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KIDS ON COUNTRY

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Kids on Country set to provide more opportunities for Aboriginal young people with 75% of funding secured ...

Now we need to raise \$70,000 to supplement the program!

Nature Foundation SA is excited to announce the expansion of our highly successful Kids on Country program to reach more Aboriginal young people in regional communities through developing the skills, abilities and strengths of their future leaders.

Kids on Country has secured funding from the Australian Government's Building Better Region Fund, Community Investment Stream - Round 3. The grant will enable the program to employ Aboriginal people, including more paid roles for Traditional Owners in delivering six outback ecology camps in 2020. They will be held at Nature Foundation SA's Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves in the Arid Lands and Gawler Ranges respectively.

Nature Foundation SA's award-nominated Kids on Country program for metropolitan and regional schools is strongly underpinned by a desire to build positive working relationships and partnerships with the Aboriginal community, through connecting young people to nature and country.

I loved the fence removal, it was a real challenge and it really helped me understand the environment of this area. It helped me understand how much we as humans change the environment.

- AnnieMae

In addition to broadening the interest of young people in private land conservation through their participation in five-day ecology camps, Nature Foundation SA gains practical support to complete on-ground conservation activities on our nature reserves such as fence removal.

With a strong focus on workplace skills, young participants gain increased opportunities for employment post-education, to enable them to contribute to their communities and the Far North region generally.

Benefits for participants also include encouragement to remain in education at regional schools and consider tertiary education; improved well-being and self-esteem; and developing skills and knowledge in conservation and land management practices.

The Kids on Country program enables Nature Foundation SA to build on the relationships we have with Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal communities. It also provides opportunities for shared learning with Aboriginal elders about plants and animals on the nature reserves, and to learn more about the traditional history and significance of the land.

Beverley Patterson, an Adnyamathanha - Kuyani Traditional Owner, commented "My people are very pleased to be



involved with the delivery of the program and to see the difference it is making to the young people who have participated in the program to date. Bringing them back to country is one of the most important aspects of keeping our people's traditions alive."

Wetland Restoration was my favourite as I like using the equipment and doing something meaningful for the environment."

- Zakiyah Wanganeen, participant at the River Kids on Country camp (held at Calperum Station)

Kids on Country has received glowing reviews from teachers and students alike. Feedback received from Aboriginal communities, schools and students is demonstrating that Kids on Country is playing a significant role in supporting young Aboriginal people to remain engaged in education.

"It was clear to us as staff members that the students did a lot of learning during the camp. You organised a dynamic and interesting program which was delivered by experts in their field. The students enjoyed the many hands on activities which took them out into nature for observations and real life learning. I believe that the experiences organised for them increased their understanding of the broader issues around the environment and land management in our river country

2020 KIDS ON COUNTRY PROGRAM

ACTIVITY / OUTCOME

- ▲ Six Camps at Hiltaba/Witchelina
Inspire Aboriginal young people and deepen engagement in education
- ▲ Six in-school workshops
Participants prepared for five-day camp away from home
- ▲ Engage with Traditional Owners
Deliver a high-quality inclusive program
- ▲ Cultural activities
Building resilience, enhance identity and life skills
- ▲ Conservation activities
Understanding of the natural environment, its relevance and importance
- ▲ Project Advisory Group
Guiding program and helping to deliver highest impact for participants
- ▲ Expert Facilitators
Excellent learning opportunity for participants from qualified teachers/mentors

and gave the students some broad contexts about natural science, evolution and history. Amazing! We all benefited from the Kids in Country Program and I commend this initiative as a wonderful learning and enriching opportunity for our Aboriginal students in schools. Congratulations and thank you." Lina Ruggiero, LeFevre High School.

The success of Kids on Country is built on extensive engagement and consultation with Aboriginal community leaders, regional secondary schools, Traditional Owners, industry partners and expert facilitators to deliver a high-quality inclusive program. This collaboration helps to ensure positive social change and long-term benefits for Kids on Country participants.

In 2018 the quality of the program was recognised through becoming a finalist in the South Australian Community Achievement Awards, in the Connecting Communities category.

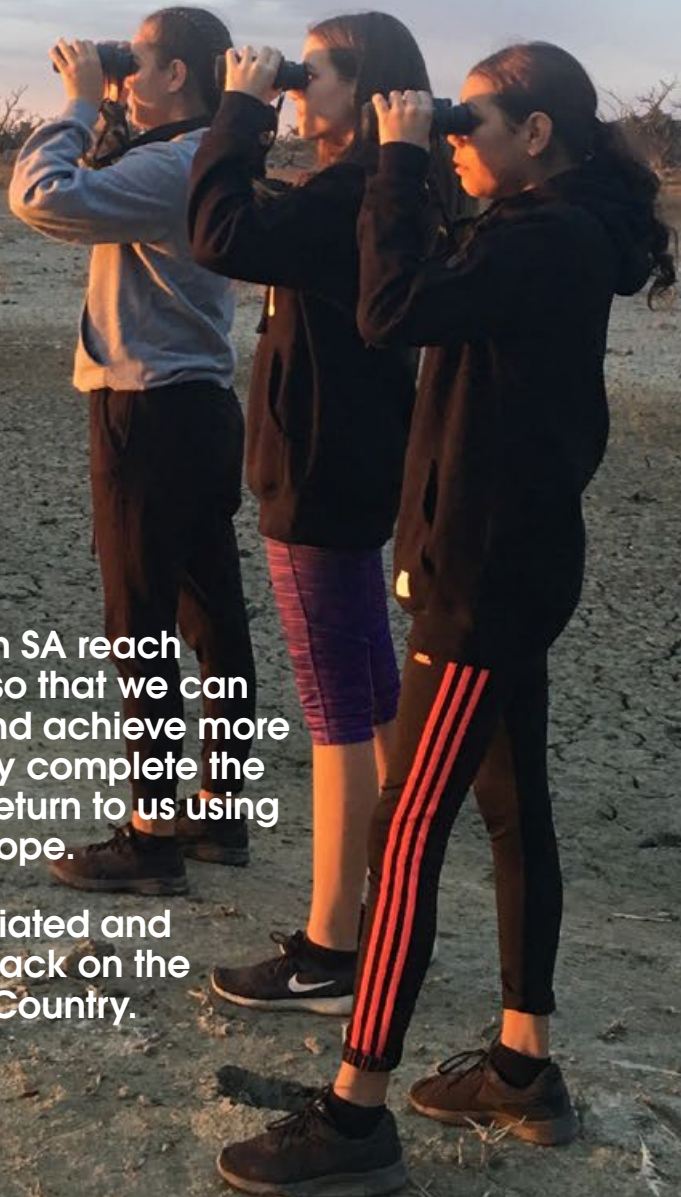
To date Kids on Country has delivered 14 camps with 157 young people attending the program. The difference that just one camp can make is remarkable to witness. When asked to describe their feelings about the workshops and activities they have experienced at the end of Kids on Country camps, the young people often ask: "Are we able to come back!?"

This is the best day of my life, I love this!

Quarney Chester heard over the UHF Radio on the property tour

Please help Nature Foundation SA reach our appeal target of \$70,000, so that we can benefit more young people and achieve more for nature conservation! Simply complete the attached donation form and return to us using the enclosed reply paid envelope.

Your support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to reporting back on the continued success of Kids on Country.





From the President Jan Ferguson OAM

Many thanks to all who attended our Mid-year Member Update in June and helped to celebrate the launch of our new Strategic Plan: *Towards 2030 Engaging People in Conservation*. It was exciting to see so many members there engaging in the work of Nature Foundation SA.

The Council has been undertaking significant work on our governance processes and structures. Nature Foundation SA has continued to grow and evolve over its 38 years and it has now become clear we have outgrown our current corporate structure, which is an incorporated association under the South Australian Associations Incorporations Act 1985 (SA). We are positioning ourselves for at least the next 20 years of conserving the environment for the community. Accordingly, Council is recommending to the Nature Foundation membership that we move to a company limited by guarantee and adopt a new constitution that supports this move. A Special General Meeting will be held on October 14th to present a new, simplified constitution to the membership.

We will be making information available to assist you to understand this proposed change. In addition, you may be interested in coming to an open house on Tuesday 24th September from 2-6 pm to pose questions and discuss. Alternatively, please phone the office on 08 8340 2880 to request a return call from one of the team.

The Council strongly supports moving to a Company Limited by Guarantee because:

1. Nature Foundation SA has outgrown the current corporate structure of Incorporated Association, which is designed for small community organisations;
2. A Company Limited by Guarantee provides future options to work interstate, removing a competitive disadvantage, should there be benefit to do so;
3. Most of Nature Foundation SA's business partners are constituted under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cmwlth);
4. It is possible to do so without the objects and purpose of the organisation changing in the transition to a more appropriate corporate structure;
5. It removes complexity created by many alterations over time to the current constitution.

All members will receive a comprehensive Special General Meeting pack, either by email or in the post, prior to the meeting on 14 October 2019, at the Goodwood Institute. We do hope you can join us to discuss this important issue.

Nature Foundation SA is also excited to announce an innovative partnership with OZ Minerals to deliver their significant environmental benefit offset, which ensures a long-term, robust focus on environment protection and restoration by both Oz Minerals and Nature Foundation.

The ten-year arrangement is an exemplar of what can be achieved when industry groups, conservation organisations and governments work together. It includes delivery of the Significant Environment Benefit offset on Witchelina Nature Reserve and assisting in the development and establishment of a threatened species recovery and conservation program for the Plains Mouse.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Bob Lott for his years of hard work on the Significant Environmental Benefit and Carbon Committee, and the Water For Nature Committee, from which he recently stepped down as Chair. A warm welcome to Council member Sharon Starick, who has taken on the role of Water For Nature Committee Chair.

While we are on acknowledgements, sincere thanks to Chris and Maria Reed and their team of Rotational Managers for their ongoing management of the nature reserves and hard work. A recent fencing working bee was held at Hiltaba Nature Reserve, which has seen the Kondoolka boundary fence of 16 kilometres all standing. A fantastic achievement, underpinned by excellent food from our dedicated catering corp.

Nature-based tourism at both Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves has been steadily increasing with a record number of visitors to the reserves so far and approximately \$44,000 income for the year to date. Many thanks to Lange Powell for his hard work on the nature-based tourism program.

Our Kids on Country program continues to expand, and gives kids the opportunity to understand and re-connect with the wonderful landscape on the reserves and the culture that underpins the reserves. So many of you support us in so many ways, and I would like to recommend to you our spring appeal themed to support our wonderful Kids on Country Program, which is growing in reputation and numbers.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Nature Foundation SA dinner, to be held at La Vita Ristorante on Saturday 23 November (bookings essential). This will be a fun and relaxing evening of authentic Italian cuisine, music and dancing!

Kind regards

Jan Ferguson OAM President



From the Chief Executive Officer Hugo Hopton

It is with growing excitement and anticipation that Nature Foundation SA looks forward to hosting the fifth national Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) conference in Adelaide for the first time 8–10 October 2019. What better to showcase South Australia's wonderful food and wine, than to host the conference at the beautiful National Wine Centre.

PLC19 creates the setting for local, national and international conservation practitioners, traditional owners, primary producers, policy makers, scientists, land managers, funders and academics to exchange information, discuss new research and initiatives, and identify ways to work together.

I strongly encourage all of you to attend the conference – as members and supporters of Nature Foundation SA and people passionate about nature conservation. You are a vital part of the conversation! We would love to see you there to contribute and learn.

The theme of the conference is *Rising to the Challenge* and we are excited to explore how nature conservation on privately owned and managed land will be part of the transformational change going on across Australia. It is a tangible and practical response to the profound challenges of our time, in particular climate change and species extinction.

The conference poses questions such as: just what effect will climate have on the nature of southern Australia, in what way can the carbon economy be the solution, what role can social media play in helping society to protect nature, how can fire and watering restore ecological processes, and what is happening on Aboriginal lands and private land conservation property nationally and locally in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

A wonderful array of speakers, accomplished in their fields, and from around Australia and overseas will address these and other important questions in plenary and concurrent sessions, workshops and panels. The full conference pass includes a welcome reception event on Tuesday afternoon and full-day conference sessions on Wednesday and Thursday including morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. The conference dinner, workshops and field trips can be purchased separately during registration.

Conference overview

Tuesday 7 October – pre-event workshops

Pre-event workshops covering diverse topics such as conservation finance, good data for conservation management, conservation volunteering, communications to change hearts, a common cause masterclass and a field trip to the Mt Lofty ranges!

Wednesday 8 October to Thursday 9 October

Plenary sessions, concurrent sessions and quick-fire presentations over lunch with great opportunities for delegates to engage with speakers.

Wednesday evening we'll enjoy South Australia's finest food and wine at the National Wine Centre while networking with fellow delegates at the conference dinner.

You can view full program details by visiting this link: www.ivvy.com.au/event/PLC2019/sessions.html

Friday 10 October – post-event tours

There are still a small number of places available for the post-conference Nature Glenelg Trust Wetland Restoration Tour. This is a rare opportunity to spend two days in a small, intimate group with Nature Glenelg Trust ecologists Mark Bachmann and Ben Taylor, on-site at two of south-eastern Australia's most recent wetland restoration project areas.

PEW Trust – study of private protected areas in South Australia

In partnership with the Pew Trust, Nature Foundation SA has commissioned a study of private protected areas in SA. The consultant, Conservation Management, has conducted research, a survey of Heritage Agreement Owners and interviews with key stakeholders.

On 22 August a Roundtable with Stakeholders was hosted by the Pew Trust, ALCA and Nature Foundation SA. The results of this session will be presented at PLC19 and also used to influence government sentiment about private land conservation. In Queensland last year, a similar project resulted in a significant new government funding initiative.

Kids on Country Appeal

If you'd like to help nature conservation right now we would love you to contribute to our Kids on Country Appeal – help us expand this wonderful program to allow more Aboriginal and regional young people experience the benefits of connecting with country and culture at Hiltaba and Witchelina. The opportunity to spend the week immersed in nature conservation, land management and cultural wellbeing activities has life-changing results for these young people. The feedback from participants and team alike is so wonderfully positive and inspiring.

Thank you for all of your support and I look forward to seeing you at PLC19 and at our upcoming events (highlighted in this newsletter). In the meantime please feel free to contact me – as always I'd love to hear from you.

Hugo Hopton Chief Executive Officer

FRANCES PARKLAND REVEGETATION



FROM THIS
IN 2009...



TO THIS IN 2019

The Frances Parklands Buloke Restoration Project commenced in 2007, with the aim of revegetating 6.75 hectares of Buloke (*Allocasuarina luehmannii*) Woodland, an endangered plant community, to restore feeding habitat for the nationally endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*). Restoration of Buloke feeding habitat is considered an important action for the recovery of this endangered species as only 3% of the pre-European extent of the Buloke Woodland community remains.

In partnership with Nature Foundation SA and then Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Electranet provided \$57,000 towards the project to offset native vegetation clearance associated with their work. This funded the preparation of a management plan, site preparation, seed collection and growing of tubestock, revegetation works and weed control between 2007 and 2009.

Volunteers and school kids helped plant 4800 Buloke seedlings and 200 Dryland Tea-tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) seedlings over a number of planting seasons beginning in 2009.

In June this year, Patrick Mentzel (Philanthropy Coordinator) and I were in the area and decided we would check in on the revegetation site to see how it had progressed. We were amazed! Almost ten years exactly from when the original plantings took place and the site had been transformed. The Bulokes and Dryland Tea-trees have flourished to become a small forest of almost six-metre high trees.

It was very exciting to see such fantastic results from the revegetation project. Just short of seeing Red-tailed Black-cockatoos feeding in the revegetation, the highlight of the day was seeing a pair of Black-shouldered Kites that have taken up residence and are nesting in the revegetation area. A reminder of the importance of even small patches of habitat providing refuge for our native species.

Hopefully, in the years to come, when the Bulokes reach maturity and start producing seed, we will be able to visit Frances and watch the Red-tailed Black-cockatoos feeding in the revegetation.

Alex Nankivell Conservation Programs Manager

2019 Grant recipients



Seven university students, including two Honours students and five PhD candidates, have been awarded grants totalling \$51,000 in Nature Foundation SA's 2019 grants round. This brings the number of grants awarded by Nature Foundation to date to over 400, valued at a total of more than \$1.6 million.

Our grants program supports important nature conservation-related research and is made possible thanks to generous donations from our members and supporters. Donations to Nature Foundation SA's Grand Start Scholarship program can be made via our website: www.naturefoundation.org.au/support-us/online-donations

This year's grantees include:

• CARL WATSON



Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard. Photo: Natasha Harper

Flinders University Honours student Carl Watson will use his Grand Start grant to investigate gut microbial communities in captive Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards and how they change after release to the wild. Gut swabs have been taken from the endangered lizards translocated from captivity at Monarto Zoo to Nature Foundation's Tiliqua Nature Reserve near Burra.

Microbes play an important role in animal nutrition and immune function, so they could influence the success of translocations which are important to the long term survival of this threatened species.

• EMILEE COOPER



Grant recipient Emilee Cooper on a volunteer trip to South Africa. Photo: Emilee Cooper

Flinders University student Emilee Cooper will investigate family living – considered very rare in lizards and snakes – in Gidgee Skinks at our Witchelina Nature Reserve.

Emilee's Honours project aims to determine if habitat quality influences the social structure of Gidgee Skinks. Habitat quality has been manipulated by adding wood and tin to create artificial 'crevices' for the lizards. Emilee's Grand Start grant will support her to sample these locations and compare them to control areas to see if habitat manipulation has changed the lizards' social structures.

• WILLIAM MITCHELL



Grant recipient William Mitchell monitoring translocated mallee emu-wrens in Ngarkat Conservation Park. Photo: William Mitchell

Supported by a Grand Start grant, Monash University PhD student William Mitchell will undertake important field work to help secure the future of the endangered Mallee Emu-wren.

Mallee Emu-wrens have been reintroduced into Ngarkat Conservation Park to improve the chance of the species' survival. William will use acoustic recorders and call recognition software to monitor the translocated emu-wrens, and then assess the effectiveness of this monitoring method by comparing it with observer based surveys.

• ELLYSE BUNNEY



Sandalwood, *Santalum spicatum*, listed as a Vulnerable species in South Australia. Photo: South Australian Seed Conservation Centre, Botanic Gardens of SA

Ellyse Bunney, PhD candidate at The University of Adelaide, will utilise her Grand Start grant for field and laboratory work aimed at protecting Sandalwood, a commercially valuable timber listed as a vulnerable species in SA. Sandalwood is a currently harvested from the wild under strict quotas but illegal harvesting presents a challenge.

Ellyse will analyse Sandalwood samples from different locations to investigate how chemical signatures can be used to determine timber origins. Her project aims to establish a national database of these signatures to help with law enforcement and act as a deterrent for future illegal harvesting activity.



Wet gnamma. Photo: Brock Hedges

• ISABELLE ONLEY



A Greater Stick-nest Rat caught on Reevesby Island before translocation to Arid Recovery Reserve near Roxby Downs. Photo: Arid Recovery

Isabelle Onley, a PhD candidate at The University of Adelaide, is exploring the effects of translocation and heat stress on Greater Stick-nest Rats moved from Reevesby Island, off Eyre Peninsula, to the Arid Recovery Reserve near Roxby Downs where climatic conditions are generally warmer and drier.

Isabelle's Grand Start grant will support field work to measure nest temperatures and analysis of genetic samples with the aim of informing future translocation programs of threatened species into arid areas, particularly in the face of climate change.

• SARAH-LENA REINHOLD



Little Penguin, *Eudyptula minor*. Photo: Sarah-Lena Reinhold

As part of her PhD research at The University of Adelaide, Sarah-Lena Reinhold will investigate predator-prey dynamics to better understand the role Long-nosed Fur Seals play in Little Penguin declines.

Sarah-Lena will use her Grand Start grant to research historical population information using sealing and shipping archives and indigenous knowledge, and collect and analyse scat samples to investigate Little Penguins in fur seal diet. She aims to develop techniques to identify the source colony of predated penguins, information which can then be used to help identify ways to protect the Little Penguin populations.

••• BROCK HEDGES

Brock Hedges is the recipient of the 2019 Roy and Marjory Edwards Scholarship, which will provide funding of \$36,000 over three years for his PhD research on gnammas – unique freshwater rock-holes. Gnammas are ephemeral systems formed in hard rock – generally filled by rain, the freshwater lasts only for a short time.

The University of Adelaide student will undertake field work on granite gnammas at our Hiltaba Nature Reserve and other locations around Australia. Recommendations from the research will be used to help us manage Hiltaba's gnammas.



CARBON AND CONSERVATION

— a Win Win!

Nature Foundation SA's Vice President Suzanne Ridding recently presented to the Vision for Nature Society (a society for people who have expressed interest in leaving a gift in their will to Nature Foundation) on carbon: both the problems it causes and the benefits it can create. She also discussed how climate change is being addressed in Australia through the creation and trade of carbon credits, and what this could mean for Nature Foundation SA. Below is a summary of her presentation.

Climate Change 101

The sun's rays warm the Earth. Some are radiated back and some are absorbed by land and oceans. This process has so far maintained Earth at an optimum temperature for life. However, the increasing greenhouse gases produced on Earth are creating a thicker atmosphere around the planet, thereby trapping more of that radiation. The six types of gas that contribute to the 'greenhouse effect' are collectively referred to as 'carbon'.

The effect is that the earth and its oceans are warming exponentially – especially since pre-industrial times – and sea levels are rising. Scientists have reported a 1° Celsius increase in average temperatures already. The overall effects are changing our climate: more/less rainfall, greater heat waves, drought and more intense weather events like floods and storms.

This is worsened by forests being destroyed at an ever-increasing rate globally, yet they protect 80% of the biodiversity on Earth. A recent study¹ which examined the

potential for reforestation on either unused or degraded land, has shown over 50% of the land available is in six countries and Australia is number four on that list.

The same article reported that with reforestation, climate change could be paused for up to 20 years – that's enough time to seriously help the transition period needed to reach the global tipping point for emissions reduction.

The Carbon Solution

Like most environmental problems, the solution lies in economics – putting a price on the issue. Carbon offsets (also known as carbon credits) can be created through projects that either reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon. They are stringently audited and attract a price and can be traded as a commodity.

Some nations have broadly approached climate change by putting a price on carbon and creating either a form of carbon 'tax' or an emissions trading scheme or carbon market. This market enables the generation and earning of credits which can be bought and sold, therefore putting a price on pollution as an incentive to reduce greenhouse gas production. Such mandatory schemes are in place and

¹ www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-07-05/climate-change-tree-planting-carbon-dioxide/11267556



working well in various places including California, South Korea and Europe and soon to be in five Chinese provinces.

One example of a voluntary carbon offset scheme is the Qantas Future Planet Offset Program. The company spent years searching for offset projects that covered a diverse range of countries as well as environmental and social benefits. Examples include Indigenous fire management in the Kimberley; avoided deforestation in Tasmania; cleaner cook stoves in Guatemala and rainforest protection in PNG. Qantas works closely with both the offset project developers and local communities.

Australia has adopted a policy which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26%–28% on 2005 emission levels by 2030. The Federal Government has allocated \$2.5 billion to achieving that target via the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF).² This is a voluntary scheme providing incentives to organisations and individuals to adopt new practices and technologies to reduce their emissions and earn Australian Carbon Credit Units.

So far there are nearly 500 ERF projects across Australia, of which about 12 are in SA. Methods being used in the land sector to create carbon credits include savannah burning, reducing livestock emissions, environmental plantings and reforestation.

The potential benefits for Nature Foundation SA

Of particular interest to Nature Foundation SA is a method to sequester carbon called human-induced regeneration of a permanent even-aged native forest. Through the ERF there is

an opportunity to create carbon credits on conservation land, some of which is under Pastoral Leases.

Generating carbon offsets not only provides the opportunity for better farming practices but creates positive environmental, social and economic outcomes as well as generating an income stream.

As many members and supporters are aware, we own over 500,000 ha of nature reserves where biodiverse native vegetation grows and native fauna thrive. We may be able to use this to create our own carbon credits.

Nature Foundation SA has partnered with GreenCollar, Australia's largest developer of offset projects. Estimates prepared by GreenCollar suggest that there is the potential for Nature Foundation SA's Hiltaba nature reserve to generate income of around \$1.5M over a ten-year period. This income could be put back into nature conservation.

In addition to her role as Vice-President of Nature Foundation SA, Suzanne runs her own business Sustainable Business Consultants. She specialises in developing sustainability strategies and carbon management. Suzanne is also a Climate Leader under Al Gore's Climate Leaders Corp. Meeting Al Gore has been a highlight of her career.

If you would like to find out more about the Vision for Nature Society events and how to become involved, please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Mentzel on 8340 2880 or 0425 410 561.

² www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/About-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund



FROM THIS...

TO THIS!

MAKE IT RAIN AND WATCH THEM GROW!

The beautiful scene of majestic River Red Gums lining the banks of the River Murray is the essential view that draws visitors to the region. However, these days visitors to the River Murray Valley in South Australia will also see hundreds if not thousands of stark dead River Red Gums standing along the river bank and surrounding dry wetlands.

Walking onto the higher floodplains, in many places the Black Box woodlands are ragged or dead. These skeletons quietly remind us of better times when the river flowed freely and supported strong healthy forests and wetlands thriving with birds and fish.

The loss of these trees has many costs. Apart from the lost scenic quality, fewer trees can lead to increased soil salinity, lower evapo-transpiration and drier soils, the destabilisation of river banks, increased weeds and loss of habitat for wildlife.

Our drive for a stronger economy and our own lifestyle choices have impacted on river health through the extraction of millions of litres of water from our rivers across the Murray-Darling Basin every year. Reduced flows mean that floodplains no longer get the natural flooding and drying cycles that it needs to support the forests, wetlands and wildlife. The River Murray and its floodplains are in a serious state of decline.

In 2013 Nature Foundation SA's Water For Nature began to trial innovative ways to save thirsty River Red Gum and Black Box seedlings that had germinated in previous natural floods. Water For Nature aims to save these trees by supplementing soil moisture storage to increase resilience and survival during dry periods like those we are experiencing now.

How we do this can appear counter-intuitive. Since the Millennium Drought South Australian farmers have worked hard to reduce their dependence on sprinklers to better conserve water. However, naturally germinated seedlings are often found on the floodplain where there are no channels or depressions to direct water to them using irrigation techniques. Patches of seedlings and saplings – our future forests – as well as mature trees that produce seed are scattered across the floodplain. They are in clumped distributions and highly

variable densities, from <10 ha to >1000 ha. Watering relatively dense stands of saplings in random patterns is not suitable for drip irrigation (designed for evenly spaced plants). Instead we have used three to four high-throw irrigation sprinklers to simulate rainfall. The sprinklers do minimum damage to the vegetation, are moved periodically to allow the penetration of clay soils, and are mainly used overnight to minimise evaporation.

The sprinklers have been a great success. While non-watered seedlings are stunted or dying, Water For Nature watered seedlings are surviving through the dry times. At Clark's Floodplain near Berri, we have been working since 2013 to sustain Black Box seedlings resulting from the 2011 and 2012 floods as well as to promote the recovery of stressed mature trees. Scientific monitoring has revealed that watering with sprinklers has accounted for the survival of 95% of watered Black Box seedlings. There are also positive signs of recovery in mature Black Box trees, which are on average 36% healthier than non-watered trees, ranging from improvement of 49% in dry summer months to 26% in winter months.

Along the River Murray Valley in South Australia there are thousands of hectares of native forests and woodlands struggling through lack of water. If you would like to help save our future river forests please donate to Nature Foundation SA's Water For Nature program: naturefoundation.org.au/support-us/our-appeals/water-for-nature-appeal

We work with local landholders, irrigators, Traditional Owners and governments to deliver community-driven projects for a healthy river and a healthy community.

Contact Natalie Stalenberg, Water For Nature Program Manager on 0416 641 805 for further information.



Staff profile

ALEX NANKIVELL

Alex Nankivell has been Nature Foundation SA's Conservation Programs Manager for 12 years. He is also working on a PhD exploring key aspects of ecosystem function at Witchelina Nature Reserve.

From an early age Alex spent time outdoors camping, fishing, boating and bushwalking in the Flinders Ranges. He also loved David Attenborough and recalls collecting stamps at Coles supermarkets for nature books that he still has! With a love of being outside, studying and working in nature conservation was a natural progression.

What do you find most rewarding about working in nature conservation?

Working at Nature Foundation SA I get to do amazing projects in some amazing places to assist flora and fauna, threatened species and South Australia's ecosystems.

We are taught even in high school biology that everything is interconnected and we can see that with the effects of climate change or how a change to an ocean current will have an impact throughout the globe. It's pretty complex. There is less understanding of those interactions in the arid zone where a lot of biodiversity still exists in Australia. So it's an important area to understand!

I'm keen to get practical outcomes for land managers. I think it's important as scientists to try and solve problems – there needs to be an outcome that can be related to practical land management.

How does your PhD research tie in with your work at Nature Foundation SA?

I've been working and thinking about how to manage ecosystems in a holistic sort of way for years; a PhD is a structured way to bring that together. If we're going to make meaningful gains in threatened species management we need to look at the whole species assembly in the ecosystem and what

makes it work. And what better place to do that research than Witchelina where a lot of that work has taken place? It also helps Nature Foundation SA answer a range of questions on how we can better manage the nature reserve.

Key topic areas

At the moment there are some key issues such as the breeding success of Wedge-tailed Eagles. One of their key prey items is the Bearded Dragon; research we've done on cat diet indicates that it's a fairly staple part of the predator diet so what role is the Bearded Dragon playing in the breeding success of Wedge-tailed Eagles? Are they eating them at certain times of the year; are they prey switching; are they important for rearing young as a food item? So I'm investigating that.

Then there is vegetation and termites as an ecosystem engineer. The role they're playing in the overall system is often overlooked.

Termites play a large, almost mind-blowing role in biomass consumption but also, later during their lifecycle, redistribution of nutrients across the landscape. Bearded Dragons appear to be eating a significant number of termites so there's a whole trophic train of food web there that I will examine in more detail.

The aim is for Nature Foundation SA to gain results it can use in conservation management and eventually the production of an ecosystem model that will allow land managers to make decisions on what might be happening within an ecosystem at a certain time.

What is exciting in conservation at the moment?

The technology is developing to do massive scale landscape rehabilitation and that's an exciting prospect. On a

smaller scale, we are seeing species turn up and being rediscovered where we didn't think they were. I remember seeing a quoll being caught on a camera trap in the Kimberly where they hadn't been seen for decades and that to me is an exciting thing. Obviously the Night Parrot has captured everyone's attention as well – these surprises occur. And then there are great projects you hear about, such as local communities re-establishing habitat and populations re-establishing themselves in that habitat. All those small scale projects with great successes – it's important they are acknowledged and governments of the day recognise that an integrated coordinated approach is the most beneficial.

On climate change and other challenges

Am I worried about my son's quality of life in the future? Yes, but I am also deeply concerned about the biodiversity crisis and I guess that's what drives me to try and make a change in some way or work in this industry where the diversity of species can be maintained. I think with people, knowledge and awareness we can make positive changes happen. It's my responsibility not to be complacent in that area and there are positive stories all over the place!

Other interests?

I've been establishing an orchard in my backyard of exotic fruit trees and some not so exotic – I have about 23 varieties growing in space-effective ways.

I spend a lot of time these days running around with my nine-year-old; that keeps me fit and I can recapture some of my youth! Also going out on adventures with him – bushwalking and travelling to new places.

Member profile

BRUCE HOBBY & GAYLE NEWCOMBE



Gayle and I have been married for 27 years and we live in Humbug Scrub in the northern Mount Lofty ranges. We have two beautiful children, Georgette and Mitchell who are both studying at university. I have recently retired after running my own photography business and I have a great love of nature and am at my happiest when I am surrounded by it. Gayle retired last year and worked for SA Water as a research scientist and has a great love of being warm all year round.

How did you come to spend time on Lord Howe Island?

As part of our retirement plans of travelling around Australia in our new van and 4WD, we registered with an online group called Aussie House Sitters where you can look after people's homes while they are away on holidays. This usually involves looking after the homeowner's pets and gardens for several weeks or months while living in their home. We felt this would be a great way to explore different areas of Australia in the comfort of a house. We were stunned with the number of offers we had from all over the country and could not believe our luck when we were contacted to look after a property on Lord Howe Island for 9 weeks.

What activities were you involved in?

There are always citizen science projects on Lord Howe Island that you can volunteer to help with once you are on the island. We did bird surveys, (types and numbers) as well as rock pool surveys at low tide - counting and identifying creatures in them, micro and macro plastic surveys along the high tide line along the beaches and photographing the fungi found on the island for its data base. There were

also opportunities to help with weed eradication and revegetating Blackburn island, which is inside the main lagoon, where they are planning to reintroduce the rarest insect in the world, the phasmid, which was thought to be extinct after the rodents invaded Lord Howe Island 100 years ago, but 19 were found on Balls pyramid, 30 kilometers off the coast of Lord Howe Island in 2001. The Melbourne zoo has been involved in breeding them up for a potential re introduction to Lord Howe island once the rodents have been eradicated.

We also helped on the Rodent Eradication Program (REP) which was entering its final stages after many years of planning. Over 22,000 bait traps were laid around the settled areas of the island, which was 1 every 10 square meters, and all of them need to be checked and replenished every 3 weeks. There were also aerial drops of bait pellets over all the forested and mountainous areas by helicopter. These aerial drops happened twice over a 4 week period and over several days each time. I helped by guarding a walking track each time to make sure no one attempted to hike that trail during a bait drop.

Reflections of your time on Lord Howe Island.

I have been very fortunate to see a lot of amazing places around the world, but none more so than Lord Howe Island. David Attenborough called it the most

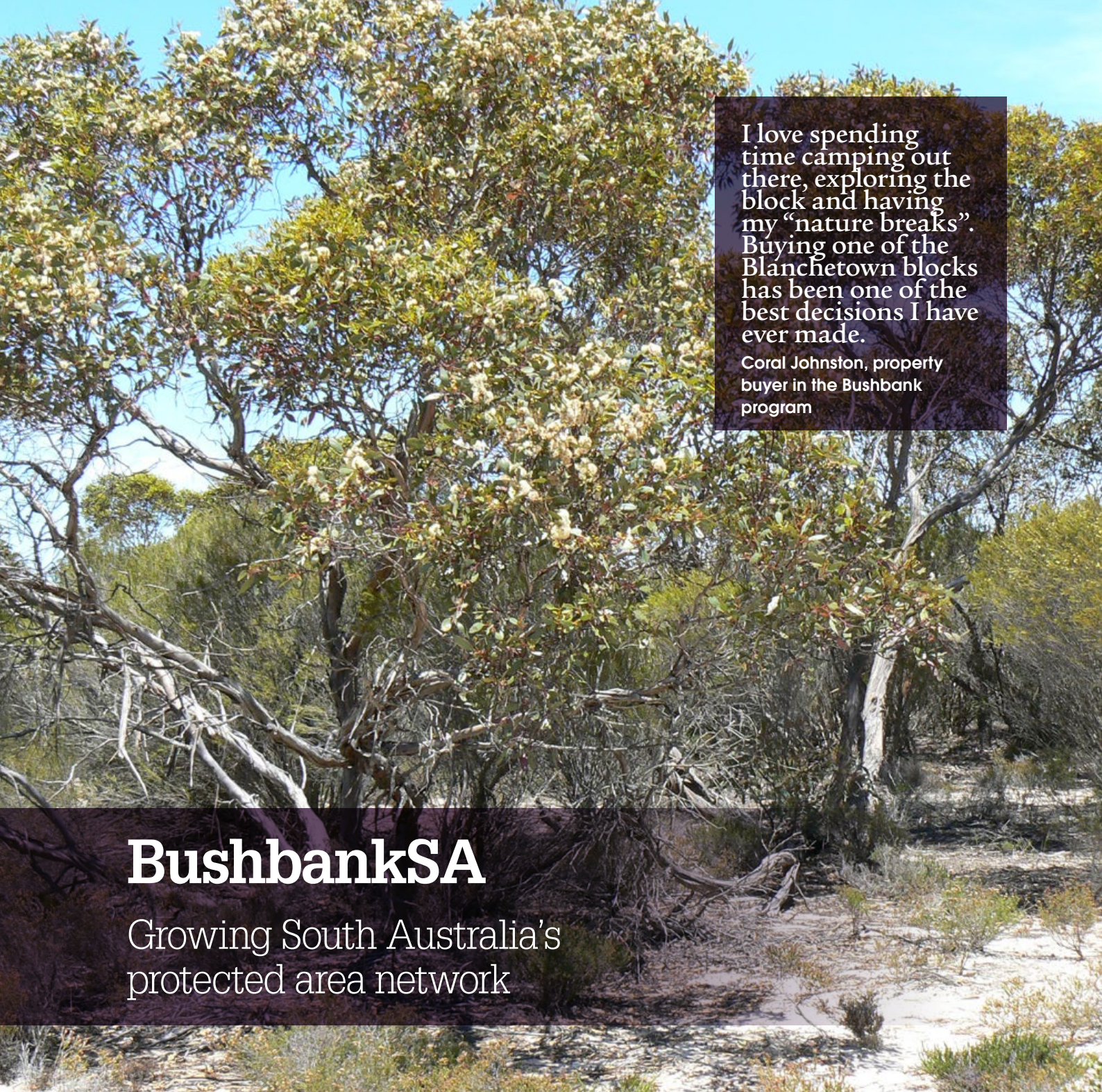
unique island in the world, and he has seen a lot more of the world than I have! Lord Howe Island is extraordinary for so many reasons. The coral reefs which are the home of over 500 different species of fish and over 90 different coral types, there are over 200 different species of birds that been recorded there all on an island that covers less than 15 square kilometres, and nearly 50% of the vegetation is endemic to the island. From the sea to the beaches to the forests to the mountains to the amazing night sky, the natural beauty is amazing. Life on the island is very simple, the speed limit is 25 kilometres per hour for the few vehicles they have, there is no mobile phone coverage (bliss) and locking homes and cars is not the norm. Everyone waves when you pass them whether you are walking, riding a bike or driving a car and the locals are always happy to have a chat.

What do you find most rewarding about volunteering in nature conservation?

Like all volunteering whether it is community based or nature based, the knowledge that you are helping in some small way makes your efforts worthwhile. Every little bit helps and if everyone had the same attitude the world would be a much better place. What we have found, especially in nature conservation, is that it is so easy to make new friends as you instantly have something in common - a love of nature and the knowledge that every day you are out in nature is a good day!

Future plans/goals/aspirations?

We plan to continue along this path until our zimmer frames won't get us out and about anymore and to avoid winter in the southern parts of Australia.



I love spending time camping out there, exploring the block and having my “nature breaks”. Buying one of the Blanchetown blocks has been one of the best decisions I have ever made.

Coral Johnston, property buyer in the Bushbank program

BushbankSA

Growing South Australia’s protected area network

Imagine a future where ecosystems are protected and species decline has been halted...

Under the BushbankSA program, conservation land is purchased, a covenant is applied and the land is re-sold to owners with the means and commitment to manage them for conservation.

Bushbank has proven to be highly effective and we can do much more! Threatened species and ecosystems protected so far through the Bushbank program include:

- Southern Brown Bandicoot
- Malleefowl
- Diamond Firetail
- Peppermint Box Woodland

Nature Foundation SA has four allotments of Mallee woodland for sale within the Blanchetown Bushland Estate, a 10,000 hectare conservation estate located six kilometres west of Blanchetown, adjacent to the Brookfield Conservation Park.

But we need to do more:

- Grow the fund
- Protect more land
- Target areas of high conservation value

How you can help:

- Tell your friends and family
- Bequests and tax deductible donations will help us grow the program
- Buy, sell or gift a property

To find out more about the Bushbank program visit naturefoundation.org.au/conservation/bushbank-sa or contact Alex Nankivell, Conservation Programs Manager on 8340 2880 or email Alex.Nankivell@nfsa.org.au

Artists' Residency Program

A fresh vision of our nature reserves



Nature Foundation SA has recently launched a residency program for invited artists to spend some time on the two major nature reserves.

It aims to encourage new forms of expression of Nature Foundation SA's conservation vision, through the creation of nature-based art.

The program's focus is on emerging professional artists who are producing high quality work that will be affordable to Nature Foundation SA members and to a wider public. Up to three artists per year will be invited to spend up to one or two weeks on either Witchelina, Hiltaba, or a week on each. Participating artists will be provided with suitable accommodation and general support on the Reserves.

The first to take up a residency was Alison Binks (pictured above) - an Adelaide-born, Melbourne-based artist with a fine portfolio of landscape and

nature-based paintings. Alison and her family spent a week on Witchelina in April, and her resulting work has so far comprised 12 paintings which were exhibited at Nature Foundation SA's Mid-year Member Update event on July 22nd. Her work can be viewed through the website of the gallery which Alison Binks represents her in Melbourne: jacobhoernergalleries.com/artist/alison-binks/?key=images&class=thumbs

Alison's extensive experience of remote outback travel is reflected in the wonderfully sensitive balance of subtle colour, form and horizons that characterise her landscapes. Her response to Witchelina echoes this vision: "The country has a raw,

stripped back nature - notions that appeal to me as a painter, and as an individual, seeking an antidote to our contemporary lives. My paintings in some ways reflect this essentialism, this minimalism."

Four of the Witchelina paintings are still available for sale. A second residency, with another artist, is currently being negotiated.

For enquiries about the residency program or about works for sale, please contact its co-ordinator, Lange Powell M: 041 786 7299; or Email: powellan@internode.on.net



BY:GEOFF
HARDY

Barbara Hardy 2018 Shiraz wine label competition

WINNER OF THE BARBARA HARDY SHIRAZ 2018 WINE LABEL COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to **Jannico Kelk** who has won the Wines by Geoff Hardy Barbara Hardy Shiraz 2018 wine label competition with his beautiful image of a Western Pygmy Possum, pictured above.

Jannico will receive one dozen Barbara Hardy Shiraz 2018, five days' accommodation at either Hiltaba or Witchelina Nature Reserves for two people and one year's membership to Nature Foundation SA.

RECENT EVENTS

Mid-year Member Update – 22 July

We had a great turnout for our Mid-year Member Update on 22 July to celebrate the launch of Nature Foundation SA's new *Strategic Plan: Towards 2030 Engaging People in Conservation!* It was fantastic to see so many members and supporters on the night.

We also thank all the grant recipients for their fascinating presentations – attendees enjoyed hearing about the exciting nature-conservation related research that is made possible thanks to generous donations from our members and supporters.

Congratulations to those seven university students awarded grants totalling \$51,000 in Nature Foundation SA's 2019 grants round. Our grants program supports important nature conservation-related research and is made possible thanks to generous donations from our members and supporters.

A summary of each project appears in this edition of Nature Matters.

All members should have received a copy of the new Strategic Plan either electronically or by post. Please let us know if you did not receive a copy! Nature Foundation SA is grateful for all of your support in helping us achieve greater outcomes for biodiversity in South Australia.



Planting at Para Woodlands



Hard working volunteers enjoying pizza after the Watchalunga planting day (below)



● WELCOME TO
● NEW STAFF
● Inma Segura

You might hear a new friendly voice on the phone when you next ring the office! Nature Foundation SA welcomes Inma Segura to the staff team.

With a background in tourism and hospitality, Inma has international experience, having lived in the UK, Germany and Spain. Inma has worked as a lecturer and has been involved in international sustainable and eco-tourism development projects in Eastern Europe. She holds a Masters in Tourism and International Development and has a keen interest in nature conservation.

2019 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Nature Foundation SA warmly congratulates the following recipients in the Queen's Birthday Honours:

Angela Hazebroek - OAM

For service to town planning.

Angela is a Nature Foundation SA Councillor and Chair of the Revenue & Marketing Strategy Committee.

Brian Haddy - OAM

For service to science education.

Brian is a former Nature Foundation SA employee and is currently working with Patrick Mentzel on sponsorship for PLC19.

Peter Copley - PSM

Peter is a former Nature Foundation SA committee member.

PLANTING DAYS

Para Woodlands - 14 June

Thanks to all the intrepid planters who came out to Para Woodlands Nature Reserve to help re-establish critically endangered Peppermint Box grassy woodland. Dragos Moise, from the Department for Environment and Water, did a fantastic job of organising the day as usual.

Nature Foundation SA is especially grateful for SA Power Networks Employee Foundation's contribution - over the last 10 years 247 people have volunteered, totalling 1,112 hours and helping to plant 65,350 plants. What an amazing achievement!

Watchalunga - 29 June

A huge thank you to the 25 volunteers and Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association Inc. who braved the weather to plant 800 seedlings at our Watchalunga Nature Reserve. These plants will provide future habitat for threatened Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-Wrens. We were very grateful to warm up by the fire and enjoy the delicious pizzas at the Finniss General Store.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAHLIA PERRY AND ECHIDNA CSI APP

Congratulations to PhD candidate and science communicator Tahlia Perry who recently won The University of Adelaide STEM Award in the Seven News Young Achiever Awards SA. Nature Foundation SA is proud to have supported Tahlia's echidna research as part of our grants program. The Echidna CSI app developed as part of Tahlia's PhD project has harnessed the power of citizen science and led to more recordings of echidnas being made in a single year, compared to the previous 10 years of ecological studies!



REGISTER NOW FOR ALCA'S NATIONAL CONFERENCE

PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE



The National Wine Centre is situated adjacent to the magnificent Adelaide Botanic Gardens (why not take a refreshing walk each morning before the conference)!

Already registered?

Don't forget to check out our post-conference Nature Glenelg Trust Wetland Restoration Tour. Be quick – Arid Recovery Trip already sold out!

Need accommodation?

Please book now as the Australian Masters Games is being held in Adelaide during our conference – check the website for options and avoid high rates and low availability!

Questions? Contact us at PLC19@nfsa.org.au
We look forward to seeing you in Adelaide!

REGISTER NOW at www.ivvy.com.au/event/PLC2019/register.html

One city, two days, dozens of expert presenters, and hundreds of conservation practitioners from around Australia.

PLC19 features two days of inspiring and thought-provoking sessions, all designed to keep you on top of the latest thinking and best practices.

Day one highlights:

- Nature conservation: society is the answer
- Achieving nature conservation globally
- In case of emergency, break the glass: Species collapse and climate change
- A powerful story, 20 years of Indigenous protected areas
- Empowering communities – building capacity from local through to global scale
- Carbon at scale: profit and restoration

On Wednesday night, join us for dinner with South Australia's finest food and wine at the beautiful National Wine Centre – a relaxing evening of networking, music and entertainment.

Day two highlights:

- Rewilding, refugia and threatened species
- Farming, change and making the most of it
- Central connections – private land conservation stories from remote Australia
- Conservation practices
- Research into action
- Turning measures into money



LA VITA EXPERIENCE NATURE FOUNDATION SA DINNER

We would love you to join us on Saturday 23 November for a fun and informal evening of great music and delicious Italian cuisine.

Authentic Italian – Antipasto platters, Entrée, Main and Dessert / Relaxed and fun atmosphere / Music and dancing / Silent Auction and Wine Wall

Tables of 20 available so book early and bring your friends and family along!

La Vita Italian Restaurant 342 Grange Road, Kidman Park
6.30 pm to midnight / \$65 pp, drinks available for purchase

Please call 8340 2880 or email NatureFoundationSA@nfsa.org.au for further information and bookings.

Patron & Donor Liaison
Patron
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President
Vice President
Hon Secretary
Treasurer
Councillors

Dr Barbara Hardy AO
Dick Smith AC
Reg Nelson
Jan Ferguson OAM
Suzanne Ridding
Susie Herzberg OAM
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Hugo Hopton
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Caroline Nefiodovas
Gretta Koch
Patrick Mentzel
Katie Perry
Georgie Fiedler
Natasha Harper
Natalie Stalenberg
Anne Clark
Amy Ide
Inma Segura

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www.naturefoundation.org.au

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Special General Meeting
The Goodwood Institute
166 Goodwood Road, Goodwood
14 October 2019

Annual General Meeting
28 November 2019

Australian Land Conservation Alliance
Conference (PLC19)
8-10 October 2019

La Vita Experience Nature Foundation SA Dinner
23 November 2019

See details above. Join us for a wonderful evening!

Visit our website www.naturefoundation.org.au to register, or phone 8340 2880.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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

VOLUNTEERS

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

BUSHLAND FOR SALE

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

For more information visit our website at www.naturefoundation.org.au/what-we-do/bushbank-sa or contact Alex Nankivell on 08 8340 2880, or email: alex.nankivell@nfsa.org.au

ITEMS NEEDED – can you help?

If you are able to donate, fund or loan any of the following items, or provide the funds to acquire them, please phone 08 8340 2880 or email admin@nfsa.org.au

- Water entitlements to assist our Water For Nature Program
- Land for nature conservation
- Weather Station for Hiltaba and Witchelina to assist science and monitoring programs.
- Acoustic monitoring devices for bats and birds
- Wire and posts for boundary fencing to prevent stock incursions
- Toyota, Nissan or Mitsubishi 4WD for Hiltaba and Witchelina
- Tractor in working order with 3-point linkage for Witchelina Nature Reserve