

- Our new nature reserve—**Bullock Bridge**
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2024

Engaging  
people in  
conservation

# NatureMatters

**VITAL  
WORK  
APPEAL**

See P. 2



**Nature**  
Foundation



## VITAL WORK APPEAL



Thank you to all of the nature lovers who have kindly supported Nature Foundation. Your gifts make a real impact on our biodiversity in South Australia and beyond. It is a critical time for nature, and as a non-government funded charity, we value your care and support to protect our environment for the future.

Your generous donations fund important conservation activities and programs that conserve and restore our current footprint, help us protect more land, stop species loss, and take further action to mitigate the increasing effects of climate change.

Private land conservation plays a vital role in ensuring the survival of Australian landscapes, flora, and fauna for future generations. In addition to conserving the land, we must continue to manage it appropriately to restore these precious habitats and protect their unique inhabitants.

Our annual Vital Work Appeal is invaluable in helping us achieve the required property maintenance and infrastructure improvements across our nature reserves, allowing us to conduct and improve our conservation efforts.

This year, we are aiming to raise \$100,000, which will help:

- Fix the collapsed causeway at Watchalunga Nature Reserve, which will assist with improved weed control and management of the habitat for the Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren
- Upgrade the Shearers Quarters at Hiltaba Nature Reserve, including a new toilet and ablution block to improve the visitor experience

- Water infrastructure upgrades at Hiltaba and Witchelina Nature Reserves, with new tanks and pipeline improvements to support weed control and prevent insects and fauna congregating around these open water sources

These and other ongoing upgrades enable our daily activities to continue so that we can achieve the conservation outcomes on which our natural environment and community depend.

As a charity with deductible gift recipient (DGR) status, all donations are tax-deductible. At the beginning of the financial year, we will resend all donation receipts to everyone who has donated to the Nature Foundation to help you record your donations and accurately reduce your taxable income.

We understand the impact of the increased cost of living on Australians, and we sincerely thank you for all the donations made to Nature Foundation. Every donation of any size truly makes a difference to nature.

To donate visit: [naturefoundation.org.au/vwa](https://naturefoundation.org.au/vwa)



Credit: Dr Lucy Clive, Watchalunga Nature Reserve



## From the Chair Jan Ferguson OAM



I would like to begin by thanking you all for your support of the fundraising appeal for and our recent acquisition of Bullock Bridge.

In December 2022 we launched the Forever Nature Fund and our goal to raise \$20 million to double our impact to 1 million hectares of land protected by 2030, and our new Bullock Bridge Nature Reserve is a small but very valuable step towards achieving this goal. You can read more about this acquisition in this issue.

The first part of the year has also seen the Board come together for our annual retreat. This time is an important opportunity for us to prepare for the year ahead in line with our Strategic Plan: Towards 2030.

We received insightful presentations from the staff team, had robust discussions with effective outcomes, and visited Watchalunga Nature Reserve to observe the revegetation that has occurred there over the past 8 years, and learn about the current weed management plan from Science and Knowledge Program Officer, Dr Lucy Clive.

Last year's AGM saw some new Directors welcomed to the Board, and so this was also a time for us to collectively discuss and focus on key objectives for the organisation, including:

- Continued focus on assessing key habitat areas where acquisition is financially viable
- Protecting and restoring key habitats
- An important focus on Aboriginal engagement and protecting cultural heritage
- Our continued commitment to Nature-based Tourism
- The launch and growth of our new Volunteer program and associated events to contribute to conservation, and
- Delivering effective reserve management across all our nature reserves.

Behind the scenes, Nature Foundation continues to work closely with the State Government, recently providing recommendations on the Biodiversity

Act discussion paper. With the concerning insights included in the recently released 2023 State of the Environment report (some of which will be no surprise to many of our members and supporters), it is essential that we collectively provide this feedback to the government. Our membership plays a vital role in increasing the volume of our contributions, so on behalf of the Board, thank you to our long-term and new members. You can read more about this in the CEO update on the following page.

Although we are certainly facing many challenges, there are also many good news stories from across the country. A selection of these from Nature Foundation include:

- The core colony of Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies at Hiltaba have increased their population from 17 to 206 over the last decade since acquired by Nature Foundation.
- Short-tailed Grasswrens are now seen on more hills at Hiltaba than in previous years.
- Thick-billed Grasswren habitat suitability at Witchelina has improved significantly since purchase.
- Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wrens at Watchalunga are now utilising areas revegetated through our annual planting days.

These are all examples of threatened species that have benefited from active management at Nature Foundation reserves and tell the story of environmental improvement across the landscape. Demonstrating that with focussed effort and investment, declines in biodiversity can be addressed by people and organisations who are committed to the improvement in condition and overall extent of habitats that form our ecosystems.

I look forward to a productive year, with positive impacts and outcomes for nature.





## From the CEO Alex Nankivell

The Government of South Australia recently released the 2023 State of the Environment report, which presents a story of the state's ongoing decline in biodiversity at an alarming rate.

The World Economic Forum also recently released its Global Risks Report, which suggests that in the next 10 years, the top four global risks will all be related to nature in some way, with its decline impacting close to 50% of the global GDP.

The South Australian government is doing great things in steering the state towards 100% renewable energy and transitioning the economy toward net zero. However, we can't forget the importance of nature and its ecosystems in providing the environment that which we need to survive. I know none of this is new to many of our readers and continues to reinforce that Nature really does Matter.

Nature Foundation recently responded to the Biodiversity Act discussion paper where we supported all the matters for consideration, recognising that they form a logical foundation for what should become an important piece of legislation. We also highlighted the urgency of addressing the biodiversity crisis and asked the government to be resolute and ambitious in protecting and repairing nature. And that economic prosperity and biodiversity are inextricably linked and investing in biodiversity is investing in the future.

On our own reserves, significant progress has been made in implementing the new Conservation Management systems at Witchelina and Hiltaba. This includes permanent staff on the two large reserves and the creation of an Integrated Reserve Management System (IRMS). The IRMS is being implemented at Hiltaba Nature Reserve and will be rolled out across our reserve network over time. The system coordinates and streamlines our data collection and reporting requirements across all conservation, land management, and infrastructure maintenance. It enables

us to undertake timely evaluation of our work activities and adapt our efforts to increase the impact of various reserve-based programs. The IRMS was demonstrated at the recent Broad Retreat and we look forward to the further development of the system.

More broadly, significant progress has been achieved in tackling some long-term strategic challenges on our reserves. I am pleased to note that managing total grazing pressure on both Hiltaba and Witchelina is progressing well, our weed and feral pest management data is embedded in the IRMS enabling improved management, and we are working to increase our fire management capacity across the Foundation. Additionally, significant infrastructure works are underway, with the new volunteer accommodation at Hiltaba (on track for completion this year), water tanks and associated infrastructure has been replaced and upgraded at several reserves, and we continue to invest in solar upgrades to offset our diesel fuel usage at remote reserves.

We have recently added Bullock Bridge (or Bullocky Bridge as it is known locally) in the Limestone Coast to our growing network of privately protected areas. This small reserve is a haven for threatened species and a diversity of wildlife worth protecting and providing the opportunity to thrive again. Our science team, with the ongoing involvement of Professor Hugh Possingham and Phill Cassey, will now begin the management planning process, conversations with the First Nations people of the area and a series of surveys to begin understanding the diversity of life that call Bullock Bridge home.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the purchase of Bullock Bridge. Your contributions make the protection of our precious biodiversity possible.

## Introducing the Kids on Country™ Aboriginal Advisory Group

A successful funding application to the National Indigenous Australia Agency (NIAA) in 2023 has secured the Kids on Country™ Junior Ranger Program for the next three years and allowed the team and program to grow.

An aspect of this growth is the establishment of a Kids on Country™ Aboriginal Advisory Group to advise on the program's delivery and future development.

We are excited to have recently held its first meeting, welcoming the inaugural members.

Members of the Aboriginal Advisory Group represent various Aboriginal groups, offering diverse perspectives to ensure the Kids on Country™ program continues to support a range of stakeholders.

Meeting approximately three times a year, the group will provide strategic advice and guidance to Nature Foundation about the delivery and future growth of the Kids on Country™ Program, including:

- Assisting with developing strategies to enhance Aboriginal community participation in the program.
- Providing advice and helping facilitate the development of new strategic partnerships that grow the scope and impacts of the program.
- Providing feedback on new program delivery ideas aimed at increasing the program's impact

Assisting in developing new and innovative pathways for young people to explore and enter employment in conservation and land management industries.

- Providing advice on: Evaluation frameworks to promote the success of the program.
  - Approaches to best manage issues and success barriers identified through the evaluation processes.
- Assisting with strategic promotion of the program through industry and educational stakeholder networks.

We are delighted to welcome and introduce the group members to you and look forward to providing further updates throughout the year.



Back row, from left: Seth Karpany, Katie Perry, Cherie Rolfe, Candice Love, Warren Milera and Tim Tuikaba  
Front row, from left: Christine Abdulla and Beverley Paterson



# Bullock Bridge

## Our new haven for birds and biodiversity

Credits: Andy Rahnsted and aerial photos by Alex Nankivell



We are delighted to share that we recently settled the purchase on our latest nature reserve, Bullock Bridge.

The 202-hectare property is located east of Kingston on the Limestone Coast, adjacent to the Mount Scott Conservation Park and on the traditional lands of the Meintangk people. It is part of one of the largest inland blocks of native vegetation in this southern region and has very high biodiversity values.

We sincerely thank everyone who contributed to this acquisition, particularly leading benefactors Professor Hugh Possingham and Phill Cassey, who each pledged \$100,000.

The high biodiversity values and connectivity to Mount Scott Conservation Park make this an invaluable block of bushland in the regional context. 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.

Of the approximately 140 species recorded in neighbouring Mount Scott Conservation 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)

Following the property settlement, our conservation team is now commencing a full reserve audit to inform monitoring programs, including baseline biodiversity surveys, that will allow us to prepare a comprehensive reserve management plan. We will also undertake initial essential works, including repairing and replacing damaged fencing to prevent unwanted grazing pressure and developing and implementing threat management strategies.

Thanks again to everyone who has supported this valuable step towards providing increased land protection in South Australia's southeast. We look forward to sharing further updates with you as conservation efforts progress on Bullock Bridge Nature Reserve.





## Interesting baseline results at Murbpook



Photo credits: Dr Lucy Clive



Murbpook Nature Reserve, on the western side of the River Murray, experienced extensive flooding in late 2022, with the whole floodplain underwater for a prolonged period.

We know the flooding has impacted flora and fauna in the area, and our recent baseline ecological assessment has assisted in quantifying the reserve's current state and developing its conservation management plan.

The survey took place in November 2023 and used a combination of techniques, including:

- Pitfall, funnel and Elliot traps
- Bird surveys
- Vegetation surveys, and
- Spotlighting

While the overall fauna volume and richness were low—including no Dunnart observations, which we would typically expect to find—some exciting species were observed, including:

- Bolam's Mouse (*Pseudomys bolami*)
- Echidna (*Techynglossus aculeatus*)
- Tessellated Gecko (*Diplodactylus tessellatus*)

The low fauna diversity indicates the landscape's current biodiversity condition and implies species' return to this area following the flooding will take time.

In contrast, the avian diversity at Murbpook Nature Reserve appears to be thriving, with a very high richness of 70 different bird species observed, including:

- Nationally-listed Southern Whiteface (Vulnerable) (*Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis*)

- State-listed Australasian Darter (Rare) (*Anhinga novaehollandiae novaehollandiae*)
- State-listed White-bellied Sea Eagle (Endangered) (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)
- State-listed Elegant Parrot (Rare) (*Neophema elegans elegans*)

The bird diversity suggests good overall ecological health has been maintained in the region, particularly concerning avian populations.

The vegetation assessment included recording four state-listed plant species, with two not sighted previously\* and likely emerging from the seed bank post-flood, pioneer species in a degraded environment.

- Purple Lovegrass (Rare) (*Eragrostis lacunaria*)
- \*Five-spined Bindyi (Rare) (*Sclerolaena muricata* ssp. *Villosa*)
- \*Creeping Boobialla (Rare) (*Myoporum parvifolium*)
- Prickly Bottlebrush (Rare) (*Callistemon brachyandrus*)

These results indicate that recolonisation after flooding is required, along with implementing targeted feral animal control to support improvement in fauna diversity and populations over time. Ongoing monitoring will also allow us to track changes and recovery of the floodplain and inform conservation strategies.

## Reducing total grazing pressure at Hiltaba and Witchelina

Our Conservation Land Managers have settled in well on Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves and have made progress across various areas, including creating an Integrated Reserve Management System (IRMS).

The IRMS coordinates and streamlines our data collection and reporting requirements across all conservation, land management, and infrastructure maintenance, enabling us to undertake a timely evaluation of our work activities and adapt our efforts to increase the impact of various reserve-based programs.

Another key focus for these two larger reserves has been improved management of total grazing pressure, including decommissioning dams and water points and identifying and repairing or replacing water tanks and pipes.

Following the extremely dry 2023 spring conditions, macropod congregations have increased significantly, with 22 animals per square kilometre kangaroo densities recorded at Hiltaba, almost three times the regional average for the Gawler Ranges. Kangaroos are attracted to leaking pipes and tanks as water in the broader landscape dries up, and their growing populations feed voraciously on the new vegetation that is also attempting to grow in the competitive conditions.

At Hiltaba, all functional dams have been closed off, and the natural water surface flows across the landscape have been restored. We will retain the dam structures to protect historical value and to support related activities such as birdwatching. However, they will hold water for a much shorter duration, which will help reduce the growth and congregation of macropods in the area. Vegetation monitoring points have been established at the decommissioned dams to record the diversity and quantity of vegetation responses at both sites. A program for decommissioning dams at Witchelina has been developed and will commence in the coming winter months.

An audit of reserve infrastructure has also identified water pipe leaks, ground soaks and leaking tanks around the reserve precincts and helped us prioritise these water points to be upgraded as part of the property maintenance to be funded through this year's Vital Work Appeal.

To monitor ongoing macropod populations, we will commence regional macropod surveys across both Hiltaba and Witchelina Nature Reserves in the coming months, using the methodology developed by Nature Foundation volunteer, Brenton Arnold. This information, combined with regional aerial data from the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), will provide a more comprehensive data set to guide future macropod management across the reserves.

We look forward to seeing and sharing the impact these changes have on the natural ecosystem balance of both nature reserves.

## Record sightings of endangered Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wrens at Watchalunga



Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren. Credit: Martin Stokes

Regional surveys of the endangered Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren were recently conducted across our Watchalunga Nature Reserve and surrounding areas, and we are delighted to report that there have been record sightings of these tiny and elusive birds!

We know that habitat plays a critical role in supporting the territorial Emu-wrens, and our annual planting days conducted at Watchalunga since 2017 have played a significant role in restoring the thick shrub that these birds prefer for nesting and hiding.

We also know that birds don't care about property boundaries. The biosphere project we commenced in early 2023 progresses the wildlife corridors beyond our nature reserve to the valuable landscapes beyond, inspiring and mobilising local communities to protect and restore further habitat within the lower Finniss and Tookayerta catchments.

This recent survey shows auspicious results of these efforts, with not only more Emu-wrens sighted within Watchalunga Nature Reserve but Emu-wrens in adjacent external areas where they haven't been previously recorded, such as neighbouring council land.

The survey results also indicate connectivity between these areas, which is important in terms of habitat connectivity, strengthening breeding through varied genetics and enhancing the population across the region.

Our Science and Knowledge team will undertake further surveys in the region later in the year to continue monitoring the population and spread.

We will also be undertaking our annual Watchalunga Planting Day in July to establish even more critical habitat for the Emu-wrens. See the Events section of our website for details and registration.

This survey has been generously supported by funding from the Disney Conservation Fund.





## ARC Linkage grant update at Witchelina

In 2022, a research team led by Professor Mike Letnic, Dr Adrian Fisher and Associate Professor Will Cornwell from the University of New South Wales were awarded an ARC Linkage grant in partnership with Nature Foundation and Bush Heritage Australia to investigate the impact high numbers of kangaroos are having on ecosystems at Witchelina Nature Reserve, Boolcoomatta and Fowler’s Gap.

To understand the effects of kangaroos at Witchelina, the research team will monitor kangaroo numbers and experimentally assess the impact of kangaroos on ecosystems by excluding them from 16-hectare exclosures. The team will then monitor the responses of soils, invertebrates, plants and small vertebrates inside the exclosures and nearby control areas where kangaroos graze.

The three-year project is getting underway following several field trips to Boolcoomatta and Witchelina. Once the first fences were finished earlier in 2023, the team visited each property to set up research equipment, begin data collection, and continue long-term spotlight and afternoon counts. The remaining set-up was completed during additional trips in Winter and Spring, and remote data is now being collected across all plots.

A range of remote sensing equipment is being used in addition to regular visits and manual surveys to assist with the consistent gathering of data in remote locations without disturbing wildlife and includes daily timelapse photos of vegetation, drone and satellite imagery, song meters, and camera traps.

The baseline data collected from the visits so far is helping to develop some initial observations and hypotheses, though further information is required to identify patterns and trends.

A few interesting observations thus far include the species diversity at Witchelina compared with Boolcoomatta. During the three trips, the team observed similar faunal assemblages with 53 species recorded at Witchelina, including 27 birds,

10 mammals, and 15 reptiles, and 34 species at Boolcoomatta, including 23 birds, eight mammals, and three reptiles. Notably, a slightly higher reptile diversity was observed at Witchelina.

For reasons yet to be determined the research team recorded higher termite activity at Witchelina compared to Boolcoomatta between March and September of this year. While termites are not viewed positively in our homes, native termites are a strong indicator of biodiversity, as they help to decompose dead plant matter and return nutrients to the ecosystem.

Termite activity is measured innovatively, with 12 toilet paper rolls planted in each plot in March. The rolls were collected in September and replaced with fresh rolls. Rolls will continue to be retrieved and measured every six months.

The high termite activity at Witchelina may be due to the woody chenopod shrub species, which supports some termite species being more abundant at Witchelina, or because the *Sclerolaena* species that dominate much of the vegetation at the plots at Boolcoomatta provide low-quality litter which may limit termite abundance. If this trend continues, the research team aims to test these theories as part of the project and link these mechanisms to any future treatment effects observed in higher-order species.

We look forward to sharing further insights and findings as the study progresses.



## 2024 Nature-based Tourism Bookings Now Open

We are delighted to have recently opened nature-based tourism bookings to our Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves for the 2024 tourism season via our dedicated online bookings website.

Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves are open between 1 April and 31 October to day visitors, campers and visitors staying in our accommodation. They allow you to connect with nature, gain insight into our work and experience nature conservation in action.

Both reserves offer a range of accommodation options to overnight visitors, along with walking trails and nature drives available to overnight or day visitors.

Learn more about our Nature-based Tourism offering here: [naturefoundation.org.au/nbt](https://naturefoundation.org.au/nbt)  
Browse our accommodation and nature drives and book online here: [visit.naturefoundation.org.au](https://visit.naturefoundation.org.au)

## Kicking off the 2024 season with our Volunteer Briefing

We held our 2024 Volunteer Season Briefing and Training session in early February at Eliza Hall, on the ground level of the Payinthe building, also home to our Prospect head office.

It was an excellent opportunity for our volunteers to come together and meet each other and the Nature Foundation staff. The comprehensive briefing was opened by Nature Foundation Chair Jan Ferguson OAM, followed by presentations from staff.

Carolyn Pickering, Volunteer and Visitor Engagement Coordinator, provided information covering volunteering activities, processes, and expectations.

Paul van Ruth, Science and Knowledge Manager, outlined our nature reserves’ research and conservation activities.

Gillian Elix, Work Health & Safety Policy Officer, explained the policies and procedures essential to keeping volunteers and other Nature Foundation team members safe, healthy and comfortable.

Katie Perry, Youth Programs Coordinator, and Warren Milera, Youth Programs & Conservation Officer, gave an introduction to Aboriginal cultural considerations, which are intrinsic to our working respectfully on traditional lands.

The training was recorded, with the individual sessions uploaded to the volunteer’s online portal, available for future use by those unable to attend in person.

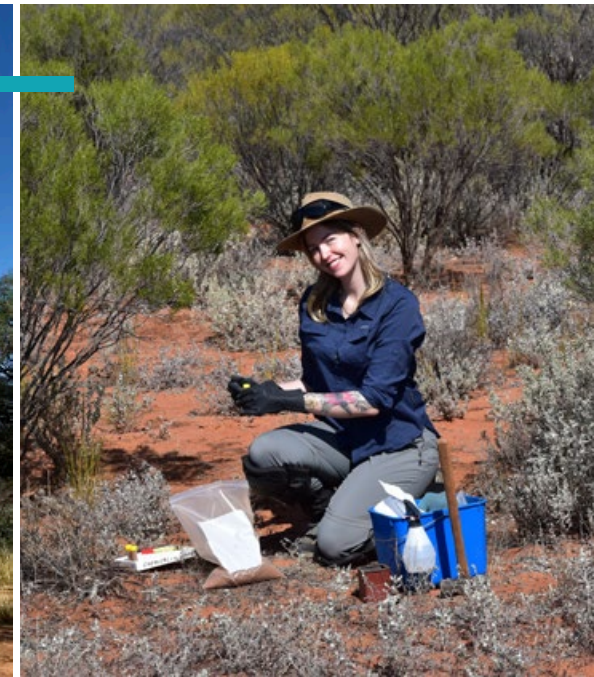
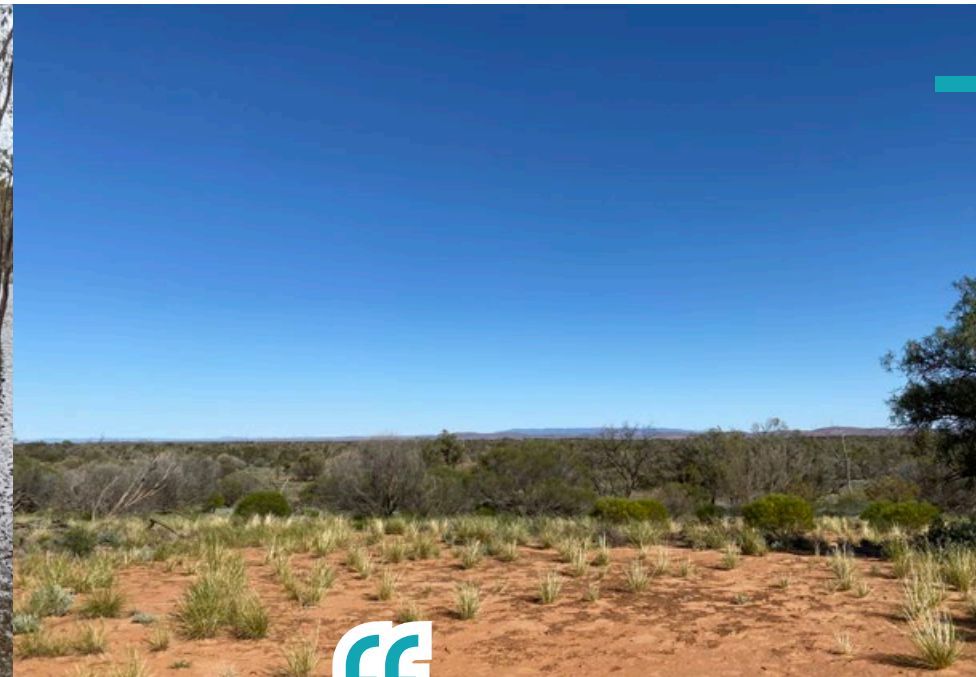
Overall, it was an informative and engaging start to our 2024 volunteer season!







## 2023 student research reports



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. Here are project updates from two of last year's grant recipients.

### Emily Wilson

**Grant Start Grants / Honours recipient**  
**Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Biodiversity and Conservation), Flinders University**

The Murray-Darling Basin is a system of rivers and lakes encompassing approximately 14% of Australia's land area<sup>1</sup>. Wetlands are crucial to sustaining biodiversity within the Basin, supporting a large range of native flora and fauna. However, human interventions such as the construction of dams, locks, and weirs have disrupted natural flow patterns, causing a reduction of wetland inundations and major biodiversity declines<sup>2</sup>. Altered flow, along with land clearance, has increased salt build-up, becoming one of the most challenging environmental issues facing the Murray-Darling Basin<sup>3</sup>. To combat this, environmental water allocations were introduced with the main goal of maintaining and protecting vulnerable areas of the Basin<sup>4</sup>.

Emily's study assessed salinity dynamics in seven environmentally watered wetlands along the South Australian River Murray, including Murbpook Lagoon within Nature Foundation's Murbpook Nature Reserve. Results determined that when wetlands are reconnected to the main channel, surface water flushes salt from the wetland, thereby supporting the notion that natural flooding reduces wetland salinity.

River channel electroconductivity was found to have the most influence on wetland electroconductivity, highlighting the need for effective monitoring prior to the delivery of environmental water. This study provides valuable insight into wetland salinity in post-flood, high-flow periods and offers a benchmark for assessing how flushing flows influence wetland salinity.

Emily's study was carried out over quite a unique period in which the River Murray experienced its largest flood event since 1956, followed later in the year by a three month high-flow period. She suggests that these events likely muted many of the expected trends that would be present in a 'normal' flow year, and recommends that her study methods are repeated in drier periods to comprehensively evaluate the impact of environmental watering on wetland salinity.

**References:**  
1 Reid and Brooks 2000  
2 Beesley, King et al. 2014  
3 Hart, Walker et al. 2020  
4 Raulings, Morris et al. 2011

Nature Foundation's student research grant allowed me to conduct an additional field trip to collect a large volume of soil samples I otherwise wouldn't have had the funds to undertake. These extra samples elevated the findings of my project and revealed some very interesting temporal changes in soil microbial communities that, without the extra field trip, would have gone undetected."

Rebecca Greening,  
2023 student research grant recipient

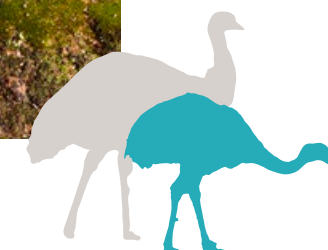
### Rebecca Greening

**Nature Foundation Scientific Expedition Foundation RL & GK Willing Grant recipient**  
**Honours in Ecology and Environmental Science, The University of Adelaide**

Despite the widespread use of livestock grazing in arid Australia, there are still large knowledge gaps regarding impacts to fertile islands. Fertile islands are areas of bioaccumulation in otherwise low nutrient arid zone landscapes and are imperative ecosystem function. To address this knowledge gap, Rebecca examined the relationship between a perennial shrub, *Eremophila sturtii*, soil nutrients, microbial communities, and livestock grazing. Soil samples were collected from a 98-year livestock grazing exclusion site and currently grazed land in arid South Australia. Environmental DNA analysis and soil nutrient tests were conducted, complemented by a greenhouse experiment.

Rebecca's comparison between Australia's longest grazing exclusion site and currently grazed land shows that fertile islands are intrinsic to arid lands. Her findings challenge Allington and Valone's (2014) hypothesis that fertile islands are a by-product of grazing. Instead, they reveal a more complex relationship between grazing and its impacts on fertile islands and open spaces.

Rebecca's research revealed that livestock reduce the growth response of new vegetation, potentially limiting recruitment. Additionally, this study identifies impacts to microbial communities, suggesting potential effects on local nutrient cycling that may extend to global biogeochemical cycles (Lal 2004).





## Both sides of the fence: Assessing the vegetation at Gidgealpa

Nature Foundation has been engaged by Santos to establish and provide ongoing management of a 20,000-hectare area of Gidgealpa Station to fulfil their Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) offset requirements.

A critical initial conservation land management action for the pastoral property near Moomba in South Australia's northeast was destocking the offset area. The SEB fence was completed in June 2021, and we have undertaken three annual vegetation surveys in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

The 2022 survey was detailed in our 2023 Impact Report and outlined the impacts of the significant rain events of that year. However, the rainfall in 2023 was very low, with 67.2mm compared with the long-term average of 169mm per year.

This photo from the recent survey conducted in late 2023 demonstrates biomass beginning to accumulate within the offset area, improving cover after destocking. This increased cover provides shelter for fauna and stimulates nutrient cycling facilitating plant recruitment when the rain returns further stabilising the dune system.

During periods of low rainfall grazing animals can have a more substantial impact on surviving vegetation because plants lack the energy to recover, leading to a risk of increased erosion. It is important that

we monitor and maintain the integrity of the offset boundary fences, to ensure wandering stock don't get tempted to help themselves to the tasty vegetation within the SEB offset area.

Concentrations of vegetation such as that seen within the SEB offset area provide valuable support for bio-retention and seed resource accumulation, meaning seeds floating on the breeze can be captured by existing grasses and begin germination.

The ability of existing vegetation to trap vital resources, such as seeds and water, has a flow-on effect to also provide shelter for bugs and insects, which then supports the rest of the ecosystem, including small reptiles and birds. This demonstrates how critical the revegetation aspect of conservation is for supporting, maintaining, and stimulating biodiversity.

We look forward to seeing the ongoing progress at Gidgealpa and expanding these essential conservation projects across South Australia and beyond. If you or your organisation are interested in discussing these types of conservation options or offsets further, please get in touch.

## Kangaroo Island Feral Cat Eradication Program Achievements 2022-23

Kangaroo Island Landscape Board recently shared a summary of the 2022-23 Feral Cat Eradication Program achievements. Nature Foundation is proud to have supported the funding of this program since 2020.



A recent UN report stated that invasive species such as feral cats are Australia's number-one driver of biodiversity loss.

Recent findings also indicate that each year in Australia, cats and foxes collectively kill:

- more than 1.4 billion mammals,
- almost 700 million reptiles,
- and around 510 million birds.

The Kangaroo Island Feral Cat Eradication Program is one of Australia's ambitious programs to remove an invasive, introduced, predatory species that devastates our native animals. Some of the most threatened native species in Australia live on Kangaroo Island, many of which are at extreme risk from feral cats. The Kangaroo Island Feral Cat Eradication Program is a practical example of how

good governance, strategic planning, community commitment and appropriate resourcing can effectively remove threats from the landscape, creating safe havens for natives and reversing the decline of critically endangered species.

The Kangaroo Island Landscape Board's 2022-23 report demonstrates that the program to eradicate feral cats from the Dudley Peninsula is well underway. This is the initial focus area for

the eradication program and contains habitat for 17 endemic sub-species and several threatened species, including:

- Kangaroo Island *Echidna Tachyglossus aculeatus multiaculeatus* (Endangered)
- Southern Brown Bandicoot *Isodon obesulus* (Endangered)
- Hooded Plover (Eastern) *Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis* (Vulnerable)
- Southern Emu-wren *Stipiturus malachurus* (Endangered)

Over the past 12 months, the program controlled feral cats across 31,888 hectares of the Dudley Peninsula, progressing the eradication front from 65% to 85%. A range of control tools were used, including:

- Cage and soft-jaw foothold traps
- Grooming traps
- Baits

252 feral cats were caught through trapping techniques, which will go a long way towards protecting native wildlife in the area.

The program also employs technology to support eradication efforts with real-time remote camera monitoring and AI-based image recognition software assisting with data processing. 200 4G-connected remote cameras have been installed across Dudley Peninsula to monitor feral cats and the presence of native animals. This is an excellent example of using technology to assist conservation efforts, particularly with typically resource-intensive activities over large and challenging-to-access areas.

The eradication of feral cats from Dudley Peninsula is now scheduled for completion in 2025 before the remainder of Kangaroo Island is attempted, and ongoing support is needed to continue this vital work.

Read the 2022-23 results and future plans here: [naturefoundation.org.au/kifc2023](https://naturefoundation.org.au/kifc2023)

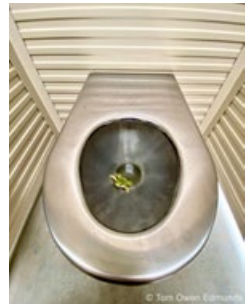




# 10 nature photography tips

By Sputnik

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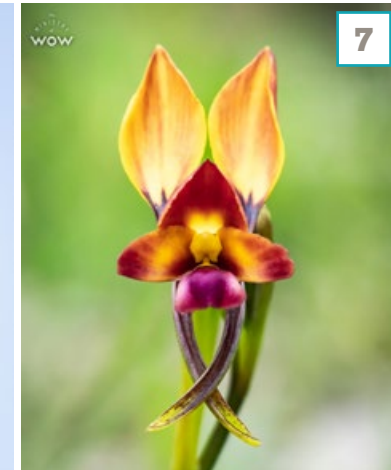
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2023 Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of Year competition finalist



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There are definitely way better nature photographers out there than me, but I did manage to be a finalist in the 2023 Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of Year competition, so I guess I'm not completely terrible at it.

Actually, that's not entirely true. Sometimes I'm still completely terrible at it, and I absolutely take waaaaay more bad photos than I do good ones. And although that's not technically my first tip, accepting that you'll take plenty of crappy shots on your way to a good one, is not a bad place to start. Even now it's not unusual for me to take a few thousand shots in a day to end up with a handful of keepers. (On my most recent trip to Cambodia predominantly photographing wildlife, I took 31,126 shots in a couple of weeks!) Here are my best nature photography tips:

## 1. Equipment.

Don't worry about what camera/lens you do (or don't) have, and what it can't do. It's easy to get in a tizz about not having a long lens for great shots of things that are far away, or not having a macro lens for tiny things that are close up. Almost every person who takes photos gets a case of the 'what ifs' - so just focus (literally and figuratively) on making the most of what you've got - even if it's a smartphone which, honestly, has more technology in it than most cameras did not so long ago! (Sidenote: One of last year's Nature Photographer of the Year category winners won with a pic taken on their iPhone!!!)

## 2. Adapt and improvise.

Quite often I'll go out with the goal of shooting something specific (like birds or even a certain species) and end up shooting something completely different. This is the secret to a good day as well as a good photo. Keep your eyes open to all kinds of natural beauty not just what you were hoping to photograph. Maybe you don't get a pic of that bird that didn't sit still long enough for you to fire off a few shots, but rain drops on a leaf don't move anywhere near as fast and can be just as beautiful. Take that shot instead. (I shoot a lot of bugs and flowers when the birds are being uncooperative!)

## 3. 'Pursuit of the craft'.

Some things you can learn from books and YouTube videos and articles (that are better than this), but there's no substitute for what we call 'pursuit of the craft'. AKA 'just doing it'. Just take lots of photos. The more you take, the better you get. (There's one proviso to that: you must spend at least a bit of time thinking about what you did and didn't like, did and didn't get right, in the pics you took.)

## 4. Practise.

A bit like the previous point, I'd say practise might not make perfect, but it usually makes you at least a little bit less bad. Don't wait for

the time you see that rare, one-of-a-kind thing out in nature to decide you're going to take the perfect photo. Practise on everyday things. This time of year, I have rainbow lorikeets and honeyeaters land in the flowering gum in my front yard, and I stand on my porch like an idiot, taking photos most mornings, just trying different things. I'll also get the macro out and shoot the bees or the flowers themselves. Take photos of seagulls or dogs or weeds or flies... it doesn't matter. Just because they're common doesn't mean you can't still take a nice photo of them, and the practise will come in handy. If you're not shooting on film and paying to have your pics developed, don't be shy, really go for it and take as many as you want!

## 5. Nature photography groups.

If you're on social media, consider joining a nature photography Facebook group e.g. [Bird Photography Australia](#), and see what other people are doing. It's a great place to get inspiration and to learn a bit about how people do what they do. And, where to find certain things to photograph! Which brings me to my next point...

## 6. Learn how your camera works.

It doesn't hurt to try and learn a bit about how your camera works. Even if your camera

is a smart phone. Most smart phones have manual overrides for some settings. You don't need to completely nerd out and learn every single button or setting but switching from auto and just understanding and using a few basic things like turning the flash on or off, or learning a bit about focus or shutter speed can make a big difference. And honestly, there's heaps of good videos on YouTube so you don't even have to pay to learn. What a great time to be alive.

## 7. Best times for nature photography.

Depending on what you're shooting, you might find there are certain times of the day, or even certain times of the year, that are best. Interested in astro? The milky way is only visible in Australia from about February to October. Want to shoot Rainbow Bee Eaters in South Australia? They're only here from about November to March. Native Orchids? July to October is prime time. Same concept goes with time of day. During summer, most birds and wildlife are more active first and last thing in the day - you might see something in the heat at 11am after you've had a sleep in, but you'll have way more luck getting up early and trying your luck at 7am before it gets too hot. (It usually means there's less people around too which can also be helpful. And nice.)

## 8. Patience.

The more you pay attention, the more you'll notice, and the more you'll learn about what's what. You'll learn which animals are shy and

which ones are friendly. Where you're more likely to see them.

If you're a bit like me, you might even start wearing camouflage to blend in more or sitting or standing still for longer periods of time, to have a better chance of getting the pics you want. (Don't worry, I said I'd never do it either, and yet here I am, dressed as a shrub spending hours at a time waiting for an unsuspecting bird to visit.)

## 9. Move.

I could bore you to death with next-level tips like, trying to be aware of where you're standing compared to your subject - what's in the background, which way the light is going... there's all sorts of things you can do to make your pic just a little bit nicer. Nature can be unpredictable so you don't always get a say, but sometimes just taking a step to the left or right, or bending down and shooting a bit lower, will give you a slightly different perspective or view and make your photo way better.

## 10. Assessing your work.

And finally, and this one is really important: there's no such thing as a 'right' or 'wrong' photo. Or even a 'good' or a 'bad' one. There are just photos you do and don't like. Even that blurry photo can be art if you want it to be. Sure, there's competitions and judges who will say "this is a good photo", but actually, it all comes down to personal preference. So, it's all about taking photos you're happy with even if other people aren't

offering to buy a copy for a million dollars. If a photo you've taken makes you happy, it's a good photo. Maybe it's basic, maybe it's arty, it doesn't matter. Maybe it's over or under exposed or not perfectly in focus. If it reminds you of the time you saw that thing, helps you reconnect with nature, is something you can share with friends who aren't photographic competition judges and who can see the beauty in what you saw, then you've taken a good photo. Plain and simple.

If all else fails, and you don't get any decent pics, just remember to enjoy yourself while you're out there. I know sometimes I'm guilty of feeling a bit disappointed if I don't feel like I've taken any good photos, so I always do my absolute best to take a moment and breathe, take in the beauty of where I am, and remember to be grateful that I get to do that. Grateful that we've got some fantastic natural spaces. And, of course, remember how important it is that we protect them.

**FOOTNOTE:** I didn't even touch on 'post processing' and how you can make your pics look better after you've taken them. That's a topic for another day!

*Sputnik is an Adelaide-based marketing and advertising professional, keen runner, and nature photographer, who has generously donated some of their nature photos for use in Nature Foundation's marketing. You can see more of their photographs and outdoors antics here: [facebook.com/Swashbuckler](#)*





**Dr Paul van Ruth**  
Science and  
Knowledge Program  
Manager

Staff profile

Dr Paul van Ruth recently joined Nature Foundation as Science and Knowledge Program Manager, responsible for developing and managing Nature Foundation's science strategy, implementation, and outcomes.

With a PhD in Oceanography, Paul is a skilled science manager with a collaborative focus and a well-developed ability to manage productive relationships with key stakeholders, and recognise gaps and build capability to increase opportunities for growth.

He has extensive experience leading large-scale, multidisciplinary programs that create impact through applications in management and policy.

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

I've always felt a connection to nature and been inspired by the beauty and complexity of the natural world. I'm particularly interested in understanding how communities are influenced by their environment.

After several years working in Hobart with a focus on marine ecosystems, my wife and I decided to move our family home to Adelaide.

The Science and Knowledge Program Manager role allows me to apply my skills and knowledge to assist in conserving biodiversity in the terrestrial environment.

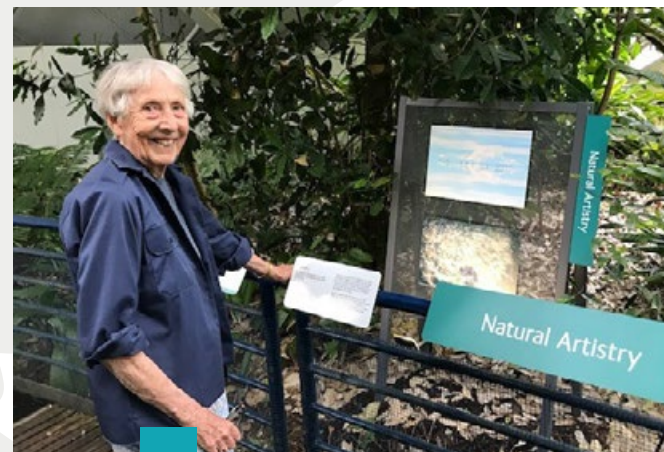
I was really attracted by the chance to contribute to the work of an organisation dedicated to driving positive outcomes for nature.

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

I look forward to exploring new challenges and opportunities to contribute to conserving nature and helping maximise positive biodiversity conservation outcomes across Nature Foundation's reserves.

**What are some of your interests outside of work?**

Outside of work, I enjoy a range of activities, including surfing, swimming, mountain biking, camping, family time in the outdoors, good food, good company, sports in general but particularly cricket, soccer, and footy (Port Adelaide), and all kinds of music, especially live music.



**Janet Smyth**

Supporter profile

Our supporters help Nature Foundation in many ways, from attending events to volunteering to donating to joining as a member. We greatly appreciate this support in all its forms and are pleased to shine the spotlight on our nature-loving community.

**How long have you been a Nature Foundation supporter, and how did you first get involved?**

I live on the Eyre Peninsula and have been actively involved with conservation, volunteering for many years and participating in revegetation, weeding, fox baiting and walking trail construction with the Friends of the Southern Eyre Peninsula Parks and Coastcare.

In 2017, I developed breast cancer, and it caused me to contemplate what to do with my assets should I die, as my family is self-sufficient. I spoke with a friend about different environmental conservation organisations, and they suggested Nature Foundation. I have since committed a Gift in Will to Nature Foundation.

**Why do you support Nature Foundation?**

I studied zoology and botany at university in the UK, and my husband and I both had a passion for the environment. The Smyth family have been actively involved in conservation for many years, and my father-in-law fenced off a hilly part of his land to keep the sheep out, creating our own family nature reserve. We occasionally visited the reserve all together, particularly to see the native wildflowers in springtime. The joy of witnessing Greenhoods and Sun Orchids, Pultenaea and Hardenbergia was a beautiful reward for removing the grazing pressure.

As an individual, actively participating in or supporting nature conservation is one of the things you can do to counteract climate change. Nature Foundation has a comprehensive approach to helping our natural environment, and I am happy to contribute to their efforts.

**What do you find most rewarding about your involvement with Nature Foundation?**

I enjoy the company of like-minded people who share my concern for the environment. As a Nature Foundation supporter, I have been actively involved with conservation activities on the nature reserves. I find these tasks, such as maintaining fences, infrastructure restoration, monitoring wildlife, walking trail construction and even weeding, very rewarding.

**What are your hopes for the future of nature conservation and biodiversity in Australia?**

I truly hope that many more people will become actively involved in supporting and enhancing our natural environment and that all organisations make more effort to a sustainable global future.

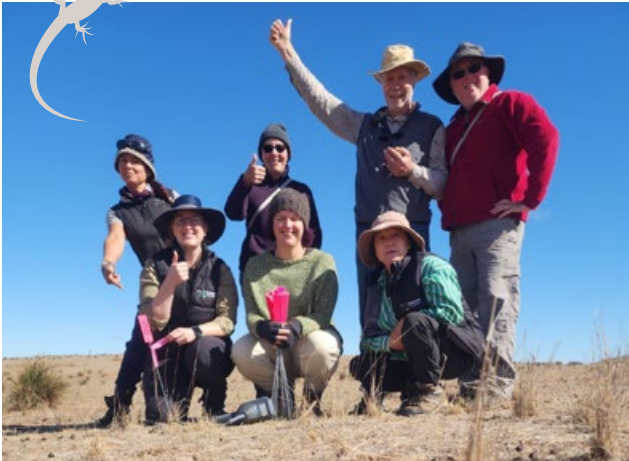


If you would like to learn more about leaving a [Gift in Will](#), please get in touch with Philanthropy Coordinator, Patrick Mentzel by calling (08) 8340 2880 or emailing [patrick.mentzel@naturefoundation.org.au](mailto:patrick.mentzel@naturefoundation.org.au)

You can also visit: [naturefoundation.org.au/bequests](https://naturefoundation.org.au/bequests)







Credit: Andy Rashed

## 5 birdwatching tips from Professor Hugh Possingham

Hugh is an internationally renowned scientist and birdwatcher who has held many senior roles, educating and advocating for biodiversity and nature conservation for over 30 years including Queensland Chief Scientist, Chief Scientist of The Nature Conservancy in Washington DC, and is currently co-chair of the Biodiversity Council. Hugh also created the Threatened Species Index in 2016, which the federal government now uses as a headline indicator for biodiversity.

Birdwatching is booming, with reports of the number of people birdwatching worldwide doubling in many countries post-COVID. In the USA, about a third of people claim to be birders of some kind in an industry worth US\$260 billion per annum. And it has never been easier to go birdwatching.

I have been birding for 50 years, and what I like most about it is visiting places I know well and pondering why I see different things at different times. Is it rainfall, seasonality, threats, actual trends or just the random nature of birding—you never know what will turn up.

If you are new to birding or keen to give it a go. Here are my five tips for getting started:

### 1. Binoculars

Firstly, you will need a pair of binoculars; 8x40 is a good power to start with. And it is usually worth getting something over \$200 if you can afford it. More and more people like to photograph birds, though this is an area where I am not an expert. Advances in digital camera technology mean more and more amateurs are taking spectacular pictures.

Note: While Hugh may not be an expert in this area, we have some great tips on nature photography from Sputnik, earlier in this issue.

### 2. Field guide

Next, you will need a field guide. This can be a hard copy—my current favourite is *The Australian Bird Guide* by Menkhorst and friends—but there are several great options. Increasingly, people are also using apps on their phones that have field guide material and the advantage of giving calls,

such as *The Michael Morcombe Guide to the Birds of Australia*. I use the “(David) Stewart Australian Bird Calls” app for bird calls alone. Many options are available, so have a good search through your App Store to find one, checking the features, reviews and pricing options. I still prefer a hard copy field guide for the quality of the pictures and browsing. I have over 50 field guides, some for countries I have never visited! This definitely identifies me as a bird nerd.

### 3. The best time to go birding

Birds are best at dawn or as close to dawn as you can bear. You might even be surprised what you can hear and see half an hour before dawn. Birds are active early, and often, there is less wind. Wind and rain are neither the birder’s friend nor very hot weather.

### 4. Learning to identify birds

Learning to identify birds can take years—especially for tricky groups like birds of prey and shorebirds, which are often far away. The most challenging and enigmatic bush birds are the Thornbills and their near relatives—tiny brown jobs—you will eventually learn to love them. There is no substitute for spending time in the field to learn birds—especially with a more experienced friend. There are many bird clubs you can join that run outings and

camp. BirdLife Australia has branches and affiliated clubs all over Australia and BirdsSA in South Australia.

[birdlife.org.au](http://birdlife.org.au)

[birdssa.asn.au](http://birdssa.asn.au)

While it might seem that identification is all about colour and pattern, a trick about birding is that it also has much to do with shape, movement and especially sounds. The more you bird, the less you will need those binoculars as you begin to identify species by the way they fly and call.

### 5. The most important thing

The most important thing is to simply get out there. Birds are everywhere. In most Australian suburbs, you can find half a dozen parrot and cockatoo species in a short walk, and you probably already know some of their common names: Galah, Lorikeet, and Rosella.

Once you know some of your local species, it is worth recording them on your smartphone using either **Birddata** [birddata.birdlife.org.au](http://birddata.birdlife.org.au) or **eBird** [ebird.org/australia](http://ebird.org/australia). This shared data collection plays a vital role in informing management and policy, and your contribution can help us save our fabulous Australian native species.

By Professor Hugh Possingham

## Para Woodlands Nature Reserve Open Day

In early April we welcomed a great group of members, donors, supporters, and partners to our Para Woodlands Nature Reserve near Gawler to experience and learn about the conservation efforts occurring across the reserve.

The 500-hectare ex-farming property is co-owned and managed by Nature Foundation and the Department of Environment and Water, and contains a number of distinct habitats with their own challenges, opportunities, flora and fauna.

The open day saw guests able to visit and experience three distinct habitats across the nature reserve, learning about the conservation actions and results unique to each.

Thank you to our three hosts who shared the valuable insights to each area:

- Dragos Moise, Para Woodlands Restoration Ecologist with the Department for Environment and Water, in the Woodlands area.
- Anthony Abley, Conservation Ecologist with the Department for Environment and Water, in the Grasslands area.
- And our own Alex Nankivell, CEO with Nature Foundation, at the River.

Thank you to everyone who attended and our staff and volunteers who helped create a great day out.

## Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Crawl and Survey

Many thanks to everyone who joined us to assist with the population survey of the endangered Pygmy Bluetongue lizards as part of our Lizard Crawl.

These efforts play a valuable role in monitoring the population health of these incredible little critters.

While Nature Foundation monitor their Pygmy Bluetongue population at Tiliqua Nature Reserve each year, this was the first regional survey that Nature Foundation has undertaken, thanks to Grassroots Grant funding from the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board. Nature Foundation is working with the Pygmy Bluetongue Recovery Team to begin monitoring the broader population. Using the monitoring protocol developed at Tiliqua, we are applying consistent and standardised methods to collect population data that will inform future conservation efforts.

This Lizard Crawl occurred on the very property where the Pygmy Bluetongue lizard was rediscovered in 1992. The colony’s population was thought to be in decline in recent years following research reports from Flinders University research students, and so this activity supported a very important population survey.

We are happy to report that lizards, albeit in fairly low density, were found across the property, including a small number of babies! The next stage involves using the data to calculate a population estimate. With repeat monitoring and population estimates annually, we should be able to identify any population declines before they reach a critical level.

Thank you to all the Nature Foundation volunteers who supported the Lizard Crawl event and participated in the survey on the following days.

We will be holding another Lizard Crawl at our Tiliqua Nature Reserve later in the year, so if you are interested in being involved, be sure to subscribe for our email updates to be notified, as these events are getting very popular.

The project is funded by the Landscape Board Levy delivered on behalf of the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board.

Image top right: Volunteers celebrating after finding lizard No.100.







# Is spending time in nature actually good for our health?

Spending time in nature is often touted as good for your health, generally focusing on the positive effects on mental health, with the relaxing aspects of nature helping reduce anxiety and depression.

In addition to this research, recent and ongoing studies are exploring the benefits of nature on physical health, such as reduced:

- Pain perception
- Blood pressure
- Cortisol (an indicator of stress)
- Heart rate
- Diabetes
- All-cause mortality
- Cardiovascular mortality
- Respiratory mortality

And improved lung function

Spending time in nature—or what the experts refer to as “greenspace exposure”—provides exposure to:

- Environmental microbiomes
- Phytoncides
- Negative air ions
- Sunlight, and
- The pleasing sights and sounds of nature.

Time spent outdoors in nature also encourages or is related to physical activity and social interaction, including conservation or volunteering tasks such as planting seedlings, weeding or fencing.

Dr Jessica Stanhope is a Lecturer at the University of Adelaide with a background in physiotherapy and epidemiology and a researcher with

a particular interest in how healthy ecosystems help improve human health outcomes. She is in the midst of a study exploring the impact of greenspace exposure on improved pain outcomes, including through changes to the gut microbiome.

Many of us would have heard about the relationship between the gut microbiome and general health. Prebiotics, probiotics, various diets, and even faecal transplants are used to improve the gut microbiome. Jessica’s research is examining the ability to alter the gut microbiome through exposure to different environments—such as your home, workplace, or outdoor spaces— that contain different environmental microbiomes.

Initial studies have included isolated exposure of mice to different aerobiomes (microbiomes of the air). Soil was placed next to the mouse cage with a small fan blowing the microbes into the air. The three exposures were: low diversity soil, high diversity soil and no soil (the control). In the study, mice exposed to the more biodiverse soil showed fewer signs of anxiety than those not exposed to soil (the controls). This initial study provides evidence that a more biodiverse environmental microbiome can influence the gut microbiome, reducing signs of anxiety. Higher

levels of anxiety are associated with poorer pain outcomes, indicating that exposure to microbial diverse green spaces supports reduced anxiety and improved pain outcomes. Jessica is now exploring how the impact of these exposures on anxiety, stress and pain outcomes.

Jessica’s studies are ongoing, and the researchers are expanding their studies to people living near and spending time in natural environments, such as residents who neighbour our Para Woodlands Nature Reserve near Gawler. The research will explore the gut impacts of exposure to soil microbiomes and phytoncides, which plants emit during growth, development, reproduction and defence mechanisms. We look forward to sharing further updates regarding the study’s outcomes and opportunities to become involved. In the meantime, let’s all get outdoors—it’s good for your health!

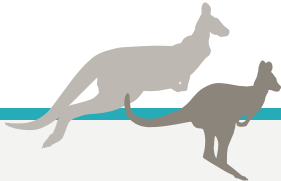
You can read more about Jessica’s studies here:  
[environmentalphysio.com/2020/07/13/can-greenspace-exposure-improve-pain-outcomes](https://environmentalphysio.com/2020/07/13/can-greenspace-exposure-improve-pain-outcomes)  
[sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S001393512030534X](https://sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S001393512030534X)

# Upcoming Events

Dates for your 2024 diary:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>28 July</b>       | Watchalunga Planting Day (National Tree Day)   |
| <b>6 August</b>      | Conservation Conversations   |
| <b>4 Oct – 8 Nov</b> | 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.



# Volunteer for nature

Volunteers are vital for progressing our conservation efforts, and we seek registrations of interest from passionate people keen to help!

Our volunteer program offers flexible options to suit your availability, interests, and skills, with opportunities to support in our Prospect head office, at events or on our nature reserves, assisting with conservation activities and working bees, and supporting our significant work on Witchelina and Hiltaba nature reserves.

The four areas of volunteering involvement are:

1. Conservation
2. Tourism
3. Infrastructure, and
4. Projects

If you would like to learn more and register your interest for the 2024–25 season, please visit: [naturefoundation.org.au/volunteer](https://naturefoundation.org.au/volunteer)







# Nature Foundation

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## Get social with Nature Foundation!



Do you follow us on [Instagram](#)?  
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account and help us get the  
word out about the amazing  
work we do for nature!

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



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