

naturematters

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POSTGRADUATE
GRAND START
SCHOLARSHIPS
APPEAL 2015

Coastal Sun Orchid (*T. alcockiae*) at
Hiltaba Nature Reserve
PHOTO: Mick Durrant

> INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- Watchalunga -threatened ecosystem purchased for conservation
- Hiltaba Walking Trails - tribute to Betty and Bob Lewis and Warren Bonython AO
- Water For Nature - three new watering sites now operational
- Allan Holmes - new 'Fellow of the Foundation'
- New Species of Scorpion found on Hiltaba



Nature
FOUNDATION SA

Tall reeds (*Phragmites Australis*) along the Finniss River

BELOW: Southern Emu-wren

PHOTO: Marcus Picket



WATCHALUNGA – a very special part of the Fleurieu



BOB LOTT – NFSA PRESIDENT

Nature Foundation SA is excited to announce that another property has recently been acquired with high conservation value. Watchalunga,

located near Finniss on the Fleurieu Peninsula, comprises approximately 92 hectares of low lying Fleurieu Peninsula Swamp under mixed sedgeland on the Finniss River. The swamps of the Fleurieu Peninsula are listed as a Critically Endangered vegetation community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.

Only 500ha of Fleurieu swamps remain which makes this property particularly important, representing 18.4% of all remaining swamp area. The property also contains two EPBC listed species, the endangered Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren (*Stipiturus ma-lachurus intermedius*) and the vulnerable Southern Bell Frog (*Litoria raniformis*).

The property's vegetation can be categorized into 3 types:

1. Samphire open sedgeland over *Juncus kraussii*
2. Tall reedlands dominated by *Phragmites Australis*
3. Lignum (*Muehlenbeckia florulenta*) tall open shrubland over *Juncus kraussii*

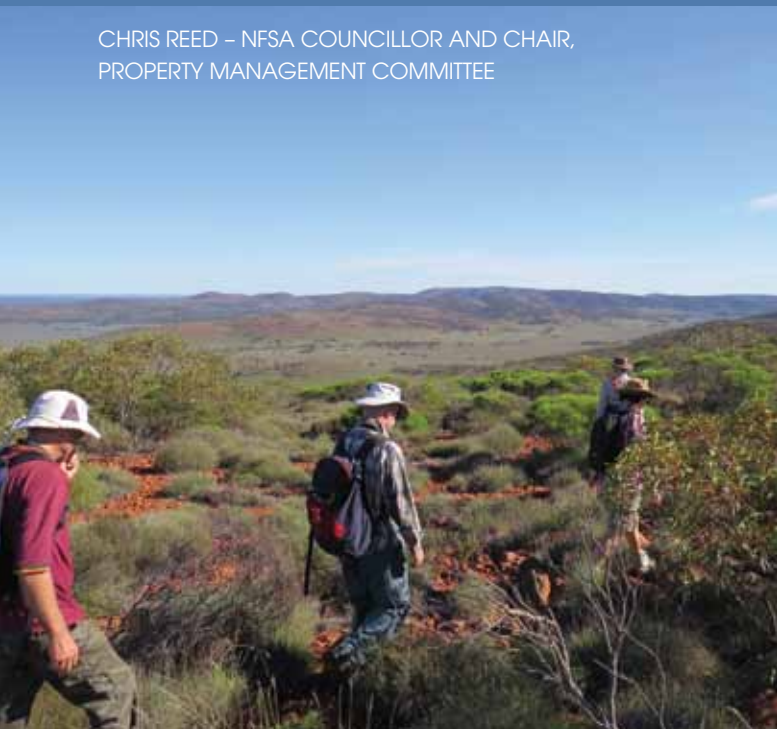
Previous flora surveys have identified 31 indigenous species and 16 introduced species with more species likely to occur with more thorough inspections. Of the approximately 170 native plant species that grow in the Fleurieu Swamps, almost half are either rare or threatened.

Nature Foundation SA thanks everyone who has supported us over the last two years in the journey to purchase this property, and to key stakeholders particularly the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority - Working on Country Program (weed control, planting and fence work) and the Goolwa to Wellington LAP group (fencing, weed control and technical expertise). There is ongoing research on the property and we look forward to managing this land, with input from other key stakeholders, for conservation gains.

Nature Foundation SA plans to launch the property in late March – please call the office if you are interested in attending.

Hiltaba Walking Trails launch

CHRIS REED – NFSA COUNCILLOR AND CHAIR,
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



The Nature Foundation SA Council made the decision early last year to create walking trails at Hiltaba Nature Reserve to honour the memories of the late Mr Warren Bonython AO and Mr Bob and Mrs Betty Lewis who left bequests to the Foundation.

Since then there has been significant work undertaken by volunteers at Working Bees in 2014 and 2015 to create and mark out the trails taking into account cultural and environmental issues. All this hard work will culminate in the official launch of the trails on Friday 10th April at Hiltaba following a private dedication for the Bonython and Lewis families.

The 2 Km 'Betty and Bob Lewis Walking Trail' commences at the Pretty Point car park and the 10 Km 'Warren Bonython Walking Trail' starts from the Hiltaba Homestead and traverses Mt Hiltaba. Both of the trails take in some amazing vistas of the property and will be a visual reminder of the 'landscape' scale conservation that we undertake on behalf of our supporters. Conservation will always be our first priority however these trails provide an opportunity for visitors to really 'connect' with nature in a truly memorable way.

The launch is open to all supporters – please note that shearers quarters accommodation is limited however un-powered camping will also be available.

Contact Nature Foundation SA on 8340 2880 or at naturefoundationsa@nfsa.org.au for further information.

Ecotourism and conservation can work to a common goal – to protect magnificent landscapes and the flora and fauna therein.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Hiltaba Nature Reserve

ALEX NANKIVELL – NFSA CONSERVATION PROGRAMS MANAGER

Summer is usually a time where activity at our major properties, Witchelina and Hiltaba, drops off a bit due to the increasing heat through January and February. Non essential field work is postponed with the focus of activity redirected closer to the homestead. This gives the managers/rotational managers a chance to catch up on infrastructure repairs and maintenance.

Work has continued at Witchelina on refurbishing buildings in the homestead precinct for research and ecotourism opportunities. It is hoped that during the course of 2015 the Old Cook's Cottage, a historic stone building, will be converted into a fit-for-purpose research facility where researchers can work processing and analysing samples with a greater degree of efficiency and comfort. Our goal is to continue to attract high quality research to the reserve into the future and create a hub of arid land ecological knowledge.



The good news is that we did get some rain! After 3 years of below average rainfall most of the pastoral districts received a hearty soak in early January. Witchelina received a solid drenching of 72.6mm in 2 days accounting for approximately 30% of the average annual rainfall. This fall has revitalised the landscape and triggered breeding and recruitment of flora and fauna.

Hiltaba wasn't quite as lucky only receiving 41mm over the 2 day period. This is not surprising given that Hiltaba receives mostly winter rainfall often missing out on the summer tropical rainfall events.

Although I mentioned earlier that non essential field work had been postponed that is not say field work has stopped completely. One essential activity that has continued throughout the summer is feral animal control. With goats under control at Witchelina and foxes rarely seen, the focus or cross hair has been firmly sighted on



Witchelina Nature Reserve



TOP LEFT: Witchelina - Andamooka Lillies
PHOTOS: Chris Reed

BOTTOM LEFT: Hiltaba Nature Reserve - Garland Lillies and Rock Ferns
PHOTO: Marjory Goodenough

BOTTOM RIGHT: TOP: Witchelina - South Bungeerider Dam - looking north over expanse of water on floodplain.

BOTTOM: South Bungeerider Dam - looking south over the full dam
PHOTOS: Chris Reed

cats. We have continued to refine our cat trapping program and continued to spotlight all tracks on a frequent basis.

At Hiltaba, fox baiting and goat control has continued through the summer months. Goat numbers have been maintained to very low numbers. It is now estimated that less than 200 goats are present on the property at any one time. A recent cull undertaken by the Conservation and Wildlife Management Branch of the Sporting Shooters Association of South Australia only managed to locate and control 49 goats. Recruitment of vegetation on the granite hills has really boomed as a result.

WATER FOR NATURE UPDATE

Summary of Water For Nature 2014-15 water year

| Site | Notes | Approved volume (ML) CEWO | Actual use (ML) To end of January |
|---|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Johnson's Waterhole (near Renmark) | Started in 2013. Dustbowl since 2011 floods - now teaming with life | 160 | 103 |
| Clark's Floodplain (near Berri) | Our longest running site. Includes floodrunners and sprinkler irrigation. | 275 | 118 |
| Thiele's Flat (near Loxton) | Started 2013. Popular public area managed by Council, watering seedlings | 80 | 16 |
| Loxton Riverfront Reserve (near Loxton) | Started 2013. Riverfront of the town, both wetland and sprinklers | 50 | 32 |
| Rilli Reach (near Loxton) | Started 2013. Private landowner Floodrunners and sprinklers in use | 60 | 12 |
| Ramco River Terrace (near Waikerie) | Started 2013. Public area near town, sprinkler irrigating seedlings | 20 | 3 |
| South Teringie (near Meningie) | New. Started 2014. Raukkan Community owned land. Wetland filling - never been done before | 360 | 116 |
| Calperum Station (near Renmark) | New. Started 2014. Using several pumps to get water into 6 floodplain and wetland areas that have been dry since the floods of 2011. | 467 | 77 |
| Duck Hole (near Renmark) | New. Started 2014. State owned supported by local community group, large wetland empty since 2011. | 220 | 220 |



Water For Nature has grown dramatically in just 12 months. We have taken on 3 new priority sites spread between the border with Victoria/NSW to Lake Alexandrina within a short drive to the Murray mouth. This has only been possible with the continued support of major donors including the Thyne Reid Foundation (salaries and operating), West End Community Fund (pumps and equipment), and delivery funding from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (diesel and other costs).

Our new sites are:

South Teringie wetland on Raukkan Community land next to Lake Alexandrina. The wetland has not had significant water over the 43ha area for many years. Environmental watering will contribute to the development of more diverse habitat for water birds; open water, fringing vegetation and mud flats. We are using the WECF 'Little Red' pump to deliver over 200ML of water to the site with active assistance from the Raukkan community.

Duck Hole wetland on the Pike River Floodplain near Renmark. The site is fringed by Black Box, River Coobah, Red Gum, and there are also extensive areas of Lignum. Last inundation was the 2011 flood which resulted in improvements in health of the existing

vegetation, and a new generation of seedlings. However both the mature trees and seedlings have been showing signs of stress. We have applied over 220ML to this 15 Ha site with great results.

Calperum Station just north of Renmark - part of the Riverland Ramsar area. Environmental water will be used to undertake both; occasional watering of small inlets and depressions immediately adjacent to waterways that are droughted by locking and suppression of water level variations, to maintain tree health and/or support restoration and ; Occasional watering of larger disconnected ephemeral wetlands such as Double Thooke-Thooke Lagoon that are in declining health. We have access to over 400ML of water to deliver to 6 priority wetlands and floodplains on the property.

ABOVE LEFT: Setting up the pump at South Teringie in November 2014.
ABOVE MIDDLE: Happy members of the Pikes Land Management Group (who managed the project) pose on the essential embankment organised by Brad Hollis (DEWNR).
ABOVE RIGHT: Water starts flowing into Thooke Thooke wetland for the first time since the 2011 flood.



ALLAN HOLMES

FELLOW OF THE FOUNDATION

BOB LOTT - NFSA COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Mr Allan Holmes has been a significant supporter of the work of the Foundation, both personally and through his work in the environmental sector, and was awarded 'Fellow of the Foundation' at the NFSA Annual General Meeting.

Allan is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and has a Masters degree from the University of Adelaide and has worked in agriculture, environment

protection, forestry, park management and conservation. He has extensive board experience serving in both the public and philanthropic sectors. Some of those boards include Zero Waste SA (Chair), EPA in SA, Parks Forum (Chair), Country Fire Service Board, Australian Landcare Council, Board of the Botanic Gardens & State Herbarium of SA, Catherine House Board, SA Pastoral Land Management & Conservation Board.

Allan moved to Adelaide in 1994 to become Director of National Parks and Wildlife and in 2000 became Chief Executive of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), a position he left in October last year.

Allan knows us well; he is a member and supporter of the Foundation and has been a NFSA Council Member.

The Foundation has enjoyed a productive working relationship with Allan and DEWNR over the years, from working together on the management of Para Woodlands to close liaison with the NRM Boards and the Native Vegetation Council. A notable case study of collaborating for a greater good was the contribution of NFSA land on the Eyre Peninsula which was amalgamated with state government land to become the magnificent Gawler Ranges National Park. What a great example of private/public cooperation.

Whilst at DEWNR Allan initiated and hosted 'Stirring the Possum', an ongoing community event aimed at encouraging engagement and discussion about human impact on the natural world. I'm sure anyone who has attended will agree that the animated and inspiring discourse from panelists achieved the goal of productive environmental debate - well done!

I congratulate Allan on this recognition of his outstanding support of the Foundation.

2014

OLIPHANT SCIENCE AWARDS



Ilan Atkinson (Nature Foundation SA CEO) with prize-winner

Nature Foundation SA was a Silver Sponsor of the 2014 Oliphant Science Awards, the largest science competition in South Australia for school students.

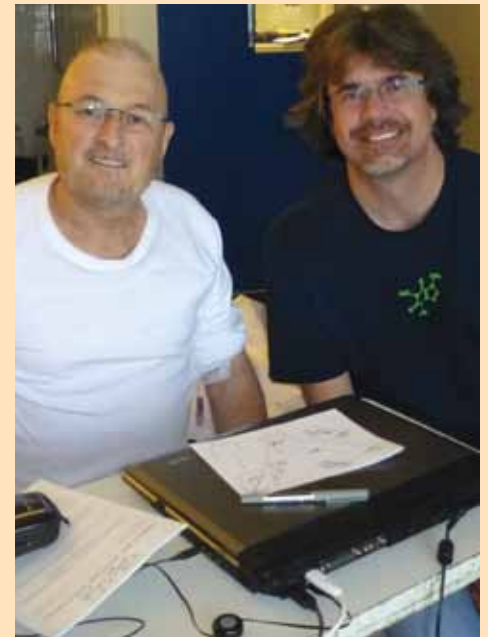
3,114 students from 90 schools participated in the competition which is coordinated by the South Australian Science Teachers Association (SASTA) to raise the profile and understanding of science.

NFSA CEO Ian Atkinson assisted in both the judging and in the presentation ceremony of the Nature Foundation SA prize category to most outstanding junior, primary and secondary school entries with a nature conservation theme.

Nature Foundation SA congratulates all participants for their outstanding effort, creativity and innovative ideas.

Ilan Atkinson said "I felt very privileged to judge submissions of an exceptionally high quality and feel confident that the Oliphant Science Awards are helping to nurture the scientists and conservationists of tomorrow".

A NEW SPECIES OF SCORPION FROM HILTABA



DR GREG JOHNSTON – NFSA CONSERVATION ECOLOGIST

During a survey of scorpions on Eyre Peninsula in 1991, I visited many places in the company of Dr Adam Locket, friend, expert on scorpions and Lecturer at Adelaide University Medical School. We collected scorpions by “black-lighting” at night because they fluoresce under “black” or ultra-violet light, making them easier to find. During that trip we found an interesting species of scorpion on Paney and Hiltaba Stations.

Adam had encouraged my interest in scorpions for several years before that trip and we had sampled many fine reds in honour of our mutual interest. Adam had also encouraged an interest in Australian scorpions among a growing community of undergraduates, colleagues and international visiting scientists. Many years have passed since then, and many things have changed. Sadly my friend has died, but Paney and Hiltaba Stations are being managed for conservation.

A recent, enforced interregnum in hospital has given me time to revisit those scorpions Adam and I had collected. Being out of date with my scorpions, I enlisted the aid of Dr Erich Volschenk

another scorpion devotee who’s interest had been encouraged by Adam Locket. We recently met in my hospital room and agreed that the scorpion from Hiltaba and Paney is an undescribed species, and that we would both like to name it in Honour of our friend and mentor. This formal process will take several months to complete as we describe in detail scorpions Adam and I had preserved 23 years ago.

When the final paper is published there will be a new species of scorpion to add to the species list of Hiltaba Reserve. It will be a “short-range endemic”, with a very small distribution, limited to the western Gawler Ranges. Thanks to the efforts of Nature Foundation SA, that distribution lies entirely within the Hiltaba Nature Reserve and the Gawler Ranges National Park.

TOP LEFT: A “new species” of scorpion from Pretty Point on Hiltaba, which is currently being described by Dr Volschenk and Johnston. This is a female caring for a recently born clutch of young, which have not yet developed the black armour-plating of the adult.

TOP RIGHT: Dr Erich Volschenk (right) from Phoenix Scientific and the Western Australian Museum visits Nature Foundation SA Conservation Ecologist Dr Greg Johnston in hospital as part of a collaboration to describe a new species of scorpion found on Hiltaba.

PRESIDENT’S LETTER CONTINUED ...

We have made giant strides in the Water For Nature project and the programme is absolutely embraced by our Federal Politicians and their departmental staff as they see that our programme has become the embodiment of the Federal Initiative to develop what they call “Localism” along the Murray Darling Basin, as we engage with NRM Boards, LAP Groups, Local Councils, Local Irrigation Trusts, community members and most importantly the Irrigators.

THE MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR 2015

1. Launch in June and attract support for our Perpetual Trust. The Council whilst recognising the huge task ahead of us knows that to continue the development of NFSA it must have income on which it can rely each year, so it is setting the task of attracting \$5.0M into this Perpetual Trust so that the annual income can be relied on to structure our finances rather than always relying on donations by which we live almost hand to mouth.
2. Develop a viable Tourism Initiative to attract income to directly allow us to be self-sufficient in the ongoing day to day management of the properties we own.

3. Continue to distinguish what income might be able to flow to the Foundation through whatever the outcomes of the ongoing Carbon Capture and Carbon Credits debates.
4. Continue to expand our own expertise and further develop relationships with the Resource Industry to attract 3rd Party payments of Significant Environmental Benefits to NFSA.
5. Develop the quality of relationship with the new CE of DEWNR as NFSA has achieved with every CE since the Inception of NFSA to continue the partnerships we enjoy with our Department which are so extremely beneficial to the Department, ourselves and the people and state of South Australia.

I trust you will be impressed by our efforts in 2015 and thank you all again for your support of our excitingly successful Foundation.

Bob Lott



A burrowing bettong sampling a peanut butter and oat ball, used to bait traps.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE REINTRODUCED SUCCESS OF THE BURROWING BETTONG (*BETTONGIA LESUEUR*) TO ARID AUSTRALIA

RESEARCHER: HANNAH BANNISTER
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA PHD STUDENT

What was the aim and purpose of your project?

This project aimed to determine which factors influence the success of the reintroduction of the burrowing bettong to arid Australia. The primary focus of this research was to determine the influence that supplementary feeding and predator deterrents had on their success. Other factors that would influence the results of this project were the impact of native and introduced predators as well as competition with introduced herbivores. If successful, this project would result in the establishment of the first free-ranging population of burrowing bettong on mainland Australia since their mainland extinction in the 1960's.

Summarise the results of your project.

Through a series of experiments involving the release of burrowing bettongs at multiple sites (in the Arid Recovery Reserve) with different food and deterrent combinations, I was able to determine that supplementary feeding encourages site fidelity in burrowing bettongs, as released bettongs remained close to supplementary feeders. The results from the predator deterrent trial showed that bettongs sprayed with predator deterrent survived for longer than bettongs that were not sprayed, however these bettongs were also aided by having lower predator and rabbit numbers at their release site and so further testing is required.

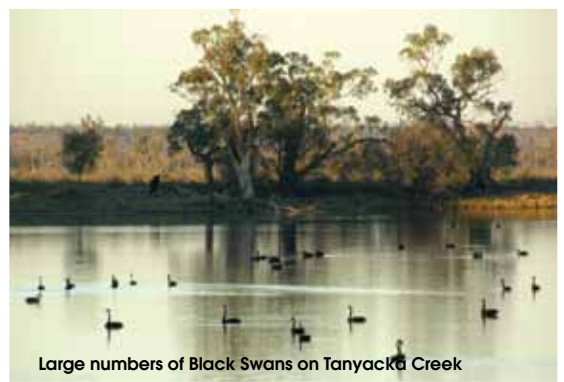
What is the most exciting thing about this work?

"Being able to release an animal from a semi-captive environment into the wild is such a rewarding experience and something that not many people get the opportunity to do in their lifetime, it's a memory I will treasure forever."



A burrowing bettong begins eating immediately following its release, seemingly unbothered by the trapping, processing and travel it went through to get there!

Despite the impact of predation on the reintroduced bettongs, it is hoped that the positive impacts of supplementary feeding and predator deterrent may be useful for future reintroductions. Please refer full report: <http://www.naturefoundation.org.au/grants/projects/>



Large numbers of Black Swans on Tanyacka Creek

PIKE FLOODPLAIN BIRD MONITORING - AUTUMN 2014

RESEARCHER: ELIZABETH LESCHIED

What was the aim and purpose of your project?

This project aimed to collect a robust baseline data set for bird activity across the Pike floodplain prior to environmental watering. This data set can then be used to monitor changes in response to the eventual induced flooding. As a valuable indicator of ecosystem health, any changes to species and numbers of birds may provide valuable insights into the potential benefits and drawbacks of environmental watering regimes. This could also be useful in adaptive management to help determine the timing and length of flooding so it occurs in a way most beneficial to the improvement of the ecosystem.

Summarise the results of your project.

109 species of birds have been recorded for the Pike floodplain through this study. This confirms what others have previously suggested: that the Pike floodplain maintains a relatively high level of ecological integrity in spite of years of degradation and ecosystem decline. Of this, 46 species are listed regionally and even nationally regarding conservation status. Therefore, this study adds impetus to works to preserve and improve the floodplain's ecosystem health as it may be important to the preservation of many South Australian birds.

Although the species accumulation curve suggests an adequate survey effort is being achieved for the Black Box sites, there is a need for further sampling to increase power of and confidence in the data set: richness data is still largely based on anecdotal observations. Some species observed in 2010 were unrecorded in 2013-14; the endangered Black-eared Miner's presence remains undetermined; noteworthy changes in waterbird activity between Spring and Autumn surveys require further examination.

What is most exciting thing about this work?

"I find it incredible that even though the Pike Floodplain appears so degraded, it still has enough ecological function to support such a diverse range of bird species. The value of this floodplain to birds on a local and even regional level is only just beginning to be understood. I feel even more supportive now for any works in place to try to conserve what remains and to improve the ecosystem health."

WFN has recently commenced environmental watering in the Pike floodplain with 220.3 Megalitres delivered up to the end of January 2015.

Christmas Dinner

2014

Left: Raffle winners -
Miriam and Nigel Long
Below: NFSA President Bob Lott
addressing NFSA supporters

PHOTOS BY PATRICK MENTZEL



PATRICK MENTZEL – NFSA FUNDRAISING & MARKETING MANAGER

Nature Foundation SA would like to thank all our 100 supporters for joining us at our Christmas Dinner held at the Adelaide Oval Premiership Suite on Saturday 29th November. The dinner helped to raise over \$30,000 for the Foundation. The event included live music, 3 course meal and silent auction. The 'Ages of Silence' painting kindly donated by our Patron, Dr Barbara Hardy AO, was purchased by the highest bidder, Beach Energy, for \$13,000. On the night our silent auction, Christmas Tree and wine raffles raised over \$11,000. Macquarie kindly donated \$5,000 as sponsorship, Santos was a multiple table sponsor and generous individuals donated over \$2,000 prior to the evening. Feedback was that guests thoroughly enjoyed the location, hospitality and entertainment.

Evening beverage & food sponsors included; wines from K1 by Geoff Hardy, beers from West End & chocolates from Haigh's. We would like to thank all of our sponsors for the Silent Auction including; Kathleen Patitsas, EyeFood Photography, Graham Chilman Photography, Wendy Jennings, Kathleen Cain, Barbara Hardy, Blackmores Power and Water, Venue*Tix, & Department of the Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Pimlott Framing, The Links Lady Bay, Royal Geographical Society of SA, Codan, Womad, Friends of the Heysen Trail, Serve1 Club Shop, Next Generation Memorial Drive Ambro Australia.

Nature Foundation SA appreciates the sponsorship from Prairie Hotel Parachilna, Wilpena Pound Resort, Wings Barossa Bird & Bush Retreat & Seastar Apartments Moonta and encourages support of these and all other sponsors of the Christmas Dinner.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT (SEB)

ElectraNet



ElectraNet owns and operates high-voltage electricity transmission infrastructure in South

Australia and has substations located across the state. ElectraNet needs to maintain the transmission lines and substations, which can necessitate vegetation clearance. This clearance activity generates Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) offset obligations.

In 2008, ElectraNet applied their SEB native vegetation clearance offset monies through the Native Vegetation Council to a NFSA planting project in the South-East. Buloke seedlings (*Allocasuarina leumannii*), were planted in a 6.75 ha area near the town of Frances as a key food source to help the long-term survival of the local species of the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (subspecies *Graptogyne*) The Buloke is a key high fat, high protein food source for the cockatoo, especially during the fledgling stage. Since European settlement, 97% of all bulokes in the South-East have been cleared.

The Mt Gunston and Neuroodla substations near Hawker are in the same SAAL NRM Board region in which Witchelina is located and it is hoped that ElectraNet and NFSA can work together in the future regarding Arid Land SEBs.

www.electranet.com.au

Heathgate Resources



Heathgate Resources Pty Ltd (Heathgate) was established in 1990 and is the owner/operator of

the Beverley and Beverley North Uranium Mines and operator of the adjacent Four Mile Uranium Mine located 500km north of Adelaide. These operations all occur within the same SA Arid Lands region as the Witchelina Nature Reserve and the Company saw it a natural fit for SEB compensation to be directed into helping support landscape scale conservation at Witchelina.

Heathgate had representation at the inaugural SEB Forum held at Witchelina in September 2014 which showcased the landscape scale conservation work being undertaken on the 421,900 ha Nature Reserve. Heathgate says the Forum was a great opportunity for its representatives to exchange information with the Nature Foundation SA professionals on ecosystem management for the region and seeing real Significant Environmental Benefits being achieved. Heathgate is enthused about its staff participation in ongoing programs.

www.heathgate.com.au

VALE AVIS BONNIN

Mrs Avis Bonnin passed away on December 6, 2014 aged 94 years. Avis was wife of the late Dr Mark Bonnin AM a Co-founder of Nature Foundation SA. Both Avis and Mark were 'Fellows of the Foundation' in recognition of their outstanding service.

Avis was mother and mother-in-law of Patricia and Robert, Susan and Michael, Caroline and Frank and Peter, grandmother of eleven and great-grandmother of fifteen.

Dr Mark Bonnin AM, Dr Barbara Hardy AO, Mr David Cleland and Mr Warren Bonython AO founded Nature Foundation SA in 1981. Dr Bonnin was a well-known and respected physician as well as a keen ornithologist and environmentalist.

Mr Richard Thompson (Avis and Mark's grandson), is now volunteering with Nature Foundation SA. Dr Barbara Hardy AO said "It's lovely to see a continuity of family involvement, Nature Foundation SA was so close the hearts of both Mark and Avis."

VALE DR BOB SUCH

(June 1944 - October 2014)

Bruce 'Bob' Such was a widely respected South Australian politician. Member of the seat of Fisher from 1989 until his passing in 2014, Bob was also a 'champion' of Nature Foundation SA and frequently lobbied the government for Nature Foundation SA whilst in parliament.

"Bob was a good man who helped anybody and everybody", David Moyle AM (Nature Foundation SA Vice President) said. He was a great supporter of the Foundation and is sadly missed.

VALE LADY MARY DOWNER

(December 1924 - October 2014)

Lady Mary Downer, was wife of Federal MP and High Commissioner Sir Alexander 'Alick' Downer (deceased), and mother of Stella, Angela, Una and the Australian Foreign Minister and now High Commissioners Alexander Downer.

Lady Downer was the daughter of Sir James Gosse, a prominent Adelaide businessman and philanthropist, as was her grandfather Robert Barr Smith. Continuing the legacy of giving and philanthropy Lady Downer was an active Patron of the Mary Potter Foundation and the Barossa Valley Music Festival, as well as being a very welcome donor and supporter of Nature Foundation SA.

"Lady Downer was a prominent South Australian in her own right serving the community with passion and real efforts to make a difference." said Dr Barbara Hardy AO, Nature Foundation SA Co-founder and Patron.

VALE ROBERT FREDERICK BROWN

Nature Foundation SA pays tribute to Mr Robert (Bob) Brown of Leabrook who passed on 28 January. Bob was a long time supporter of the Foundation (his membership number was 711) and over the years made many generous financial contributions to support our work.

Bob will be remembered as a remarkable and incredibly passionate person whose life was devoted to supporting the conservation of birds, and wildlife more generally. Nature Foundation SA Vice-President David Moyle AM said that "We are so very sad to hear of Bob's passing and valued his ongoing support of our work, but we also celebrate a life in which not a minute was wasted. Bob has created significant environmental legacy both through his involvement in advocacy and direct action and through his generous donations to support the environmental sector." Vale a true 'nature champion'.

NATURE FOUNDATION EVENTS CALENDAR 2015

Hiltaba Walking Trails Launch

Friday 10th April

Witchelina Grand Working Bee

Thursday 30th April – Monday 4th May (*including travel days ex Adelaide)

Treasure Hunt For Nature – Nature Foundation SA & SA Power Networks

Sunday 17th May

Para Woodlands Tree Planting

Friday 19th - Saturday 20th June

Kangaroo Island Planting Festival

Friday 3th – Sunday 5th July

Tiliqua Lizard Crawl

Sunday 6th September

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 22nd October

NFSA Christmas Dinner - Adelaide Oval Cathedral Room

Saturday 28th November



*Please note that some dates may be subject to change
For further information and books please contact
Nature Foundation SA office on 8340 2880.

FRIENDS OF NATURE FOUNDATION SA

DENE CORDES PSM – FRIENDS OF NFSA

The Friends of Nature Foundation SA formed six years ago to support NFSA. Currently numbering about 20, the group meets at the NFSA Hindmarsh office every three months.

We enjoy the social interaction and provide support to NFSA activities including helping at events, assisting at fund raisers and collecting the donations that are left by the public at Cleland Park. We attend volunteer activities such as tree planting and Tiliqua Lizard Crawl and Grand Working Bees at Hiltaba and Witchelina. Members also help with NFSA admin work and we care for the garden at the NFSA office. Each year we enjoy our AGM and Dinner, with a guest speaker. There is something for everyone.

We would welcome new members to meet the present and future needs of the Foundation (cost is \$5 per year).

For more information etc: President, John Sibly AM (Ph 883325445) or Dene Cordes PSM (82787668).

DON'T
FORGET:

HELP US TO SAVE, PROTECT AND RESTORE

Don't forget to renew your Nature Foundation SA memberships for 2015 – we now have 1,2,3 year and life membership options.

Membership Fees and a downloadable membership form are on the Nature Foundation SA website or ring 8340 2880.

Go to:

<http://www.naturefoundation.org.au/membership/>



| | |
|--|---------------------|
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| Patron | Dick Smith AO |
| Patron | Reg Nelson |
| President | Bob Lott |
| Vice President | David Moyle AM |
| Hon Secretary | Susie Herzberg |
| Hon Treasurer | Nicholas Edwards |
| Councillors | Dr David Hansman |
| | Dr Rob Morrison OAM |
| | Chris Reed |
| | Dr Bob Sharrad AM |
| | Greg Toop |
| | Suzanne Ridding |
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| Conservation Programs Mgr | Dr Greg Johnston |
| Conservation Ecologist | Caroline Nefiodovas |
| SEB Business Devl Mgr | Patrick Mentzel |
| Fundraising & Marketing Mgr | Lisa Gellie |
| Communications Mgr | Georgie Fiedler |
| Accountant | |
| Administration & | |
| Marketing Coordinator | Natasha Harper |
| Friends of NFSA President | John Sibly AM |

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