

- Our new **volunteer program**
- **Reserve management** update
- Expanding **the team**
- 2023 **Annual General Meeting**

SUMMER

2

2023

Engaging
people in
conservation

NatureMatters



**FOREVER
NATURE
FUND:
BULLOCK
BRIDGE
APPEAL**

See P. 2 →

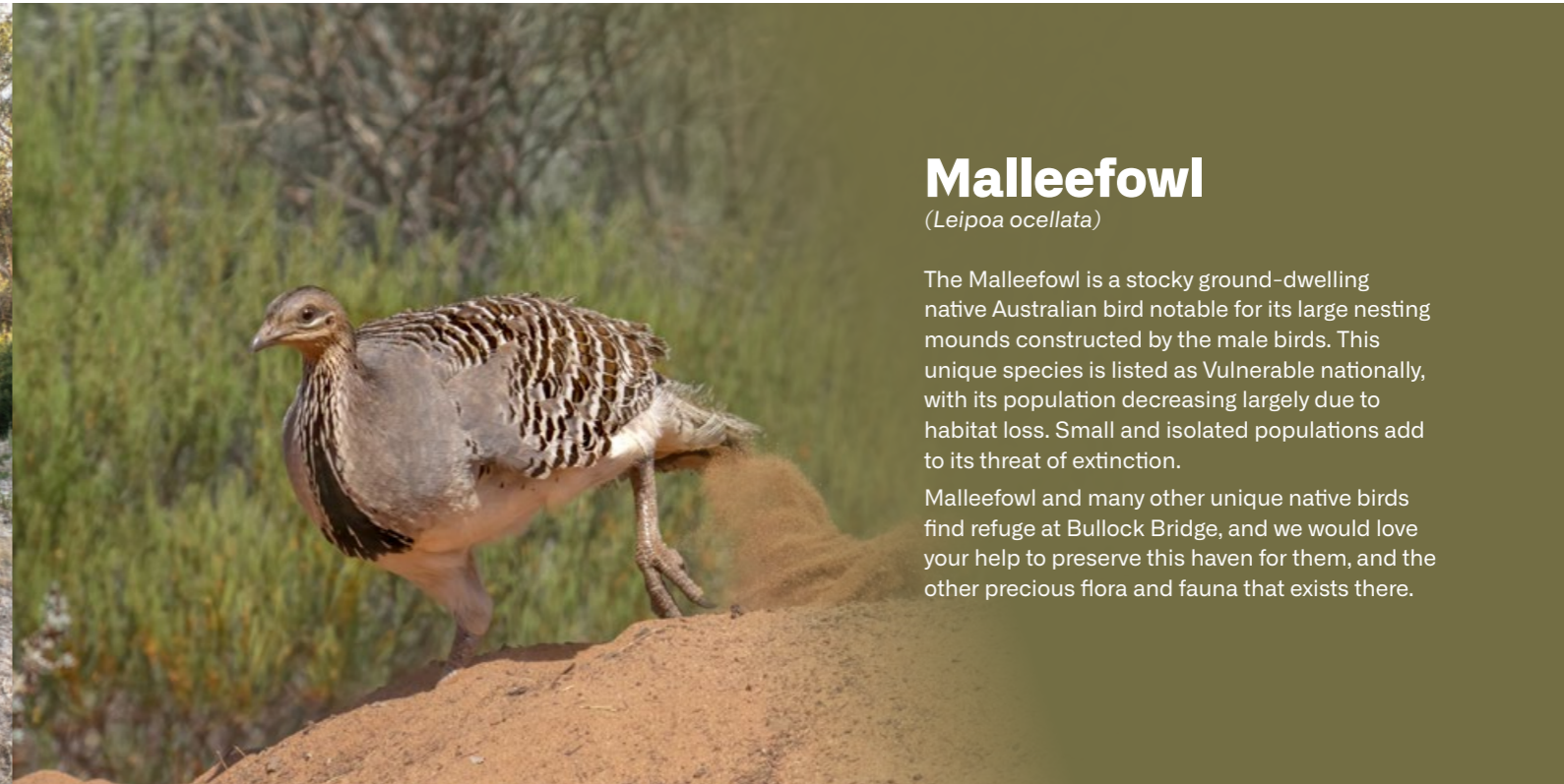


**Nature
Foundation**

Malleefowl photo by Spurnik



FOREVER NATURE FUND: BULLOCK BRIDGE APPEAL



Malleefowl

(*Leipoa ocellata*)

The Malleefowl is a stocky ground-dwelling native Australian bird notable for its large nesting mounds constructed by the male birds. This unique species is listed as Vulnerable nationally, with its population decreasing largely due to habitat loss. Small and isolated populations add to its threat of extinction.

Malleefowl and many other unique native birds find refuge at Bullock Bridge, and we would love your help to preserve this haven for them, and the other precious flora and fauna that exists there.

Preserve the symphony of nature: Help us secure a haven for birds and biodiversity

In 2022, we established the Forever Nature Fund to tackle the ongoing loss of our precious habitats and ecosystems. We aim to realise a nature-positive future where biodiversity is secure, and our life-support system thrives forever.

To make our contribution to this vision, we have set ourselves the ambitious target to double our impact to 1 million hectares of protected land (about 1% of South Australia) by 2030—in support of Australia's commitment to protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030 by purchasing land with high biodiversity value to create more critical refuges for Australian wildlife.

Habitat loss and the impacts of introduced species have caused the extinction of 62 Australian terrestrial species. Between 2000 and 2017, over 7.7 million hectares of habitat were cleared in Australia. * The compounding impacts of climate change threaten to cause a further decline in Australia's biodiversity, with increasing species and ecological communities listed as threatened across the country.

Recently, internationally renowned scientist and birdwatcher Professor Hugh Possingham brought to our attention a small but highly significant bushland parcel for sale in southeast South Australia.

The property is located east of Kingston on the Limestone Coast, adjacent to the

Mount Scott Conservation Park and in Ngarrindjeri Country. It is part of one of the largest inland blocks of native vegetation in this southern region with very high biodiversity values.

The vegetation is a superb mix of eucalypt and mallee woodlands comprising Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*), Pink Gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*), Stringybark (*Eucalyptus arenacea/baxteri*), Soap Mallee (*Eucalyptus diversifolia*) and Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) woodlands over a diverse understorey of shrubs, herbs and forbs.

The Mount Scott region is rich in botanical diversity, with 393 plant species recorded on the Atlas of Living Australia, including 32 terrestrial orchid species.

This diversity in plant life makes the area a remarkable bird sanctuary and regionally significant, with the mosaic of habitat types supporting a high degree of species richness. Just imagine the symphony at dawn. During a single day survey in 2021, Hugh recorded 73 unique terrestrial bird

species in the area. Of the approximately 140 species recorded in the park, notable bird species include:

- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*, Vulnerable EPBC)
- Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*, Vulnerable, EPBC)
- White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*, Rare, South Australia)
- Satin Flycatcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*, Endangered, South Australia)
- Restless Flycatcher (*Myiagra inquieta*, Rare, South Australia)
- Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*, Vulnerable, South Australia)
- Beautiful Firetail (*Stagonopleura bella*, Rare, South Australia)
- Grey Goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*, Vulnerable, South Australia)

The property is also home to a wealth of native mammals and reptiles, including Heath Monitor (Vulnerable, South Australia), Little and Western Pygmy Possum, Silky Mouse, Common Brushtail Possum, Short-beaked Echidna, Bare-nose Wombat and possibly Sugar Gliders.

The high biodiversity values and connectivity to Mount Scott Conservation

Park make this an invaluable block of bushland in the regional context. The generosity of two major donors—Hugh Possingham and Phill Cassey, who have each pledged \$100k to progress the purchase of this property—has allowed Nature Foundation to secure the property to create our newest nature reserve.

We are now seeking your support to raise additional funds to contribute to the purchase and begin the survey and monitoring work to further understand the biological diversity present and implement active management to reduce the impact of threatening processes, including predation by foxes and cats, weeds and unsustainable grazing pressure by introduced herbivores such as deer, rabbits and hares.

Once acquired, our conservation team will:

- Undertake a full reserve audit to inform monitoring programs, including baseline biodiversity surveys.
- Prepare a reserve management plan.
- Repair and replace fencing to prevent unwanted grazing pressure.
- Develop and implement threat management strategies.
- Undertake active revegetation and regeneration activities.
- Support successful breeding environments for threatened species.

- Explore additional opportunities, such as creating a threatened flora seed production garden.

Your support will allow us to take action towards supporting biodiversity and maintaining critical refuges for our unique wildlife.

This is an essential step in our ongoing mission to conserve, restore and protect our unique natural landscapes and native wildlife for future generations. We would love you to be part of this journey with us.

We greatly appreciate any and all support you can offer. Every little bit helps.

To make your online donation to our **Bullock Bridge Appeal**, visit naturefoundation.org.au/bullockbridge or scan the QR code below with the camera app on your mobile phone.



*Source: DCCEEW 2021 Australia State of the Environment Report.



From the Chair
Jan Ferguson OAM



As 2023 comes to a close, it is rewarding to look at how far the organisation has come, what we have achieved this year, and since the previous issue of Nature Matters.

On behalf of the Nature Foundation Board, I am pleased to see the delivery of key actions from the strategic plan, including launching our new Volunteer program and welcoming our new Conservation Land Managers to Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves. You can read more about these activities and meet the new team members involved in this issue.

Our recent Annual General Meeting also welcomed some new Board Directors; you can read more about them in this issue. The Nature Foundation Board plays a vital role in setting direction and providing prudent management for the Nature Foundation. I look forward to working together in 2024 to continue enhancing our positive impact for nature conservation in South Australia and beyond. The past couple of years have seen Nature Foundation review and refocus our agenda, which has enabled us to achieve significant financial stability. This year, we have an outstanding result with an approximately \$2.6 million profit. This will allow us to place more land under protection for conservation, and ensure its ongoing management and improvement.

Conservation is an ongoing process, and we remain committed to our mission of “Engaging people, resources and good science to conserve the precious habitat of South Australia and beyond” and achieving our goal of doubling our land capacity to 1 million hectares by 2030, as announced at the Forever Nature Fund launch in December 2022.

Thanks to internationally renowned scientist and birdwatcher Professor Hugh Possingham we have recently identified an exciting opportunity to acquire a piece of land with incredibly high biodiversity value to turn into our eighth nature reserve, Bullock Bridge, in South Australia’s south-east. While the increased cost of living has made it a challenging year for many, we would greatly appreciate any donations you can offer to support our efforts to acquire this property. It truly is an investment in future generations.

In closing, from my family to yours, I hope the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024 is safe and happy for all. I look forward to seeing what the next year brings, and working together to achieve even greater results for conservation.



From the CEO
Alex Nankivell



Every season has its beauty and purpose. We've recently bid farewell to spring, a busy time for nature that features a wealth of wildflowers, new and renewed vegetation, and breeding activity for many species.

For conservation in general, and Nature Foundation specifically, it has been very active for several months. We've conducted various flora and fauna surveys across the nature reserves, held working bees, and organised many member and supporter events. You can read about many of these activities in this issue.

While nature focuses on the landscapes, plants, and animals, we also focus on the human element. People are essential to active conservation, and the events and activities of the past months have offered excellent opportunities to catch up with, spend time with, and chat with members, supporters, donors, partners, contractors, collaborators, and more.

The Nature Foundation team has grown, with several new faces in the office and on our nature reserves. We are fortunate to have such a skilled and passionate workforce dedicated to the management and operations of our organisation's strategic plan.

On a personal note, my partner and I recently welcomed a baby. Young James is now a month old, and considering what lies ahead for both of my sons drives me personally to contribute to conserving, restoring, and protecting our natural habitats for future generations.

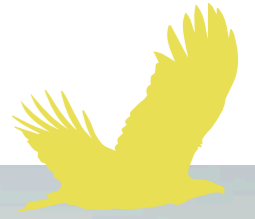
This summer is forecast to be hot and dry, although you wouldn't think so after all this wonderful rain. We were on bushfire alert one day, and flood alert the next. Perhaps this is an example of the climatic variability that we need to prepare ourselves for in the future. In anticipation of this, we have updated various policies and procedures, such as our bushfire safety, fieldwork safety, incident response, and remote communications. This way, we can continue our work protecting our environment, its precious habitats and inhabitants, and keep our people safe.

Thank you for your support this year. I wish you and your family a safe and happy festive season. The office will take a short, well-deserved break over the Christmas/New Year period to return refreshed and energised for another year.

Reserve management and introducing our Conservation Land Managers



Left: Samantha and Shane Doudle at Hiltaba Nature Reserve
Below: Sam Hughes at Witchelina Nature Reserve



The past 12 months have seen a considerable change to how we manage our seven nature reserves that comprise a growing diversity of ecosystems across the landscape and are home to many threatened species needing our help. We are excited to share our new management approach and introduce those involved officially.

A key area identified as part of our recent Refocusing Conservation review was the management of our nature reserves. Five of our nature reserves have always been managed by staff, with the two larger and more remote reserves—Witchelina and Hiltaba—managed by a rotation of volunteers.

While the Rotational Managers have contributed significantly to conservation and nature-based tourism efforts on our reserves, the Board determined that a consistent approach to reserve management across all reserves was required to ensure the implementation of integrated management, monitoring and reporting frameworks appropriate for the organisation to continue to grow its biodiversity impact across South Australia and beyond. In addition to this the overarching objective, experienced and qualified conservation land management professionals at Witchelina and Hiltaba will provide the on-ground structure and support for volunteer engagement, the implementation of appropriate Work Health and Safety Management Systems and other critically related policies and procedures for all team members.

During this period, we collaborated with the rotational management team, hosting several discussions to work through the new approach and transition phase. With their immense experience and commitment to Nature Foundation's values and mission, this group were also the first invited to join our new Volunteer program.

As a result, we now have permanent on-site Conservation Land Managers appointed to manage Witchelina and Hiltaba. This offers a consistent approach to reserve management, with all reserves now managed by staff.

The Conservation Land Managers will be supported by volunteers to deliver the the organisation's management plans, conservation and nature-based tourism activities. A system has been established to ensure suitable combinations of staff and volunteers are rostered in advance to provide appropriate support for reserve work programs. The system will enhance personnel presence on the nature reserves and align volunteer skills and interests to scheduled work activities.

Introducing our new Conservation Land Managers

Our Conservation Land Management team is comprised of husband and wife Shane and Samantha Doudle, based at Hiltaba Nature Reserve, and Sam Hughes at Witchelina Nature Reserve.

As Senior Conservation Land Manager, Samantha Doudle oversees management and operations across Hiltaba and Witchelina Nature Reserves. With a Bachelor of Applied Science (Natural Resources) with Honours (Plants), she combines considerable knowledge with practical experience acquired through PIRSA, SARDI and Indigenous Desert Alliance roles. Samantha uses good science to inform practical and effective conservation land management.

Outside of work, Samantha enjoys camping and exploring, learning about history, and spending time with her family.

Shane Doudle makes up the other half of the team who live on and manage Hiltaba Nature Reserve. He has many practical skills and hands-on experience from across our vast country, including Boiler Maker, Environment & Rehabilitation Technician and Indigenous Ranger Coordinator. Shane enjoys living and working in the Gawler Ranges, and in addition to camping, exploring, history and family, he also enjoys constructing "things".

Sam Hughes is a Kamilaroi Man from New South Wales. He has travelled, lived and worked across remote regions of Australia in various capacities, from young tour guide to qualified Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Technician to Indigenous Ranger Coordinator. The broad range of skills and experience Sam has gained over the years makes him ideally suited to Conservation Land Manager on our 4,210km² Witchelina Nature Reserve.

Sam enjoys being out bush and has extensive experience travelling through Australia's remote deserts.

Sam has been based at Witchelina since July, and Samantha and Shane at Hiltaba since September. During this time they have:

- Commenced developing an integrated management approach between Conservation Land Managers, the Science and Knowledge team, and the Volunteer Visitor and Engagement team, developing work programs, aligning management objectives with

research knowledge gaps, integrating reserve management processes, and coordinating volunteer involvement for key activities across all nature reserves in 2024.

- Completed a review of all reserve-based data collection and mapping capacity and implemented software to allow Conservation Land Managers to record real-time data whenever they are working on the reserve. This information will be developed into an adaptive management system that can monitor the impact of work programs, complete project reporting, and underpin program assurance and improvement processes.
- Undertaken weed surveys and audits of existing weed databases at Witchelina and Hiltaba. Several new incursion sites were added, and the Conservation Land Managers are currently developing a control program based on distribution and potential for weed spray.

This is a tremendously positive step in the evolution of the organisation that will ensure the ongoing conservation impact and tourism engagement at Witchelina and Hiltaba. We thank everyone who has supported Nature Foundation in any way, as it has all contributed to this secure and exciting place we are in.

Student grant recipients 2023

Providing student research grants is a key feature of our Science and Knowledge program, where we assist students in progressing their post-graduate studies and careers. The program encourages students in the ecological sciences and helps us understand our nature reserves better.

Since 2000, Nature Foundation has awarded \$1,924,964 in research grants to post-graduate students, academics, and the community to kickstart research careers. This financial year, seven researchers were awarded grants in the May 2023 grant round, including two recipients of the Roy & Marjory Edwards Scholarship. Of these seven researchers, five students are carrying out their research on Nature Foundation nature reserves. We are pleased to highlight this year's recipients:

You can support our Grand Start Grants by visiting: naturefoundation.org.au/donate

Grand Start Grants / Honours



Lachlan Greenwood

Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Biodiversity and Conservation), Flinders University

Examining how the vegetation density of fringing habitat influences the trophic ecology of Watchalunga wetland.

Emily Wilson

Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Biodiversity and Conservation), Flinders University

Quantifying concerns regarding salt accumulation, in both surface water and soil, at wetland sites throughout the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin.



Grand Start Grants / PhD



Matt Smith

PhD, University of New South Wales, UNSW Sydney

Monitoring Thick-billed Grasswren populations, habitat changes and resource availability under different kangaroo grazing intensities to inform conservation efforts by determining if and how kangaroos impact Thick-billed Grasswrens.



Jack Bilby

PhD, University of New South Wales, UNSW Sydney

Investigating how native and invasive species cope with extreme temperatures and how physiology, phylogeny, behaviour, and land management will impact their ability to survive.

Nature Foundation Scientific Expedition Foundation RL & GK Willing Grant

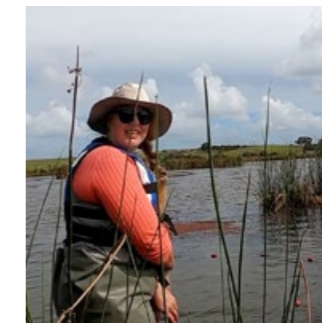


Rebecca Greening

Honours in Ecology and Environmental Science, The University of Adelaide

Studying the TGB Osborn Vegetation Reserve at Koonamore in South Australia to determine if spatial patterns of soil nutrient accumulation and microbial community compositions are different between 98 years of livestock grazing exclusion vs areas grazed since the 1860's.

Roy and Marjory Edwards Scholarship



Beth Treglown

Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Animal Behaviour), PhD in Freshwater Ecology, Flinders University

Investigating three South Australian wetlands and how the environmental factors at each site influence plant and animal community structure.



Kantine (Chih-Yun) Liu

PhD, The University of Adelaide

Assessing and mitigating climate change impacts on the precious freshwater rock-hole ecosystems at Hiltaba Nature Reserve.

Mike Bull Award 2023



Stephen Zozaya (Australian National University) is the 2023 winner of the Mike Bull Award for Early Career Nature Scientists.

Stephen does fantastic work with some rather overlooked species of skinks and has already made some great progress. In his words:

“This award is funding field-based research to better understand the ecology and distributions of *Lerista* skinks in northern Queensland, as well as setting the groundwork for long-term study to assess if and how factors such as cattle grazing and fire might threaten these species. One stint of fieldwork has already taken place, during which my students (Wesley Read and Scott Macor) and I found new populations of several *Lerista* species, including significant geographic range extensions for *L. parameles* and *L. vanderduysi*. Fieldwork over the next year will explore new areas and establish sites for long-term monitoring.”

This award was established in memory of the late Professor Mike Bull who made notable contributions to the scientific community and was an inspiration to many.

Harrison Lovegrove-Parry and Raijieli Bovo at a Kids on Country Camp on Witchelina Nature Reserve.



Expanding the team with two Aboriginal trainees

Kids on Country has a tremendous impact on Aboriginal young people in high schools across South Australia.

School feedback is overwhelmingly positive, and the list of returning schools wanting to participate grows each year. Through Aboriginal networking days within the Department for Education South Australia, our reputation for providing a culturally safe Junior Ranger program is spreading, with new schools contacting us weekly.

Due to the success of the program and recent support to build the program's capacity over the coming years, Nature Foundation had the opportunity to grow the team by including Aboriginal Trainees. This enables Nature Foundation to meet

one of our key objectives: offer past participants of the Kids on Country program a defined career pathway within Nature Foundation by providing tangible support for careers in Conservation and Ecosystems Management, Caring for Country and Ranger work.

Nature Foundation is delighted to have taken on board not one but two Aboriginal trainees who commenced employment with us in July: Harrison (Harry) Lovegrove-Parry from Ngarrindjeri country and Raijieli (Chelli) Bovo from Adnyamathanha, Kuyani, Yawarawarka and Western Arrente country.

Getting to know Raijieli and Harrison Aboriginal Trainee in Conservation Officers

Raijieli (Chelli) Bovo

How did you come to be at Nature Foundation?

My mum first saw and told me about the traineeship with Nature Foundation. She thought it would be a good opportunity for me based on my experience and interest in working with young people and conservation.

What do you do and like to do in your role at Nature Foundation?

I assist with camp preparation and various tasks to support the team in the office. When I'm out on-country, I work with the children and adults that come along to the camps and help in any way I can so that the camp runs smoothly. I enjoy working with the students the most!

What are you looking forward to about working at Nature Foundation?

I'm excited to learn more about my culture and language. I'm also interested in learning about conservation and land management and how to run camps, but I'm really looking forward to watching the kids grow through the activities done at camp and changing lives just like this camp did when I was a participant.

What are some of your interests outside of work?

I am involved in music ministry at my local church in Cheltenham and am currently doing an internship with Baptist SA, but in my free time, I play rugby union for Port Adelaide Pirates.

Harrison (Harry) Lovegrove-Parry

How did you come to be at Nature Foundation?

I was a past participant of Kids on Country, attending my first camp in 2017 and then again each year it was available at my school. I enjoyed it a lot and was interested in the different pathways it could lead towards. After finishing school, I worked as a construction labourer but realised it wasn't what I was genuinely interested in for my future. I contacted Katie (Perry) and Warren (Milera) for a meeting to discuss any potential work I could assist with, which led me to become a volunteer for Kids on Country camps. I then learned about the traineeship, which was an excellent opportunity to pursue a career in conservation.

What do you do and like to do in your role at Nature Foundation?

I enjoy being part of a possibly life-changing program for young Aboriginal kids and being in a position that shows them they could follow a similar path as I have. I also enjoy the structure of how everything works within the program and workplace.

What are you looking forward to about working at Nature Foundation?

I look forward to learning more about the different nature reserves, wildlife, the different language groups, and cultural practices passed on from generation to generation and becoming closer to my peers.

What are some of your interests outside of work?

Outside work, I enjoy socialising with friends, camping, travelling, fishing, music, art, cooking, reading, crafts and trying new things.



Right: Ants Harris removing old fence posts at Hiltaba Nature Reserve.
Main: Maria Reed and Brenton Arnold installing a new section of fence at Hiltaba Nature Reserve. Photo by Douglas Ransom.



Good fences

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2023 Vital Work Appeal, which raised much-needed funds for repairing and replacing fencing across Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves.

Whilst not always considered the most exciting conservation activity, fencing is our first line of defence in reducing the impact of total grazing pressure and wandering livestock on our reserves. With just over 400km of boundary fencing, it is an ongoing challenge to maintain the boundaries in stock-proof condition. We have implemented a fence replacement program over the last few years and replaced 114km of priority fencing.

These new fences protect the habitats of numerous threatened species that we are conserving on our reserves through threat abatement and preventing wildlife injuries resulting from old remnant fencing materials.

Many thanks to our team of supporters and volunteers who have contributed to these fencing repairs across the larger reserves, along with the team who undertook vital fencing repair work at Watchalunga Nature Reserve in early October.

2023 Annual General Meeting

Nature Foundation held our 2023 Annual General Meeting in early November, at Payinthe, Eliza Hall on Prospect Road, and livestreamed to remote members online.

The AGM provides an opportunity to update members on Nature Foundation's 2022-2023 work, achievements and finances, along with the election for Board positions.

The AGM was hosted by Nature Foundation Board Chair, Jan Ferguson OAM, who shared highlights from the past financial year. Board Director and Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, Douglas Ransom, provided a summary of the Foundation's financial performance for the year.

The Returning Officer then announced the Board election results. The Nature Foundation Board plays a vital role in setting direction and providing prudent management for the Nature Foundation and its role in nature conservation in South Australia.

This year saw four positions available, and we welcome our newly elected Board Directors:

- Associate Professor Jeremy Austin
- Glenise Coulthard AM
- Greg Limbert
- Lynn Wood

These results see outgoing Board Directors, Bec Hardy and Anne-Marie Barbaro who have both served one three-year term following a casual vacancy. We thank Bec and Anne-Marie greatly for their service and passion for the organisation.

Following the formal AGM proceedings, we heard from Professor Andy Lowe, a dynamic and innovative research leader from University of Adelaide, who shared his thoughts on: *What Does a Nature-Positive Future Look Like?*

Thank you to all members who participated in this year's AGM; we greatly value your involvement and dedication to the Foundation.

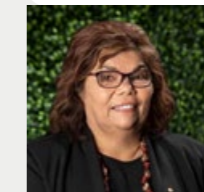
Introducing your new Board Directors



Associate Professor Jeremy Austin

Jeremy is a multidisciplinary evolutionary biologist who has worked across natural history museums in London and Melbourne and universities across Australia.

His diverse research focuses primarily on vertebrates, resulting in groundbreaking discoveries in vertebrate evolution that contribute to improved conservation outcomes for a range of threatened species.



Glenise Coulthard AM

Glenise is an Adnyamathanha woman from the Northern Flinders Ranges who brings a wealth of experience, with over 45 years in the SA Government public sector, specialising in health services and regional areas. She holds the distinction of being Australia's longest-serving Director on the Board of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, spanning 20 years.



Greg Limbert

Greg has participated in working bees and events over the years. He brings a broad range of experience in management, local government, tourism and Board member roles, and is

passionate about engaging members and supporters.

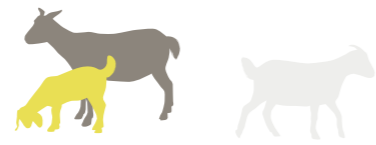


Lynn Wood

Lynn has a Master of Business Administration and over 35 years of experience managing people, projects and expectations. Now retired, he has held executive positions

in BlueScope Steel and Cobham Aviation Services. He is a lover of the outdoors, particularly our beautiful outback and remote areas.

Hiltaba update



Goat impact study

According to reports from neighbouring pastoralists, who have been on the land for several generations, feral goats began moving into the Gawler Ranges in the mid-1980s. From this point, goats became established in the landscape, with populations growing to unsustainable levels.

Feral goats significantly impact native vegetation through soil damage and overgrazing of native herbs, grasses, shrubs and trees, causing erosion and preventing the regeneration of native vegetation. This can flow onto other species, for example, populations of Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, which have been severely affected by overabundant goats. Goats compete with Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby for rock shelters and food, exposing wallabies to a greater likelihood of predation by foxes and Wedge-tailed Eagles.

Since purchasing the Hiltaba pastoral lease in 2012, Nature Foundation implemented intensive herbivore and predator control programs to promote the recovery of the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, which was under serious threat. Since 2012, we have removed over 14,000 goats from the nature reserve.

In 2023, we commissioned Eco-Knowledge to undertake a goat impact survey, resampling sites previously surveyed in 2011-12. The objective of the survey was to evaluate the change in vegetation conditions in areas of critical wallaby habitat. Several key goat impact variables were measured, including goat faecal pellet density and browse impact on plant species of varying palatability.

The final report is still being finalised, and we hope to share more details soon. In the meantime, we are delighted to report some initial findings. Since the implementation of goat management, there has been a significant reduction in goat faecal pellet density from 7.7/m² (SE +/- 3) down to 0.6 (SE +/- 1.33).

The decrease in goat activity is reflected in the drastic reduction of browsing impact on palatable plant species. The average browse index (Morellet) of the comparable plant species also dropped significantly from 0.56 to 0.15, indicating a specific reduction in browsing pressure by goats.

The goat control and the associated predator control program have also benefited the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby population, showing strong signs of recovery over the last few years.



Volunteers installing the new walking trail signs.



New walking trail signage

Since 2012, Nature Foundation has created five walking trails across our Hiltaba Nature Reserve, to honour the four Founders of Nature Foundation: Dr Barbara Hardy AO, Dr Mark Bonnin AM, David Cleland and Warren Bonython AO, and major early supporters Betty and Bob Lewis.

These trails guide walkers through various habitats, offering an insight to the range of landscapes on the reserve.

The popular walking trails were in need of a signage upgrade, and thanks to a conservation grant from Athletic Brewing's Two For the Trails program and the efforts of our amazing volunteers, new trail signs have recently been installed. We look forward to more guests enjoying these walks when Hiltaba reopens for tourists from 1 April 2024.



Regent Parrot survey

With volunteers' help, Nature Foundation staff carried out the 2023 Regent Parrot nest census in August 2023. Funded by a Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Grassroots Grant, in partnership with Mid Murray Landcare SA, adult birds were observed, and several nesting hollows were recorded during the week-long exercise at Murbpook Nature Reserve.

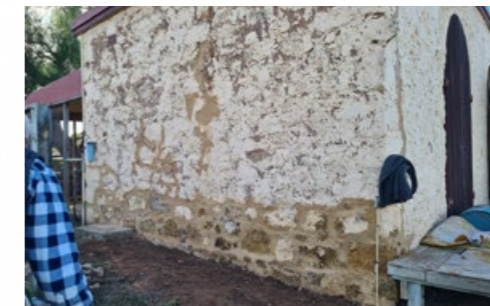
The Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*) is a slim green parrot with prominent yellow shoulder patches, red patches on the wings and a red or pink beak and is listed as vulnerable in South Australia and nationally. It feeds in Mallee and breeds in the hollows of River Red Gums along the River Murray in South Australia between Swan Reach and Renmark. It is also found in other parts of the south-west corner of the Murray Darling Basin.

Funded by the same grassroots grant, a research team from the Australian National University (ANU) visited these hollows in September. It confirmed that the hollows contained active nests with eggs. The ANU team returned to Murbpook in October, revisiting the active nests and collecting data on the hatched chicks. Of the active nests, one had failed for unknown reasons, but the others had successfully hatched.

The ANU team is processing the data, but early indications show that the brood size (i.e., the number of live chicks in a nest) is higher at Murbpook than at any of the other colonies sampled. These are exciting results, and we look forward to continuing this partnership and learning more about the success of our Regent Parrot nests.

Future research will investigate the available nesting habitat (i.e. the River Red Gum hollows) at Murbpook as we continue to identify what makes Murbpook an optimum location for Regent Parrot nesting.

This project is supported by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and Mid Murray Landcare SA through funding from the Landscape Levies.



Cottage repair

Murbpook Nature Reserve is a 360-hectare wetland located in the Riverland on the western side of the River Murray, between Blanchetown and Morgan. Murbpook and its immediate vicinity feature two State rare flora species and 17 State and Nationally recognised fauna species, including the vulnerable Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*).

Murbpook Nature Reserve features an old cottage, which provides useful shelter and storage during day trips to our team, partners, volunteers and guests to the reserve. Due to its age and lack of maintenance, the southern wall of the cottage was badly damaged, causing large cracks to appear.

Supporters and contractor Greg Emmett and his wife Prue Coulls, assisted by volunteer Kevin Fahey, worked together to repair the cottage walls, supported by volunteers Chris and Maria Reed, who helped source materials. Chris and Maria also replaced the cottage's gutters and are operationalising the rainwater tank to provide an on-site water source for contractors and visitors.

These are incredibly valuable works to restore the cottage to a state where it can be used to safely host events, such as the Waterbug BioBlitz, which took place in September.

Murbpook update



New weather station

Nature Foundation recently installed a new weather station at Murbpook Nature Reserve. The weather station will record local environmental conditions such as temperature, wind speed and direction, providing vital information that we will use to adapt conservation management plans and activities on the reserve and contribute to valuable data collection in the region.

Terracotta Foundation kindly provided funding for purchasing the weather station, which was installed by a team of Nature Foundation volunteers. We greatly appreciate this generous financial contribution and that of our volunteers to enable positive nature conservation outcomes.





Watchalunga
update

Collaborating with the Ngarrindjeri community

Nature Foundation is proud to partner on a multi-partner Landscape Priority Fund project: The Building the Resilience of Ngarrindjeri Yarluwar-Ruwe project. The Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, local landscape boards, and other partners support the project with funding from the South Australian Government's Landscape Priorities Fund, landscape levies and other sources. The project's focus is to build the resilience of Ngarrindjeri lands by identifying and delivering on-ground conservation works to improve the environmental and cultural resilience of Yarluwar-Ruwe (water and lands).

Ngarrindjeri community members are supporting Nature Foundation's conservation program at Watchalunga Nature Reserve, including assisting with setting up motion detection cameras within the reserve to detect and monitor pest species, such as foxes and cats, that prey on Ngarrindjeri Ngartjis. "Ngartji" refers to individual totems, which include plants and animals. A team from Second Nature Conservancy Inc (formerly Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association or GWLAP) and Ngarrindjeri community members assisted Nature Foundation's Science and Knowledge Program Manager to deploy a trial of five cameras in different locations across the reserve to test their efficacy.



Native fish surveys and electrofishing

In September, the Nature Glenelg Trust undertook a four-day electrofishing exercise to remove non-native fish species from the waters at Watchalunga Nature Reserve. Following the recent floods, high numbers of Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) are being reported within the River Murray, which resulted in a more extended electrofishing harvest than usual.

Funded by Foundation SA, the harvest resulted in 393 common carp being removed from Watchalunga, to a total weight of 243kg! In addition, one Redfin Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and one Carp Goldfish hybrid were captured and removed. During the alien fish harvest, the Nature Glenelg Trust team also took water samples to measure dissolved oxygen concentration, electrical conductivity (a measure of salinity), and water temperature. All water quality parameters were found to be within acceptable thresholds for freshwater fish, which is good news for our native fish!

Our annual native fish survey occurred over four days in October 2023. Nature Glenelg Trust also conducted this activity, which received assistance from four Ngarrindjeri community members as part of the Building the Resilience of Ngarrindjeri Yarluwar-Ruwe Landscape Priority Fund project.

The community members enjoyed being on country and learning from the Nature Glenelg Trust science team. A total of 448 non-native fish were captured and removed during this survey including: 391 Common Carp, 51 Redfin Perch, two Goldfish and four Eastern Gambusia. Of the 150 native fish that were sampled, the most abundant species were Congolli (*Pseudaphritis urvillii*), also known as Freshwater Flathead, Common Galaxias (*Galaxias maculatus*) and Flathead Gudgeon (*Philypnodon grandiceps*) which accounted for 60% of the total native catch.

People update

We have recently welcomed a couple of new team members to our Prospect head office.

Carolyn Pickering
Volunteer and Visitor Engagement Coordinator



Carolyn Pickering is the Volunteer and Visitor Engagement Coordinator for Nature Foundation. She manages our Volunteer program and visitors across our nature reserves and related sites.

How did you come to be at Nature Foundation?

I've had a very varied working life, from working as a Physical Education and Outdoor Education Teacher and supporting people with Information Technology to focussing on Volunteer Coordination roles in the past ten years or so years in the Arts with Adelaide Festival and Adelaide Fringe, to Conservation with Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and Zoos SA, and other not for profits including Scope Global and Operation Flinders.

My love of nature and goals of supporting habitat and threatened species drew me to this role with Nature Foundation. I want to contribute to a positive and vibrant team working towards a positive future for our natural spaces and biodiversity.

What sorts of things do you do in your role, and what do you enjoy most?

Working in a people-involving role is the most satisfying part of what I do as a volunteer

coordinator. I focus on building a team of volunteers to meet the organisation's needs enjoyably and purposefully.

I recruit passionate people willing to serve and help match them to their areas of interest so they can make a positive impact through this service. I especially like celebrating what we achieve through this process with the big team of incredible humans who get involved.

What are some of your other interests?

I am currently part of a Friends of the Heysen Trail end-to-end walking group heading north in our third year on the trail. I also enjoy my garden and have established a habitat at home on the Fleurieu Peninsula for birds, insects, and reptiles over the past three years since building my house and a wonderfully producing vegetable garden.

I am also a rescue dog owner, and Bella is my joy and another way I keep active outdoors. In my youth, I enjoyed sports, with cricket and lacrosse being my main passions, though I played most team sports at some stage. Photography, visual arts and music are my main artistic interests, and I love getting out and enjoying Adelaide's festivals and art scene when I can.

Conor Hilton is the Nature-based Solutions Program Coordinator for Nature Foundation. He supports land scoping and procurement, project implementation and management, and reporting.

How did you come to be at Nature Foundation?

I wanted to contribute to positive environmental change, and Nature Foundation ticked all the boxes for me. I was interested in all the programs and events Nature Foundation holds, their values and how they rehabilitate nature. I jumped at the opportunity to work with such an organisation.

What are you looking forward to most as part of your role?

I am looking forward to assisting Nature Foundation to grow and continue to rehabilitate land and ecosystems back to their natural state. I will be involved

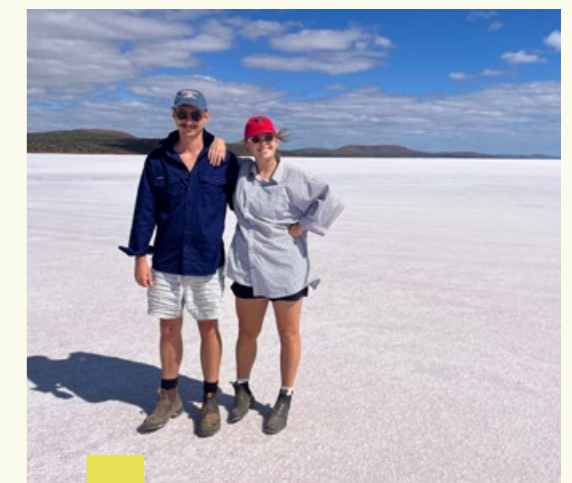
in land procurement and managing the implementation of new nature-based solutions projects on newly acquired land.

What are some of your interests outside of work?

I love camping and getting outdoors, watching and playing sport. I play tennis at Henley Beach and compete in triathlons. I am originally from Queensland and am a big NRL fan, with my team being the Gold Coast Titans.

I love all things music, and I play guitar, with my favourite artists being Red Hot Chili Peppers, Neil Young, Patti Smith, Muse and old blues guys like Muddy Waters and BB King.

Since moving to Adelaide, my interest in wine has risen, and going to all the great wineries around South Australia is a lot of fun. We live at Henley Beach, so spending time on the beach in summer is lovely!



Conor Hilton
Nature-based Solutions Program Coordinator

Supporting the
Forever Nature Fund
Vern and Pat
Conservation Trust

naturefoundation.org.au/giw



Nature Foundation recently received a generous Gift in Will
dedicated to the Forever Nature Fund.

Vernon and Pat Whittenbury were long-term supporters of their local natural environment, with Vern interested and devoted to native plants and Pat to native birds. Vern provided many plant specimens to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, and they were both Friends of Belair National Park, living close by in Blackwood.

The Forever Nature Fund has been created for the purpose of raising capital to purchase and manage areas of critical habitat. Nature Foundation greatly

appreciates Vern and Pat's devotion to South Australia's natural landscapes, and we look forward to using their Gift in Will to help protect habitat today, tomorrow and forever.

If you are interested in learning more about our Gift in Will opportunities or the Forever Nature Fund, please get in touch with Philanthropy Coordinator, Patrick Mentzel by calling (08) 8340 2880 or emailing patrick.mentzel@naturefoundation.org.au forevernaturefund.org.au

Recent
Events



Artist Residency Program
Exhibition opening

Nature Foundation's Artist Residency Program enters its fifth year in 2023, and hosted an exhibition in June showcasing the work of the 2022 artists in residence, entitled Nature's Foundations 2.

In 2022, two artists spent time on Hiltaba and another spent time on Witchelina, creating artwork inspired by these environments. The resulting paintings beautifully illustrate their creators' contrasting yet complementary inspiration from, and response to, the nature and landscapes around them.

These pieces of art created by Caroline Johnson, Katie Bradley and Mandy Pryse-Jones were exhibited at The Main Gallery on Halifax Street during June 2023. The exhibition opening was attended by passionate art and nature lovers, and opened by Bec Hardy, and the Hon Susan Close MP, Deputy Premier of South Australia and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water; Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science; and Minister for Defence and Space Industries.

"This art makes a difference, as it makes us feel what's important about nature, not just understand it," said Hon Susan Close MP.

Nature Foundation gratefully acknowledges sponsorship of the Artist Residency program by the Helen James Endowment Fund; and of the Nature's Foundations 2 exhibition by The Main Gallery and Bec Hardy Wines. Many thanks to our team of supporters who manage the Artist Residency Program.



Watchalunga
Planting Day

Thank you to all of the members and supporters who took part in our Watchalunga Planting Day on Sunday 30 July—National Tree Day!

With just over 30 participants, we planted an incredible 2,300 native plants, including lignum and sedge seedlings, creating vital habitat for the Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren, a nationally and state endangered species.

Many thanks to Sarah and the team from the Second Nature Conservancy Inc (formerly Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association or GWLAP) for their preparation and support. We know Watchalunga Nature Reserve is in safe hands with such passionate conservation partners!

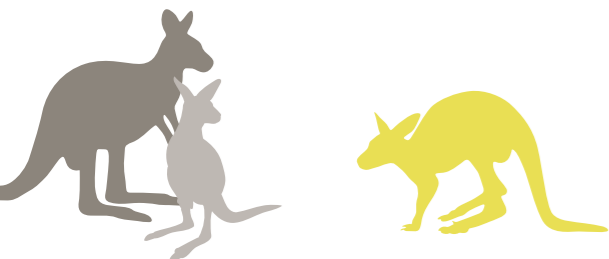




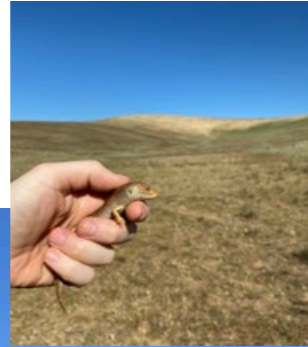
Murbpook Waterbug BioBlitz

Sixteen eager Nature Foundation members joined the Science and Knowledge team at Murbpook Nature Reserve in mid-September 2023 to carry out the first citizen science Waterbug BioBlitz. Funded by a Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Grassroots Grant, our intrepid members received on-site training from two ecologists on how to collect samples, then embarked on their own collection of water quality and freshwater macroinvertebrate samples in the main lagoon and northern wetland.

Monitoring water quality and aquatic invertebrates helps us understand the health of our wetland ecosystem which supports fish and bird communities. The ecologists are analysing our findings, but initial observations indicate a good diversity of species, with different environmental tolerances. We look forward to receiving the final results, repeating this citizen science survey next year, and continued monitoring.



Recent Events



Tiliqua Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Crawl

In late September, a whopping 36 Nature Foundation members and volunteers joined staff at Tiliqua Nature Reserve for a Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Crawl, generously funded by a Northern and Yorke Landscape Board Grassroots Grant.

The members, along with Northern and Yorke Landscape Officer Nick Modra, helped to set up the first population monitoring survey by establishing 25 permanent monitoring plots across the 85-hectare nature reserve. The group then began scouring the plots to find the spider burrows Pygmy Bluetongues live in.

The Lizard Crawl was an important activity to kick start a very labour-intensive survey process. A team returned to Tiliqua in October to undertake the population monitoring survey. Nature Foundation will now use the data to develop a Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard population estimate for Tiliqua Nature Reserve. We look forward to repeating the process next year to track the population development over time.

The Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Crawl was funded by the Landscape Levy and delivered on behalf of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.



Supporting South Australia's Nature Festival

Nature Foundation was proud to support the 2023 Nature Festival as a Festival Partner and by hosting two events as part of the program. Nature Festival is a two-week celebration of our love of nature in South Australia, and from 1-15 October 2023, it offers over three hundred events for all ages, full of creative ways to connect with nature and each other.

Art & Invertebrates on Kangaroo Island

The first event was Art & Invertebrates on Kangaroo Island. Nature Foundation members Janine Mackintosh and Dr Richard Glatz have generously decided to bequest their 243-hectare bush heritage property on Kangaroo Island to Nature Foundation, as they believe our organisation can provide the best long-term stewardship.

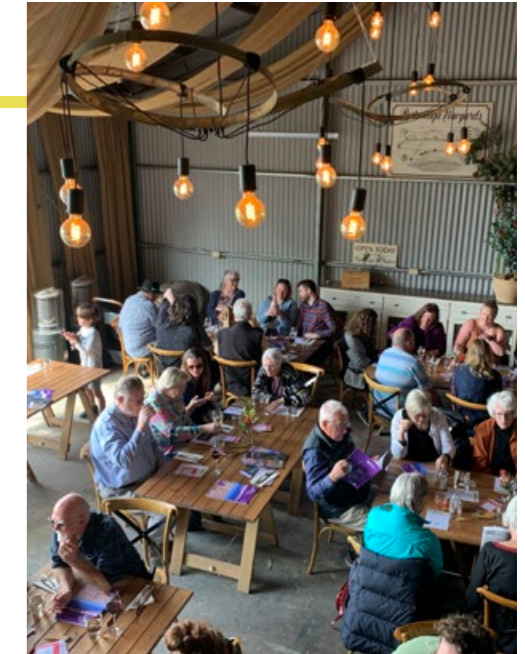
Richard and Janine hosted a small group tour of their property and unique workspaces for us for Nature Festival, a very fitting connection with this year's festival theme: 'the nature of home'.

Janine is a contemporary artist who collects and assembles natural materials to create windows for the natural world. She is working on a major commission to create artwork for permanent display throughout the new Southern Ocean Lodge, rebuilt following the devastating Kangaroo Island bushfires in 2020.

Dr Richard Glatz is a nationally recognised entomologist. He has studied the insect ecology of Kangaroo Island since the late 1990s and has now amassed a collection with around 70,000 specimens from the island. Richard has a purpose-built fireproof pod on their property that houses his impressive invertebrate collection.

Following the tour of their workspaces, we enjoyed morning tea on the deck, taking in the incredible views of their property. Refuelled, we set out on a bush walk across part of Janine and Richard's property, with the couple pointing out the rare flora.

The morning ended, and the group disbanded feeling energised by this inspiring couple's creativity, warmth and generosity. Thank you for sharing your home with us, Janine and Richard!



Birds & Bingo at Bec Hardy Wines

The second of our events was Birds & Bingo at Bec Hardy Wines. The premise was relatively straightforward: enjoy some wine and food while playing some rounds of bingo, interspersed with bird-related conversation.

The afternoon was hosted by bingo master, bird nerd and keen nature photographer Sputnik, who kept the group entertained with his bird-related numeral rhymes and discussions with Nature Foundation team members Alex Nankivell (CEO) and Dr Lucy Clive (Acting Science and Knowledge Manager), as well as Bec Hardy (owner and winemaker at Bec Hardy Wines).

Lucy shared the conservation activities at Watchalunga Nature Reserve supporting the Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren. Alex then shared his study of raptors at Witchelina Nature Reserve, including their interesting diet of bearded dragons.

Bec shared her early recollections of Nature Foundation, with her grandmother, Dr Barbara Hardy AO, being one of its founders, along with her involvement with the Foundation and the various activities undertaken across the winery to support sustainability.

Guests enjoyed delicious food and wine from the Bec Hardy Wines kitchen in the impressive barrel shed, with a number winning prizes through their bingo efforts.

Many thanks go to Bec Hardy and her team for the incredibly generous support and sponsorship of this event.

It was an enjoyable afternoon with several guests asking when the next would occur!

Vision for Nature tours



Tiliqua-Burra tour

In May 2023 we hosted a day tour for a small group of our Vision for Nature supporters to Burra and our Tiliqua nature reserve. The tour took in some sights around Riverton and Burra, including the Burra Mine Lookout, Burra Railway Station and the 'Midnight Oil House'.

The day culminated in an informative presentation by Dr Lucy Clive about the threatened Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards at our Tiliqua Nature Reserve.

Such a great day!



Vision for Nature is a way for us to recognise those who include Nature Foundation in their Will. If you are interested in more information about leaving a bequest to Nature Foundation, get in touch by calling (08) 8340 2880, see our website naturefoundation.org.au/bequests or emailing patrick.mentzel@naturefoundation.org.au

Mount Magnificent & McLaren Vale tour

In mid-October our Vision for Nature society enjoyed a delightful day out at Mount Magnificent and McLaren Vale. Confirmed bequestors, Jane and Jocelyn hosted the group at their (partial) heritage agreement property at Mt Magnificent, to learn more about private land conservation and enjoy stunning walks and views. Jane and Jocelyn have lived at 'Pink Gum' since 1990. Pink Gums is a 100-acre property located immediately south-east of Finnis Conservation Park and 1.5km north-west of Cox Scrub Conservation Park and 1.5km south-east of Mount Magnificent.

They provided a presentation and guided walk, followed by morning tea, before the group travelled to Bec Hardy Wines at Pertaringa for a lunch and tasting session hosted by Bec Hardy.

It was a wonderful day out; even a flat tire didn't dampen the day!

Introducing our new volunteer program

Nature Foundation is pleased to share our recently launched volunteer program to help support our vital conservation work.

Nature Foundation has a long and proud history of volunteering, from the initial contribution of our founders (Dr Barbara Hardy AO, Warren Bonython AO, Mark Bonnin AO and David Cleland), our members and supporters who provide

community participation at our planting days and other events, those who serve on our committees and contribute to conservation and nature-based tourism efforts on our reserves.

Over the past 18 months, Nature Foundation has undertaken an organisational review of activities against our 'Toward 2030 Strategic Plan', along with feedback from members and the public, industry-relevant research and exploring emerging opportunities in the carbon and nature-positive markets. Through this process, it was decided that a new, consistent volunteer management approach was required across all seven nature reserves, providing more opportunities for interest-based participation and increasing our capacity to deliver gains for biodiversity and nature conservation.

Carolyn Pickering has been appointed as the new Volunteer and Visitor Engagement Coordinator, who has further developed the new volunteer framework and established the required systems and processes to implement the new volunteer program.

Carolyn brings vast energy and experience to her role, having been a Physical Education and Outdoor Education Teacher and holding Volunteer Coordination positions with the Adelaide Festival, Adelaide Fringe, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Zoos SA and Operation Flinders.

"Volunteering has opened doors in my own professional career. I have volunteered in various areas, including sport, conservation and the arts, and have used this experience to enhance the volunteer programs I manage, along with the experiences of the volunteers themselves," said Carolyn.

The opportunity to join the new volunteer program is now open to passionate people with skills and expertise looking to provide a valuable contribution to activities aligned with Nature Foundation's strategic goals.

Volunteering opportunities include:

- Roles in conservation.
- Engaging with people through activities including eco-tourism and event support.
- Building and maintaining our Nature Reserve infrastructure.
- Special projects assisting our business needs.

All volunteers are supported through best practices in accordance with The Standards of Volunteer Involvement by Volunteering Australia, and recruitment begins with an expression of interest through our new online system.

With the ongoing work required to positively influence biodiversity and our natural environment, we are excited by the new volunteer program and its ability to allow us to support and scale our conservation efforts across South Australia and beyond.

To learn more about our Volunteer Program and register your interest, visit:

naturefoundation.org.au/volunteer



"I love volunteering with Nature Foundation. It allows me to visit beautiful places and assist with conserving our Australian flora and fauna."

Coral Johnston

"I first learned about Nature Foundation through a working bee at Witchelina in 2010. It was a great experience, spending a few days helping around the Homestead and beyond with like-minded people. I always look forward to visiting the nature reserves and helping when I can. Seeing the reserves improve and land conservation in progress has been incredibly rewarding."

John Ovenden

Image: Volunteers after a Watchalunga Nature Reserve fencing working bee. Photo by Carolyn Pickering.

Member Matters

Recent membership updates

We recently made changes to our Nature Foundation membership, moving to a calendar year-based membership duration and implementing unique Member IDs for all members.

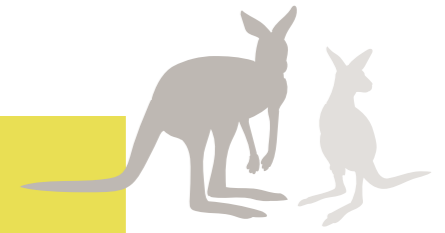
From now on, all annual memberships will expire on 31 December and renew on 1 January. For new members joining us throughout the year, annual membership fees will be pro-rated based on the quarter they initially join, with expiry due on 31 December and renewal from 1 January, with total fees for the full calendar year then due.

Annual membership renewal reminders will be sent via email before the 31 December expiry date, with a unique and secure link to renew online. Additional reminders will be sent if required. You can also opt-in for auto-renew, giving you the ease and confidence of knowing your membership will continue annually. Auto-renewals will receive a reminder email prior advising you of the upcoming payment.

If you have any queries about your existing membership or new member enquiries, you can call us during business hours at (08) 8340 2880 or email anytime to info@naturefoundation.org.au

For full details and to join Nature Foundation, please visit:
naturefoundation.org.au/membership

MEMBER
SPECIAL
OFFER



Exceptional Kangaroo Island

We are delighted to provide this special offer to our valued Nature Foundation members, thanks to the generosity of Exceptional Kangaroo Island.

Exceptional Kangaroo Island provides a range of experiences promising good food, good wine and sustainable wild encounters with a range of species. Tours include home-baked morning tea, elegant al fresco lunches with a choice of beer, wine and soft drinks, local guides travelling in comfortable vehicles with a maximum of 10 guests, and all necessary National Parks and Wildlife admission fees. The Exceptional Kangaroo Island team can also arrange transport to and from the island for you.

As a Nature Foundation member, you can save up to 20% on Exceptional Kangaroo Island tours AND support Nature Foundation.

Simply provide the relevant discount code and your Nature Foundation Member ID when booking your tour directly with Exceptional Kangaroo Island.

Full offer details will be sent directly to members. Please get in touch with any queries.

Artist Residency Program 2024 Applications Open

Applications are now open for our 2024 Artist Residency Program, inviting professional artists to spend two weeks on either (or both) of our Hiltaba and Witchelina Nature Reserves.

Founded in 2019, Nature Foundation's Artist Residency Program aims to:

- Reflect Nature Foundation's conservation vision by encouraging artists to become immersed in the natural environment, and to respond through their creative work.
- Support the work of participating artists with an interest in remote natural environments, by providing them with opportunities for substantial visits to Witchelina or Hiltaba, or both.

We invite artists each year to spend up to two weeks on either Witchelina, Hiltaba, or a week on each. Nature Foundation provides participating artists with accommodation and general support, including orientation to, and guidance on the Reserves.

We will also promote and sell works generated from artists' visits through its media and exhibition

opportunities: website, newsletter, email, social media and member events.

Nature Foundation invites applications from professional artists. Artists may be regularly selling work and exhibiting in a commercial gallery, but this is not a prerequisite. A living away from home allowance commensurate with the length of a Residency will be offered to participating artists.

Closing date for Artist Residency Program applications is Wednesday 28 February 2024.

For full details and application form, please visit:
naturefoundation.org.au/artist-residency-program



Artist John Whitney at Hiltaba Nature Reserve in 2021



Supporting native fauna with habitat piles

Members recently created some fauna habitat piles at Witchelina Nature Reserve, and the results were swift, with native birds such as White-winged Fairy Wrens and Singing Honeyeaters seen investigating the piles the next day.

In addition to attracting native fauna to an area by planting relevant native flora, habitat piles can be created simply with branches or rocks. They then provide refuge and food sources and encourage general interest and engagement for curious critters.

When creating habitat piles, it is essential to consider what resources you are using and that they are not already being used by native wildlife! In this case, the fallen branches and loose rocks were collected during a clean-up around the Witchelina homestead and repurposed as habitat piles.

If you're looking for a simple way to support native fauna in your yard or area, why not create a habitat pile?



Photos by Coral Johnston

Upcoming Events

Some dates for your 2024 diary:

April/May
(Date TBC)
28 July

Member open day at Para Woodlands Nature Reserve

Watchalunga Planting Day (National Tree Day)

6 August

Conservation Conversations

4 Oct – 8 Nov

Nature's Foundations 3: Artist Residency Program Exhibition at Pepper Street Art Gallery

Please note, dates may be revised closer to the event. Keep an eye on our website and your emails for further details and any other events.



BUSHLAND FOR SALE

As part of our Bushbank Revolving Fund, we have an incredible bush heritage block for sale.

Kersbrook Nature Wonderland

Get back to nature on your own private getaway. This 80-acres of bushland, only one hour from Adelaide CBD, is a bird and nature lovers haven, complete with an off-grid cabin.

realestate.com.au/property-lifestyle-sa-kersbrook-700251780

naturefoundation.org.au/bushbank

See full details of this property on realestate.com.au (scan the QR code with the camera app on your mobile phone) or via the link below, and please contact the real estate agent with all enquiries.





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We are also active on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. Hope to see you online soon.

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