played a key role in coordinating and delivering ALCA's private land conservation conference (PLC19), hosted by Nature Foundation last year.

While the role was busy and challenging, it was also rewarding and Natasha greatly enjoyed getting to know many of Nature Foundation's members and supporters especially through working bees at Witchelina and Hiltaba, and other events and functions.

With a diverse background including ten years in banking on Hedge Fund trading floors and a career as a chef, Natasha is excited to see what is next. She spent the 2019/20 summer pursuing another of her passions – teaching Stand Up Paddleboarding at Seacliff!

Natasha is greatly missed by Nature Foundation staff, board and many members and supporters. We wish her great success in all future endeavours.

Other team changes

Nature Foundation also said farewell to Inma Segura recently, who resigned to take up full-time employment in market research, her chosen professional field. Inma worked at Nature Foundation firstly as a volunteer, then as PA to the CEO and business support. We thank her for all her work and wish her all the best in her new role.

A warm welcome to Nicki Crawford who has joined the team of volunteers assisting in office work this year. Nicki has a background as project officer, teacher, Roxby Downs task force and coach. She is also a regular attendee at Nature Foundation working bees!

CHANGES TO 2020 EVENTS



Nature Foundation continues to closely monitor health recommendations regarding [COVID-19](#) (Coronavirus) and we take seriously the health and wellbeing of our community in reducing the spread of this virus.

Social distancing is the number one strategy to limit the rapid spread of this virus and as a result we have cancelled or changed many of our upcoming events and activities.

Nature Reserves and Kids on Country

Sadly, but in the best interests of the health of our staff, volunteers, visitors and the broader community our Nature Reserves are now closed for both accommodation bookings and day visitors until at least 30 June 2020. [Please read more here.](#)

Our [Kids on Country](#) camps have also been postponed, with continued close monitoring of government advice regarding Coronavirus. The team is looking to adapt and innovate by developing online content for schools and young people during this time.

New ways to connect

In addition to phone, [email](#), social media and [website](#), we look forward to connecting with you in new ways during this period, for example through online events such as webinars, to keep you updated about our nature conservation work. Stay tuned for details!

BOARD CHANGES



Nature Foundation also farewells Suzanne Ridding, who recently resigned from the Board after 6 years to focus her energies on her business Sustainable Business Consultants, which has become increasingly demanding of her time. Suzanne has been a very active contributor on carbon

opportunities and governance in particular. We sincerely thank Suzanne for her valuable contribution, wish her all the best and look forward to seeing her at Nature Foundation events.



member profile

CHRIS AND MARIA REED

We are both 'semi retired' but busier than we have ever been. Maria retired from being the Laboratory Manager at ADCHEM in Burra and I have been on the land all my life on a property that has been handed down in our family since 1861. I have been involved in land conservation for over 40 years with Local Government, Soil Board and Natural Resources Management. In retirement Maria has also embraced land conservation and together we have been involved with the Nature Foundation for a decade.

How did you become involved in Nature Foundation?

I was approached by Bob Lott to assist with the land management of Witchelina Nature Reserve initially and then Hiltaba as there was a gap within Nature Foundation of that role due to the sad passing of the CEO Jim McHugh. On visiting Witchelina we were both hooked into being part of a great opportunity to contribute to conservation on the property. I recommended to the Nature Foundation Council that we establish a group of skilled land managers to staff

the properties on a permanent basis. They became known as the Rotational Managers. We also recognised the tourism potential of the properties and I convinced Council to establish a Committee to develop a product that offers to the public an opportunity to visit and enjoy our nature reserves and see the conservation work that we do.

What is your role?

I became a Board Member in 2011. My main role with Nature Foundation is Property General Manager of Witchelina and Hiltaba. I am ably assisted in this task by Maria who plans the rosters for the Rotational Managers and has a real passion for restoring and maintaining the buildings and infrastructure on the properties. I plan the operational aspects of the properties in ensuring that plant, equipment, building upgrades and infrastructure are sufficient for our needs and that they are all compliant with Work, Health and Safety Regulation and State Planning Regulations.

What do you find rewarding about working with Nature Foundation?

We consider we are very fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute to

a great organisation in the way that we do. Not a day goes by that one of us does not manage some aspect of activity on the properties. The group of Rotational Managers, along with a lot of like-minded people that we have met, has formed great long-lasting friendships.

How do you spend time when not working?

Both of us lead very busy lives. Our down time from the properties is spent with our children and grandchildren here and in Brisbane. We spend time on our property Wandillah which we have leased to our daughter and son in law. Major upgrades to our woolshed, which is 102 years old, along with tree planting livestock shelter belts of trees are our current activities.

Once we finish our active role with Nature Foundation we will travel the Outback some more, slow down somewhat and perhaps do one more overseas trip. Also most definitely continue to enjoy and visit the many friends we have met during our time with the organisation.

Chris and Maria Reed



Rod Genders

Two very special offers for Nature Foundation Members!

Genders and Partners law firm are offering two very generous discounts for any Nature Foundation member seeking to create a Will & Estate plan:

- Automatic 25% discount off the standard fixed-fee for Estate Planning Services* for Nature Foundation members;
- A further 25% discount off the standard fixed-fee for Estate Planning Services* – ie a total of 50% off – for Nature Foundation members who choose to leave a bequest in their Will to Nature Foundation.

For further information and to arrange a free, no obligation phone consultation, please contact Genders and Partners law firm directly: www.genders.com.au/free-phone-consultation

For Nature Foundation members who prefer to avoid in-person meetings, Genders and Partners offer a Remote Will service via video conferencing.

If you are thinking about becoming a member of Nature Foundation, you can access these offers immediately after joining!

This offer is valid through to 31 December 2020.

* Some conditions apply

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Our dedicated members, supporters and volunteers often ask us how they can help us help nature. We value all contributions, big or small because of the difference they help us make. Below is a list of a few more ways that you can get involved.

VOLUNTEERS

We are currently seeking a retired plumber who would be happy to do volunteer work on our remote nature reserves. We are also looking for a person to provide executive support to some of our committees or working groups.

BUSHLAND FOR SALE

As part of our Bushbank SA initiative we have four beautiful mallee Blanchetown Bushland Estate lots available for purchase.

For more information visit our website at naturefoundation.org.au/conservation/bushbank-sa or contact Natalie Stalenberg on 08 8340 2880, or email: natalie.stalenberg@nfsa.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 NatureFoundationSA@nfsa.org.au

- Water entitlements to assist our Water For Nature Program
- Land for nature conservation
- Weather Station for Hiltaba and Witchelina to assist science and monitoring programs.
- Acoustic monitoring devices for bats and birds
- Wire and posts for boundary fencing to prevent stock incursions
- Toyota, Nissan or Mitsubishi 4WD for Hiltaba and Witchelina
- Two good lawn mowers for Witchelina and Hiltaba.

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