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2022

Engaging people in conservation

NatureMatters



Short-beaked echidna. Credit: Alex Nankivell

**VITAL
WORK
APPEAL**

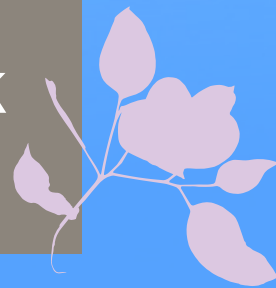
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**Nature
Foundation**



Vital Work Appeal



We want to begin with a huge thank you for the donations you have made to Nature Foundation in the past. Each and every donation has made a difference to nature here in South Australia.

Every dollar you donate funds important activities and programs to protect more landscapes, help stop species loss and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Thanks to your generosity we can water River Murray wetlands to help them recover; conduct invasive species control on our reserves to protect vegetation and native species; understand how to better protect the plants and animals that live on our reserves; and much, much more.

There has never been a greater need for this work to continue than right now.

Nature Foundation is the backbone of conserving, restoring and protecting biodiversity in South Australia. We need at least \$1 million per year to continue vital work on our nature reserves, protect threatened species, measure and monitor our programs to ensure the best conservation management for genuine impact. We rely on a significant amount of this money every year through your donations.

Please join us in taking action to help halt and reverse nature loss in South Australia by making a donation to our Vital Work Appeal.

You may like to become a regular Nature Foundation donor, enabling us to better respond to opportunities and be flexible in a rapidly changing environment. Together we can have greater impact!

The Vital Work Appeal provides funds without which the vital conservation work and property maintenance on our nature reserves cannot take place. Your donation enables our daily activities to continue so that together we can achieve the conservation outcomes our natural environment and community depends on.

Please make a difference today by donating to our Vital Work Appeal. Nature needs your help now more than ever.



From the Chair

Jan Ferguson OAM

With the Federal election nearly upon us, environment is coming through as a key elector issue. The Glasgow COP 26 climate change conference of late last year resulted in a number of

important firsts. It was the first time that transition from fossil fuels was endorsed, the first time that the knowledge and role of traditional peoples was prominent and valued, and the first time that nature conservation was so prominently proposed as a central solution. Very strong commitments were given to cease deforestation for example, with Australia, sadly, being the only developed country to be designated a deforestation hot spot, due to the rate of clearing on the east coast. There were also staggering large financial commitments from governments and the business sectors. It is clear that every person, community, business and government needs to play their part.

By the time you read this, the South Australian election will have been held and the process of the formation of the new government underway. In the last edition of *Nature Matters* I took the unusual step to speak out about the proposed Pastoral Bill. The vast 40 million hectare Rangelands region in SA's north is at a cross roads. We and many other lease holders wish to see the amazing soil, water, biodiversity and cultural values of the region protected and restored, and to see it prosper under the fast-coming climate change scenarios. Not the opposite, as would be the case if the Pastoral Bill in its current form became law. We are keen to see the new Government take this unrivalled opportunity, which would mean abandoning the current Pastoral Bill which is focussed on one industry sector, and consider a bold solution for all current and anticipated sectors within an enabling Rangelands Act.

Glasgow also made prominent the fact that there is an urgency to addressing climate change, nature decline and species extinction. Nature Foundation has been playing its part in working with and mobilising community, restoring landscapes and shaping policy at state and national scale. However, Nature Foundation and its kindred organisations must amplify their programs and their impact to help Australia play its part. To this end, Nature Foundation will be launching in May a significant new fund to which we hope to attract increased numbers of donors large and small. I do hope you will support us in this, as well as enthusing your networks to contribute. I am sure you share with me the urgency to scale up and protect more of our amazing flora, fauna, landscapes wet and dry, and their cultural heritage.

We have started the year with energy. The Board is well into a series of strategic discussions related to our operating environment – socially, economically and environmentally – and identifying where we as an organisation can have the most impact. Our partnerships with like-minded organisations are ever stronger, and we know from experience that we can achieve more by working together. Critical to all of this is your support which comes in so many ways. We could not do what we do and grow our impact without it. Thank you. From all on the Board and the staff, we wish you well and climate active for 2022.



From the CEO Hugo Hopton

By the time you read this it will be well into the new year and I hope you have all had a great start to 2022!

Here at Nature Foundation the year is taking definite shape and form. By necessity it will be one characterised by adaptability. It is likely that the social, economic, political and environmental operating environment will continue to change rapidly and at times unpredictably and we will adapt too. This has and will come in many forms. In a practical sense the Nature Foundation team has been working from home, and we have cancelled our indoor events in early March in the interests of keeping all of our community COVID safe. Proceeding is field work such as our Science and Knowledge program staff working with Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards, and outdoor events such as *Getting Curious* along the River Murray and the Kangaroo Island Member tour. Our Pandemic response team will continue to monitor the situation and give direction on operational matters.

The national Private Land Conservation Conference 2022 conducted by the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) and attended virtually by hundreds of people across Australia and overseas was incredibly inspiring. So much is being done by so many, whether landholders, Aboriginal communities, donors, business sectors and non-profits, as across the world people seek to address climate change, nature loss, loss of agricultural land and species extinctions. Nature Foundation had some star speakers – Claire Fuller on the Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia program and Katie Perry and Warren Milera for Kids on Country. Please visit alcaconference.org.au for further details.

There were brilliant falls of rain at Witchelina Nature Reserve in January. It has already kick-started a vegetation response, which is sure to be followed by a faunal response – see photos in this edition. Hiltaba, while receiving less rain has had a wonderful season, with last November being the highest rainfall on record.

The Nature Foundation Board held its annual retreat in February to help shape strategic direction on matters as diverse as our role in mitigating climate change, halting species declines, advancing nature conservation on our reserves, nature-based markets such as carbon and biodiversity, deepening our engagement with First Peoples supporting our members, supporters and donors.

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





Hiltaba landscape. Credit: Marina Louter

New booking system online!

Connect with nature, gain an insight into our work and experience nature conservation in action on our Nature Reserves.

Booking accommodation and nature drives at Witchelina and Hiltaba is now significantly easier, with our new online booking system going live on the website! You can book accommodation and nature drive tours at both Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves, just in time for the opening of our visitor season 1 April 2022 to 30 October 2022.

We look forward to welcoming you to Witchelina and Hiltaba soon.

Thanks to the hard work of our corporate services team and much tweaking to get the booking system exactly right!

Visit naturefoundation.org.au/what-we-do/nature-based-tourism and click on Visit Witchelina or Visit Hiltaba to view the new booking system.



Drone images at Witchelina. Credit: Graeme Tonkin and Kevin Fahey

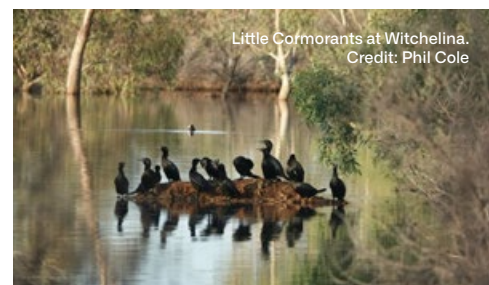
Once-in-a-decade rain event at Witchelina!

Witchelina Nature Reserve received 144.2mm of rainfall in the week beginning Monday 17 January 2022, which is the third highest January monthly rainfall at Witchelina in recorded rainfall history! Only 1972 and 1984 had a few mms more and all the records are under 150mm.

The significant rain has already kick-started a vegetation and wildlife response, which the arid interior is noted for. Witchelina will be teeming with wildlife this year! There are already hundreds of budgerigars in small flocks (pictured) and occupying nesting hollows; many Crimson Chats and some Orange Chats. Little Black Cormorants (pictured) and Brown Songlarks are also abundant, along with many other species.

Our Rotational Managers and volunteers were lucky enough to witness this special event at Witchelina and they captured some fantastic drone images and footage, which are too good not to share! Images provided courtesy of Chris Reed, Graeme Tonkin, Kevin Fahey, Phil Cole and Jenny Hiscock.

Hiltaba Nature Reserve, while receiving less rain this year so far, is looking very green after a good rainfall year in 2021, topped off by the January rain.



Little Cormorants at Witchelina. Credit: Phil Cole



Budgies at Witchelina. Credit: Jennifer Hiscock

Scott Kinlock at Hiltaba.
Credit: Marina Louter

Update on Short-tailed grasswrens at Hiltaba

Hiltaba Nature Reserve is home to an endangered sub species of Short-tailed Grasswren, the Gawler Ranges Short-tailed Grasswren (*Amytornis merrotsyi ped/eri*).

This species is listed as endangered due to their restricted geographic distribution and recent declining numbers resulting from threats such as fire, over-grazing, predation by cats and foxes, and variable climate. In parallel with threat abatement work, Nature Foundation is implementing a rigorous monitoring program tracking changes in the population size and distribution within the reserve.

Rotational Managers Dr Marina Louter and Scott Kinlock surveyed the population of Short-tailed Grasswrens (STGW) at Hiltaba over a two-week period in Dec/Jan 2021-22.

Previous work

In 2017 survey work was completed by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) staff to establish a rigorous monitoring program to track changes in the population size and distribution at Hiltaba. Graham Carpenter undertook another survey in Hiltaba in May 2018 (surveying 23 hills and finding STGW at four new locations), and Scott and Marina surveyed four hills in December 2020.



Short-tailed Grasswren.
Credit: Marina Louter

Aim of this survey

It was deemed important to conduct another survey this year, to gain a better understanding of numbers of STGW, and to look at some locations on Hiltaba where nobody has looked before, to fill in the survey gaps. It is also noteworthy that Hiltaba constitutes the most north-western extent of the range of this species, with the north-western-most record just south-west of the Hiltaba Homestead. Marina and Scott were very keen to survey north-west of the homestead, to see if the population range could be extended.

Survey methods

Areas of spinifex-dominated hills within Hiltaba were surveyed. At each survey site, an attempt to detect Grasswrens was made using a combination of techniques:

- Listening for contact calls
- Flushing birds while walking through habitat
- Stopping at random locations throughout the habitat and using 'playback'; by either playing a pre-recorded audio clip of the Short-tailed Grasswrens' call on an audio device such as a mobile phone, or the observer making high-pitched 'whistles' in an attempt to either lure birds to the observer or to encourage any birds to call in response.

Survey results

Marina and Scott surveyed a total of 21 hills, of which four were sites previously surveyed in 2017/18. They found STGW at 15 locations. At least 31 individual birds were detected across the 21 sites. At three of the 21 sites, only one individual was definitively recorded based on the number of calls heard. Two birds were either seen or heard at eight sites, and three individuals were seen at three sites. They found no direct evidence of breeding (i.e. no nests or adults carrying nest material/food items) but the groups of three STGW were deemed likely to have fledglings, as often one of the birds would not move and was calling from a clump of *Triodia* (i.e. juvenile bird). They also recorded the most north-western records of the species to date, on the hills beyond the homestead and were very proud as walking these hills is no walk in the park!

This survey has proven extremely useful in adding to the understanding of the species, assisting our reserve management prescriptions and providing a contemporary snapshot in the planned regular monitoring surveys.



Microbats at Para Woodlands

Unless you know what you're looking and listening for, you may miss the shadowy blurs zooming overhead at dusk. Or assume they're moths. But they're much more likely to be small, nocturnal and cryptic microbats!

Weighing between 4 and 30 grams – about the size of a small mouse – they play a critical role in ecosystems as insectivores, mostly using echolocation (sonar) to find their prey. In turn, they are important prey species for animals like owls and snakes.

Microbats play an important part in controlling insect numbers, benefitting the health of trees and revegetated areas. They also benefit agricultural production, with bats preying on insect herbivores which helps increase crop yields and reduces the need for chemical pesticides.

Their widespread distribution and being high up in the food chain make them great bioindicators of ecosystem health.

So, it's very exciting that a recent bat survey conducted at Nature Foundation's Para Woodlands Nature Reserve as part of a Green Adelaide grassroots grant, recorded a number of microbats using Anabats (remote audio-recording devices). Because each bat species calls at a slightly different frequency with different inflections, the recordings can be analysed by computer and the different species present can be identified.

Several species were detected at Para Woodlands including Gould's Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*), Lesser Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*), White-striped Free-tailed Bat (*Austronomus australis*) and Chocolate Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus morio*).

This means that all our hard work of weed control and years of revegetation activities, including 100 plants this year, is transforming Para Woodlands into a valuable refuge on the outskirts of the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

Lesser Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*) one of the species detected at Witchelina Nature Reserve. Credit: Coral Johnston



L-R: Chalky wattle, Corunna Daisy, and Katherine Moseby and John Read. Credit: Rebecca O'Leary

Bandicoot footprints in the sand



It has been 150 years since the Secret Rocks Heritage Agreement has seen the delicate footprints of Western Barred bandicoots, until now.

Through a successful Linking Landscape grant from the Revitalising Private Conservation SA Program (RPCSA), the Middleback Alliance along with many volunteers, is restoring this important mallee refuge. Situated 36 kilometres east of the Eyre Peninsula township of Kimba, this red sand and rocky outcrop country is essential for the survival of many threatened and vulnerable species.

Rebecca O'Leary (RPCSA Outreach Officer) had the opportunity to explore this property with owners Dr Katherine Moseby and Dr John Read. When Katherine and John purchased the property 18 years ago, they understood its significance and value and applied for a Heritage Agreement to protect the land into the future. The impacts of grazing pressure from over abundant kangaroos, feral goats and rabbits plus predation by cats and foxes could only be reduced through a 1.8 m specialized fenced enclosure. Funding provided by the RPCSA program has enabled the initial enclosure to be expanded from 891 hectares to 3,920 hectares to ensure that viable populations of six threatened species can be reintroduced and protected. The funding is also contributing to conservation activities across two neighbouring properties to benefit native species outside of the fence and reduce boundary pressure.

Western Barred Bandicoots (*Perameles bougainville*) sourced from Arid Recovery near Roxby Downs, are the first of the animal reintroductions focusing on re-establishing ecosystem function. Through their digging and foraging habits, these 'soil engineers' improve natural processes such as nutrient cycling, increased seed germination success and wider seed distribution. The success of the Bandicoot population is being monitored using trail cameras and footprint surveying.

"We have found a couple with little joeys in them, which is really exciting. So we have a new generation of Secret Rocks Bandicoots," says John.

Feral animal control is essential to protect the vulnerable species, and integrated methods such as mustering, culling, and baiting are used. New technology such as the Felixer equipment is targeting feral cats. The Felixer works through cameras and sensors which detect and identify feral cats and then hits them with a baited gel that they groom off.

"We are doing a lot of checks to make sure that no cats and foxes get in, since if they do get in, they could wipe the population out quite quickly," explains Katherine.

Additional planned reintroduction species include Numbats, Red-tailed phascogale, Western quolls and Bilbies. These will join populations of Yellow Swainson-pea (*Swainsona pyrophila*), chalky wattle (*Acacia cretacea*), Corunna daisy (*Brachyscome muelleri*), Malleefowl and Sandhill Dunnarts to become a resilient and sustainable functioning ecosystem. Through this project, RPCSA is investing in the future of arid zone ecology and safeguarding against climate change impacts.

"Our hope is that we can get the populations established inside the enclosure and then they can spread out into the wider area," says Katherine.

Secret Rocks Heritage Agreement is accessible to the public with short walks and interpretative information within the private reserve enclosure. Keep up-to-date about this project and others through the Revitalising Facebook Page [@RevitalisingConservationSA](#) or Instagram [@private_land_conservation_sa](#)

Blue Devil. Credit: Cathy Powers



Julie Cutten. Credit: Rebecca O'Leary

From new Heritage Agreement to new grant recipient

Julie Cutten and her partner are just some of the landholders who have taken a generous step for conservation.

In total, 97 new Heritage Agreement applications have been inspired by the Revitalising Private Conservation SA Program. To add to this excitement, Julie and her partner have been successful in latest grant round!

Their Clare Valley property is special with vulnerable native herb, Blue Devil (*Eryngium rostratum*) growing in the Peppermint Box Woodland. The project that has been funded by the grant aims to increase the survival of this perennial herb by addressing grazing impacts, damage from animals, and competition with the woody weed, Topped Lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*). By physically protecting the Blue Devils through exclosure fencing, seedlings will have an increased opportunity to reach maturity.

Topped lavender control trials will have flow on benefits to all native vegetation and help empower others to manage this invasive species.

Congratulations to Julie and her partner and all of the landholders involved in the Round 3 grants. Keep updated on the Program, projects and opportunities for private conservation through the RPCSA Facebook Page [@RevitalisingConservationSA](#) and Instagram [@private_land_conservation_sa](#)

Stories like these underpin how valuable the Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia program is in re-engaging landholders and igniting interest in private conservation. This has included increasing eightfold the interest and application into the Heritage Agreement scheme – protecting land for high conservation value in perpetuity and leaving a legacy for the generations to come.

2022 Research Grant results

L-R: A juvenile western quoll in one of our traps. This individual was collared during this investigation. Credit: Alana Anderson.
Jack radiotracking a particularly remote quoll through the Yanyanna valley in the IFRNP. Credit: CJ Panozzo



Honors student detects higher survival rate in quolls!



Jack Bilby

Grand Start Honours grant recipient

Risk During Natal Dispersal; A Case Study using the Western Quoll (*Dasyurus geoffroii*).

Juvenile quolls in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park have a higher survival rate in 2020/21 than during the initial release cohort in 2014/15 according to the results from Jack Bilby's Honours research.

His project investigated whether juvenile quolls were at higher risk of predation from feral cats than adults due to their small size.

Jack and his team radio-collared juvenile quolls to assess their survival and how far they were moving, the habitat and the shelter sites they were using as they left their natal home range.

The great news is that all of the 22 radiocollared juveniles survived during the study period. The data collected showed that male quolls move much further than females, with movement peaking in December and March. The second bout of movement corresponds with increased usage of open habitat in male quolls, but the males that used this habitat during this period were larger, likely reducing their risk of cat attack. Both males and females avoided open habitat and preferred woodland areas (where fewer cats are present).

Also, the shelter sites that quolls used in 2020/21 are different to the initial release cohort in 2014/15: a greater proportion of tree hollows and hollow logs, suggesting safer shelter sites are being chosen.

The team is thrilled that the high survival and behaviour patterns during this project are promising signs for this establishing population of quolls in Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.

Our congratulations to Jack who has just been successful in getting a job with Arid Recovery looking at climate change adaptations and management strategies. Having just completed his Honours project, this is a fantastic step in his career!

L-R: Kate Matthews (grantee) collecting soil samples from the "Old-field" site at Para Woodlands Nature Reserve. Credit: Joape Facelli
The "Restored" soil collection site at Para Woodlands Nature Reserve. This site was revegetated with a mixture of native perennial grasses in 2015. Credit: Kate Matthews



Kate Matthews

Grand Start Honours grant recipient

The Response of Soil Microbial Community Structure and Function to Drying and Rewetting

Kate Matthews investigated whether different soil moisture regimes impacted soil microbial communities, thus changing the carbon and nitrogen cycling functions they perform. This was investigated across three land-use types at Para Woodlands Nature Reserve [natural grassy woodland (Remnant), an abandoned agricultural field (Old-field), and a revegetated grassland (Restored)].

Kate found that each land-use type at Para Woodlands had distinct microbial communities, and that the soil microbial community from the natural grassy woodland (Remnant) was more diverse than the other sites. She found that different soil moisture regimes selected for different microbes, creating distinct communities, and soil moisture regimes impact the function of the soil microbial community. This suggests that changes to precipitation regimes under climate change projections will impact the soil microbial communities at Para Woodlands Nature Reserve

Our research grants round is now open! **Apply now ...**

The next Nature Foundation research grants round is now open, please visit our website for all details on how to apply: www.naturefoundation.org.au/what-we-do/science-research/research-grants/how-to-apply

Our Grants Program funds research that contributes to the conservation of South Australia's biodiversity and habitats, while supporting university students and other researchers in their work and careers.

Since 2003 Nature Foundation has awarded 444 grants to the value of \$1.8 million in the nature science and social science to recipients at universities and other research institutions.

These grants would not have been possible without donations and bequests from our generous supporters. Please donate to help us give earlier career researchers the start they need, and improve nature conservation knowledge and results.

Research that aligns with our Science Strategy and focuses on our nature programs (e.g. Water For Nature) will be prioritised for funding.

Please visit naturefoundation.org.au for further details.

With daughter Matilda and in the vineyard; both images courtesy of Bec Hardy.

PROFILE

Bec Hardy

Board Director



Bec is a current Nature Foundation Board Director, serves on the Engaging People in Nature Committee, and is also a life member.

Her family has a long-standing association with Nature Foundation, with Bec's grandmother Dr Barbara Hardy AO being one of the founders. Bec owns and manages her own wine business Bec Hardy Wines with her husband Richard.

How did you become involved with Nature Foundation?

During my childhood, Baba (Barbara Hardy) was always talking about the National Parks Foundation of SA, the environment and Nature Foundation. Her favourite saying was 'Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without!'

In everyday life we spend a great deal of time outside in nature and sustainability is very important to us – we have also passed this on to our daughter Matilda.

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

It is important to me to find ways that we can improve the natural environment in South Australia, and also improve the way we do things for sustainability, both within our business and at home in Topsy Hill.

I'm also a strong advocate for Nature Foundation's work throughout my own networks and bring people into the conversation whenever possible.

What do you find most rewarding about your involvement?

There are so many different aspects to Nature Foundation's work and it's great to hear about all the achievements and how much of an impact the organisation is having. We are doing so many different things across the nature reserves, Kids on Country, Water for Nature and Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia program, to name a few!

I think as an outsider people may not realise how much Nature Foundation is doing, but as a Board and committee member who is more involved behind the scenes, you get a real sense of how much is being achieved.

What is your vision for nature conservation?

Protecting biodiversity is such an important thing and I am very interested in extending the amount of land that is protected, for example through nature corridors. I see this as a big thing that Nature Foundation can do.

As a mother of a six-year-old, and as a member of the Engaging People in Nature Committee, engaging children in nature early so that they carry this throughout their lives is also very important to me.

What are some of your other interests?

Gardening at home in Topsy Hill; food and wine; and spending time with Richard and Matilda out in nature.



L-R: Pygmy bluetongue siblings; Lucy pictured second from left with research team, credit Lucy Clive



PROFILE

Dr Lucy Clive

Grant Recipient and Staff Member

Dr Lucy Clive, Nature Foundation's Science and Knowledge Project Officer, was at the start of the second year of her PhD at Flinders University when she received a Nature Foundation research grant for her work with Pygmy Bluetongue lizards. She was co-recipient of a second grant the following year.

Climate change is the biggest threat to the endemic and endangered Pygmy Bluetongue lizards (PBT), with agricultural practices such as ploughing, a close second. Climate change will change the structure and composition of the PBT habitat to a point where the species cannot persist.

Northern populations are predicted to be the most vulnerable which is why research is currently focussed on finding new sites further south, in addition to investigating all the risks associated with movements of individuals. The focus of Lucy's PhD was assessing the ecological and genetic risks of translocation as a conservation strategy for the Pygmy Bluetongue lizard.

Nature Foundation grants assisted funding necessary equipment and travel expenses for Lucy's research:

"Doing my fieldwork without the funding from Nature Foundation would have been far more difficult and I likely would have had to spend a prolonged time in the field during each season and been less able to take on teaching roles in Adelaide to supplement my income."

A convoluted journey

Although she knew she wanted to work with animals from a young age, Lucy had no idea how. Her first step was to study Zoology as an undergraduate before working in an unrelated area for 10 years.

"I loved animal behaviour so that's why I decided to do my Masters in Animal Behaviour at Exeter University."

As a stepping stone to finding work after her Masters, she volunteered at the Kalahari Meerkat Project run by Cambridge University, studying the evolution of cooperative behaviour in meerkats.

"That was an awesome opportunity!"

While there she looked at research opportunities in South Australia.

"That's how I ended up with Professor Mike Bull as my supervisor and doing this amazing project on Pygmy Bluetongues. Unfortunately Mike Bull passed away 18 months into my PhD, but I was well looked after by Professor Mike Gardener. I'd have to say that the four years I spent doing my PhD were some of my best – although they were challenging at times."

Where Lucy is now

After finishing her PhD, Lucy worked for a consultancy company in Adelaide as an ecologist, and now in her role at Nature Foundation, she manages contractors doing

on ground works and monitoring surveys on some of our reserves and manages ethics permits SA-wide. But the favourite part of her job is managing the student grants program that helped her get to where she is today.

"A grant is valuable beyond just its financial benefit. You get to meet other students at presentation events, including those with very different skill sets, and make connections that can be valuable later when you're looking for work.

I also really like doing the on-ground work on the reserves where I can see that I am making a difference. It's my dream job where I have a perfect mix of field and desk work."

Lucy wants to leave the world in a better state than she found it and to spend her career trying to improve the future for wildlife through protecting and restoring nature.

Lucy's advice for nature scientists of the future

"Don't be afraid to take the long way around. If you get there too young, you won't necessarily be ready to appreciate it. And don't be afraid to try something new or odd, or unrelated to what you're currently doing. Think of them as stepping-stones on your journey that will take you one step closer to your goal. My combination of experiences has got me here and provided me with a very broad skillset that I couldn't do my job without."

What is exciting in nature conservation at the moment?

"It is so good to see that people are much more motivated to speak out about conservation and climate change and get involved in activism.

I feel like the point of organisations like Nature Foundation is to raise awareness and get people involved in making a difference in nature conservation. It's exciting to be involved in that."

Other interests?

"Spending time with my nine-month-old puppy Wilbur. I also love walking on the beach, it's my Zen place. And going on hikes, doing yoga and meditation, and gardening too."

You can make a difference to nature and biodiversity by supporting scientific research and helping kick start the career of a nature scientist like Lucy by making a donation to the Bright Futures Appeal or Professor Mike Bull Research Fund at naturefoundation.org.au/how-to-help/donate



Nature-Based Solutions for biodiversity and people

With much of the world economy being reliant on nature directly or indirectly, many of the solutions which will help slow climate change and halt biodiversity loss will lie in nature.

Through our 40 years' experience managing land and delivering programs for conservation and community outcomes, Nature Foundation has a deep understanding of South Australia's and Australia's unique biodiversity. We work across all sectors and are a trusted delivery partner for our donors, industries, universities, Traditional Owners, governments and other NGOs.

Nature Foundation continues to grow its impact through developing and delivering innovative nature-based solutions, and the partnerships which help to fund our important conservation work. Beyond the biodiversity programs on our eight nature reserves, it's the innovative Nature Foundation program models such as Bushbank, Water for Nature, Kids on Country and Revitalising Private Conservation, which demonstrates our capability in delivering high impact and scalable programs.

For individuals and organisations who are seeking innovative nature-based solutions that meet ESG

(environment, sustainability and governance) requirements for business, provide high quality and meaningful outcomes for the environment, Traditional Owners, and rural communities, Nature Foundation partners with a range of like-minded organisations to:

- Protect and conserve biodiversity
- Offset climate change and nature-loss impacts
- Enable opportunities for First Nations people
- Build knowledge and promote best practice
- Nurture scientists and conservationists
- Connect people with nature

Our Nature Solutions Program provides a range of consultancy and management services, and on-ground solutions to meet the needs of our partners. Our team can also provide tailored solutions for individuals and organisations who need to mitigate their carbon and nature risk, and for landholders interested in generating an income



from the native vegetation and biodiversity on their properties.

Environmental Consulting Services include:

- Carbon Forecast Modelling and Ground-truthing
- Native vegetation and EPBC offsets
- Biodiversity Surveys, Assessments and Monitoring
- Environmental Management and Monitoring Plans
- End-to-end Project Approvals and Management
- Cross Cultural Planning

Biodiversity Offset Solutions for Industry

Nature Foundation has been at the leading edge of biodiversity offset delivery in SA since 2009. Some may also know that the acquisition and ongoing management of Witchelina Nature Reserve in 2010 was funded from Biodiversity Offsets Projects.

A Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) offset provider, and offset credit holder, broker and consultant, we see our role as bringing together project developers, landholders and regulators in a natural alliance.

As South Australia’s leading provider of biodiversity offsets, Nature Foundation delivers a number of native vegetation and threatened species offset solutions

which have been tailored to each of our partner’s needs. Our partners benefit from demonstrating proactive environmental leadership and meaningful engagement with nature conservation projects, while becoming part of a broader nature positive legacy and supporting the development of ecological knowledge.

One recent partnership with SA Water is the Murbpook Lagoon SEB Offset Program (360 ha). Nature Foundation purchased Murbpook Lagoon in 2020. The revival of this historic wetland is part of a vegetation offset for SA Water’s zero cost energy future initiative. Murbpook and its immediate vicinity feature 17 state and nationally rated animal species and two state rare plant species. Recognising the urgent need to help preserve the biodiversity of the wetlands and floodplains of the River Murray, SA Water’s investment will allow us to permanently set aside the Murbpook Lagoon property for its primary purpose of growing and enhancing biodiversity conservation.

[Learn more about Murbpook.](#)

Find out more via our website naturefoundation.org.au or phone Caroline Nefiodovas or Liam Crook 8340 2880 to discuss how our Nature Solutions team can help.



Murbpook Lagoon, Credit: Charles Philpot

Increasing landscapes protected

One of Nature Foundation's strategic goals is to expand the area of high conservation value landscapes protected. Nature Foundation began to acquire and manage land for conservation in the early 2000s with two former farming properties – Para Woodlands Nature Reserve and Cygnet Park Sanctuary, where revegetation was undertaken to provide habitat for local fauna.

From 2010 Nature Foundation acquired Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves and through active conservation management enhance and protect biodiversity in the Arid Lands. Both Tiliqua and Watchalunga Nature Reserves have provided habitat for nationally endangered species including the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard and the Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-Wren respectively.

Most recently, Nature Foundation was gifted Geegeela and acquired Murbpook Nature Reserves for the conservation and protection of local fauna and flora. In total eight nature reserves are managed for conservation comprising over 520,000 ha (5,200 km²).

With the rapid advance of climate change, reduction of habitat and the impending extinction of native species, Nature Foundation has seen a significant rise in community interest to help protect more landscapes in South Australia. To assist with these inquiries Nature Foundation has developed a [Land Conservation Information Sheet](#) which outlines the different ways you can help or partner with Nature Foundation from gifting land, BushbankSA, Heritage Agreements to Offset Opportunities.

Now more than ever with the generosity of our community, we have greater capacity to make an incredible difference to our natural environment. If you would like to speak with our team about how to help protect more landscapes, please phone 8340 2880. Together we can protect more of South Australia.



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

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

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

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

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

This offer is valid through to 31 December 2022.

* Some conditions apply

Are you interested in joining a focus group to discuss environmental conservation, restoration and marketing?

The School of Public Health at the University of Adelaide is studying what motivates people to become or remain supporters of Nature Foundation (NF). We want to find out from current or potential supporters of NF about what aspects of NF's work could be promoted to inform their marketing strategy.

Focus group will run for approximately 60 minutes and you will receive a \$50 gift voucher to thank you for your time.

This study is funded by Nature Foundation's Research Project Grants and has received ethics approval from the University of Adelaide Human Research Ethics Committee. Approval H- 2022-011.

If you are interested, please contact Dr Scott Hanson-Easey. Email: scott.hanson-easey@adelaide.edu.au Ph: 08 831 30160



Artist Residency program – the big picture

Nature Foundation’s Artist Residency program is now in its fourth year. The program aims to reflect Nature Foundation’s conservation vision by encouraging artists to become immersed in the natural environment, and to respond through their creative work. Participating artists are offered an opportunity to spend up to two weeks on either Witchelina or Hiltaba Nature Reserves.

The third artist to be awarded a residency is John Whitney (pictured). John has been a professional artist for nearly 35 years, following a teaching career in both country and city schools.

“Drawing is my main love”, he says, “recording the world around me from building, landscapes, flora and fauna, or historic topics.” Exhibiting frequently, John works in pen and ink, coloured pencils, pastels, or mixed media, and he has worked on many large-scale murals across the State. His work can be seen on his website at johnwhitney.com.au.

An experienced outback traveller, John plans to spend two weeks on Hiltaba in April this year.

Meanwhile, the Artist Residency program, now supported through a generous three-year sponsorship contribution from a Nature Foundation member, is further broadening its canvas:

- 14 applications have been received for up to two more residencies on Witchelina or Hiltaba during 2022. The selection panel will be meeting shortly to consider them.
- Negotiations are well-advanced on an exhibition of creative work inspired by previous residencies, to be held during the SA Living Arts festival (SALA) from August 5th-28th. Nature Foundation greatly appreciates the generosity of Jo Harris in making her Torrensville gallery, Mrs Harris’ Shop, available for this event.

Please visit naturefoundation.org.au/what-we-do/nature-based-tourism/artist-residency-program for further information on the Artist Residency program.

Adelaide National Park City

When Green Adelaide Presiding Member Professor Chris Daniels approached Nature Foundation to support the movement to make Adelaide a National Park City, it was a no brainer.

Nature Foundation is helping to improve greater Adelaide’s liveability through connecting more people with nature.

The international National Park City Foundation awarded Adelaide National Park City status, making Adelaide the first in Australia and second in the world (after London).

Although Nature Foundation manages remote nature reserves, our work also takes place much closer to home. In partnership with Department for Environment and Water, we are improving the liveability of greater Adelaide and beyond, through the restoration of former farmland into a functioning grassy woodland at our 500 ha Para Woodlands Nature Reserve. Ongoing work will increase the amount and quality of habitat for declining woodland birds and help create a cooler, greener and wilder Adelaide on the urban fringe of Gawler.

Although the Adelaide National Park City movement has some focus on the Adelaide CBD, it extends much further – across the northern plains, eastern hills, southern vales and out into the marine environment.

It’s about all of us working together to create a cooler, greener, healthier and wilder Adelaide and beyond. This is an exciting movement that Nature Foundation is proudly supporting.

If you want to put your weight behind this movement coordinated by Green Adelaide, you can sign the Adelaide National Park City Charter here: [Adelaide National Park City Charter](#).

Or there are other ways to get involved too, to support this important movement: [Take action \(adelaidenationalparkcity.org\)](#)



Bec Hardy Wines Nature Foundation Shiraz wins five stars!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Introducing long time Nature Foundation supporter and website guru ... Daniel Vallejo!



Volunteer Profile Daniel Vallejo

How did you become involved with Nature Foundation? How long have you been involved?

Nature Foundation reached out to Thefactory in 2011 for help with their (then) new website. We've worked on a number of projects together since then, most recently focused around their amazing new branding! It's been super satisfying seeing

the organisation, and its impact in preserving nature, grow over this time.

Why did you decide to donate time/services?

I've always loved spending time outdoors – hiking and mountain biking around Waterfall Gully, Mount Lofty, Morialta, and Kuitpo Forrest. It's usually a solitary enjoyment, taking in the flora and fauna without the usual digital distractions. The sensitivity of these ecosystems has always been apparent... so I guess that Nature Foundation's preservation work has resonated with my own connection to nature.

What do you do to help Nature Foundation?

We work on Nature Foundations digital platforms, including websites and various digital integrations, such as bookings, online shopping, and digital marketing systems.

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

The team at Nature Foundation have been so great to work with! Without exception they are all passionate about their cause, and always enthusiastic in approaching new challenges. Although my contribution is very modest compared with the dedicated work of the Nature Foundation crew, I like to think of myself as an honorary member of the team!

Can you tell me a bit about your background?

Born and raised in Adelaide, my formal education is in Computer Systems Engineering / Computer Science / Business Management, and I'm the founder and principal at Thefactory Digital Media.

What are your future plans/goals/ aspirations?

My 'passion project' at the moment is designing and project-managing a sub-tropical house build in North Queensland. The temperate climate allows for some amazing opportunities to live sustainably amongst nature, year-round.

What are some of your other interests?

It's a somewhat well-kept secret that I'm a multi-instrumentalist, previously studying Cello at the Adelaide Conservatorium. I'm enamoured with design and architecture, and recently did a 'deep dive' into coffee science, learning the essential life skill of pulling the perfect espresso shot. I also really like cats!

Editors note:

Daniel has been incredibly generous with his creativity and skill and has donated countless hours in assisting Nature Foundation assist nature. Thankyou Daniel.



Welcome Warren Milera

A warm welcome to Warren Milera, who recently won the position of Youth Programs Officer with Nature Foundation's Kids on Country program. Warren is a Narungga/Adnyamathanha man based in Hawker in the Flinders Ranges. He has worked with Nature Foundation's Kids on Country program since 2017 as Senior Cultural Camp Leader. We look forward to his continued involvement in this new role which aims to support Katie in building participation opportunities for Aboriginal young people, with at least 7 camps for 105 students scheduled this year

Warren is also a highly accomplished musician well known for his mesmerising performances of original country and rock music and has been performing for over 20 years, presenting at shows all over Australia from small rural pubs to big city stages.

*Above: Warren Milera at Kids on Country camp.
Credit: Katie Pery*



Upcoming Events

We are excited to announce the following upcoming events!

Please note all dates are indicative, subject to COVID, with confirmation and further details closer to the time. Keep an eye on our website for the latest updates!

27 April–1 May	Witchelina Working Bee (including travel days)
27 July	Mid-year Member Update / Welcome to New Members
12–17 September	Witchelina Member Tour
6–16 October	Nature Festival events TBC
27 October	Annual General Meeting



Inspired by nature ...
Nature Foundation products
available online!

Our full range of beautifully branded products is now available for purchase online – there's something for everyone! They all make fantastic gifts and help raise awareness of our vital work for nature conservation.

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

Head to naturefoundation.org.au/how-to-help/nature-shop to find gifts for those discerning friends and family members. Or you might even like to buy something for yourself!



VOLUNTEERS

We are currently seeking people to provide executive support to some of our committees or working groups. Phone 08 8340 2880 if you can help!

BUSHLAND FOR SALE

Have you dreamt of owning your own natural wonderland? Our Blanchetown Bushland Estate provides a unique opportunity to purchase a 900 ha block of mallee woodland just minutes from the River Murray and alive with native flora and fauna. We have three allotments remaining. For more information visit eldersrealestate.com.au/rural/sale/lots-2-9-and-11-bushland-estate-blanchetown-sa-5357-23333122

ITEMS NEEDED – CAN YOU HELP?

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

- 1 weather station for Hiltaba and 4 for Witchelina to enable us to match changes in vegetation health with rain, temperature and other measures. Thank you to those who have donated so far.
- Water entitlements to assist our Water For Nature Program
- Land for nature conservation
- Acoustic monitoring devices for bats and birds.
- Funds to replace the roof on the renovated Hiltaba woolshed.



**Nature
Foundation**

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