

- Measuring the **biodiversity** baseline at **Bullock Bridge**
- **Regent Parrot surveys** at Murbpook
- **Native fish surveys** at Watchalunga
- Threatened **Plains Mice detected** at Gidgealpa

SUMMER

2

2024

Engaging
people in
conservation

NatureMatters

FOREVER NATURE FUND

Mongolurring
Conservation
Management
Appeal

See P. 2 →



Nature
Foundation

**Mongolurring Conservation
Management Appeal**

**From the ground up:
Fund the future of
Mongolurring**

144 animals, plants and ecological communities were added to the national threatened species list in 2023—five times more than the annual average, and twice the previous highest year in 2009.

Habitat loss and degradation and a changing climate are key contributors to these figures, and we are determined to conserve, restore and protect our unique ecosystems and landscapes so that our precious native populations have natural refuges in which to shelter and thrive.

The good news is that our recently acquired Mongolurring Nature Reserve—1,200-hectares of mallee woodland located east of Mount Bryan, South Australia, on Ngadjuri Country—is home to a variety of native flora and fauna, with almost 200 native plant species recorded in the area, along with 16 reptile species and 64 bird species.



Bird species recorded in the area include the Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*, pictured below right) and Diamond Firetail (*Stagonopleura guttata*, pictured left), both listed as threatened under the national Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) act, and the South Australian listed White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphos*).

Nature Foundation needs your help improve habitat conditions to restore and protect Mongolurring, a special reserve donated to Nature Foundation in June of this year by a generous benefactor through our Forever Nature Fund.

Mongolurring has an existing native vegetation heritage agreement, yet conservation interventions are urgently required to protect its biodiversity by reducing the impacts of threatening processes, including cats, deer, foxes and goats. These actions would significantly improve habitat conditions for local native fauna, including threatened species.

Initial assessments by our Science and Knowledge team have identified priority management tasks that will enable critical conservation benefits for the nature reserve.

You can donate to help enable key actions to restore and conserve nature on the reserve.

The activities outlined below will provide a foundation for the immediate management of Mongolurring and assist with developing a long-term conservation management plan to improve habitats for local native species.

Right now, \$120,000 is needed to deliver these important actions:

- Baseline fauna survey
- Essential fencing works
- Initial weed control
- Goat control
- Deer control



You can support survey and conservation work at Mongolurring Nature Reserve by contributing to our Forever Nature Fund: Mongolurring Conservation Management Appeal



Forever Nature Fund

Nature Foundation's Forever Nature Fund was established in December 2022 to raise capital to purchase and manage critical habitat areas and prioritised using data-driven scientific and environmental assessment tools.

The Fund enables our team to act quickly and decisively when a property of high conservation value is available, and ensures the land is assessed and managed appropriately to restore and protect biodiversity.

Nature Foundation aims to double our impact to 1 million hectares protected by 2030. We have made positive strides towards this goal over the past year, including the generous donation of Mongolurring Nature Reserve.

The compounding impacts of climate change are accelerating the decline of Australia's biodiversity, with increasing numbers of species and ecological communities listed as threatened. This urgent situation makes our mission to protect and restore critical habitats more crucial than ever.

We value your support of our mission to conserve the precious habitat of South Australia and beyond.

Mongolurring Nature Reserve

Area: 1,200-hectares (12km²). **Location:** East of Mount Bryan, South Australia. **Acquired:** June 2024.

Major aims: Threat abatement, conservation and protection of flora and fauna.

Key threatened species: Initial information indicates the presence of EPBC-listed Southern Whiteface and Diamond Firetail, and South Australian state-listed White-winged Chough.

Management: Nature Foundation.

Traditional custodians: Ngadjuri people.

Assessing the vegetation at Mongolurring

The Science and Knowledge team have commenced initial baseline biological surveys with a preliminary vegetation survey. The two-day survey, conducted by volunteers Sonia and Tim Croft in early October 2024, assessed vegetation types and habitats across the western half of the nature reserve.

The survey identified the following key vegetation types:

- Mallee woodland
- Low woodland
- Low shrubland
- Senna species shrubland and
- Grassland

Numerous small creeks also traverse the nature reserve, with vegetation floristically the same as adjoining vegetation. This diversity of habitat is not uncommon over large areas and supports a range of flora and fauna.

The survey also found two South Australian state-listed* plants onsite:

- Bottle Bluebush (*Maireana excavate*) (Vulnerable) (above right, top)
- Rohrlach's Bluebush (*Maireana rohrlachii*) (Rare) (above right, bottom)

In addition to the native flora, there was evidence of invasive weeds, including Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissum*) and a localised patch of Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*).



As with many of our nature reserves, feral species will be a key management issue. While the area has not had farm stock run on it, goats are present, and foxes and deer were sighted. These initial findings form a strong base for initial management plans that will focus on controlling feral species and tackling invasive weeds.

Your support of our Forever Nature Fund: Mongolurring Conservation Management Appeal will fund further survey and conservation at Mongolurring Nature Reserve.

* (National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, Schedules)



From the Chair Jan Ferguson OAM



The Forever Nature Fund launched in December 2022, and the progress made in 2024 has been pleasing. With two new nature reserves this year—Bullock Bridge and Mongolurring—and generous donations and bequests growing the fund, we are well on the way towards doubling our footprint to 1 million hectares by 2030.

While acquiring land is a crucial step, it's just the beginning. True conservation success and biodiversity impact are achieved through a comprehensive approach that includes assessing the landscape and implementing tailored land management plans. This is why we're seeking your support for foundational actions through our Forever Nature Fund: Mongolurring Conservation Management Appeal. Your contributions directly enhance biodiversity in South Australia, and we're grateful for any support you can offer.

I extend my gratitude to the Nature Foundation membership for supporting my reappointment, along with Deputy Chair Professor Phil Weinstein, and Douglas Ransom for another three-year term as part of the recent Annual General Meeting. We have made significant progress in partnership with the Board as a leadership team. I look forward to continuing these positive results. My vision for Nature Foundation continues to be:

- Increase our nature conservation estate
- Continually improve the conservation estate we currently own
- Increase our profile in the philanthropy sector
- Bring more people into contact with nature
- Increase our network of dedicated supporters

We've welcomed many new members over the past few months. Together with the Board and staff team, we greatly appreciate the support for our vision and mission that your membership provides. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join the Nature Foundation and become part of our growing community. You can find more information about membership in this issue, as well as on the Nature Foundation website.

As you will see in this edition of Nature Matters, there has been much activity across the reserves and beyond over the past few months including baseline biodiversity survey results at our other new nature reserve, Bullock Bridge, and an exciting native species detection at the Gidgealpa SEB offset. There has also been a wide range of events and activities with members, donors, volunteers and supporters. It has been a pleasure to connect with so many people, including many new faces, and see that we are engaging people in conservation.

If you haven't had a chance to look through our recent 2024 Impact Report, I encourage you to do so. It comprehensively summarises our outputs, outcomes and impacts over the past financial year. It is available on the Nature Foundation website. You can contact the office if you would like a printed copy.

With the summer and holidays ahead, I wish you and your family a safe and happy festive season and look forward to connecting with you again in the new year. Thank you for your ongoing support.



From the CEO Alex Nankivell



I hope you enjoy reading about the various initiatives that Nature Foundation has been involved in over the past few months. As you can see, we have been extremely busy across our network of nature reserves, completing surveys of our native flora and fauna and managing threats to help improve biodiversity and protect more habitats.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jem Shimmiel and Paul Drummond to the Nature Foundation staff team. Jem will lead the Reserve Management team as the Senior Conservation Land Manager, while Paul has been appointed as the Conservation Land Manager based at Hiltaba Nature Reserve.

In October, several members of the Nature Foundation team and I travelled to Sydney to attend the first Global Nature Positive Summit (GNPS) and the Australian Land Conservation Alliance's (ALCA) Private Land Conservation Conference (PLC24). Both events provided wonderful opportunities to connect with others who are tirelessly working to restore our natural environment. We heard about various solutions to the challenges we face and learned about the successes others have achieved. I left the events feeling optimistic that, despite the significant work ahead for the Nature Foundation, we are moving in the right direction towards contributing to a nature-positive world.

The key themes of the GNPS included developing and agreeing on essential metrics needed to demonstrate biodiversity impact and the ongoing challenge of securing adequate financing to restore nature and our biosphere.

A personal highlight for me was a field trip to North Head Sanctuary, also known as Carrangel, which is situated on Gadigal country. Members of the Harbour Trust and the National Parks Service guided a tour for delegates. The Sanctuary is home to the critically endangered East Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS), which has unfortunately experienced a reduction in its distribution by over 95% due to the development of Sydney's eastern suburbs. During my visit, I was fortunate to see a beautiful array of wildflowers in bloom, whales breaching between the heads, a Brushturkey, a Green Tree Snake, and numerous signs of the Endangered Long-nosed Bandicoot. Reminding me of the importance of living with nature and what can be achieved when people work together.

We have accomplished a significant amount this year, and I want to express my gratitude to all our members, volunteers, and supporters for their continued support. The staff team will take a short break during the holiday season, and we will return rejuvenated and prepared to approach 2025 with renewed purpose.





Photos this page by Bryan Haywood

Left: Photos by Dr Hugh McGregor
Below: Photo by Jennifer Hiscock

Measuring the biodiversity baseline at Bullock Bridge

An essential first step in developing strategic conservation management plans for any new nature reserve is undertaking baseline biological surveys. These surveys enable us to make informed, evidence-based management recommendations.

Bullock Bridge Nature Reserve—Bullocky Bridge as it is known locally—was acquired in early 2024, and the 203-hectare area boasts rich botanical diversity that supports a wealth of native birds, mammals and reptiles. While the reserve is under a native vegetation heritage agreement and contains self-sustaining intact native vegetation requiring low ongoing maintenance, some areas have been cleared and have begun regenerating naturally. We need to determine the most appropriate revegetation options, with a longer-term goal to introduce regionally threatened plant species.

Before planning for long-term management, we must undertake a biodiversity inventory of the nature reserve to determine what species inhabit the region and establishes a baseline against which we can measure future management outcomes.

We are grateful to have received a Limestone Coast Landscape Board Grassroots Grant of \$30,000, which will enable us to undertake the surveys required to establish a biodiversity baseline.

In October 2024, the Science and Knowledge team commenced this initial survey work with support from local staff from Nature Glenelg Trust. They established ten biodiversity monitoring sites that will form the basis for a long-term monitoring program.

The sites will record native bird species, mammals, reptiles, vegetation, and invasive species.

Leading benefactor, Professor Hugh Possingham, continues to partner with us on this highly significant parcel of bushland, working with our Science and Knowledge team to select the ten monitoring sites across the reserve that provide a cross-section of the key vegetation types:

- Coastal mallee
- SA Blue Gum

- Stringybark
- Heath
- Mixed vegetation

Monitoring techniques will include:

- Regular bird surveys to build on historical data
- Reptile monitoring using the “tile flip” method
- Pitfall and Elliot traps to detect small mammals
- Remote cameras to assess the presence of small mammals, reptiles, large herbivores and invasive species

Bullock Bridge Nature Reserve is part of one of the largest areas of intact native vegetation in the region and provides a refuge for local native fauna as well as species that are moving south seeking cooler climates. Initial surveys have detected the presence of Little (or Tasmanian) Pygmy Possum (*Cercartetus lepidus*), pictured top left, and Western Pygmy Possum (*Cercartetus concinnus*).

We look forward to receiving the complete initial survey results, which will inform threat abatement and revegetation aspects of our conservation management plans.

We will be seeking support from our registered volunteers to assist with clean-up and revegetation tasks at Bullock Bridge from April 2025. If you are interested in joining our Volunteer program, you can register your interest here: naturefoundation.org.au/volunteer

This project is supported by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board's Grassroots Grants program, and is funded by the regional landscape levy.

Extinct Stick-nest Rat nest found at Witchelina

On a visit to Witchelina earlier this year, our Field Ecologist, Dr Hugh McGregor was excited to find a very old Stick-nest Rat nest! This species of native rat became extinct at Witchelina over 100 years ago.

Stick-nest Rats are large native rodents, between 100 – 300g. There were two species in southern Australia, the lesser and greater. They both became extinct on the Australian mainland by the 1930s, and only the Greater Stick-nest Rat (*Leporillus conditor*) survived at one cat-free island near Ceduna. Cats and foxes are the most likely dominant cause of their mainland extinction. They have since been translocated to other safe-havens where cats and foxes have been removed, such as the nearby Arid Recovery reserve.

The Stick-nest Rat females build large nests from sticks, generally the size of Wedge-tailed Eagle nests (1-2m²). They raise their young inside, and often pass their nests down to their daughters to take over. Their urine is very oily and acts like linseed oil, helping to preserve the sticks. They would often build these nests in rock crevices. In such cases where the nests are protected from rain, these nests can last centuries. In fact, nearby in the northern Flinders Ranges some nests have been dated 10 000 years old! (McCarthy et al 1996).

The nest found in this instance is at least the third found on Witchelina. It still contains the sticks the rats used to make the nest, lots of rat scat, and even masses of congealed rat urine (also known as ‘amberat’).

A very interesting find!

Reference: McCarthy, L., Head, L., & Quade, J. (1996). Holocene palaeoecology of the northern Flinders Ranges, South Australia, based on stick-nest rat (Leporillus spp.) middens: a preliminary overview. Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology, 123(1-4), 205-218.



Exciting bird sightings at Hiltaba

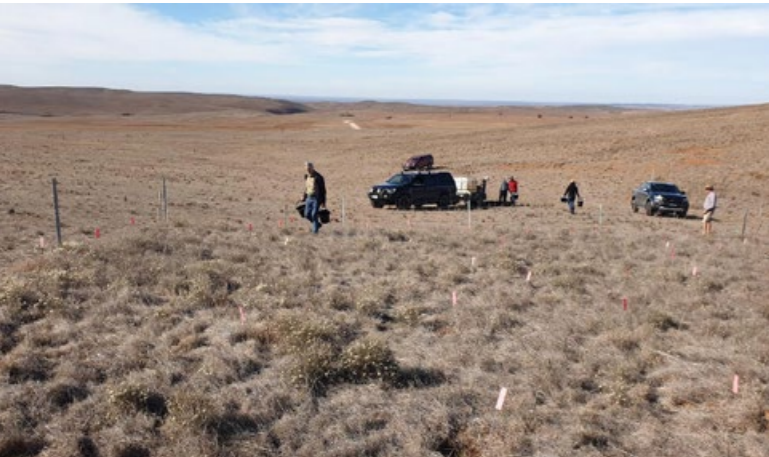
A bird survey was conducted on Hiltaba Nature Reserve in July by a team from Birds SA many of whom are also Nature Foundation members.

Over the four days around 60 species were recorded. Bird numbers were a little down on last year, likely reflecting the dry conditions earlier in the year and also the cold weather experienced during the survey.

One of the most intriguing findings of the survey was the sighting of Elegant Parrots (*Neophema elegans*, pictured above) at two locations, with one of the sightings near the Hiltaba airstrip now being the most westerly record of this species in South Australia.

Elegant Parrots were first recorded on Hiltaba during the 2023 bird survey. However, there are records from further east in the Gawler Ranges.

Below: Photo by Dr Lucy Clive
Right: Photo by André Laubscher



Giving our Iron-grass a helping hand at Tiliqua

In late May, Nature Foundation volunteers provided some much-needed water to Iron-grass at Tiliqua Nature Reserve, a crucial intervention that significantly improved their chances of survival following the long dry spring until the winter rains arrive.

Iron grass is a long-lived, hardy plant that is the backbone of Lomandra grassland communities.

During our community and partner-supported planting days, including one in June 2021, a total of 700 Iron-grass (*Lomandra multiflora ssp. dura* and *Lomandra densiflora*) were planted, marking a significant step in our revegetation efforts at Tiliqua Nature Reserve.

The plantings were part of the Native Grasslands Project, an initiative made possible by the generous funding from the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, which also supported the watering project.

Mid Murray Landcare SA Project Manager met eight Nature Foundation volunteers on site for the watering. All plants are in fenced enclosures to protect them from grazing and have been marked with pin markers to help identify them in the long grass.

Our thanks go out to our dedicated volunteers, the generous support of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, and the contribution of Mid Murray Landcare SA.



Regent Parrot surveys at Murbpook

Our efforts at Murbpook Nature Reserve over the past financial year have focused on collaborating with the Regent Parrot Recovery Team and Australian National University (ANU) to better understand our local population of Regent Parrots (*Polytelis anthoepus monarchoides*).

You can read about these activities and findings in our 2024 Impact Report. This work continues with surveys and observations throughout late winter and early spring, peak nesting and breeding season.

Our conservation actions have been significantly bolstered by the support of volunteers from Nature Foundation and BirdsSA. These dedicated individuals have played a crucial role in undertaking a Regent Parrot census. With the guidance and support of experienced bird survey volunteers, new volunteers have been able to contribute effectively, understanding what to look for and how to identify and document behaviours and findings. The last Regent Parrot census occurred in 2021. By building the skills of volunteers, we hope to begin annual surveys, which will provide valuable data to support the research of the Regent Parrot Recovery Team and ANU.

The next significant step is the commencement of eDNA analysis on chick scat, funded through a Murray and Riverland Landscape Board Grassroots Grant. This study is a crucial part of our conservation efforts, as it will allow us to identify what the parent birds are foraging, which is essential for understanding their diet and habitat preferences. The information we gather will be instrumental in determining key plant species for future revegetation work at Murbpook Nature Reserve and throughout the Riverland region.

We look forward to bringing you insights from the spring surveys and chick scat analysis project.

Fish surveys at Watchalunga

Our 92-hectare Watchalunga Nature Reserve, nestled in the Lower Finniss region of South Australia, provides diverse habitats for a myriad of native animals, including freshwater fish. The Lower Finniss, a vital region for freshwater fish, serves as an extensive wetland habitat and hydrological connector between the upstream habitat and the Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth.

Since 2018, we've been conducting targeted annual fish surveys to monitor the fish community's status and provide a temporal and spatial comparison of fish abundance within Watchalunga Nature Reserve. The recent 2024 spring survey, conducted by Nature Glenelg Trust for our Science and Knowledge team with the support of Nature Foundation volunteers, revealed some intriguing and promising results following the 2022/2023 floods.

Following identification, observation and measurement, the survey team returned native fish to the water at the point of capture; alien fish were removed and euthanised. All fish sampled appeared in good health with no obvious deformities, disease, or parasite infestations apparent. In addition to fish records, environmental descriptors, such as the extent of habitat cover, flow and pool condition, and water quality parameters, were recorded to aid the interpretation of results and assist with a broader condition assessment.

The survey recorded 1077 fish across 15 species, with 91.7% of the catch being native species. We were pleased to observe a rise in native fish species, with 10 of the 15 species sampled being native fish, two more than in 2023 and one more than in 2022 and 2021. Overall, the total 2024 fish catch was the highest since fish monitoring commenced in 2018.

The native and diadromous species Common Galaxia (*Galaxius maculatus*) was the most abundant species caught during the survey, accounting for 41.6% of the total catch. The native freshwater generalist Flathead Gudgeon (*Philypnodon grandiceps*) was the second most abundant species, representing 36.4% of the total catch.



Fish survey photos by Dr Sylvia Zukowski
Murray Darling Golden Perch (*Macquaria ambigua*) pictured on left



These species were recorded in significantly higher quantities in both cases than in the previous years' surveys. The native estuarine Lagoon Goby (*Tasmanogobius lasti*) was also detected for the first time, though in meagre numbers.

The five alien species combined contributed to 8.3% of the total catch, a significant decrease compared to 2023, when it dominated 74.8% of the total catch. The Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) was the most abundant alien species caught, followed by the newly detected Oriental Weatherloach (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*). Redfin Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) was also recorded, though in lower numbers than previous years.

The increased abundance of native fish is likely due to increased connection across the river and wetlands system following the 2022/2023 floods, along with the 2022 and 2023 electrofishing exercises, which have greatly decreased the abundance of the alien fish community.

We are eager to continue regular electrofishing and undertake other activities to restore aquatic habitat, support the resident fish community, and encourage the recolonisation of key threatened freshwater fishes. We are seeking funding to assist with these efforts.



Thank you for supporting our 2024 Vital Work Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported our mid-year Vital Work Appeal. We are delighted to share that we exceeded our \$100,000 target, raising \$148,135!

These generously donated funds will play a critical role in our ongoing conservation work. The damaged causeway at Watchalunga Nature Reserve can now be repaired, returning safe access to this section of the reserve to undertake weed control, revegetation, surveys and more conservation activities.

The funds raised will also assist with supporting water infrastructure updates at Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves, upgrading the Shearers Quarters at Hiltaba Nature Reserve and ongoing fencing requirements.

Infrastructure initiatives such as these play a crucial role in protecting the habitats of numerous threatened species we are conserving on our reserves.

From all of us at Nature Foundation, and the feathered, furred, scaled and other fauna and flora we strive to conserve—thank you!



Corporate partner spotlight / Macquarie Luncheon

Corporate partnerships play an important role in supporting our conservation programs, and we are grateful for our partners who bring a diverse set of values, priorities, resources and competencies to the table, all connected by a common vision and a desire to achieve genuine outcomes for nature conservation.

The Macquarie Group Foundation drives social impact work for the Macquarie Group, supporting its people, businesses, and communities to build a better future. It aims to leverage both financial and non-financial resources to achieve the greatest social impact possible.

Macquarie has supported our annual Vital Work Appeal fundraising luncheon since 2018, hosting a select group of major donors and special guests, eager to learn about nature conservation in general and the work of Nature Foundation specifically.

The June 2024 luncheon guests enjoyed a presentation from CEO Alex Nankivell, who shared our 2024 Vital Work Appeal fundraising priorities, details of our landscape prioritisation tool and its role in strategically increasing our land acquisition. This update was followed by Science and Knowledge Program Officer, Dr Lucy Clive, who shared insights and results from her work at Watchalunga Nature Reserve, primarily based around supporting the endangered Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren (*Stipiturus malachurus intermedius*).

The heart of the luncheon was fundraising for our Vital Work Appeal, and we were overwhelmed by the generous support of our guests and donations in lieu provided by those who were invited but unable to attend.

The guests' contributions at the Vital Work Appeal were met with a remarkable gesture from the Macquarie Group Foundation, who generously matched 50% of the amount raised, contributing a substantial \$30,400 to the appeal. These funds, the luncheon and time are an incredible investment in our organisation and supporters.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Macquarie Group Foundation for their ongoing support.



Photo by Jack Bilby

Threatened Plains Mice detected at Gidgealpa

Processing images from the Gidgealpa camera trap network recently produced an exciting surprise result: the unexpected detection of the nationally and SA state-listed Vulnerable native Plains Mouse at two locations across the SEB offset.

Nature Foundation has been engaged by Santos since 2019 to establish and provide ongoing management of the 20,172-hectare area of Gidgealpa Station in South Australia's far north-east, fulfilling the company's Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) offset requirements. Since the project commenced, grazing management has allowed native flora to regenerate. Dune stability has also improved, minimising the effects of erosion, and improving the soil's water-holding capacity, allowing it to act as a resource sink.

The Plains Mouse (*Pseudomys australis*) is a rodent native to arid and semi-arid areas that build shallow, complex burrows dug into cracks in the gibber plain, so-called "cracking clay" habitats. The cracks provide refuge for the native rodents, earning them the nickname "crack rats".

Plains Mice populations also exist on our Witchelina Nature Reserve, and South Gap SEB offset, so we are familiar with their habits and the conservation management required to support this threatened species.

This discovery of the Plains Mouse's presence at Gidgealpa underscores the importance of the SEB offset for conserving biodiversity in South Australia and the value of camera trap networks as monitoring tools.



In late October 2024, our Kids on Country™ team—Warren Milera and Katie Perry—presented at the Indigenous Wellbeing Conference in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Now in its fourth year, the Indigenous Wellbeing Conference celebrates Indigenous community, culture and identity to help advance social and emotional wellbeing for all First Nations Australian, Māori and Pasifika people.

The conference highlights the importance of connection to country, culture, spirituality and ancestry and the roles they play in wellbeing and brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to conceptualise solutions to the most important wellbeing needs of all First Nations Australian, Māori and Pasifika people.

Warren and Katie's presentation entitled—The Value of Connection to Country for Health and Wellbeing—provided an overview of the Kids on Country™ Junior Ranger Program, and key learnings from it that might assist other educators and those working with young people.

Kia Ora from KoC

The breakaway session following Warren and Katie's presentation was a packed house.

The Kids on Country™ program builds employability skills for young Aboriginal people by improving wellbeing, teaching life skills, building confidence 'on country' and sparking interest in conservation and land management.

Since its inception in 2016, 44 camps have been held across our Hiltaba and Witchelina Nature Reserves, positively impacting 503 Aboriginal young people.

We are very proud of Warren and Katie sharing the program and its positive outcomes to an overseas audience.

Student Research Grants

Since 2000, Nature Foundation has awarded **\$1,965,786 in research grants** to post-graduate students, academics, and the community to kickstart careers in research, supporting 459 students.

This year **three student research grants** were awarded in the March 2024 round to the value of **\$40,822**:



2023 Student Research Grant Recipient Reports

We are delighted to bring you these research report updates from two of our 2023 student research grant recipients.

Grant Start Grants – Honours

These grants provide up to \$2000 for one year to assist an Honours student undertaking research. Projects may be field-based or involve non-field-based research such as geographic information systems, remote sensing-related projects, or data analysis.

Ryan Sauermann

Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), University of Melbourne

Ryan's project aims to develop a comprehensive method for reliably and efficiently quantifying the genetic diversity within Fat-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*) populations across Australia. The lack of reliable genetic evidence is a significant barrier to assessing the status of the Fat-tailed Dunnart in states other than Victoria, including South Australia.

The resulting genetic tool strives to be cost-effective and accessible, enabling its use by conservation practitioners and researchers in South Australia and empowering them to make informed decisions regarding the genetic management and conservation status of Fat-tailed Dunnarts and their habitats, such as those at Witchelina Nature Reserve.

Grand Starts Grants – PhD

PhD/Masters Grand Start Scholarships provide grants of up to \$3000 per annum for a maximum of three years to assist a PhD/Masters student undertaking research.

Jack Bilby

PhD, University of New South Wales, UNSW Sydney

Jack is a repeat recipient of our Grand Start Grants – PhD grant, having received it in 2023 as well. This year's grant will assist him with continuing his multi-year research project.

Australian arid zone mammals will be subjected to incredible pressures by climate change, and yet we know very little about how they respond to heat. Jack is investigating how native and invasive terrestrial mammals cope with extreme temperatures and how physiology, phylogeny, behaviour, and land management will impact their ability to survive.

Roy and Marjory Edwards Scholarship

This scholarship provides up to \$12,000 per annum for up to three years to support a student at an Australian university. This scholarship was initiated in 2002 by a generous donation from Mrs Marjory Edwards to establish a perpetual scholarship in conservation biology.

Rebecca Greening

PhD, The University of Adelaide

Rebecca is a repeat recipient, having received the Nature Foundation Scientific Expedition Foundation RL & GK Willing Grant in 2023, and is now undertaking her PhD which will build on her previous research, investigating livestock-associated soil microbial communities and native plant recruitment in arid rangelands.

Rebecca will use DNA sequencing to identify microbes and metabolomics to elucidate their function, uncover the microbial taxa influencing plant growth in both grazed and ungrazed areas, and discern their beneficial or inhibitory effects.

Beth Treglown

Roy and Marjory Edwards Scholarship recipient Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Animal Behaviour), PhD in Freshwater Ecology, Flinders University

Identifying environmental drivers that destabilise ecological communities of temperate wetlands

Beth is undertaking a multi-year research project, from 2023 to at least 2026, investigating three South Australian wetlands and how the environmental factors at each site influence plant and animal community structure.

Each of the three South Australian wetlands—Murbpook Nature Reserve, Watchalunga Nature Reserve, and Reedy Creek—possess a unique environmental profile. Understanding these distinct characteristics is crucial for conserving and managing the diverse fish and animal populations in the Murray River and broader regions.

Investigating the links between the environmental drivers and how plants and animals may be affected, and in turn, how these drivers influence diet and food web relationships, will address knowledge gaps regarding the species associated with South Australia's wetlands and provide an understanding of the ecological community processes and essential functions of these wetland locations.

Multiple visits to each site in late 2023 and early 2024 allowed for logistical understanding and identified potential research challenges. The challenges identified across locations have necessitated the refinement of field trip objectives per trip, including the decision to undertake a greater frequency of shorter trips and gather information over a longer period.

Beth's ongoing research will provide valuable information regarding the considerations required to tailor unique wetland management, and we look forward to bringing you further updates on this process and project in the coming years.

Read the full report on our website:
naturefoundation.org.au/2024-srg-report-bt

Jack Bilby

Grand Start Grants – PhD recipient PhD, University of New South Wales, UNSW Sydney

Comparing the responses of a native and invasive mammal to extreme heat events

Heat waves are becoming more frequent, longer, and more extreme under climate change. The severity of heat waves is predicted to increase the most in arid areas, where native mammals have already undergone the highest extinction rates.

Understanding how native and invasive terrestrial mammals respond to extreme heat events and how effective their responses are will be crucial for future conservation efforts. This research is significant in the context of climate change and wildlife conservation and has the potential to fill a significant knowledge gap and provide hope for the conservation of native species.

Jack's project uses the Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) and European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) and the methods thus far have involved attaching GPS units and iButton temperature and humidity loggers to eight Bilbies and fifteen Rabbits to assess micro- and macro-habitat use during extreme heat events during summer at the Arid Recovery Reserve in northern South Australia.

All animals are regularly radio-tracked to assess shelter site selection across a temperature gradient. Accelerometers have also been used on Bilbies and Rabbits to determine energy expenditure and novel neural network analyses to categorise behaviours remotely.

While rigorous statistical analyses are yet to occur, the preliminary results are already indicating significant differences in the strategies of Bilbies and Rabbits for avoiding extreme temperatures. During daylight hours, Bilbies consistently experience lower temperatures than Rabbits, while also experiencing far higher humidity.

Read the full report on our website:
naturefoundation.org.au/2024-srg-report-jb

We wish all our 2024 grant recipients well with their research and look forward to bringing you more updates.



Announcing our 2024 Artist Residency Program recipients

We are delighted to announce and introduce the three successful artists selected to participate in our Artist Residency Program for 2024.

Founded in 2019, Nature Foundation's Artist Residency Program offers artists with a professional profile the opportunity to spend up to two weeks at either Witchelina or Hiltaba Nature Reserves.

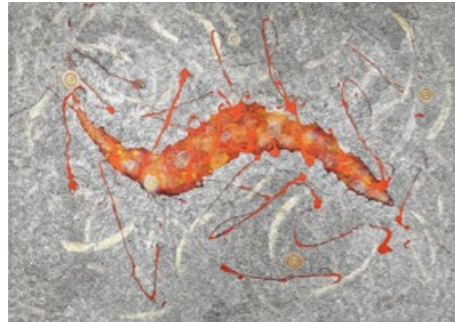
Nature Foundation provides participating artists with accommodation and general support, including orientation to and guidance on the Nature Reserves. We also promote and sell works created from the artists' visits through media, exhibitions, and other marketing opportunities. The 2024 artists are:



Catherine Bourn

Catherine Bourn is a watercolour artist who immerses herself in the landscape, quietly observing the rhythm and abundance of life amongst the rocks and other seemingly static natural formations.

Catherine has travelled through South Australia, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia, during which she noticed the colours in the landscape telling their own story. The deep reds and oranges, the bright yellow sunrise, and the dappled green humidity poised against the sapphire blue sky and distant cobalt ranges.



Josephine Lennon

Josephine Lennon is a Mirning and Antikirinjara artist who currently lives in Ceduna creating artworks on consignment and within local arts programs. She sees her family as a major motivation, and her key inspiration is keeping her culture and language alive, reinforcing her connection to Country, land, and sea through her art.

Josephine has received significant recognition throughout her career thus far, including being awarded the prestigious Don Dunstan art prize at the 2016 'Our Mob' Aboriginal art exhibition, Runner-up in the 2019 Port Augusta Malka Aboriginal Art Prize, and Runner-up in the 2019 Port Lincoln Art Prize.



Kirrily Anderson

Kirrily Anderson is an artist based in northeast Victoria. She grew up on a farm in the NSW Riverina, which helped develop her appreciation of and practical skills for the outdoors.

A versatile multidisciplinary artist, Kirrily's artistic journey encompasses a constant exploration of new frontiers, forging connections between people, places, and memories. Through her creative practice, she strives to deeply resonate with audiences, leaving a lasting impact.



2025 Artist Residency Program

Applications are open for our 2025 Artist Residency Program. For full details and to apply, please visit: naturefoundation.org.au/arp

Applications close 31 March 2025.

We wish the three artists all the best for their residencies and look forward to seeing the artworks inspired by Witchelina and Hiltaba Nature Reserves.

Nature Foundation gratefully acknowledges the Artist Residency Program sponsorship by the Helen James Endowment Fund.



Restored "Hildyard" wagon returns to Hiltaba

Nature Foundation members visiting Hiltaba may recall the old wooden wool press, rescued from the reserve dump in 2017, and restored by a Victorian group whose friendship originated in the Dookie Agricultural College in 1966.

Returning the restored press to Hiltaba in 2021, the group became aware of the old wagon near Trump Dam. Led by Bob Gray, and enthused by their success with the wool press, they embarked upon a similar reconstruction of the wagon in 2022.

Made in the early 1900's by R.J.L Hildyard in Melbourne, the wagon's unique feature was that the all-steel wheels ran on patented twin-roller bearings. Advertisements of the time claimed that "three horses could do the work of five".

Bob's research found two similar wagons in NSW, one owned by pastoralists Phillip and Lynda Snowden at Finley, and the other by Martin and Austen Driver at Conargo. Bob and Nature Foundation are grateful for their help and generous donation of original parts to replace those missing from the Hiltaba wagon, greatly adding to its authenticity.

Following its return in October 2024, the wagon has been installed under a purpose-built cover attached to the woolshed.

For more information and photos, please visit: naturefoundation.org.au/wagon-restoration

By Greg Bannon

Photos by Lange Powell



Philanthropy and Nature: Gift in Will information session

In early September, members and supporters had the opportunity to learn more about how they could consider leaving a legacy for nature at our Philanthropy and Nature: Gift in Will information session.

Many established Western economies are in the early stages of the largest transfer of wealth in modern history. How the current owners of these assets plan and manage this transition will reshape Australian society over coming decades.

The presentation explored the options available for individuals and families. It provided practical examples of how to consider leaving a legacy for our precious natural environment. Key insights were shared by John McLeod (Senior Research Consultant for JBWere) and Michael Rizzuto (Director of Sedsman Legal). John provided useful information about philanthropy and nature, particularly the transition of wealth and how it will reshape Australian society over the coming decades.

As a valued supporter interested in Nature Foundation's long-term impact, we are pleased to provide access to a copy of the report shared by JBWere's John McLeod at the event.

You can download the report here: jbwere.com.au/campaigns/bequest-report

Guests were also shown the short video summary of Nature Foundation's gift of land bequestors, Dr Richard Glatz and Janine Mackintosh. Richard and Janine have bequested their 243-hectare native heritage agreement block of land on Kangaroo Island to Nature Foundation, and this video shares their story of engagement with nature and motivation for leaving a legacy to support the environment.

You can watch the video here: naturefoundation.org.au/bequest

If you would like more information on how you might be able to make a valuable contribution to our work, protecting nature now and into the future, please contact Philanthropy Coordinator Patrick Mentzel on (08) 8340 2880 during business hours, or email patrick.mentzel@naturefoundation.org.au



Jem Shimmield
Senior Conservation
Land Manager

Staff profile

Jem has recently joined the Nature Foundation team in the Adelaide head office as Senior Conservation Land Manager and will be responsible for coordinating and overseeing the people and activities across our network of nature reserves.

How did you come to be at Nature Foundation?

I studied Applied GIS at Flinders University, majoring in Environmental Science and completed a thesis looking at the population response of Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats to rainfall and density in the Riverlands. From here, my professional career began in Environmental Consulting where I had the opportunity to travel throughout Australia doing field work and aerial fauna surveys, which furthered my passion for the environment, especially in the biodiversity, pest and weed management spaces.

Following this, I moved across to the Australian resources sector, spending more than 10 years in various environmental advisor roles, specialising in environmental remediation and rehabilitation. Over this period, I had been increasingly longing to be involved in more meaningful conservation work, so when I saw the Conservation Land Manager roles advertised with Nature Foundation, who I'd worked with previously, applying was a no-brainer!

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

I can't wait to get out to all of Nature Foundation's reserves across the state and in particular back to Hiltaba and Witchelina where I have very fond memories from previous work visits. I'm very much looking forward to meeting and working the rest of the Nature Foundation team, volunteers and supporters, and learning more about the current projects and priorities to achieve our collective goals.

What are some of your interests outside of work?

I love spending time outdoors with my wife and our 1-year-old daughter. I play golf regularly with a few social clubs and am always trying to improve my game. At home, I'm usually in the garden striving to improve the biodiversity on our own small patch of land in the Adelaide Hills, which I find very rewarding. I've recently joined Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park and am aiming to get out more often to assist with bird-banding and bush care days, when time permits. Aside from this, I'm a slightly obsessive weather observer and enjoy fishing, birding, live music and festivals. In my downtime, I like to learn about a wide range of topics (currently ancient history) and am a keen rugby and cricket fan.



Paul Drummond
Conservation
Land Manager

Staff profile

Paul Drummond is the on-site Conservation Land Manager at Hiltaba Nature Reserve and has cultivated years of ecological knowledge and conservation expertise, Paul is responsible for the operational management of programs and projects at Hiltaba to ensure effective conservation and land management

How did you come to be at Nature Foundation?

I was first introduced to Nature Foundation around the time the organisation acquired Witchelina Nature Reserve. I was a volunteer with the Hunting and Conservation part of the SSAA (Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia) and was invited on one of the first trips to Witchelina for the purpose of feral animal control and assessment. I soon found myself helping to restore infrastructure with materials found on-site to make the stay somewhat more comfortable and functional. Soon after, I became Nature Foundation's professional shooter and, with the help of Alex (Nankivell), developed the feral predator spotlighting program that continues today.

I was also on the flora and fauna baseline survey of Witchelina by EBS Ecology. I worked with them for ten years as a Field Ecologist and jack-of-all-trades while continuing the feral predator spotlighting program. For the last 18 months, I have been working with Nature Glenelg Trust as an Aquatic Ecologist, monitoring small-body native fish throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges and Fleurieu Peninsula (including Watchalunga Nature Reserve) and supporting their threatened fish and crustation recovery programs.

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

As Conservation Land Manager at Hiltaba, I look forward to being out on country, experiencing less common plants, animals and landscapes. I look forward to contributing to the good work already being done to improve the habitat and environment that benefits native flora and fauna across the reserve and supporting visitors with their work and needs.

What are some of your interests outside of work?

I've always been into nature and fishing, and they tend to go well with camping, which has taken me to some amazing places and given me some unique experiences over the years. I also enjoy motorsport and competed in dirt circuit racing for a few years while living in Arno Bay. I also enjoy watching AFL and cricket when the weather's not great for spending time outdoors.

Recent Events

Photos by Bill Doyle



Watchalunga Planting Day

Despite the cold and drizzle, Sunday 28 July—National Tree Day—blossomed into a beautiful day at Watchalunga Nature Reserve.

Our dedicated team of Nature Foundation staff, members, supporters, and volunteers came together to plant 1,750 native seedlings, a significant contribution to the critical habitat of the endangered Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren (*Stipiturus malachurus intermedius*).

Nature Foundation has been holding our annual planting days at Watchalunga since 2017. Along with being an important part of our conservation work at the wetland reserve, they are a popular opportunity for our growing member, volunteer, and supporter base to experience our nature reserves and get their hands dirty for a good cause!

The event began with a heartfelt Welcome to Country from Ngarrindjeri Elder Auntie Leonie before the group then got stuck into laying out the seedlings and tree guards on the pre-drilled holes (thanks Second Nature Conservancy!) then planting. We planted a mix of native groundcovers, rushes, sedges and shrubs that, over time, will create the thick cover that Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wrens prefer for nesting and hiding.

A sincere thank you to everyone who attended and supported the day.

Conservation Conversations

In early August we held our annual Conservation Conversations to a packed house!

The evening was hosted by Prue Adams, and commenced with updates from Nature Foundation's Chair, Jan Ferguson OAM, and CEO, Alex Nankivell, followed by conversations with Professor Hugh Possingham, Professor Mike Letnic, and 2024 SA Young Australian of the Year, Tiahni Adamson.

Hugh shared updates from Bullock Bridge and a spur-of-the-moment maths lesson, demonstrating the importance of funding our most important home, the environment.

Mike recounted his first encounter with Australia's horizon and how it inspired his work in arid regions, including the research projects he is involved in with Nature Foundation and his perspectives on the impacts of introduced predators and water on conservation.

Tiahni engaged the audience with her early childhood experiences, motivating her career in conservation, and explained why she is so passionate about science communication and getting more people involved.

The room was buzzing with energy, with engaging conversations off-stage amongst the guests. New connections were made, and there was a palpable excitement to get involved and do more for nature and our environment.



Photos by Sputnik



Friends of Parks Awards

The 2024 Friends of Parks Awards were held in August, as part of the weekend's 33rd Friends of Parks Forum.

The awards recognise outstanding group achievements in five different categories and Nature Foundation were delighted to sponsor the Habitat Protection and Restoration Award, presented by Nature Foundation Chair, Jan Ferguson OAM.

Congratulations to all winners and nominees. These tireless volunteers are undertaking critical work supporting our natural environments.

Nature Foundation – Habitat Restoration and Protection Award

Gold Winner – Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park: Post-fire recovery of Scott Creek Conservation Park

Silver Winner – Friends of Sandy Creek Conservation Park: Grassy woodland restoration project



South-East Spring Member Tour

In mid-September, Nature Foundation members enjoyed a unique opportunity to explore the South-East of South Australia, visiting two of our nature reserves—Geegeela and Bullock Bridge—and other nature-based experiences, including the Naracoorte Caves and Coorong National Park.

The three-day, two-night tour saw a chartered bus and car convoy transport 32 members and four Nature Foundation staff between the various locations. The first nature reserve visit at Geegeela included a presentation and bush walk led by Bryan Haywood, Senior Ecologist at Nature Glenelg Trust, our partner in surveying and monitoring Geegeela Nature Reserve.

During the walk, Bryan showed the group a series of roof tiles used as part of the surveying methods. This human-made item attracts small fauna seeking shelter that can be easily lifted to review without disturbing native vegetation. During one inspection, the group was fortunate to see a baby Mitchell's Short-tailed Snake (*Suta nigriceps*) sheltering beneath the tile. Guests were also excited to discover many unique native orchids and other wildflowers flourishing throughout the area.

Following a morning visit to Naracoorte Caves, the following afternoon included visiting the recently acquired Bullock Bridge Nature Reserve and a talk and walk with Nature Foundation's CEO Alex Nankivell. Rich in botanical diversity, Bullock Bridge is a sanctuary for native birds and wildlife, and the group were excited to see an echidna during their walk.

The tour group gathered for dinners on both evenings and enjoyed discussing the day's events. This was the first tour of this type that Nature Foundation has undertaken since the COVID-19 pandemic and we thank everyone who joined us and assisted with the tour.



Launching Nature's Foundations 3

The Nature's Foundations 3 exhibition kicked off in early October, with a bustling launch event at Pepper Street Arts Centre in Magill, featuring opening words from Simone Vinall and Oli Scholz. Simone is the daughter of Helen James, whose passion for art and nature, sponsors the program through the Helen James Endowment Fund.

The exhibition saw a diverse group of artists, including mixed-media artist Mary Pulford (above middle) from Adelaide, the Adelaide-based couple Tim Thomson and Rosana Cohen (a bronze sculptor and ceramicist, respectively, above right) and Georgina Sambell (above left) from Victoria who has produced a range of oil and watercolour paintings. Each artist brings a unique perspective and is deeply inspired by nature's various forms.

Proceeds from sales of the artwork created go to the artists and support the ongoing work of Nature Foundation.

naturefoundation.org.au

Recent Events



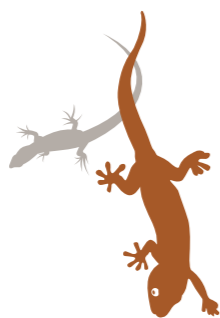
Birds & Bingo

Nature means the world to us. It's in our name. It's intrinsic to everything we do. So, we were proud to be part of this year's Nature Festival again, both as a Festival Partner and hosting our second Birds & Bingo!

Following enthusiastic feedback following last year's inaugural event, bingo master Sputnik returned, this time at The Wheatsheaf Tavern in Thebarton.

In between rounds of bird-themed bingo, we heard fascinating stories from the field, courtesy of Nature Foundation's own Field Ecologist, Dr Hugh McGregor, and Graduate Ecologist with Ecosphere Solutions, Imogen Marshall (pictured above in conversation with Sputnik).

It was another entertaining and educational afternoon, and exciting to have a full house with so many new faces in the room.



Photos by Bill Doyle



Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Crawl at Tiliqua

Thank you to our passionate members and volunteers who assisted with the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Crawl at our Tiliqua Nature Reserve in early October.

Tiliqua Nature Reserve plays an important role as home to a population of endangered Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards (*Tiliqua adelaidensis*) and our lizard crawls play a critical role in preparing for regular surveys to monitor the status of this precious skink.

Over the past year we have partnered with the Pygmy Bluetongue Recovery Team, and this relationship has been pivotal in establishing uniform survey methods for various populations. Our Science and Knowledge Program Officer, Dr Lucy Clive, was responsible for formulating a population monitoring protocol which has now been applied to conduct survey estimates on numerous sites and has been adopted by the Pygmy Bluetongue Recovery Team as best practice. Together with the Recovery Team we have compiled known Pygmy Bluetongue records and are now in the process of implementing the protocol across more sites to formulate a comprehensive population estimate.

The lizard crawl and survey are a valuable component of this process, and we are grateful for the support of all those involved.



Photo by Patrick Mentzel



2024 Nature Foundation AGM

In early November Nature Foundation held our 2024 Annual General Meeting at Payinthe, Eliza Hall on Prospect Road, and livestreamed to remote members online.

The AGM provides an opportunity to update members on Nature Foundation's 2023-2024 work, achievements and finances. The evening was hosted by Nature Foundation Board Chair, Jan Ferguson OAM, who shared highlights from the past financial year, including:

- Two new nature reserves: Bullock Bridge and Mongolurrung
- Progressing our Forever Nature Fund
- Highest fundraising Vital Work Appeal, over \$148,000
- Ongoing financial stability of the Foundation
- Increasing populations of Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies at Hiltaba and Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wrens at Watchalunga
- Growing member and supporter base
- 90 volunteers registered for our new Volunteer program
- Ongoing growth of and support for our Kids on Country™ program
- Our first Family on Country camp at Hiltaba Nature Reserve
- Collaborating with key stakeholders and groups including Regent Parrot Recovery Team and Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Recovery Team
- Pioneering best practice Pygmy Bluetongue population estimate methods
- Incorporating technology in our conservation work such as audio monitoring and AI camera trap image interpretation

More details can be seen in our 2024 Impact Report: naturefoundation.org.au/2024-impact

Board Director and Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, Douglas Ransom, provided a summary of the Foundation's financial performance for the year, including:

- The 2023/24 financial year result was a surplus of \$1.3m
- Net assets increasing to \$18.4m from \$17.1m the previous year

The Returning Officer then provided the declaration of appointment of Board Directors. This year saw three existing Board Directors' terms expire:

- Jan Ferguson OAM, Chair
- Professor Phil Weinstein, Deputy Chair
- Douglas Ransom, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee

These three Board Directors were all nominated for re-election, and with no other nominations received, the three nominees were re-appointed to the Nature Foundation Board as Directors for a three-year term. Nature Foundation Chair, Jan Ferguson OAM, expressed her gratitude for the support from members in continuing the positive work of the current Board of Directors.

Following the formal AGM proceedings, we enjoyed a presentation from Nature Foundation's Science and Knowledge Program Manager, Dr Paul van Ruth, who shared an overview of the Foundation's new science strategy and its four pillars:

- Ecosystem characterisation
- Functional ecosystem restoration
- Threatened species and
- Pest species

You can view the presentation slides on our website: naturefoundation.org.au/sk-presentation

Thank you to all members who participated in this year's AGM; we greatly value your involvement and dedication to Nature Foundation.



Volunteer Round-Up

Our volunteers have been very busy across late winter and spring, helping with activities and events across our nature reserves.

One such activity was a 'come and try' Regent Parrot surveying opportunity at Murbpook Nature Reserve, where volunteers shadowed our Science and Knowledge team members who were undertaking the activity. Some of our conservation activities have particular requirements, and these 'come and try' opportunities offer a degree of specialised training as well as being able to see whether the type of activity is a good fit for your skills and temperament. For example, with bird surveying, participants need good attention to detail and be happy to spend hours sitting, observing and documenting the specific behaviours of different birds.

As we head into summer, outdoor activities across our reserve network, particularly remote reserves, are reduced, so if you have been thinking about volunteering with Nature Foundation, now is a great time to register your interest and be ready to go for our 2025 season!

Receiving volunteer opportunities and updates

Nature Foundation is committed to managing its volunteers through 'best practice' following The Standards of Volunteer Involvement by Volunteering Australia. This means all our volunteers are registered with and coordinated through the MyImpact volunteering system, which you may be familiar with if you volunteer with other medium to large organisations.

The registration process involves several simple steps (outlined on right). Once complete, you will receive details of all upcoming volunteering opportunities via email and within the MyImpact website and app.

Are you considering becoming a volunteer with Nature Foundation?

Nature Foundation's Volunteer Program offers four areas of voluntary service:

- **Conservation** – science and conservation land management activities on regional reserves
- **Reserve Support** – visitor support and conservation land management activities on remote reserves
- **Infrastructure** – assisting with specific projects that maintain or improve existing or create new infrastructure on our reserves to support our conservation work
- **Projects** – office-based science or business activities to support our conservation work

For more information and to register your interest, visit: naturefoundation.org.au/volunteer

Step-by-step: How to become a Nature Foundation Volunteer

1. **Visit the Nature Foundation website:** naturefoundation.org.au/volunteer scroll down and click the "Express your interest here" link.
2. In the top right-hand corner of the new page that opens, click the "Fill in an application" button. You will need to either create a new MyImpact account or log into your existing MyImpact account. Please note: an email address is required.
3. **Once logged in**, you will be asked to provide your contact details, why you want to volunteer with Nature Foundation and other information about yourself. This process will take about 10 minutes. You will be sent a confirmation email when you have successfully submitted your Expression of Interest. Please check your spam or junk folders if you cannot locate it in your inbox.
4. Within two business days of submitting your Expression of Interest form, you will be emailed instructions on **booking a Matching Meeting**. This is a 15-minute telephone conversation with our Volunteer and Visitor Engagement Coordinator to see if you match our needs and we match yours.
5. Book your meeting following the steps in the email, and you will be called at the date and time of your **Matching Meeting**. This call takes about 15 minutes.
6. If you are a match, you will be sent an email following the call to complete some more information in your MyImpact profile. This additional information should take around 10 minutes to complete. If you already have a **Working With Children Check** (WWCC from the Department of Human Services), or **National Police Check** (NPC) you can scan or take a photo of these on your phone to send in. If you don't already have a WWCC or NPC, you will be sent information to help you complete these applications and process them for free as part of your application. Once submitted, the relevant organisations can take 2-4 weeks to process.
7. While you wait for your compliance activities to be completed, you can complete the **Nature Foundation Induction and Code of Conduct**. This e-learning is found in your MyImpact Profile. Once completed, your profile will be automatically updated with this essential qualification. The e-learning takes around 30-40 minutes to read and sign off/submit at the end.
8. Once all these activities are completed, your status in MyImpact is changed to 'Active' and you will be able to see all available volunteer assignment opportunities. Please note: opportunities for 2025 will be published in late January/early February.

If you have any queries about registering as a volunteer, or the process involved, please get in touch with our Visitor and Volunteer Engagement Coordinator, Carolyn Pickering, through the head office.

Membership renewals

Just a reminder that since we moved to a calendar-year based annual membership, all annual memberships will be due for renewal on 31 December 2024, for the whole of 2025.

Depending on your preferences, members will receive either email or postal reminders to renew their membership ahead of this date. Those who have opted in for auto-renewal with a valid credit card will have their membership automatically renewed on 31 December 2024.

For those with manual membership renewals, we encourage you to renew your membership as soon as possible following the renewal reminders. Simply click the link in the email to renew or follow the steps in the renewal letter. You can also review and update your contact details at the same time.

Annual membership fees:

- Individual: \$50
- Couple: \$80

Lifetime membership fees:

- Individual: \$1,500
- Couple: \$2,400

Our members play a vital role in supporting Nature Foundation and our work, and benefits include:

- Nature Matters magazine (two to three editions per year, with priority given for optional printed copies)
- Free or discounted entry to Nature Foundation events
- Exclusive participation opportunities, e.g. planting days and reserve events

- Periodic offers and discounts (such as special offers for 2025)
- Voting rights at the AGM
- Annual Impact Report (with priority given for optional printed copy)

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact us. If you would like to learn more or join, you can do so online here: naturefoundation.org.au/join

2025 Member Offer: State Flora nursery

We are delighted to have the support of State Flora nursery who will be generously offering Nature Foundation members a 10% discount on plant sales throughout 2025.

Full details of how members can redeem the offer will be sent to members (by email or post) in early 2025.

State Flora nursery is located within Belair National Park and is an Industry Accredited Garden Centre under the national best practices scheme administered by Nursery and Garden Industry South Australia. Accreditation is maintained by a yearly audit.

In addition to its immense array of Australian and South Australian native plant species, State Flora features a garden and nature-related gift shop, and related products to help keep Australian gardens in tip-top shape, including soil improvers, plant food and weed killers. The staff are very friendly, and love chatting with other Australian native plant enthusiasts and offering practical advice on successful plant selection and management.



Nature Foundation

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work we do for nature!

We are also active on
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Hope to see you online
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