



Nature
FOUNDATION SA



SAVE PROTECT RESTORE


NATURE FOUNDATION SA
2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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WITCHELINA NATURE RESERVE
IS HOME TO THE ENDANGERED
THICK-BILLED GRASSWREN,
WHICH WE HELP TO PROTECT
THROUGH FUNDING RESEARCH
INTO THE SPECIES AND BY
PROTECTING THEIR HABITAT.

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30 GREAT YEARS.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN A YEAR OF EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH, BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN WITHOUT SOME SOBERING REALISATIONS. RAISING FUNDS FOR THE DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE FOUNDATION IN THE RECENT AND PRESENT FINANCIAL CLIMATE HAS BEEN CHALLENGING AND THE OUTCOMES HAVE NOT BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL AS IN PAST YEARS.

30TH ANNIVERSARY

The great highlights of the past year include the celebrations held to commemorate the 30th year of operation since the Foundation was formed by Mark Bonnin, David Cleland, Warren Bonython and Barbara Hardy. The major events included the wonderful, stylish and professionally presented Celebration Dinner in the Adelaide Town Hall. The subsequent invitation from His Excellency the Governor Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and Mrs Scarce to host recognition event in Government House to celebrate the anniversary included the announcement of the Commonwealth Government's decision to award the Foundation annual use of a massive 10 Gegalitres of water to water private wetlands along the Murray River and Lower Lakes. At the SA Museum reception which followed we announced the purchase of a 78,000 hectare property, Hiltaba, adjacent to the Gawler Ranges. Celebrating the launch of the Foundation's history book of 30 great years at our end-of-year drinks was also a highlight.

WATER FOR NATURE

I was particularly pleased to see the Water for Nature initiative 'come of age' following its kick-start a number of years ago by a grant from then Water Minister, Karlene Maywald. From small beginnings, and the purchase of 37ML of permanent water with funds from the Barbara Hardy Fund for Nature, this initiative has delivered environmentally important flows of water to a half a dozen wetland sites along the Murray River. These activities reached the notice of the Federal Minister, Tony Burke, and

after a number of visits to Berri for discussions with the Commonwealth Environment Water Holder, the Foundation became the first, and to this point the only, NGO to be allocated water for private wetlands in Australia – high praise indeed. This is a great reward and opportunity for the relationships we have developed with irrigators and communities along the River that will help to protect wetlands when the next inevitable drought arrives.

HILTABA

The fortuitous opportunity to purchase Hiltaba Station after a group, having secured federal funding for its purchase, was unable to complete the transaction, presented the Foundation with a great option to add a most important piece of the Gawler Ranges to the national reserve and at the same time almost complete the east – west corridor of conserved land. We purchased the property from supporters of the Foundation Janet and Alistair Angas, who were most generous after the purchase by donating the proceeds of a goat muster conducted just as they were preparing to hand-over the ownership. I would sincerely like to thank Janet and Alistair for their generosity. Already successful surveys have commenced and we thank Birds SA and others for their contribution to our knowledge base.

WITCHELINA

The inaugural Grand Working Bee held in April was a great success. Added to the impressive work being done by our rotational managers, the vast improvements now give us facilities to accommodate science groups and the potential for conservation tourism in the future. The work done by our Councillor Chris Reed and Maria Reed and the five other rotational managers, plus the staff led by Conservation Programs Manager Alex Nankivell, is inspirational. Our relationship with the traditional owners, the Adnyamathanha and Arabana communities, is most important and we are discussing working further with them. I'm very pleased to see the recovery of Witchelina under good rains and good management.

BEACH ENERGY

The Foundation is privileged to have as one of its major supporters Beach Energy. Without any expectation and no requests for quid pro quo recognition, Managing Director, Reg Nelson, has led funding support totalling near to \$1 million. This has enabled us to conduct a comprehensive biological survey and have funds for the development of

Witchelina. Most recently, Beach Energy has agreed to provide \$400,000 over three years that is funding a third ecologist and supporting the operating costs of our conservation science staff. The Foundation presented the Witchelina survey findings to eighty Beach Energy staff who are very proud of their company's support of the Foundation.

PARA WOODLANDS

This woodland restoration progresses but is in danger of much of its work being undone by the likely impact of domestic cats from the large new urban development situated along its northern boundary. Cats are known to will kill large numbers of native birds, mammals and small reptiles. The Foundation is working with the Gawler Council on measures to limit the impacts of cats. We are also negotiating to add a further 102ha to the reserve in the near future.

FINNISS RIVER

We are also negotiating to purchase some 20% of the last remaining Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps to protect a significant number of nationally listed species. The purchase is approved subject to finalisation of a contract and division of title and we anticipate settlement in 2013.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All of this work is only possible through the amazing work of our many members and supporters. These include the Friends of the Foundation, the property managers, the small army of supporters including the Hunting and Conservation Branch of the Sporting Shooters Association, the members of our five standing committees and both the State and Federal Environment departments - particularly Allan Holmes, the State is so fortunate to have Allan as our head of department - our State and Federal ministers the Hon Paul Caica and the Hon Tony Burke. Our most professional and expert staff and particularly our Chief Executive Andrew Reilly, who has brought a professionalism and leadership regimen to the Foundation unlike any it has had before. Finally, our committed and hands-on (where necessary) Council oversee the considerable work of this Foundation. THANK YOU ALL.

Bob Lott President

NEW RELATIONSHIPS.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S PERSPECTIVE



GROWING NEW RELATIONSHIPS HAS BEEN A LARGE PART OF OUR WORK IN THE LAST YEAR AND HAS HELPED US TO COMMENCE SUBSTANTIAL NEW PROJECTS WITH THE STRONG SUPPORT OF NEW PARTNERS.

The expansion of the Water for Nature initiative is creating new partnership opportunities. Our relationship with the irrigator group the Bookpurnong Lock 4 Environmental Association is a key for us to work with the Riverland community. Already, water industry consultants SKM and SMEC have joined to assist, as has the Australian Conservation Foundation. We also receive excellent support from Commonwealth Environmental Water, the SA Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), and the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board. We are excited that further partners will join in our goal to create a large portfolio of community-driven, wetland watering and conservation projects.

During the year we also expanded our native vegetation and biodiversity offsets work through new Significant Environmental Benefit projects with WPG Resources and Arrium Mining involving conservation of Witchelina and research into the endangered Thick-billed Grasswren.

The vast range of conservation research opportunities at our nature reserves is developing deeper and stronger connections with research institutions. We successfully partnered in a joint research grant bids with Flinders University and we are developing new work with the University of South Australia, the University of Adelaide and the CSIRO.

We realigned the staff team to meet the challenging fundraising conditions and our expanding need for conservation ecology. Jenny Paterson, Karen Collins and Madeleine Wearne departed from office and member management roles, enabling Natasha Harper (Marketing and

Administration Coordinator) and Emily Rice (Communications Manager) to join us. Hiyoba Ghirmay was recruited into the Conservation Projects Officer role to replace Jen St Jack who moved to the SA Department for Water. And, after Hannah Dean covered the Accountant's role on a short term contract, Georgie Fiedler took up this position and has substantially strengthened our financial management and reporting.

On a national scale, we forged stronger relationships with interstate counterparts through membership of the Australian Conservation Land Alliance and involvement in the newly forming Water Trusts Alliance. These relationships are a sounding board to develop best practice in our programs. The Commonwealth Government kindly congratulated us on the high quality of the Plan of Management for Witchelina developed by our Conservation Programs Manager, Alex Nankivell. We were also pleased by the positive feedback from other Witchelina stakeholders including traditional owners, pastoralists, the Native Vegetation Council and DEWNR.

In difficult economic conditions for fundraising, the staff team developed wonderful ways for our supporters to play an active part supporting our work. The Walk for Nature held in the Adelaide Hills in October was a wonderful success orchestrated by our Fundraising Manager, Patrick Mentzel, with 456 people joining us in fundraising.

Our renewed focus on fundraising and communicating our message more widely has attracted many new members and giving by all our supporters is making it possible to maintain and expand our conservation activities for land, water and research work.

Looking into the new year, many of the new partnerships and relationships are about to grow as the projects gain momentum. We are confident that our circle of partners will continue to expand and their expertise and financial support will further assist the influence of the Foundation.

Andrew Reilly Chief Executive

NATURE FOUNDATION SA HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011-12

36

36 research projects and research scholarships granted a total of \$136,000.

473

473 members. 24% increase. 2011 = 382

5

5 nature reserves with a total of 500,000ha. Hiltaba adds 15.4% (78,000 ha) to total land area either owned/co-owned and managed/co-managed.

134,000

Over 134,000 plants planted in restoration programs at NFSA nature reserves.

300ML

300ML of environmental water supplied to Murray River wetlands.

6

6 major fundraising events.

196

196 native animal and 209 native plant species recorded at Witchelina Nature Reserve during Biological Survey.

456

456 walkers supported fundraising at the 2011 Walk for Nature.

61

61 ha of bushland sold to new owners by BushbankSA.

OUR LAND.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



TILIQUA

The Foundation has continued to encourage research into the Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard by partnering with Professor Michael Bull at Flinders University to secure a major Australian Research Council linkage grant, designed to discover more about the ecology and behaviour of this cryptic reptile, and how this new knowledge can be applied to develop beneficial management regimes.



PARA WOODLANDS

The 2012 Para Woodlands planting festival was arranged by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources project team and the Million Trees Program and attended by Nature Foundation SA staff, ETSA Utilities staff, school groups and the general public. 11,500 plants were planted over the course of the 3-day event. A diverse array of forbs, grasses and ground covers were planted into an area previously planted in 2007.



CYGNET PARK SANCTUARY

The Cygnet Park team has almost completed the planting component of the restoration plan for Cygnet Park Sanctuary. Over the past four years a dedicated group of staff from the Department of Water and Natural Resources and volunteers have planted over 247,314 seedlings in an extremely ambitious quest to restore this 300ha property. The 2012 planting festival involved supplementing the 2011 planting by adding a diverse mix of plants as well as grasses and threatened species to existing 1-year old plantings with a total of 21,000 plants being planted over the festival.



WITCHELINA

Witchelina is the Foundation's largest conservation reserve covering 4219 km² of South Australia's arid rangelands between Lake Eyre and Lake Torrens. The conclusion of the 2011-2012 financial year signifies the end of the second year of management for conservation outcomes. The year comprised of a variety of infrastructure works, research, and implementation of on-ground conservation programs. Some of the highlights included renovating the homestead and surrounding buildings, a major biological survey undertaken by EBS Ecology, ongoing bird surveys by Birds SA, significant contributions to vertebrate pest control by the Hunting and Conservation Branch of the Sporting Shooters Association and the beginning of a substantial research project investigating the ecology of the Thick-billed Grasswren.

We also collaborated with Flinders University in a successful research grant proposal to the Commonwealth Government's new Biodiversity Fund. The Foundation will receive \$704,000 over a four year research program to collect, germinate and assess the seed banks in Witchelina's various soils to inform future conservation actions at Witchelina and in the arid lands more generally.



HILTABA

Hiltaba is the Foundation's most recent conservation reserve. A former pastoral station in the Gawler Ranges adjacent the Gawler Ranges National Park, Hiltaba is a biologically distinct property supporting a huge variety of flora and fauna. In May this year, six observers from Birds SA visited Hiltaba to undertake a bird survey where they encountered the White-breasted Woodswallow, not previously recorded in the Gawler Ranges. The endemic Gawler Ranges Short-tailed Grasswren was also confirmed during the survey.

The Foundation has begun implementing its vertebrate pest control program that was given a head start by the previous owners who mustered 1,900 goats off the property in early 2012 and kindly donated a portion of the proceeds to the Foundation, which was greatly appreciated.

THE YEAR OF JUVENILES.

WATER FOR NATURE

THE RIVER ECOSYSTEM HAS DETERIORATED AND BECOME EXTREMELY STRESSED AS THE RESULT OF THE MEGA DROUGHT THAT PERSISTED FROM 1996 TO 2010. THE ABSENCE OF RAIN AND THE DWINDLING RIVER LEVEL HAD AN ENORMOUSLY DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON RIPARIAN NATIVE VEGETATION.

To our relief, the 2010-2011 peak flow of 90,000ML/day was such a phenomenal event that it brought a dying river back to life.

Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) seeds, after having been generously watered from this flood event, have started to germinate with masses of seedlings emerging beneath the trees that died during the drought.

Nature Foundation SA, through its Water for Nature (WFN) initiative, developed partnerships with the Bookpurnong Lock 4 Environmental Association (BL4EA) and Loxton-Bookpurnong Local Action Planning group LAP and set out to make the most of this opportunity by aiming to build resilience and support the seedlings through their initial growth stage.

In consultation with Dr. Anne Jensen and Loxton-Bookpurnong LAP, and through liaising with community (public and private) landholders, seven watering sites located between Berri and Loxton were identified for environmental watering. Clark's Floodplain which is located 6.5 km south of Berri and Thiele Flat, situated 1.5 km northeast of Loxton were well scoped and were anticipated to be watered by the end of March 2012.

Prior to the appointed watering time, a monitoring system was set up to follow-up the response of seedlings to the intervention. The preparation was intensely underway until the river flow started to rise again and nature took its own course and commenced to inundate above pool level wetlands. It was an unforeseen event, but excellent opportunity for the seedlings. Naturally, the planned watering event was deferred, however the work continues with WFN becoming engaged in developing community participation through training workshops and encouraging water donations.

Flow reached its peak 60,070ML/day on April 3rd, lower areas were inundated for the duration of 3-4 months with an almost complete recession in July. While natural flows have met the water requirement of Red Gum seedlings, the Black Box communities were left unwatered as they inhabit land at a higher elevation.

WFN has now identified the need to begin restoring Black Box woodlands at Clark's floodplain. In December 2012 the Foundation will water 20ha of Clark's floodplain to increase recruitment of seedlings and improve the health of established Black Box trees.

We are very keen to put our plans into action trusting the Black Box community will respond in kind.



In March 2012, Alex Nankivell, Conservation Programs Manager measures seedlings which reach chest height.



This picture was taken 4 months after the top photo, showing how the seedlings now tower over Alex.



Dr Anne Jensen inspecting inundated seedlings at Clark's Floodplain in May 2012.

ACQUIRING LAND.

LAND AND WATER ACQUISITION

THE LAND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE OVERSEES TWO OF THE FOUNDATION'S PROGRAMS, BUSHBANKSA AND NATURE GAINS. THE NATURE GAINS PROGRAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSING THE FEASIBILITY OF NEW PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS AND PROJECTS, AND DEVELOPING THIRD PARTY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (SEBS).

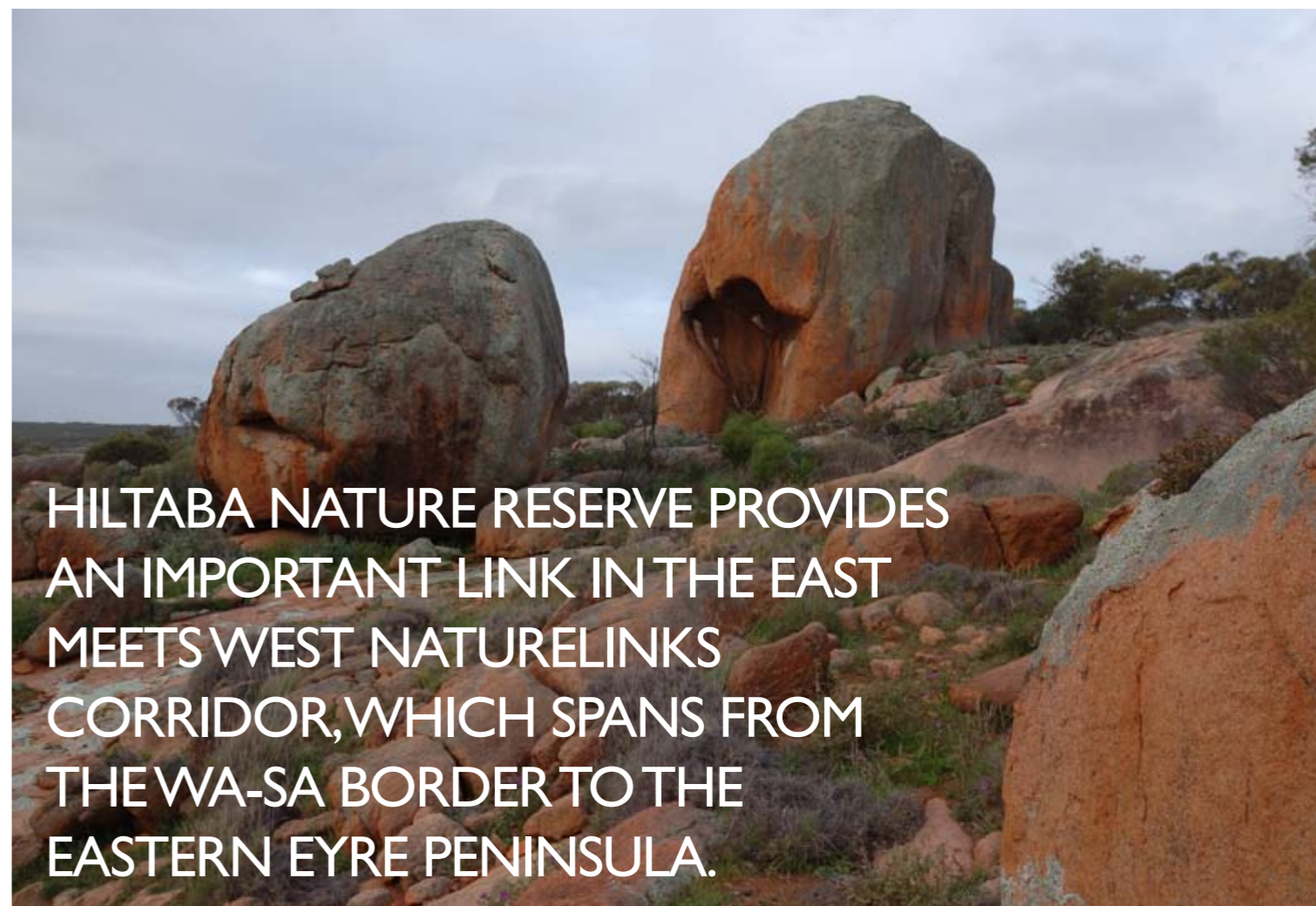
In October 2011, a property assessment methodology was developed by staff to ensure that all future decisions are consistent with NFSA, State and Commonwealth government conservation priorities. Four key areas were looked at as part of the conservation values alignment; funding sources for purchase and management, NFSA principles and objectives, and income, cost and complexity were assessed and ranked in order of importance.

Out of this assessment process Hiltaba Station emerged the clear priority for acquisition and has since been purchased. The Foundation has a further two properties currently under negotiation, one on the Finniss River comprising of a large section of Fleurieu Peninsula Swamp listed as a critically endangered ecological community at a national level and another property adjoining Para Woodlands.

BushbankSA is a revolving fund that buys, protects and then on-sells areas of significant vegetation. Land parcels are carefully selected and given Heritage Agreements before they go to their new owners. Net proceeds are returned to BushbankSA to fund further purchases. In the 2011-2012 financial year the program sold two lots at Ironbank and one in Beetaloo Valley, with one more property under contract. No new property purchases were made as the capital of the fund was rebuilt.



Beetaloo Valley, a BushbankSA property.



HILTABA NATURE RESERVE PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE EAST MEETS WEST NATURELINKS CORRIDOR, WHICH SPANS FROM THE WA-SA BORDER TO THE EASTERN EYRE PENINSULA.

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGES.

FUNDRAISING, MARKETING AND EVENTS

FUNDRAISING AND CORPORATE SUPPORT CONTINUED TO BE CHALLENGING IN THE 2011-2012 FINANCIAL YEAR, HOWEVER A GREAT NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS CONTINUED TO GIVE TO OUR APPEALS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS.

Nature Foundation SA's membership rose from the previous year with a total of 536 people signed up and committed to our cause.

The Foundation's appeals included Wildlife Mysteries of Lake Eyre, the River Life Project and Vital Work. Whilst the revenue raised was down by approximately 40% to the previous year we are grateful of all contributions and encourage greater support from more people in the future.

Mining companies continue to support our work by undertaking vegetation clearance offsets with us under the State Government Significant Environmental Benefits program which included transactions with Santos, Arrium and Beach Energy. Additionally, we were successful in receiving a commitment of \$400,000 from Beach Energy over the next 3 years to support the operating costs of our Conservation Science staff. We are encouraging mining companies to support our work and experience the advantages of our offset services.

Our inaugural Walk for Nature in October 2011 was a resounding success with 456 people joining us on the 3km or 6km walk starting at Bridgewater Oval and meandering through beautiful scenery along the Heysen Trail. We had a total of twelve generous sponsors who contributed cash or in-kind products or services to help deliver the walk to our supporters. All participants were encouraged to raise funds through their networks in support of their walk which helped us to get over halfway to our fundraising target of \$30,000. We believe that the event will continue to grow and with the walk scheduled at the same time and place in 2012 we are confident that it will raise greater funds to support our programs.

The 30th Anniversary Dinner was a magnificent celebration of the many proud achievements towards environmental conservation in our state. His Excellency, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR Governor of South Australia joined us for the occasion along with the late Warren Bonython AO, Barbara Hardy AO and 191 distinguished guests. During the evening there were a number of fundraising activities including a raffle, silent auction and contribution envelopes. We had a diverse array of items donated by our sponsors including paintings, photographs, sculptures and trips away to wonderful destinations in South Australia, to highlight just a few.

The Foundation was then invited by the Governor to a reception at Government House in May 2012 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary. Our supporters attended and three significant contributors were recognised for their efforts towards our projects with certificates of appreciation. These were the Riverland West Local Action Planning Group for their work at the Hogwash Bend watering project, the Bookpurnong to Lock 4 Environmental Association for their great support for the River Life Project in the Riverland and to Elizabeth Law-Smith for her generous contributions over many years at Para Woodlands.

Water for Nature is now becoming a significant program in our conservation efforts along the River Murray. To help fund the on ground management and equipment required for the upcoming watering events we have approached corporates to donate financial and in-kind support. This support is vital to the ongoing survival of regenerated seedlings along the river and we require greater support to increase our capacity to deliver this program.

Overall, our fundraising has been focused on generating support for specific programs. In the current economic environment we are finding it challenging to raise funds, however with a focused resolve in all areas we hope that we will prosper in the upcoming financial year.



His Excellency, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, Governor of South Australia presents Elizabeth Law-Smith with a certificate recognising her contribution to the Foundation.



Nature Foundation SA 30th Anniversary celebrations.

Above and top; 450 participants take part in the first annual Walk for Nature.

CASE STUDIES.

KEY CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

WITCHELINA BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

(SPONSORED BY BEACH ENERGY)

TWENTY-FIVE STAFF FROM EBS ECOLOGY AND VOLUNTEERS DESCENDED ON WITCHELINA FOR TWO WEEKS AT THE END OF OCTOBER 2011, TO CONDUCT THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE FLORA AND FAUNA SURVEY OF WITCHELINA NATURE RESERVE TO DATE.

The purpose was to survey the key land systems, environments and habitats of the Reserve, building on existing species lists, gathering information on the distribution of flora and fauna species, and assessing current environmental conditions.

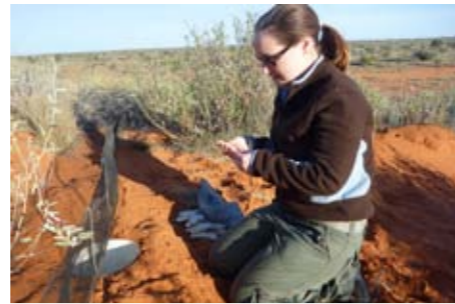
All the major land-systems of the Reserve were represented. Eighteen fauna sites were surveyed for reptiles, frogs, mammals and birds. Six of the sites consisted of a large grid of permanent pits, left in situ at the completion of the survey to be re-surveyed in the future. Fourteen permanent flora monitoring sites were also established.

No fewer than 800 captures and many more observations were made of small mammals, reptiles and frogs, as well as records being taken of scats, tracks, diggings. Results have confirmed that just

under 200 species of mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds were recorded. Noteworthy species important due to their threatened conservation status either at State or National levels include, the Plains Mouse (*Pseudomys australis*), Thick-billed Grasswren (*Amytornis textilis modestus*), Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*), and Black-breasted Buzzard (*Hamirostra melanosternon*). Although not endangered, the capture of a Gwarder (*Pseudonaja mengdeni*) was also important as there have only been a few of the species recorded in South Australia. Nearly all animals recorded were in good condition, with many showing signs of recent breeding – likely to be as a result of the exceptional conditions in the region over the last few years.

All plant vouchers have been confirmed with the State Herbarium revealing 193 native plant species, and fourteen exotic species. The State rare Australian Broomrape (*Orobanche cernua australiana*) was recorded in dune habitat in the southern areas.

This survey was made possible by the generous support of Beach Energy who have a keen interest in Witchelina Nature Reserve and the conservation of the outback environment.



EBS Ecology volunteer checks pitfall traps.



Earless Dragon photographed during the survey.

LAND GRAZING

GRAZING BY DOMESTIC AND FERAL ANIMALS HAS CAUSED MAJOR CHANGES TO THE LANDSCAPE IN THE ARID PARTS OF AUSTRALIA. ALTHOUGH NATIVE HERBIVORES GRAZE, THE INCREASE IN TOTAL GRAZING PRESSURE FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF RABBITS, SHEEP, CATTLE AND GOATS (AMONG OTHER SPECIES) HAS BEEN ENORMOUS.

Unnaturally high grazing pressure causes desertification through soil erosion and reduction of vegetation cover. Overgrazing reduces recruitment of younger plants, causing population declines over time. Many species of the plants

that characterise the arid Australian landscape are threatened by overgrazing. These include such iconic species as Myall and Mulga.

Reducing grazing pressure has been a major focus of management for conservation on Nature Foundation SA's Witchelina Nature Reserve. When the Foundation took ownership in 2010, all domestic stock were removed. A commissioned aerial survey estimated there were up to 5000 goats on the reserve in July 2010. Subsequently 2,500 of those goats have been removed during organised musters, aerial and ground shooting.

As a result, total grazing pressure has been substantially reduced, and we are seeing recruitment of young shrubs and loss of grazelines



Feral goats photographed near the gorge at Witchelina.

in large shrubs – a sure sign that the landscape is starting to recover. Future management for conservation will remove the remaining goats to ensure further, sustained recovery from artificially high grazing pressure.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

WITHOUT COMMUNITY SUPPORT MANY CONSERVATION INITIATIVES WILL NEVER BEAR FRUIT.

Nature Foundation SA is fortunate to work with the Bookpurnong Lock 4 Environmental Association, and Loxton to Bookpurnong Local Action Planning Committee in the Water for Nature initiative. Together the three partners have been planning environmental watering and community monitoring. The aim of the joint project is to sustain riverine native forests in the Bookpurnong Lock 4 area of the Murray River.

In May 2012 Nature Foundation SA organised a

workshop to train volunteers in techniques to monitor vegetation responses to environmental watering.

The trained community members will be crucial in demonstrating the value of environmental watering at Clark's floodplain in December 2012. Their skills and local knowledge will also promote awareness of environmental issues on the River.

A feature of this project is that many of those involved from the Loxton-Berri community are those people who rely on having a healthy river for their livelihoods. They clearly share Nature Foundation SA's aspiration of a sustainable community in a healthy environment.



Volunteers Kath McKinnon (left) and Sussie Pendle take part in the workshop.

FAIRY TERN RESEARCH

IN JUNE 2012 CLARE MANNING FILED HER NFSA RESEARCH GRANT REPORT, FOR HER PROJECT "DETERMINING THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE FAIRY TERN (STERNULA NEREIS NEREIS) IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA". THIS LITTLE BIRD, FOUND ALONG THE COASTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, TASMANIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA, IS LISTED AS VULNERABLE WITH AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF AROUND 5,000.

Funding from Nature Foundation SA helped to part-fund three surveys, covering over 1,500km of coastline along South Australia, with a total of 255 survey sites – including a single adult recorded on Kangaroo Island!

This data helped assess potential Fairy Tern breeding sites in SA, identifying population numbers, breeding events and key threats. These surveys contribute to an up to date state-wide

Fairy Tern census which will aid a long-term strategy for the recovery of the species.

Sites were visited monthly either by foot, boat or kayak throughout the SA Fairy Tern breeding season of September to March. Nesting colonies of Fairy Terns are usually easily detected by their behaviour and calls.

Clare says of the work "After hosting a series of information sessions across the state to encourage community members to register for the census it was incredibly pleasing with the overwhelming support received from both the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources staff and volunteers. There was continued support shown by the committed and energetic volunteers in the project, which could not have achieved its outcomes without their participation. Consequently, knowledge gaps have been narrowed and a benchmark dataset for a future recovery plan has been attained".



Volunteers survey the Fairy Terns.

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION GROUP

IN OCTOBER 2011 THE SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION GROUP CONDUCTED ITS SECOND FIELD SURVEY OF ARKAROOA – THE FIRST SURVEY THERE TOOK PLACE IN SEPTEMBER 2009 DURING A PERIOD OF DROUGHT. AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE RECENT SURVEY WAS A GROUP OF YOUNG STUDENTS WHO WERE ENABLED TO ATTEND BY A NATURE FOUNDATION SA COMMUNITY GRANT.

The teenage students participated in the live-trapping of mammals & reptiles, bird sightings, vegetation sampling and Indigenous and European cultural surveys. Survey results were recorded in the SA Fauna & Flora database. The students were allocated to a different scientific leader every day

to gain a broad understanding of the techniques, sampling and methodology in each discipline.

Each day brought many new experiences, including learning to identify animal and plant species, how to set trap-lines, how to handle animals, how to prepare specimens for museum records and much more.

The expedition seems to have sparked an interest in science and conservation among the students. One young student said that "The experience taught me a lot, and has shaped my future goals."

Another young student had been looking forward to seeing Dunnarts for weeks leading up to her trip, and wasn't disappointed, being able to hold three males on one outing and was then shown how to fill in the data sheet for them. Asked what was the



most exciting thing about the work she said, "There were two points which were my most exciting. The first was being able to hold and release a number of Stripe-faced Dunnarts, the other being allowed to release a bat. These unique experiences were my biggest highlights."

WHY WE GRANT.

RESEARCH, PROJECTS AND EDUCATION

OVER THE MANY YEARS THAT WE HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTING OUR DONOR'S PRECIOUS FUNDS THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES IN THE NATURE OF PROJECTS WE SUPPORT.

In the early days we rarely received requests to support marine or freshwater projects but now we are regularly obliged to consider and fund excellent and important work. This includes studies of: fish, ranging from mulloway to sharks; seagrasses and sea urchins; giant cuttlefish; invertebrate communities on artificial reefs; aquatic pollution and freshwater native fish; and, a host of other

important topics. These studies have become increasingly relevant as the State moves to create marine parks.

The recent acquisition of properties has also caused a change in the nature of our projects. We are determined to base the management of these reserves on the best applied science available and, given the patchy nature of existing information, it follows that we have to sponsor some such work ourselves. An excellent example of this is the proposed study of soil seedbanks at Witchelina Nature Reserve. The recovery of native vegetation after the removal of grazing by sheep depends on

the adequacy of the data which comes from such work and they should also help us devise practical methods to enhance vegetation restoration.

These changes in emphasis don't mean that we have forgotten our traditional projects: we still support postgraduate scholarships and community grants for the Oliphant Science Awards, Friends of Parks and the like. Of course we could do more if we had more money!

RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTS 2011-2012

UNIVERSITY/GROUP	RESEARCHERS	TITLE
Flinders University	Dr Kerstin Bilgmann, Dr Luciana Moller, Dr Guido Parra	Population dynamics of a top marine predator impacted by fishery operational interactions
Zoos SA	Dr Elisa Sparrow	Ecology and warren architecture of southern hairy-nosed wombats in the Far West and on Eyre Peninsula
University of Adelaide	Dr Lucy Woolford & Dr Wayne Boardman	Investigating the causes of a newly emerging disease syndrome (alopecia, weight loss and mortality) in Southern Hairy nosed wombats in the Murraylands district of SA)
SARDI - Aquatic Sciences	A/Prof Simon Goldsworthy & Dr Peter Shaughnessy	Trends in the abundance of New Zealand fur seal pups on Kangaroo Island
SARDI - Aquatic Sciences	A/Prof Simon Goldsworthy, Dr Jennifer Lavers & Dr Mark Carey	Assessment of the status of the flesh-foot Shearwater in South Australia: population status, subspecies status and foraging ecology
Zoos SA/Adelaide Zoo	Dr Elisa Sparrow	Ecology and non-lethal management of southern hairy-nosed wombats in the Far West and on Eyre Peninsula
University of Adelaide	Mr John Butler & Ass Prof David Paton	Assessment of pollination rates and colonisation of revegetation areas of Cygnet Park
Nature Glenelg Trust	Ms Cath Dickson	Bringing the community and researchers together in the search for SA's newest reptile- distribution and ecology of the Eared Worm-Lizard (Aprasia aurita) in the South East of South Australia
Nature Glenelg Trust	Dr Michael Hammer	Review of the post-drought recovery of the nationally vulnerable Dwarf Galaxias (Galaxiella pusilla) in the South East of South Australia.
Flinders University	Dr Molly Whalen & A/Prof Duncan Mackay	Prescribed burning and the restoration of ecosystem functions in mallee vegetation.
Flinders University	Dr Aaron Fenner	Rethinking artificial burrow designs to improve conservation outcomes for the endangered pygmy bluetongue lizard, Tiliqua adelaidensis
SA Museum	Terry Reardon	Using portable marine radar for assessing flight altitude and commuting routes for the critically endangered Southern bentwing bat.
TOTAL RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED \$83,196.63		

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS 2011-2012

UNIVERSITY	STUDENT	DEGREE	TITLE
University of SA	Cara Bourne	Honours	Social Structure in the Desert Skink (biophilis inomata) on the Eyre Peninsula
University of Adelaide	Casey Harris	Honours	The effect of feral predator control on the seroprevalence of Toxoplasma gondii and Neospora caninum
Flinders University	Christine Evans	Honours	Evidence for an acoustical arms race: do hosts respond to the song of brood parasites?
Flinders University	Darren Kennedy	Honours	Habitat use of the southern Australian bottlenose Dolphin (Tursiops sp.) in Port Pirie, Spencer Gulf, South Australia
Flinders University	John Marshall	PhD	Spatial invasion ecology and genetics of blackberries in native vegetation of the Mt Lofty Ranges
University of Melbourne	Claire McLean	PhD	Geographic variation of colour variants in tawny dragon lizards: potential causes and role in biodiversity
University of Adelaide	Thomas Barnes	PhD	Unravelling fish movement mysteries: the spatial and temporal scale of mulloway (Argyrosomus japonicus) migration assessed with satellite archival tags and its relationship with proposed park boundaries
Flinders University	Douglas J Green	PhD	A study of dispersal of a common Australian damselfly, ischnura heterorstickta, using a mark-recapture method
University of Adelaide	Amanda McLean	PhD	Conservation and management of an endangered marsupial
Flinders University	Jessica Marsh	PhD	Burning for ecosystem restoration: The impacts of fire on arachnid faunal and functional diversity in fragmented plant communities
University of Adelaide	Rebecca West	PhD	Returning warru to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in South Australia
Flinders University	Ryan Baring	PhD	An investigation of the role that floating macrophytes play as a food resource for invertebrates and fish fauna in the surf zone of sandy beaches.
University of Adelaide	Gretchen L Grammer (Waggy)	PhD	Using Otolith-based marine chronologies to examine coastal upwelling areas in relation to climate variability
University of Adelaide	Melissa Jensen	Honours	Habitat use of the western barred bandicoot (Perameles bouganville) at Arid Recovery
University of Adelaide	Rebecca Clemas	Honours	Burrowing bettong (Bettongia lesueur) browsing impacts as a function of distance from a warren
Flinders University	Christine Evans	PhD	Does post-colonisation fire ecology lead to adaptive divergence in superb fairy-wrens?
University of Adelaide	Alena Mogoutnov	Masters	Remnant Tree Decline in Agricultural Regions of South Australia
University of Adelaide	Chloe McSkimming	PhD	Forecasting the future of seagrass ecosystems under global and local impacts
Flinders University	Stefan Szwedzinski	Honours	Does nest predation contribute to the decline of Little Penguin (Eudyptula minor) on Granite Island?
Flinders University	Danny Male	PhD	Restoring the resilience of degraded native vegetation remnants on Kangaroo Island
Flinders University	Rebecca Dew	Honours	Social Behaviour of the unique, highly social, South Australian Bee Exoneurella tridentate.
TOTAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AWARDED \$45,805.60			

COMMUNITY GRANTS 2011-2012

UNIVERSITY/GROUP	APPLICANT	TITLE
Scientific Expedition Group	Graeme Oats	Scientific Expedition Group - Arkaroola Biological Field Survey
Scientific Expedition Group	Graeme Oats	Scientific Expedition Group- East Nullarbor Biological Field Survey 2012
SA Conservation Research Divers(SACReD)	Janine Baker	Rare & Endemic Marine Invertebrates of South Australia: Educational Materials
Oliphant Science Awards		For the most outstanding junior, primary and secondary entry with a nature conservation theme
Friends of Parks		Annual Awards and Annual Forum
TOTAL COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED \$11,380.00		

RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTS	\$83,196.63
RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS	\$45,805.60
COMMUNITY GRANTS	\$11,380.00
TOTAL NEW GRANTS 2011-2012	\$140,382.23

OUR PEOPLE.

NATURE FOUNDATION SA PEOPLE 2011-12

Patron & Donor Liaison	Barbara Hardy AO
Patron	Dick Smith AO
President	Bob Lott
Vice President	David Moyle AM
Treasurer	Stephen Warren
Secretary	Susie Herzberg
Executive Councillors	Chris Reed Dr Bob Sharrad AM
Councillors	Megan Dyson (until February 2012) David Hansman Paul-John Mudie (until March 2012) Megan Dyson Dr Rob Morrison OAM
Chief Executive	Andrew Reilly
Accountant	Georgie Fiedler (from August 2011)



Patrons Dick Smith AO and Dr Barbara Hardy AO together at the NFSA Barbara Hardy Testimonial Dinner in October 2009.

PATRON & DONOR LIAISON

Dr Barbara Hardy AO has been working in the environmental field in a voluntary capacity since the early 1970s. During this time she spent five years at the Flinders University of South Australia studying the Earth Sciences (1974-79), following a Science Degree at The University of Adelaide in 1947 (majoring in Chemistry). She has been a Commissioner of the Australian Heritage Commission, President of the National Parks Foundation of South Australia (now Nature Foundation SA), Founding President of the Investigator Science and Technology Centre, Chairman of the South Australian Landcare Committee and a member of the Bookmark Biosphere Trust, amongst a number of other roles.

Barbara Hardy was appointed an Officer of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1987, an Honorary Doctorate from Flinders University in 1993, as well as an Advance Australia Award 1991, SA Great Award 1992, Institution of Engineers Medal 1992, ABC Eureka Award for the Advancement of Science 1994, and was named South Australian Citizen of the Year in 1996. She

is now a Companion of the Engineers Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Energy. From 2001 until 2007, she was the Member from Australia in the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED), a major international project initiated and funded by the Japanese Ministry for Environment.

Barbara Hardy's principal interests are in ecologically sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, environmental valuation, renewable energy production and use, and in business and industrial matters, especially as they affect the environment within which we all live. The work of NFSA has benefited from Barbara's untiring commitment for thirty years and we are very pleased that she chose to become our Patron in June 2011. Barbara was instrumental in writing the 30 year history of the Foundation which we celebrated with her in October.

PATRON

Dick Smith, founder of Australian Geographic magazine, met Barbara Hardy in 1986 and learned of the existence of the (then) National Parks Foundation of SA and our work at Coongie Lakes Wetlands. The Foundation was honoured to have Dick attend the Barbara Hardy AO Testimonial Dinner in October 2009, when he challenged the corporate community to match his donation to the Barbara Hardy Fund for Nature. We were very pleased when, in June 2011, Dick agreed to become our Patron, as we appreciate what an incredibly busy man he is - an Australian entrepreneur, businessman, aviator, and political activist.

Administration & Marketing Coordinator	Natasha Harper (from January 2012)
Administrative Support Officer	Karen Collins (until January 2012)
Communications Manager	Emily Rice (from June 2012)
Conservation Programs Manager	Alex Nankivell
Conservation Projects Officer	Jen St Jack (until December 2011)
Conservation Projects Officer	Hiyoba Ghirmay (from February 2012)
Donor Relationships Manager	Madeleine Wearne (until June 2012)
Fundraising & Marketing Manager	Patrick Mentzel
Office Manager	Jenny Paterson (until January 2012)

EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS

PRESIDENT



Bob Lott is an owner and Director of Venue*Tix, Weslo Staff, Thebarton Theatre and Quorn Quandongs. He is also a biochemist, producer

and manager of major events and a theatrical entrepreneur. Bob has served on numerous boards and councils, including the Festival of Arts, the Royal Show, and was Deputy Chairman of the Jubilee 150 Board. He is an enthusiastic environmentalist and supporter of indigenous artists. He has been a Nature Foundation SA Councillor since December 2003 and President from October 2010.

VICE PRESIDENT

David Moyle AM has occupied senior academic and leadership roles at Flinders University and has been a leading environmental advocate in SA. He has served extensively on statutory committees

including Chair of the National Parks and Wildlife Council and Deputy Chair of the Native Vegetation Council. He is currently a Commissioner of the Environment, Resources and Development Court and recently retired as a lecturer in the School of Natural and Built Environments at UniSA. David is also a past President of Nature Foundation SA and the Nature Conservation Society of SA. He has been a Nature Foundation SA Councillor since August 1989. He has been a Nature Foundation SA Councillor since August 1989.

TREASURER



Stephen Warren is a Fellow of CPA Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Stephen is currently employed by Fyfe Pty Ltd, a land and resource development consultancy. He has served on several boards in the past and is currently the Chairman of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of SA. Stephen's interest in the environment stems from his passion to hike and cycle in our wonderful natural environment. Stephen joined Nature Foundation SA Council as the Treasurer in April 2010.

SECRETARY



Susie Herzberg is the Manager of Manyara Vineyard. She currently serves on the Boards of the Playford Memorial Trust and is a member of the SA Wine Industry Association Environment Committee. Susie has worked as an urban and environmental planner with the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments and spent several years as a lecturer in the Architecture and Planning Faculty at the University of Adelaide. She was a member of the Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium for 14 years, three of those as Chairman. She also has served on the Board of the South Australian Housing Trust, the Patawalonga Catchment Management Board, the City-State Forum and the State Cycling Council. Susie is a Past President of the Australian Institute of Urban Studies (SA). She has been a Nature Foundation SA Councillor since October 2006 and took up the position of Secretary in October 2010.

EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR



Chris Reed has had a long-term passion for the land and environment. He is a fourth generation farmer from Burra and still runs a farm that has been in his family since 1866. On leaving school, in addition to working the farm, he became a professional wool classer, and worked in many pastoral sheds across the rangelands of Australia. After spending ten years in local government, he became involved in landcare through the Eastern Districts Soil Board. After completing two terms as the Presiding Member of the SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board, he joined Nature Foundation as an Executive Councillor and Chairman of the Property Management Committee in February 2011.

EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR



Dr Robert Sharrad is a field biologist who has spent much of his life in the bush teaching trainee teachers and rangers or conducting wildlife surveys. His particular interest is in small vertebrates, including reptiles. Bob has recently retired as a lecturer in ecology and animal behaviour at the Flinders University of SA. He has been an active participant in a number of scientific and conservation groups including: Native Vegetation Authority, Reserves Planning and Management Committee, Royal Society of SA, Chair of the Fire Research Coordination Group, State Councillor of the Ecological Society of Australia and Friends of Cleland (first Chair). He has been a Nature Foundation SA Councillor since November 1989 and a past president of the Foundation.

COUNCILLORS



Dr David Hansman is a semi-retired pathologist who was Director of Microbiology at the Women's and Children's Hospital for more than 25 years.

He has had a lifetime interest in, and concern for, the natural environment. He has belonged to and supported numerous national and state conservation groups and has been an enthusiastic supporter of the acquisition and maintenance of nature reserves in Australia and overseas. He has been a Nature Foundation SA Councillor since September 2003.



Dr Rob Morrison OAM is a retired Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at Flinders University, and has recently retired as the President

of the Royal Zoological Society of SA, which is responsible for Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Zoo. Rob has written dozens of articles and 28 books on science and natural history, and is co-author of 13 more. A science and environment broadcaster for 40 years on television and radio, he has won many national and international awards, including a Churchill Fellowship, the Michael Daley Award for Science Journalism and two Eureka Prizes. In 2005, he was the inaugural winner of the South Australian Award for Excellence in Science Communication. Together with Dr Deane Hutton, he co-hosted the long-running national television program Curiosity Show, which screened in 14 countries. Rob is a member of the Board of the newly established Australian Science Media Centre, Patron of National Science Week SA and in 2004 was awarded The Order of Australia for his Services to Conservation and Science Communication. He has been a Nature Foundation SA Councillor since December 1995.

FELLOWS OF THE FOUNDATION

Clive Armour	Elizabeth Law Smith
Avis Bonnin	Betty Lewis
Dr Mark Bonnin AM	Bob Lewis
Warren Bonython AO	David Moyle AM
David Cleland	William (Bill) Nankivell
John Daenke	Julian Reid
Barbara Hardy AO	Dr Robert Sharrad AM
Eric Jackson	Dick Smith AO

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Robert Gerard AO	Reg Nelson
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COMMITTEES *Denotes Chairperson

COMMITTEES	COMMITTEE MEMBERS		EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Research, Projects & Education	Susie Herzberg* Colin Harris Dr David Hansman Dr Peter Copley	Dr Bob Sharrad* Greg Johnston Dr Rob Morrison OAM	Jenny Paterson Natasha Harper
Land & Water Acquisition: BushbankSA & Nature Gains	David Moyle AM* Megan Dyson Kym Nicolson	Bob Lott Bob Inns Bob Laws	Alex Nankivell
Water for Nature	David Moyle AM* Peter Hoey Steve Clark	Bob Lott Anne Jensen Peter Forward	Jen St Jack Alex Nankivell Hiyoba Ghirmay
Property Management	Chris Reed* David Moyle Greg Johnston	Bob Lott Kaz Herbst Bob Sharrad	Alex Nankivell
Fundraising, Marketing & Events	Bob Lott* Dr Barbara Hardy AO Nicholas Newland Megan Rusk	Patrick Mentzel Dr Rob Morrison OAM Adam Moyle	Emily Rice
Finance, Governance & Legal	Stephen Warren* Susie Herzberg	Paul-John Mudie Megan Dyson	Georgie Fiedler
Para Woodlands - Steering Committee	Richard de Groot* Dr Bob Sharrad Elizabeth Law-Smith	Mike Williams* Bob Lott Jose Facelli	Andrew Reilly Jacqui Hillman (minutes secretary)

SHINING VOLUNTEERS.

VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS CONTINUE TO SHINE ON OUR PROPERTIES AND AT FUNDRAISING EVENTS.

Witchelina Nature Reserve has been privileged to have rotational managers involved with the day to day undertaking of maintenance and conservation tasks. These tasks have included countless hours cleaning up and renovating the Homestead, including painting, clearing the yards and grounds and landscaping them into more beautiful areas. Work was undertaken in cleaning and organising the workshop area, setting up the new solar power system, maintaining machinery and improving the Overseer's House. On the land there have been a number of contributions

including fencing, covering wells, feral animal control and rabbit warren mapping.

The Witchelina Working Bee was held in May and 37 volunteers helped paint, clean the old shearer's quarters, remove an old rusted tank, repair the roof on the old shearer's quarters, remove internal fencing and plant a local native garden.

Our revegetation properties Cygnet Park Sanctuary and Para Woodlands saw a host of volunteers joining us and staff from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources for planting days. Thousands of native species were planted throughout the properties, with both

properties seeing positive plant species retention.

The Friends of Nature Foundation SA have continued their stellar efforts in volunteering at our properties and events, including Witchelina, Womad Earth Station, Walk for Nature, Water for Nature Reception, 30th Anniversary Dinner, AGM and our Christmas Drinks.

Nature Foundation SA is enormously assisted by the efforts of our volunteers and as we continue to strive for further environmental outcomes we are relying more than ever on volunteer contributions to deliver these in a timely manner.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN BONYTHON



LONG STANDING MEMBERS WERE SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE PASSING OF GREAT FRIEND OF THE FOUNDATION WARREN BONYTHON ON MONDAY THE 2ND OF APRIL 2012. WARREN WAS 95 YEARS OF AGE. THE CONSERVATION COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA MOURNS HIS PASSING AND EXTENDS ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO BUNTY AND FAMILY.

Warren was one of the founding 'heroes' of the National Parks Foundation of South Australia which later became Nature Foundation SA. In 1981 Warren, Barbara Hardy AO, David Cleland and Dr Mark Bonnin AO met and discussed the

need to increase community support for nature conservation and to seek to financially support the acquisition of national parks. Little did they realise that this initiative 30 years on would lead to the dynamic organisation that Nature Foundation SA has become. Warren served as President of the Foundation from 1985 to 1989 and for many years following as a member of the Foundation Council. He was awarded the highest honour the Foundation can bestow as a Fellow in 2004 recognising his dedication, knowledge and support.

Warren has left a lasting legacy for all South Australians and the Foundation is honoured to have had the privilege of the great contribution of this generous and committed man.

Thank you Warren and good bye

REMEMBERING BETTY LEWIS



AT THE FOUNDATION WE WERE SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF BETTY LEWIS IN EARLY MARCH AT THE AGE OF 94.

Betty was a great contributor to the Foundation and both she and her late husband Bob were awarded the honour of Fellow of the Foundation in 2001. Betty had been a member of the governing Council for fourteen years and with her husband Bob, was instrumental in the development of the Mount George Conservation Park through the contribution of bushland at their Mount George property.

Betty was both respected and loved at the Foundation. Her hard work, support of her fellow Council members, and her integrity were a hallmark of her service.

The Council of Nature Foundation SA was honoured and very grateful that Betty's family selected the Foundation as the beneficiary for donations associated with Betty's funeral tributes. We will be sure to put these funds to good use in a practical way to achieve a conservation benefit that we know Betty would support.



Volunteer at the Kangaroo Island Planting Festival, of which Cygnet Park Sanctuary was a part.



Rotational Manager, Janet Bannon volunteers at the Witchelina working bee.



Uni SA student helps out as part of the weekend planting event at Cygnet Park Sanctuary.



Volunteers enjoy a sundowner at the Witchelina working bee.



Removing the old water tank at Witchelina.



WE ARE CONSERVING SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPECIES AND LANDSCAPES FOR THE FUTURE.



FINANCIALS

ABN: 24 131 531 874 | FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

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INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

COUNCIL'S REPORT 30 JUNE 2012

Your council members submit the financial report of the Foundation for the financial year ended 30 June 2012.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Council members

The names of Council members throughout the year and at the date of this report are: Bob Lott, David Moyle, Susie Herzberg, Stephen Warren, Bob Sharrad, David Hansman, Megan Dyson (resigned 19 March 2012), Rob Morrison OAM, Chris Reed, Paul-John Mudie (resigned 19 March 2012)

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Foundation during the financial year was the raising of funds to undertake conservation projects and research and the fostering of community understanding of the value of natural heritage.

Significant changes


No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

2. Operating results and review of operations for the year

Operating result

The surplus of the Foundation for the financial year amounted to \$1,279,203 (2011: \$2,580,544).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Council:

President  *Bob Lott*

Treasurer  *Stephen Warren*

Dated **3rd October 2012**

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
INCOME			
Bequests and donations		1,809,642	2,231,122
Commonwealth Government assistance	2	647,132	23,334
Fundraising revenue		221,789	101,278
Green Card Commission		16,269	14,263
Interest received		358,549	260,951
Member subscriptions		14,260	13,804
Other income		3,000	2,634
Profit on sale of Fixed Assets		258,732	-
State Government assistance	2	255,000	723,502
Witchelina income		357,953	278,578
		3,942,327	3,649,466
EXPENDITURE			
Auditors remuneration		4,674	5,684
Finance costs		4,303	12,957
Frances expenses - Buloke project		-	2,818
Communications/Stationary/Printing		79,226	44,575
Depreciation and amortisation expense		25,266	21,491
Employee benefits expense		531,518	443,468
Fundraising Events		69,793	54,444
Insurance		2,822	2,797
Legal / Statutory fees		13,812	-
Loss on sale of Fixed Assets		-	5,844
Office expenses		37,193	16,262
Para Woodlands expenses		223,035	204,066
Postage / Freight		6,783	2,866
Research grants / Community grants		227,480	174,428
Sundry expenses		1,290	2,384
Tiliqua expenses		21,727	24,138
Transfer to Project funds committed	8 (a)	533,405	(49,785)
Water for Nature expenses		14,335	2,186
Witchelina expenses		358,187	98,299
Hiltaba expenses		77,360	-
Asset impairment	14	430,914	-
Total Expenses		2,663,124	1,068,922
Surplus for the year		1,279,203	2,580,544
Accumulated surplus at the beginning of the financial year		8,153,214	5,572,670
Transfer to Para Woodlands Capital Reserve	1 (d)	(5,000,000)	-
Accumulated surplus at the end of the financial year		4,432,417	8,153,214

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		6,636,719	5,774,596
Trade and other receivables	3	331,642	116,547
Other financial assets	4	673,078	741,717
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		7,641,439	6,632,860
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	4,841,791	3,931,510
Land held for sale	14	905,994	1,652,252
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		5,747,785	5,583,762
		13,389,224	12,216,622
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Mortgage	6	13,440	508,113
Trade and other payables		41,270	146,667
Employee benefits		24,609	44,575
Other liabilities		983,495	350,090
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,062,814	1,049,445
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,062,814	1,049,445
		12,326,410	11,167,177
NET ASSETS			
		12,326,410	11,167,177
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Reserves		7,893,993	3,013,963
Accumulated surplus		4,432,417	8,153,214
TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY		12,326,410	11,167,177

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

2012	Accumulated Surplus \$	Asset Revaluation Surplus \$	Capital Reserve \$	General Reserves \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2011	8,153,214	613,963		2,400,000	11,167,177
Increase / (Decrease) in reserves during the year		(119,970)			(119,970)
Surplus for the year	1,279,203				1,279,203
Para Woodlands Capital Reserve	(5,000,000)		5,000,000		-
Sub-total	(3,720,797)	(119,970)	5,000,000	-	1,159,233
Balance at 30 June 2012	4,432,417	493,993	5,000,000	2,400,000	12,326,410
2011	Accumulated Surplus \$	Asset Revaluation Surplus \$	General Reserves \$	TOTAL \$	
Balance at 1 July 2010	5,572,670	474,847	2,400,000	8,447,517	
Increase in reserves during the year	-	139,116	-	139,116	
Surplus for the year	2,580,544			2,580,544	
Sub-total	2,580,544	139,116	-	2,719,660	
Balance at 30 June 2011	8,153,214	613,963	2,400,000	11,167,177	

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

I Statement of significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act South Australia. The Council has determined that the Foundation is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(b) Property, plant and equipment

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Foundation commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

In the event the carrying amount of land held for sale is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in the income statement or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a re-valued asset. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present.

(c) Financial assets

Investments held are originally recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at fair value which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through profit.

(d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

As at 30 June 2012, the Foundation holds in cash investments \$5 million of capital funds provided by an individual donor; specifically for the Para Woodlands project. These funds are specifically dedicated to the generating of income for the operational expense of the Para Woodlands project and will be the subject of a management deed currently under preparation.

(e) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Foundation's liability for employee benefits arising

from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting year. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(f) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Foundation is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997

(g) Leases

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership that are transferred to the Foundation are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the Foundation will obtain ownership of the asset or over the term of the lease.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor; are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred. The lease is not recognised in the assets and liabilities statement.

(h) Revenue and other income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets, is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the Foundation obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST)

(i) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

	2012 \$	2011 \$
2 GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE INCOME		
Commonwealth Government Assistance		
- Caring for our country	562,132	18,834
- GVEHO program	5,000	4,500
- Biodiversity Fund for Soil seed banks at Witchelina	80,000	-
Total Commonwealth Government Assistance	647,132	23,334
State Government Assistance		
- Management subsidy	70,000	70,000
- Native Vegetation Council funding for Buloke project	-	13,502
- Save the River Murray funding for Water for Nature project	-	115,000
- Land Purchase Fund	185,000	525,000
Total State Government Assistance	255,000	723,502

	2012 \$	2011 \$
3 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	331,642	116,547
	331,642	116,547

4 OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2012 \$	2011 \$
NON-CURRENT		
Investments in listed corporations at market value	562,328	604,962
NAB income securities	60,430	70,155
Water licence	50,320	66,600
	673,078	741,717

5 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2012 \$	2011 \$
LAND		
Freehold Land		
At Council members' valuation		
Para Woodlands	590,000	590,000
Witchelina	2,621,358	2,621,358
Hiltaba	785,000	-
Para Woodlands (Langdon Land)	210,000	253,643
Cygnets Park	267,937	267,937
Tiliqua	98,000	106,321
Total Land	4,572,295	3,839,259
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment		
At cost	370,236	165,725
Accumulated depreciation	(108,918)	(86,957)
Total plant and equipment	261,317	78,768
Motor vehicles		
At cost	27,863	27,863
Accumulated depreciation	(19,684)	(16,380)
Total motor vehicles	8,179	11,483
Other property, plant and equipment		
At cost		2,000
Total other property, plant and equipment	-	2,000
Total plant and equipment	269,497	92,251
Total property, plant and equipment	4,841,791	3,931,510

6 BORROWINGS

	2012 \$	2011 \$
CURRENT		
Secured liabilities:		
Bank overdraft	-	508,113
Unsecured liabilities:		
Goods mortgage facility	13,440	-
Total current borrowings	13,440	508,113

(a) Bank and mortgage loans

The bank and mortgage loans are secured by first registered mortgages over certain freehold property and equipment of the Foundation

7 LEASING COMMITMENTS

(a) Operating lease commitments

Non cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Payable - minimum lease payments:		
- no later than 1 year	22,000	22,000
- between 1 year and 5 years	66,000	88,000
	88,000	110,000

The property lease commitment is a non-cancellable operating lease with a term of 5 years to 11 June 2016.

Increase in lease commitment may occur in line with CPI.

8 OTHER LIABILITIES

(a) Project funds committed

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Barbara Hardy Fund for Nature	119,953	170,453
Glossy Black Cockatoo KI	20,005	13,894
Paton Memorial	32,575	32,325
Betty Westwood	-	3,612
Australian Sea Lion Research Fund	27,757	24,722
Red Tail Black Cockatoo	42,594	42,544
Hairy Nosed Wombat	31,956	31,956
Tawny Frogmouth	30	15,050
Friends of Parks	-	2,642
Water for Nature	18,653	2,898
Damien Pearce Memorial Fund	4,789	5,479
Contingency Fund	4,507	4,515
Para Woodlands Operating Fund	333,974	
Lake Eyre	23,502	-
Orange Bellied Parrot	100,000	-
Thick Billed Grass Wren	53,200	-
Soil seed banks	70,000	-
	883,495	350,090

The Project funds committed balance has increased by \$533,405 from 2011 to 2012.

(b) Sponsorship income received in advance

	100,000	-
Total Other Liabilities	983,495	350,090

9 Disclosure of economic dependence

(a) For some time the Foundation has received a vital, annual subsidy of \$70,000 from the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources to support management costs. This ongoing commitment is subject to annual review.

(b) The Deed establishing the Para Woodland Reserve stipulates that the Donor has agreed to pay \$1,200,000 over a period of ten years from 2003 for management and rehabilitation of the land.

10 Para Woodlands - "Nature Foundation Land"

By way of Deed dated 30 June 2003, land was transferred to the Foundation so that it may be retained, restored and conserved in its natural state. A Steering Committee was appointed to oversee the management and restoration of that land. A condition of the Deed was that the land could not be transferred to any other person than the Minister; and if transferred to the Minister; then there would be no consideration. Notwithstanding, the Foundation retains title to the land and an asset value of \$590,000 has been recognised in the financial statements based up on the Valuer General's valuation.

11 Recognition of non-monetary goods and services provided

The Foundation acknowledges the significant involvement and contribution of volunteers to its operation. Because of the wide diversity and nature of these activities, it is not possible to quantify this value in monetary terms.

12 Future Commitments

Postgraduate Research, Linkage and Community Grant applications are appraised by the Research, Projects and Education Committee. Because there is no obligation on the grant recipient to complete each project within the financial year; actual funding is often spread over a period greater than one year.

13 Council Member Benefits

Council member Chris Reed has a contract for provision of services to the Foundation for which he received a pecuniary benefit of \$7,715.

14 Asset Impairment

The asset writedown is for a property at Blanchetown which has been revalued to the Valuer General's valuation at 30 June 2012.


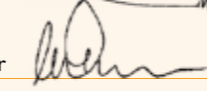
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Council has determined that the Foundation is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Council the financial report as set out on pages 22 to 27:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Nature Foundation SA as at 30 June 2012 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Nature Foundation SA will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by:

President  _____
 Treasurer  _____
 Bob Lott
 Stephen Warren



Dated 3rd October 2012

CERTIFICATE BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

In accordance with Section 35(5) of the Associations Incorporation Act (SA), during the financial year; no officer of the Foundation, or any firm of which an officer is a member; or any corporate in which an officer has a substantial financial interest, has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between an officer; firm or corporate and the Foundation, other than benefits arising from the provision of certain minor goods or services in the normal course of the Foundation's activities.

During the financial year; only one officer of the Foundation has received directly or indirectly from the Foundation a payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value (refer note 13 of the financial statements).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Council.

President  _____
 Treasurer  _____
 Bob Lott
 Stephen Warren

Dated 3rd October 2012

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATURE FOUNDATION SA INC. ABN: 24 131 531 874

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Nature Foundation SA Inc., which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2012, income statement, statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information, statement by members of council and the certificate by members of council.

Council Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The members of the council are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the entity.

The members' responsibility also includes such internal control as the members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by those charged with governance, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Pitcher Partners Ltd Pty Ltd ABN 24 131 531 874
 (entity formed by a former approved under Professional Standards registration)



Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independent requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies and the Australian Auditing Standards.

Qualification

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for Nature Foundation SA Inc. to maintain an effective system of internal control over cash donations and other fundraising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding revenue from these sources was limited, our audit procedures had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We are therefore unable to express an opinion whether revenue recorded by Nature Foundation SA Inc. is complete.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the qualification above, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nature Foundation SA Inc. as of 30 June 2012 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 in the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Nature Foundation SA Inc. to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act SA 1985. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

 _____
 _____

A P FAULKNER

PITCHER PARTNERS

Principal

Adelaide

Date:

3rd October 2012

ANNUAL DINNER 2011 SUPPORTERS.

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank the following businesses and people for their support of our 2011 Annual Dinner and Silent Auction held at the Adelaide Town Hall:

Allyson Parsons
Wild Bush Luxury Wings Barossa Bird & Bush Retreat
Wilpena Pound Resort
Big River Stayz
Peter MacDonald 'The Sentimental Bloke'
Willie Wildlife Sculptures
Kathleen Cain
Wendy Jennings
Brenda Holden
Dean Tomlinson

Linda Catchlove
Pimlott Framing
Bernd Stoecker
Perry's Fruit & Nut Nursery
Adelaide Advanced Trees
Kimberley Thomas
Silvio Apponyi
Ibis Siding Garden Centre
Venue *Tix
SeaStar Apartments, Moonta Bay
Pam & Tom Mayer

Sealink
Andrew Telfer
Wine Underground
Andrew Saies and 'Two True'
Dean Nicolle
Matilda Books
Bennett's Pottery
Madeleine Wearne
Greenhill Gallery

WE THANK OUR MAJOR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS:

