

# Your Landscape Levy at work

## 2019/2020 Activities

**The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board is responsible for overseeing the management of a landscape that covers more than half of South Australia – an area greater than 500,000 square kilometres.**

This means its annual income of about \$5 million – generated from a number of sources, including grants and levies, amounts to less than \$10 per square kilometre.

To help the Board meet its responsibilities, a land-based levy and a water levy are collected annually, providing critical leverage for the Board to obtain funding from government and industry.

### DISTRICT LANDSCAPE SUPPORT

- Five Community Landscape Officers (CLOs) supported the region's six Landscape Groups: North East Pastoral; Marla Oodnadatta; North Flinders; Marree Innamincka; Gawler Ranges; and Kingoonya.
- Thirty group meetings were held and CLOs supported their Groups to: host community activities and events, plan for further projects; connect with SAAL Landscape programs; and work with communities, land managers and stakeholders around landscape management issues and concerns.

In 2019/20 the Board's combined funding has contributed to the following activities:

### PEST MANAGEMENT

- Wild dog management – bi-annual bait injection services, subsidised baits, delivery of bait drying racks, compliance, aerial baiting, promotion of Wild Dog Scan and data management and coordination with PIRSA for trappers.
- Implementation of Best Practice Guidelines for Wild Dog Control
- Large feral herbivore aerial cull (camels, donkeys, horses, pigs) in the Marree Innamincka district
- Monitoring of feral pig and camel impacts
- Expanded cat baiting trial to assist expansion of recently established Western Quoll and Brushtail Possum populations in the Flinders District
- Goat and fox control in Gawler, Olary and Flinders Ranges
- Monitoring foxes and other pest numbers
- Monitoring goat browse impacts
- Weed control including Buffel Grass, Opuntia species, Mimosa Bush and Noogoora Burr
- Coordinated cochineal release to tackle Opuntia at four new properties and further release and monitoring at 11 previously engaged properties across the Gawler Ranges, Kingoonya, North Flinders and Marla Oodnadatta districts.
- Support of the release of the RHDV Rabbit virus.



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Eli Rankin and Nelson Willis had fun at the Kingoonya Kids Day



Charlotte Edwards of Muloorina Station joined the online Scavenger Hunt



Francesca Fennel, Lynly Kerin, Anna Nunn, Kate Greenfield, Joanna Gibson, Katrina Morris and Jill Greenfield at the Desert Ladies Day

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- District Group chairs meeting
- Cactus discussion and inspection with Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association
- Delivering your financial future workshop in Marree
- Online Kids Scavenger Hunt in the Marree Innamincka, Kingoonya and Gawler Ranges districts
- Online Grants Writing workshop with 35 participants
- Supported five regional women at the State Thriving Women's Conference
- Outback Comedy Roadshow events held at Yunta, Woomera, Coober Pedy, Marree, Port Augusta and Blinman
- Feral Pig Workshop at Cowarie Station
- New and emerging weed workshop at Leigh Creek, funded through OCA's drought funding
- A Night at Antro event in the North East Pastoral district.
- Wild Dog Scan workshop in the North East Pastoral
- Support of volunteers providing cactus control in the North Flinders
- Desert Ladies Day held in Port Augusta
- Joint meeting of district groups
- Kingoonya Kids Day

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Partnered with Nature Foundation SA to run activities at Hiltaba for its Kids on Country program.
- Supported school students for field workshops at the Gawler Ranges National Park
- School of the Air online science day across the SAAL region

## VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

- Support for Blinman Parachilna Pest Plant Control Group volunteers who treated more than 4500 cacti through chemical and biological control, contributing 2800 volunteer hours in 2019/20
- Sponsorship of the Great Tracks Clean Up Crew who, in 2019/20, retrieved more than 53 tonnes of rubbish, 358 tyres and travelled a combined 18,095km in 11 vehicles along the Strzelecki Track
- Worked with the Friends of Innamincka group to develop relationships in relation to waterbird and threatened species monitoring

## WATER PROGRAMS

- Planning and consultation for the Far North Prescribed Wells draft Water Allocation Plan
- Water management advice and property visits
- Water affecting activity permits and enquiries
- Input into mining, energy and development proposals
- Partner in Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience (IGABDR) program to support activities that contribute to water savings and management of the GAB resource
- Support for Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee
- Support for the Great Artesian Basin Coordinating Committee
- Project management and support for 'Great Artesian Basin Springs: a Plan for the future'
- 'All Things Water' community meetings in Coober Pedy and Marree

## OUR RESPONSE IN A COVID-19 WORLD

The situation with COVID-19 changed how we could work with community, with all planned events and meetings cancelled from the end of March through to mid June when restrictions began to lift.

To remain connected to the community, the Board hosted its Group meetings online, as well as final consultation on the WAP. It also developed a webinar series on topics relating to sustainable agriculture and control of wild dogs.

The success of these events, will see webinars and online meetings remain a regular feature of how the Board works with community.

We thank the community for their understanding and support throughout this time.



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Kowari



Stripe-faced Dunnart



Eyrean Earless Dragon



An echidna captured by one of our monitoring cameras

## THREATENED SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Continued audio surveillance survey for night parrots, other birds and frogs in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar area, with some initial positive indication that Night Parrots may still be using the area
- Ground truthed the 2019 Lidar based malleefowl survey in the Gawler Ranges and established camera monitoring grids to contribute to a national Malleefowl study.
- Plant, mammal, reptile, bird and fish surveys conducted on the northern Innamincka area to update 30 year old biodiversity information and sample new areas
- Monitoring of the Western Quoll and Brushtail Possum populations in the Flinders Ranges to understand how they coped with successive dry years
- Continued feral predator camera monitoring program across the Olary, Flinders and Gawler Ranges comparing fox baited areas with unbaited areas
- Re-assessed herbivore impact on long-lived plants to assess sustainability of current feral herbivore management practice on vegetation types across public and private lands in the Flinders, Olary and Gawler Ranges
- Continued baseline assessments of feral pig and large feral herbivore impacts in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar area
- Continued threatened species surveys targeting Dusky Hopping-mice and Ampurta in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar area and the broader far north-east of SA
- Worked with a fire-affected property in the Gawler Ranges to support fire recovery efforts
- Continued assessment of vegetation responses to changes in surface water flows from infrastructure developments in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar area
- Monitoring herbivore impact on listed threatened flora species
- Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby ground surveys at known locations and herbivore impact assessment sites

*Much of the threatened species management work occurred through the Board's Bounceback and Beyond and Coongie Wetland Wonders projects, which are supported by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare program.*

## PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- SA Arid Lands Landscape Facebook page
- SA Arid Lands Landscape Board website
- Bi-annual e-Across *The Outback* bulletin
- Bi-annual print editions of *Across the Outback*, the Board's long running magazine

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

The SA Arid Lands Board funded almost \$100,000 in grants for 14 community projects. This included soil revegetation works, tree replanting, biodiversity surveys and monitoring, support for volunteer group projects, rabbit and weed control.



**Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park members Ray Hickman and Roger Mathers test water with equipment purchased as part of the Community Grants program**

## FURTHER INFORMATION

To find out more about upcoming events, the work of the landscape groups and the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board follow us on Facebook SAALLandscapeSA and head to our website [landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/home](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/home)

