

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Communiqué



The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board held their final meeting for 2021 but the first meeting in their new premises at the Old Courthouse 1 Jervois Street Port Augusta on 14 and 15 December 2021, as pictured below.



Smoking Ceremony for new SAAL Office

During Mid December – right between the field days and the board meeting, the SA Arid Lands took up residence in the Old Port Augusta Courthouse in the heart of the Port Augusta CBD.

Given Port Augusta has recently become a part of the region of the SA Arid Lands under the Landscape SA Act, it was time for the board's visibility and profile to be reviewed and a more fit for purpose office space sought.

This wonderful building has been brought back from a long and sad state of disrepair to become the home of the board and almost 30 staff.

Importantly, before the board's first meeting in its new home, a cleansing and cultural smoking ceremony was performed by Nukunu Elder Mr Lindsay Thomas. This process provided safe cultural passage for the future business of the board and assisted in releasing sad histories and stories of the building from its original use.

Mr Thomas remarked that this space had gone from being a place of worry for Aboriginal people over many years, to being one of hope, where together, looking after country was the focus of people now occupying the building and supporting the community. He said the building's use had become about matters completely opposite to when he had brought people there from the lands to face a different kind of business.

The ceremony and its explanation to board members and staff was a wonderful learning experience and an important step in starting the new course for the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board and local First Nations People.

It sees an important piece of local heritage restored and looked after, just like the board intends to achieve with the regions landscapes and natural resources in partnership with the whole community.

Board meets with Sevenses Creative & Kangaroo Partnership Coordinator



The successful contractors for the two year Kangaroo Partnership Project met with the board along with their dedicated team member, Georgina Shirley, the Kangaroo Partnership Coordinator (pictured below).



Principals of Sevenses Creative, Andrea Broadfoot and Jack Ritchie shared their experience, expertise and aspirations for the project and highlighted the opportunities for further outcomes given the work they also do in the region in jobs creation, social enterprise, and addressing 'wicked problems' to find solutions with and for communities.

SA Arid Lands Pastoral Field Days a Success Story

This 'third time lucky' event saw almost 400 people come from across the pastoral region and sector to participate in the two-day event, hosted and staged by the SAAL Landscape board as a part of the Building Pastoral Sustainability Project, a partnership between pastoralists and the SA Arid Lands.



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Early feedback by participants and exhibitors who attended the event that saw 2000 hours of planning and implementation committed to it, offered high praise for the event, the content, the logistics and the shared professional learning given the time of year and recent drought breaking rains, as well as the highly valued networking and social benefits after a rough and unusual couple of years in the pastoral region.



Enjoy the links below with more information on the field days and the outcomes associated with the BPS Project.

Link to SAAL Landscape Board 2021 Pastoral Field Days

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPIEAYBmiqA>

Link to Building Pastoral Sustainability Project Buckleboo Case Study

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5fjL25FgyE>

Inaugural Landscape SA Excellence Award goes to Quorn Community Landcare Group

Offered by the Minister for Environment, the 'Landscape SA Excellence Award' was presented by SAAL Landscape board member Mrs Sanchia Treloar on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Water, the hon. David Speirs to well deserving local recipients.

The highly contested award was based on the **Reviving Biodiversity in the Ranges** project run by the Quorn Community Landcare Group which involves a series of initiatives by community volunteers in delivering biodiversity outcomes in the Flinders Ranges.



Through a broad-based partnership it has established a Bush Food Garden and Thutha Native Grass Patch in Quorn, re-vegetated Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby habitat at Warren Gorge and undertaken cactus control using the biocontrol cochineal on landholder properties in the project area.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Quorn Community Landcare Group were President Tim Connell and Secretary Andrea Tschirner.

\$5,000 was a part of the award which will be invested back into the work of the Quorn Community Landcare Group.

Pictured below at the Landscape SA Award presentation L-R are Eleanor Pratt Executive Officer Landcare Association of SA, SAAL Board member Tim Flowers, Quorn Community Landcare Group President Tim Connell and Secretary Andrea Tschirner, SAAL Board members Kurt Tschirner, Sanchia Treloar and Scott Michael.



Upcoming Events

- SAAL Landscape Board Meeting Wednesday 23 February 2022

Please use link below for details of the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board meetings.

[SA Arid Lands Landscape Board](https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal)