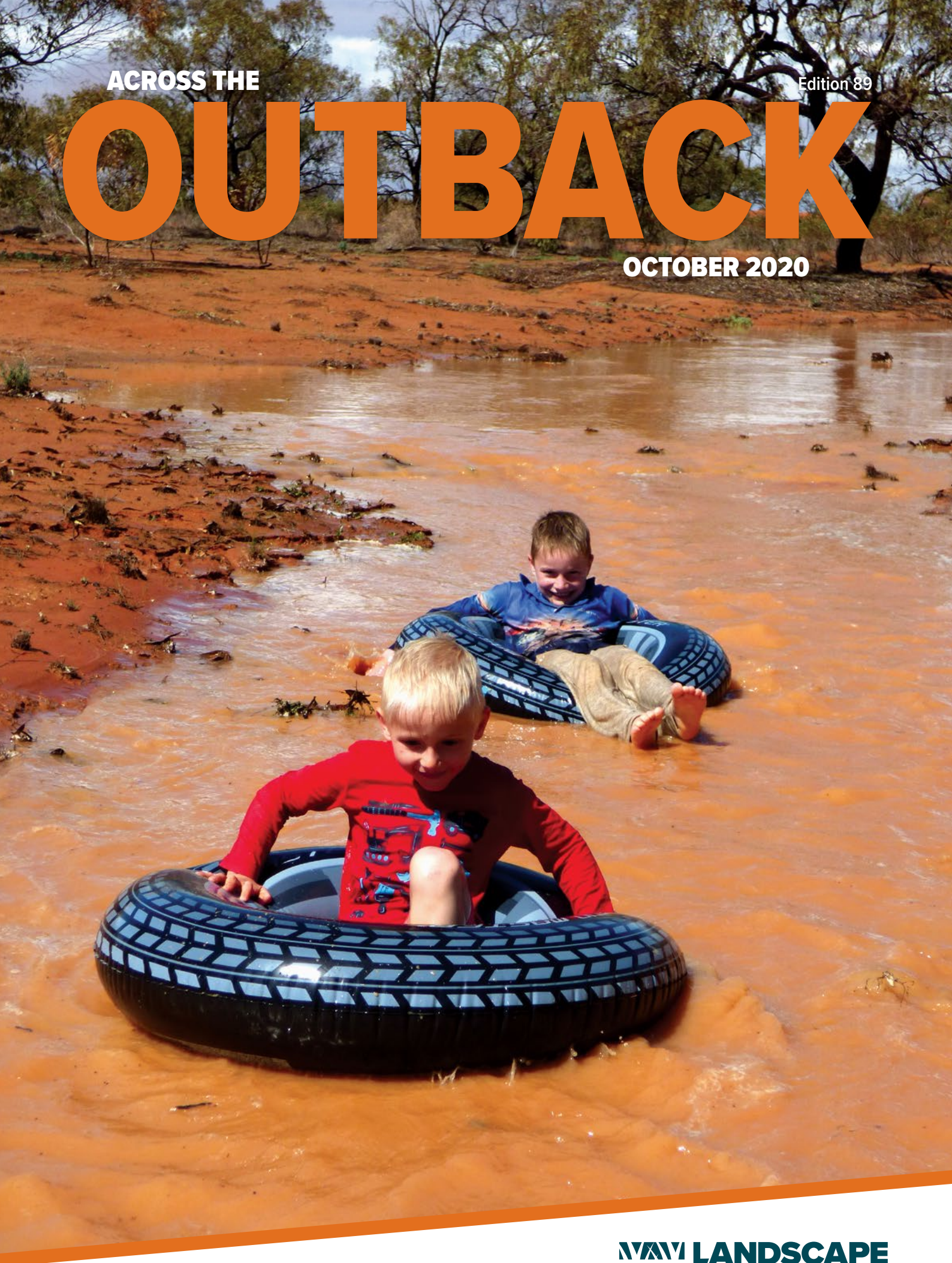


ACROSS THE

Edition 89

OUTBACK

OCTOBER 2020



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Welcome

Greetings and welcome to this edition of *Across the Outback*. This edition will provide you with updates relating to the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board's work recent and future focus across the region.

You will find some recent achievements in pest plant and animal control, the future of water management and supporting pastoralists in the sustainability of their business. We are engaging in some terrific partnerships with local traditional owners to protect some of our critical mound springs, a key priority of the Board.

Despite the prevailing recent conditions, I am delighted the Board has been able to continue with a level of service and support for the region, and very much look forward to the year ahead, with our new Board commencing the development of our Landscape Plan, guiding the future investment and reflecting the regions' needs.

The recent rains have been a wonderful circuit breaker for many, and the Board looks forward to working with you to maximise the benefits of the rains in the hope there is more to come, so together we can create further opportunities to support an ever thriving region.

Warm regards,

Ross Sawers

Presiding Member, South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

RAINFALL TOTALS

From the Bureau of Meteorology until
9am Sunday 20 September

• Andamooka	13mm
• Arcoona	26mm
• Arkaroola	17mm
• Beltana	61mm
• Blinman	22mm
• Leigh Creek	15mm
• Maynard's Well ...	38mm
• Mobella	21mm
• Moomba	20mm
• Motpena	41mm
• Mt Ive	41mm
• Mulgathing	32mm
• Port Augusta	23mm
• Quorn	33mm
• Roxby Downs	25mm
• Todmorden	9mm
• Woomera	41mm
• Yardea	25mm
• Yudnapinna	27mm

Full dams and flowing creeks south of Yunta. Photo Matt Graham

Cover image: Clancy Hucks, front, and his brother Royce floated down stream when the overflow from Quinyambie Station's house dam ran like a creek. Photo Kym Hucks



Holly, Katie and Tilly watch the water tear down Matherson Creek on Martins Well Rangeland Reserve, and (inset) having fun in Wilpena Creek, which burst its banks. Photos Emilee Warnest



Rain, glorious rain!

The relief could be heard in the voices of land managers and the delight shared across social media channels as many properties across the SA Arid Lands received the best rain for many years in September.

At Quinyambie Station near the NSW border, manager Greg Connors said staff were able to reach three dams on motorbikes two days after receiving the rain, but wouldn't be able to check the remaining dams until the airstrip is dry – at least three to four days after the rain.

"It's a good problem to have," he said.

Kym Hucks, also from Quinyambie, said the run off from the house dam created a bit of a creek that children spent the day travelling down on pool toys.

"Excited is not a strong enough word to describe the way we feel at the moment," she said.

The property received 46.2mm rain, the best in a number of years and one that has been "a long time coming".

In the North East Pastoral district, Mt Victor manager Richard Williams said the house dam was full for the first time in more than eight years.

"I've been out there quite a few times to check it and to make sure that it's really happened, it's fantastic!" he said.

For landholders across the North East Pastoral district, there are plenty of reasons to smile. As a region that has missed other rainfall events recently, the Bureau of Meteorology figures recorded until 9am on Sunday 20 September had Melton receiving 62mm, Koonamore 48mm, Panaramatee 43mm, Curnamona 39mm and Yunta 38mm.

Dams are full and aerial photos taken by Department of Environment and Water pilot Matt Graham on 20 September show a landscape under water.

In other areas, Marree made State news for the 93mm it received, including more than 60mm that fell in just two hours. It was the best rainfall the town had seen in a number of years, and it put the town's racetrack under water, albeit for a day or two.

In the Kingoonya district, Mt Eba Station received 98.5mm, which was the biggest rainfall event at the property in an eight-hour period in 108 years of records.

Peter Whittlesea said the house and buildings, and 20km each side of them received the highest falls, but every part of the property received at least 40mm.

"Everything is full, or overfull. Every swamp has water in it and every watercourse ran," he said.

"There's plenty of water travelling down Millers Creek that will end up in the Devil's Playground at the bottom."

But the rain was not without its issues. Peter said many catch banks broke and the temporary levee bank around the house needed repairs during the downpour to hold the water out.

And while it is too soon to call the rain drought breaking, it's enough to provide some relief for a while.

Roads across the Outback were cut, and large flows down the Boolcunda Creek cut the Flinders Ranges Way between Quorn and Hawker. At the time of going to print, all outback tracks remained closed.

SA Arid Lands region expanded



The South Australian Arid Lands region has increased its footprint to welcome in the Port Augusta and Flinders Ranges council areas.

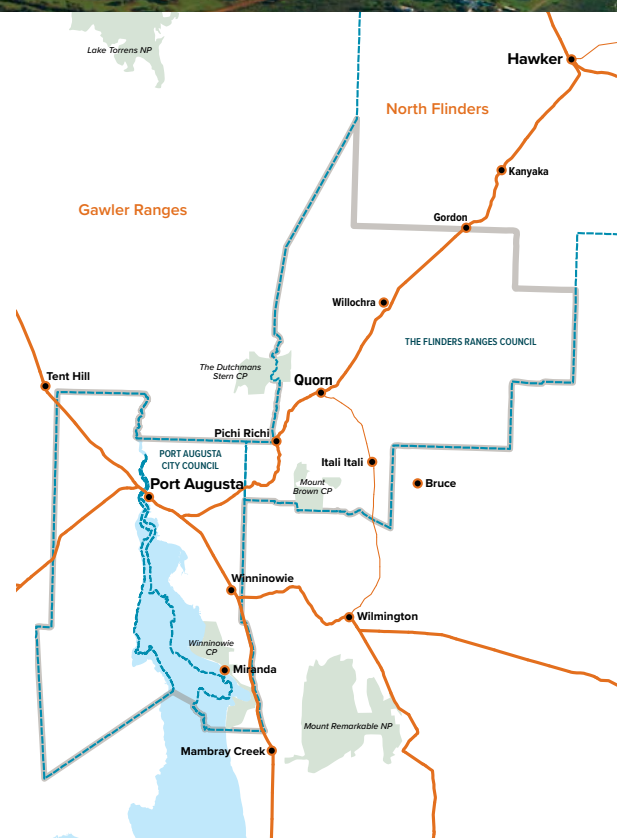
From 1 July, under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, the new council areas became part of the SA Arid Lands region.

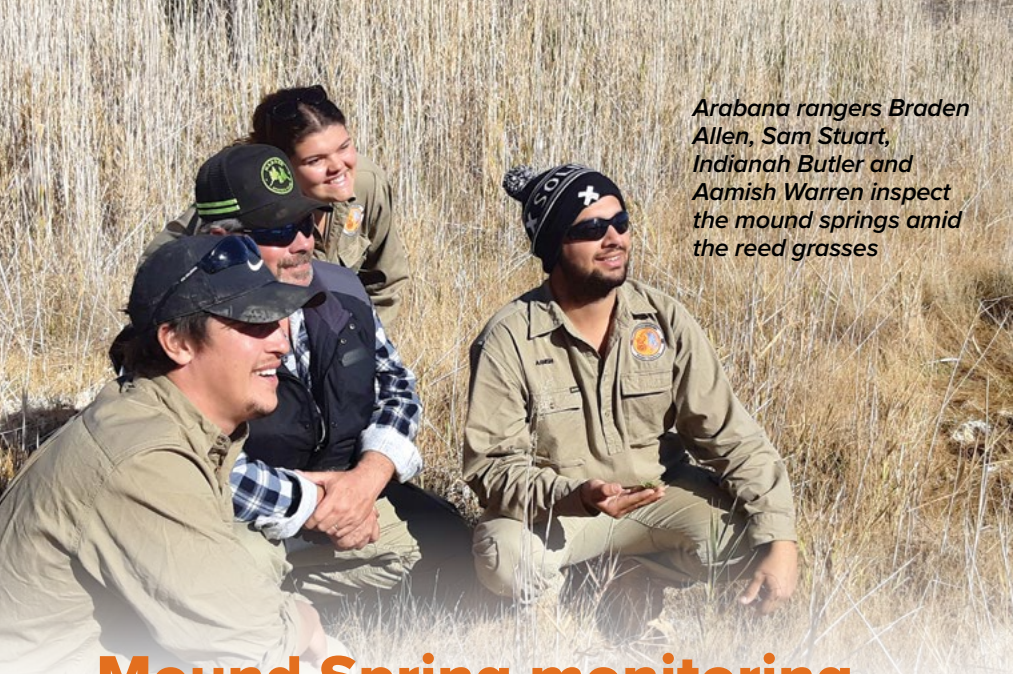
The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board and its staff welcome residents, land managers, volunteer groups, schools and businesses new to the region and look forward to working with both communities on projects to support and strengthen local landscapes.

The change to the Act has reformed how landscapes are managed and puts community at the heart of sustainably managing the region's natural resources, with the support and expertise of local landscape boards. By focussing on soil, water, pest plants and animals, biodiversity, and community capacity building the Board promotes prosperous long term businesses, thriving native species and ecosystems, and resilient communities.

Board staff are already working with landholders in the Saltia Creek area at Stirling North on cactus control on their properties. Properties along the creek line are dealing with an increasing number of *Opuntia stricta* (Prickly pear) and *Cylindropuntia imbricata* (devil's rope cactus). Board staff released the bio-control insect cochineal on the large numbers of cactus along the creek system.

A new Community Landscape Officer for the Port Augusta-Quorn district will soon be appointed to work with the community to develop a landscape management group, which will work alongside the Board to set priorities and work to address them.





Arabana rangers Braden Allen, Sam Stuart, Indianah Butler and Aamish Warren inspect the mound springs amid the reed grasses

Mound Spring monitoring with Arabana Cultural Rangers

Renewed monitoring of mound springs near Marree is giving Arabana Cultural Rangers an opportunity to partner with the South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL) Landscape Board to record changes to the site's springs and to a nationally-endangered native plant.

An August meeting at Finnis Springs between SA Arid Lands Community Ecologist Ben McCallum, Arabana Aboriginal Corporation committee member Peter Watts, Arabana Cultural Rangers, and botanist Dr Rick Davies provided an opportunity to discuss plans for a future monitoring program for the springs.

The monitoring will concentrate on the nationally endangered Salt Pipewort, which looks like a fleshy giant moss, but requires constant waterlogged soil. At the Hermit Hill springs on Finnis Springs, the plant can only occur on the edges of the springs due to reed grass dominating the spring vents.

Dr Davies studied the ecology of Salt Pipewort and mound springs as the focus of his PhD almost 20 years ago. As part of his study, he organised Arabana elders to complete trial burns of three mound springs, which he monitored to determine the impact on the Salt Pipewort and other rare spring plants. The most recent monitoring took place 18 years ago.

The three burnt sites and a further three unburnt sites were again monitored during the recent visit.

"While Salt Pipewort had increased in two springs, of concern was the disappearance of the endangered plant from half of the monitored springs," Dr Davies said.

"At one of the unburnt springs, reeds had choked out the Salt Pipewort, while at one of the burned springs the vigorously regenerating reeds had sucked up all the water. At a third spring, the endangered plant had moved to another spring vent."

The movement of the plant to a different spring vent highlighted the importance of ongoing monitoring of all mound spring vents to guide future management.

Ben McCallum and Dr Davies demonstrated how to monitor the sites with the aim of the rangers undertaking monitoring activities at the site every two years. This would enable both the rangers and SAAL to gain a better understanding of the system.

Arabana head ranger Mick Stuart said the opportunity to be involved with the project would provide a valuable learning experience for Arabana Cultural Rangers.

He said many of the springs had started to perish and were no longer functioning in the way they had been earlier in his lifetime.

"Our priority now is to protect the springs that are left. We will work with SAAL and the Friends of Mound Springs to give our rangers the information and support they need to protect them," he said.

"Around the springs is important to the Arabana people. Our stories, culture and language behind the springs go back a long time and they are starting to die out."



Salt Pipewort flower

Planning for future programs

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board is currently developing a new Strategic Plan, which will guide the Board's work for the next five years.

Development of the new Strategic Plan is required under the new *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* and will build on community values and knowledge captured during extensive consultation on the current NRM plan, *It's Your Place – a roadmap for managing natural resources in the SA Arid Lands region 2017-2027*.

Current planning has included a meeting with the SAAL Landscape Board and district group members in September and a meeting with Port Augusta and Quorn stakeholders in October to help guide the first stage of the process.

If you have ideas you would like to share with the Board as it develops the plan, please email saal.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au

The draft plan is expected to be presented for community feedback in early 2021.

New SAAL Landscape Board

Members of the new SA Arid Lands Landscape Board met for the third time in September.

Having been appointed by Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs in June, the six members join presiding member Ross Sawers, who was appointed in early March.

All living and working in the region, the Landscape Board members bring with them a diverse range of skills. This has positioned the new board to be a strong leader in managing the regional landscape, which now includes the Port Augusta and Flinders Ranges council areas.

Joining Ross Sawers, the new board members are Ellen Litchfield, Tim Flowers, Douglas Lillecrapp, Kurt Tschirner, Sanchia Treloar and Scott Michael.

Pastoral Field Day is back

The SA Arid Lands Pastoral Field Day, postponed earlier this year, has been confirmed for 3-4 December 2020 at the Central Oval complex in Port Augusta.

The field day will include a number of stall holders relevant to the pastoral industry as well as guest speakers on topics covering adaptation, innovation and diversification for pastoral businesses, along with a focus on technology.

More information will be available, including the program and stall holders, closer to the date. Please see our website for up-to-date information.



Events across the region

29 SEPTEMBER-2 OCTOBER

Biteback injection services for groups 17-18 in the Kingoonya and Gawler Ranges districts

7 OCTOBER

Biteback injection services for groups 19-21 in the Gawler Ranges

12-15 OCTOBER

Biteback injection services for the North Flinders and Marree districts

12-16 OCTOBER

Malleefowl monitoring surveys at Munyaroo Conservation Park and Secret Rocks in the Gawler Ranges

17-18 OCTOBER

Kids day for Children in the Gawler and Kingoonya districts at Arcoona Station

19-22 OCTOBER

Biteback injection services in the north East Pastoral District

20-29 OCTOBER

Surveys for the Night Parrot within the Malkumba-Coorongie Lakes Ramsar site

23-24 OCTOBER

Joint meeting of the Kingoonya and Gawler Ranges Landscape Groups at Hiltaba

27 OCTOBER

North Flinders Landscape Group meeting 59 at Hawker

31 OCTOBER

Ruminant nutrition workshop with Daniel Schuppan in Hawker

2-6 NOVEMBER

Biteback injection service in the Marla Oodnadatta district

6 NOVEMBER

North East Pastoral Landscape Group meeting 37 at Mannahill

9 NOVEMBER

Malleefowl monitoring surveys in the Gawler Ranges

9-13 NOVEMBER

Nature Foundation Kids on Country at Hiltaba

10 NOVEMBER

Baiting Wild Dogs on Organic Properties workshop at Nonning

12 NOVEMBER

Baiting Wild Dogs on Organic Properties workshop at William Creek

13 NOVEMBER

Baiting Wild Dogs on Organic Properties workshop at Marree

19 NOVEMBER

Ruminant nutrition workshop with Deb Scammell and featuring Mary O'Brien from 'Are you Boggled Mate' roadshow session at Hawker

20 NOVEMBER

Ruminant nutrition and 'Are you Boggled Mate?' roadshow session at Leigh Creek and Olary

21 NOVEMBER

Ruminant nutrition and 'Are you Boggled Mate?' roadshow session at Innamincka

22 NOVEMBER

Ruminant nutrition and 'Are you Boggled Mate?' roadshow session at Oodnadatta

23 NOVEMBER

Ruminant nutrition and 'Are you Boggled Mate?' roadshow session at North Well (Kingoonya)

24 NOVEMBER

Ruminant nutrition and 'Are you Boggled Mate?' roadshow session at Port Augusta

NOVEMBER 25-26

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 28

Online Kids Scavenger Hunt for children in the North East Pastoral District

3-4 DECEMBER

SA Arid Lands Pastoral Field Day at Central Oval, Port Augusta

KEEP UP-TO-DATE

All the details on events and services being offered by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board are available on our website at landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/get-involved/events

GRASSROOTS GRANTS PROVE POPULAR

The first round of Grassroots Grants for the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board attracted strong interest from across the region.

Announced in mid July, applications were open until the end of August, with the Board receiving 35 applications totalling more than \$270,000. With a grant pool of \$100,000 the Board was able to award grants of up to \$10,000 to 15 applicants.

Successful applicants will be notified in early October with grants due for completion by the end of May 2021.

While the Board has hosted previous rounds of Community Grants, the new Grassroots Grants will now occur across every Landscape region in South Australia annually. The next round of Grassroots grants is expected to open in April/May 2021 with grants awarded in July 2021.

The list of successful grant recipients will be posted on the Board's website at landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/get-involved/grants-and-funding

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) RESPONSE

Please be advised that due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 health response, SA Arid Lands Landscape Board will continue to actively monitor the health directives and recommendations set out by the State Government, and will seek information from official sources to ensure that each of our events are delivered in a safe and responsible manner.

COONGIE WETLAND WONDERS

Grey teal ducks



Nankeen night heron



Spoonbill



Birds take flight to Coongie

An influx of birdlife in the Coongie Lakes Ramsar wetlands and nearby properties have been captured on camera following the water flows as a result of summer rains in Queensland.

While the motion-sensor cameras record little bird activity when the region is dry, they have recently captured numerous waterbirds including pelicans, spoonbills, egrets, black-tailed native-hens, herons including the secretive nankeen night heron, numerous duck species, three types of ibis and land birds such as crows, ravens, honeyeaters and raptors.

The Coongie Lakes Ramsar wetlands are known to support a significant number of migratory birds, including 18 listed under international migratory bird agreements. It also hosts massive waterbird breeding events.

The placement of the 20 infrared motion activated cameras is part of the Coongie Wetland Wonders Project, which is delivered by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

The project also features work to control pest animals including regular aerial culls of pigs and large feral herbivores including camels. The aerial culls are also a useful method for surveying the abundance of pest animals, including how far they follow the floodwaters that periodically rehydrate the mostly dry Cooper Creek. Ground surveys using the cameras help to monitor pig activity levels. SA Arid Lands ecologists regularly assess the impact of pigs and large feral herbivores on native vegetation along 1km long transects throughout the Ramsar area.

In addition to monitoring and controlling pest species, ecologists are also monitoring threatened mammal species such as the Dusky Hopping-mouse and Ampurta (also known as Crest-tailed Mulgara). This is done by looking for their sign (tracks, burrows or scats) on sandy soils, which also provides an index of predator and feral herbivore abundance. All of the information collected during surveys assists project staff to understand this dynamic, natural asset and evaluate the effectiveness of pest management work in the area.



Black-tailed native hen

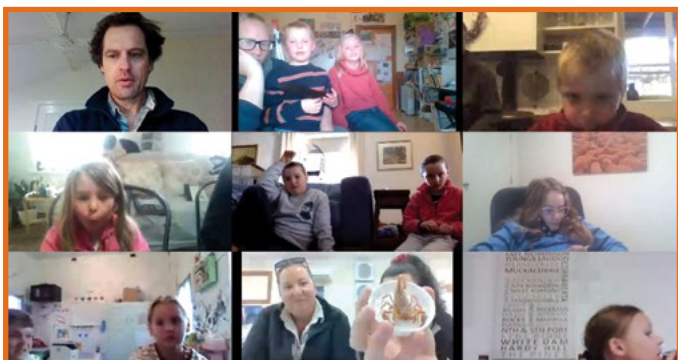


Australian white ibis



Corvid

Birds, bugs and scavenger hunts!



Hunting at home

Following the success of an online Scavenger Hunt hosted by the Marree Innamincka Landscape Group earlier this year, a similar event was held for children in the Gawler Ranges and Kingoonya districts.

The online presentation provided a chance for the children across the region to connect and enjoy a shared experience amid the challenging COVID-19 restrictions.

Scavenger Hunt details were emailed to families before the event and items on the check list included finding things that were round and smooth; colourful; crunchy; as long as your arm; soft; in the shape of a Y; having a strong smell; and an item with seeds.

After searching and finding items around their properties, the children provided a 'show and tell' of their findings with friends online.

Community Landscape Officer Chris Fulton said it was wonderful to see how imaginative the children were in collecting the items.

Staff from Arid Recovery provided their own presentation of some interesting specimens the children also really enjoyed.

Twelve children from across the two districts took part in the event, and feedback provided by parents was that it was both enjoyable and worthwhile.

Similar events are planned to be held in the North East Pastoral and North Flinders districts in November.

BRINGING SCIENCE TO STUDENTS

Gawler Ranges Community Landscape Officer Chris Fulton recently organised activities for a science day for School of the Air students. Entomologist Kristen Messenger from Bugs and Slugs and reptile expert Julian Craig both joined the students online to share their knowledge on their specialty fields.

The sessions were very interactive, with students asked to gather images and encouraged to share their bugs and reptile experiences with the presenters.

Julian and Kristen presented to 49 students from 29 families from across the SA Arid Lands region.



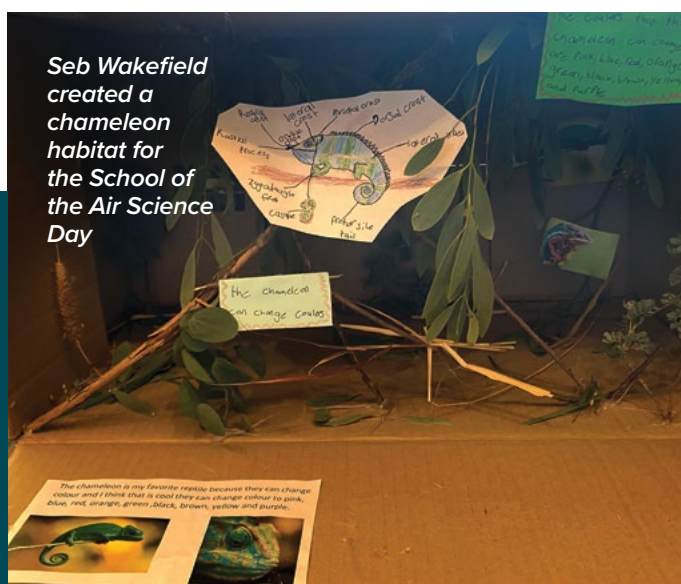
School of the Air students Caleb and Aurelia take a look at display items shared by bird enthusiast Peter Langdon

BIRD TALK WITH SOTA STUDENTS

Port Augusta bird enthusiast Peter Langdon shared his passion for birds with School of the Air students during their School Experience Week in August.

Two sessions were run for outback students, with 17 reception to Year 2 students and 21 years 3-6 students captivated by the presentation which included bird skins, body parts and eggs.

Peter talked to the students about the different attributes of the birds and where they might be found in the landscape. The students also shared many stories about their own experiences with birds on their properties.



Seb Wakefield created a chameleon habitat for the School of the Air Science Day

Levy funds support on-ground works

The collection of a land-based levy allows the South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board to oversee the management of a landscape that covers more than half of South Australia.

To help the Board meet its responsibilities under the new *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, a land-based levy and a water levy are collected annually, providing critical funds for on-ground works as well as providing the Board with the opportunity to obtain funding from government and industry.

This overall investment allows for the management of pest plants and animals, precious water resources, and support for sustainable industries dependent on natural resources. The Board will work to preserve the region's natural biodiversity through community participation in the planning and delivery of its regional and district level programs.

Activities undertaken through the Board's combined funding in the last financial year contributed to pest management activities, community and school programs, volunteer support, water programs, the monitoring and management of threatened species, engaging and informing community and a \$100,000 Community Grants program.

All landowners in the SA Arid Lands region pay the regional Landscape Levy. The water levy is payable on water allocated to the mining, energy, gas and petroleum sectors, town water suppliers, irrigators and commercial operations such as tourist park operators in the Far North Prescribed Wells Area. The water levy is not payable on licenses held for stock and domestic use.

Local councils collect the regional Landscape Levy from their ratepayers, with the levy listed on council rates notices. It is not a new charge, and was previously known as the NRM Levy. The Department for Environment and Water collects the regional land-based levy from landholders with land outside of a council area, as well as the water levy from water licence holders on behalf of the Board.

More information is available on the Board's website under Landscape Levy at landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/about-us



Consultation open for Pastoral Act review

An opportunity to have your say on the draft Pastoral Lands Bill 2020 and the future of South Australia's pastoral rangelands is now open.

Following extensive consultation in the development of the Pastoral Lands Bill 2020, the draft has been released for consultation and comment.

Proposed changes included in the Bill are:

- Extending lease lengths to 100 years, to allow for long-term investment decisions.
- Allow for leases to be used for purposes that will have a greater benefit to the wider pastoral industry.
- More frequent assessments, required every 10 years, using the latest technology.
- Assessing the capacity of land for its ability to support the natural ecology and biodiversity of the land without intervention— an underpinning principle of the Act.
- Removal of stocking maximums
- Public access routes to remain, but be more clearly geographically defined.
- Stronger compliance tools and penalties for those who misuse the land, with sub lessees also held accountable.
- Greater flexibility for the use of the Pastoral Lands Fund.

Feedback received during the consultation period will help develop the final content before it is lodged in Parliament in early 2021.

Consultation is open until 18 October and includes public meetings in Leigh Creek, Yunta, Port Augusta, Coober Pedy, Marree and Adelaide in September. Download a copy of the Bill and the Explanatory Guide at yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/draft-pastoral-lands-bill/about to have your say.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

The benefits from ripping contour banks and furrows can already be seen at Glenlyle

Glenlyle looking greener

A Community Grant received in 2019/20 has allowed Geoff and Helen Fels to rip contour banks and furrows and establish photo points to prepare their property Glenlyle for recovery while they wait for drought-breaking rain.

Fels Grazing received a community grant of \$10,000 to carry out work on their North Flinders property, near Hawker and Geoff said the construction of contour banks had lifted the wind off the ground to stop top soil blowing away.

The banks are designed to keep rain where it falls, reducing run off in heavy rain and reducing the risk of erosion. The banks and furrows will hold seeds and give native trees, bushes and grasses a better chance to grow.

“We are waiting on rain to see if the banks and furrows catch seed and water, giving plant species a better chance at survival. We assume this will be the case based on observations of the previous works undertaken at Glenlyle,” Geoff said.

“We had undertaken other contour furrowing works prior to being awarded the grant and we had seen annual and perennial plant species collecting in and around the banks and furrows. The results are there for everyone to see.”

The project was not without its challenges. Marking lines with the laser level proved difficult on the undulating land and a tractor break down slowed the progress of the work for six weeks.

“The furrows make mustering harder, but to overcome this we have left un-ripped areas near the fence lines and tracks to allow for movement of stock,” he said.

In addition to the grant funds, Geoff has continued to rip additional contour banks and will limit stocking in those areas to give vegetation a chance to establish in the current conditions.

He said he would measure the benefits of the work by visually observing the vegetation response when it rained through photo points

“We have installed photo points and collected before photos of the banks and furrows. We will take photos through time, capturing vegetation changes,” he said.

Greening project for Iron Knob

Beautification of the Iron Knob township is a side benefit of a Community Grant project that looked to control dust and the spread of rubbish from the town’s dump.

The Iron Knob Progress Association received \$1159 to purchase plants and seeds, tree guards, droppers and irrigation drippers as part of the Iron Knob Revegetation Project.

Sixty eremophila have been planted around the War Memorial Oval with additional plantings at the rubbish tip. Many of the oval plants are already towering above their protective surrounds, while those at the dump site are growing, but will be enhanced with some infill tree plantings.

Progress Association Public Officer Elaine Wakefield said the project was beneficial for the township because it had brought people together and had a positive effect on community spirit.

“The residents will be able to watch the trees they planted develop through time, knowing they had a positive effect on the environment and on the Iron Knob township,” she said.

“The plants will continue to be irrigated regularly until they are established, and after this they will be watered less frequently.

“The benefits of this project will be seen by the ability of the plants to protect against the strong winds which distribute dust and rubbish throughout the township. If this can be minimised, or even stopped, this project will be seen as a huge success.”



Eremophila were planted around the oval and rubbish tip in Iron Knob

More improvements for Balcoracana

Willow Well is the latest area to be remediated in the multi-staged Little Balcoracana Catchment Project on Wirrealpa Station.

Warren and Barbara Fargher were awarded \$9750 in the 2019/20 Community Grants round to continue the remedial soil conservation works that began in 2011.

The latest project, on the upper level of the catchment area, continued the building of a series of erosion banks to slow and spread water into surrounding country. This followed similar projects at Drug Creek, Dead Ram and Carrion.

At Willow Well, deep ripping occurred in front of newly constructed levy banks so water would be slowed and spread before reaching the banks.

Barbara Fargher said completion of the works meant the landscape will benefit from greater water retention and there was less chance of the water accessing gully heads, which removes it from the landscape into the big creek system.

She said installation of monitoring points at each site would allow the couple to monitor changes in the landscape over time.

“The 50mm of rain that fell in February was a good test for the past works,” Barbara said.

“As expected, the water was slowed and spread in the series of banks built in February 2018. We are predicting the same success with the latest banks completed.”

The Farghers engaged Hugh Pringle, who they had worked with through the Ecosystem Management Understanding program, which was supported by the Board, to help plan and supervise the construction of the latest banks, as happened at all remediation sites in the Balcoracana project.

Another area has also been recently identified as benefiting from the construction of ponding banks to slow the spread of water. This site is east of the Dead Ram and Carrion sites previously completed.

Aerial images show constructed erosion banks which will change water flow on Wirrealpa



BITEBACK NEWS



Ground Baiting

Inside fence – Injection Services (SPRING)

All properties inside the dog fence should have received an invite to the ground baiting injection services. The spring dates for inside fence services are:

Kingoonya/Gawler Ranges (groups 17-18)

Districts: **29 September-2 October 2020.**

Gawler Ranges (groups 19-21) District:

7 October 2020.

North Flinders/Marree District:

12-15 October 2020.

North East Pastoral District:

19-22 October 2020.

With the Dog Fence rebuild underway, it is more important than ever to attend the spring services to replenish bait supply and reduce wild dog numbers.

Buffer zone – access to wild dog baits

Properties in the newly expanded Dog Fence buffer zone would have also received an invite to the inside fence injection services. If land managers require baits, but can't attend a service, there will be another opportunity to access baits in November.

Outside fence – access to wild dog baits

Biteback staff will service properties outside the fence at two services in November.

Marla/Oodnadatta District:

2-6 November 2020.

Marree/Innaminka District:

16-20 November 2020.

Wild dog control is optional outside the fence and should only occur when there is a high level of impact to livestock.

ACCESS TO MANUFACTURED BAIT

Subsidised manufactured baits are available to land managers all year round. These can be collected from Biteback staff in Port Augusta or they can be sent to your property via a transport company (costs apply).



Injected baits ready for distribution to properties

NOMINATED AGENT FORMS

If a property staff member is attending an injection service on behalf of the owner/manager, it is important to complete a Nominated Agent form beforehand. This is a legal requirement to ensure baits are going to a property representative and not to an unauthorised person. Forms are available from Biteback staff.

DOG FENCE REBUILD

A major milestone in the \$25m Dog Fence rebuild project was reached in July, with the successful completion of the first 26km section of works on Curnamona Station in the North East Pastoral district.

The first section of work used:

- 11km of wire mesh,
- 15km of lap mesh,
- 60.5km wire,
- 11km barbed wire,
- 2000 posts (combination of steel dropper and drill rod) and
- 250,000 c-clips.

The new fence is 1.5 metres high, and has been constructed using steel posts, 15/150/15 mesh with a 40mm footing on the outside to discourage any animal digging under the fence.



There will be slight variations to this standard set up to accommodate particular terrains along the route or in areas where there are additional pressures from other pest animals such as feral camels. Pine posts will also be used in areas where the substrate soil is particularly saline

To keep up to date with the upgrade of the dog fence visit the PIRSA website at www.pir.sa.gov.au and search for dog fence.

Loading baits in preparation
for aerial baiting



Photo: Bill and Jane McIntosh

GOOD PREPARATION IS THE KEY TO BAITING SUCCESS

Good preparation is important to maintaining an effective baiting program. Poor hygiene or sub-standard preparation techniques could make baits less palatable to dogs, or increase the risk of creating a bait shy dog.

BEST PRACTICE BAIT PREPARATION TECHNIQUES:

- Each bait should be 150g wet weight, or about the size of a clenched fist. This is to reduce the risk of other animals being able to eat a single bait in one sitting, reducing the risk of off target poisoning.
- Baits should be free of bone to ensure they can be chewed and swallowed quickly.
- Baits should be free of excess fat. 1080 is water soluble and will wash off of any excess fat without being absorbed into the bait.
- Baits need to be completely thawed and drained of excess blood. Frozen baits cannot be injected and excessive blood could cause the poison to leach out rather than staying in the bait.
- Ideally fresh meat baits should be distributed immediately after being injected to ensure they remain viable.
- For best results, semi dry baits for 7-12hrs prior to poison injection. These baits can be frozen for up to 12 months before use without any loss of toxicity.
- Any baits supplied to a property **must** be used within 12 months of receiving them. This is a legal requirement to ensure the baits remain viable.
- When transporting baits, ensure they are secure and covered at all times in a sealed and appropriately labelled container.

AERIAL BAITING

Biteback Aerial Baiting Program 2020

The Biteback aerial baiting program, funded by Australian Wool Innovations (AWI) and the SA Sheep Advisory Group (SASAG) took place in September. The program is aligned with young dog dispersal after whelping to reduce future impacts, and will also target properties who reported high wild dog activity or impacts to stock in the previous 12 months. The program distributed about 48,000 baits across 91 properties in eight days.

In partnership with PIRSA an additional aerial baiting service is planned for December.

PROGRAM RESULTS

Full details of the results of the Biteback program are available in the 2019-20 annual report on the SA Arid Lands website at landscape.sa.gov.au/saal under projects

COVID-19 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AT INJECTION SERVICES

In-line with SA Health requirements, the following protocols apply:

- Keep 1.5m distance from others whenever possible.
- Practice good hygiene (wash hands or use alcohol based hand sanitiser regularly).
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- Replace handshakes with a wave.
- Please do not attend the Injection Service if you have flu-like symptoms, including a temperature.

BAITING WORKSHOPS FOR ORGANIC PROPERTIES

Many producers with organic certification on their properties are not aware they can bait for wild dogs without compromising their organic status.

It is possible – and a series of workshops being held in November will provide managers of organic properties in South Australia with training on how to bait for wild dogs in a manner that suits both the landscape and organic certification.

It also means all properties in the South Australian sheep zone will be able to meet their legal obligations to destroy wild dogs.

The workshops will provide the know-how for property managers to develop a baiting management plan for their property that meets organic certification requirements. It will also be an opportunity for property managers to build relationships with neighbours, wild dog control advisors, and organic certifying bodies, and encourage a coordinated baiting approach across districts.

Guest speakers at the workshops will be National Wild Dog Coordinator Greg Mifsud, State Wild Dog Coordinator Heather Miller, SA Arid Lands Wild Dog Coordinator Chris Havelberg, Melanie Bullers of National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia; and Ben Copeman from Southern Cross Organics.

All guests will be available to answer questions.

Workshops will be held at Nonning on 10 November, Anna Creek on 12 November and Mundowdna on 13 November.

More information, including links to register for the workshops, head to the events section on the SA Arid Lands website at landscape.sa.gov.au/saal

The project is supported by the Far West Dog Fence Boards Association, Department of Primary Industries and Regions, SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, the National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia, Southern Cross Certified Australian and Livestock SA, through funding from the Australian Government's Smart Farming Partnerships.

LANDSCAPE GROUP NEWS



Gawler Ranges

The Gawler Ranges Landscape Group is focused on pest plant and animal control in its district, undertaking a number of activities to meet this goal.

These have included ongoing cactus control using the biocontrol agent cochineal, which is having great success. If you have cactus issues on your property, please contact Community Landscape Officer Chris Fulton.

Animal control is also continuing throughout the district with fox and dog baiting which is allowing threatened species such as the Yellow-footed Rock wallaby to reclaim some of its former range with less threat of predation.

The group is looking to capture information gathered from the Yeltacowie Erosion Gully remediation project, being undertaken in collaboration with Carrapateena OZ Minerals staff, to prepare a resource package to be shared with landholders in the district.

It is also investigating an opportunity for a Water Workshop, which will share technologies that can be used to locate water in the Gawler Ranges and throughout the SA Arid Lands region.

School education programs, being organised by Community Landscape Officer Chris Fulton, in collaboration with School of the Air and Nature Foundation SA have been well supported. There are also plans for a joint meeting with Kingoonya Landscape group in October, to discuss some common issues.

Chris Fulton 0477 307 038;
christopher.fulton@sa.gov.au

Kingoonya

With macropod management a consistent topic at meetings of the Kingoonya Landscape Group over a number of years, the group is looking to develop a research project around kangaroos and waterpoints in the North West Pastoral District of South Australia.

In other news, the Kingoonya District group is hosting a combined meeting with the Gawler Ranges group in October at Hiltaba Station. This will include a property tour, a walk to assess herbivore impacts on vegetation as well as the group meeting.

The landscape group is planning on hosting its second kid's day in October, following on from the success of the inaugural event last year.

Sarah Stevens has been appointed as the Community Landscape Officer (CLO) for the Kingoonya district and also serves as the CLO for the Marla Oodnadatta region.

If you have any ideas or are seeking information on landscape issues please contact Sarah.

Sarah Stevens 0499 983 877
sarah.stevens@sa.gov.au

Marree-Innaminka

Members of the Marree Innaminka Landscape Group are presenting events for children and communities at both ends of the district.

A Kids Day was held at Dulkaninna Station in September for the district's children, including 13 students from Marree Aboriginal School. It included demonstrations in trapping, wetland walks, a specimen show and tell from Arid Recovery and a 'Bugs and Slugs' session with entomologist Kris Messenger.

At the northern end of the district a cattle nutrition and pasture productivity workshop has been organised for 21 November at Innaminka. Mary O'Brien will present the 'Are you Bugged Mate?' sessions at the same time, as recently featured on the ABC's Landline.

The group also completed a Top 10 Travel Tips project, which will result in signs depicting the posters positioned throughout the district and updated the 'Great Tracks' brochure which features helpful information on the Strzelecki and Birdsville Tracks.

Lucy Morphet 0437 795 792
lucy.goldspink@sa.gov.au



Marla Oodnadatta

Members of the Marla Oodnadatta Landscape Group enjoyed a presentation from Dr Kath Tuft of Arid Recovery at its most recent meeting.

Dr Tuft gave a presentation on a research project to test the resistance to corrosion of different steels and galvanized products in the highly corrosive soils on the Arid Recovery reserve near Roxby Downs. Pastoralists in the region were encouraged to participate in the project which, on completion, is likely to offer data to help increase the lifespan of fencing materials in the district.

The Group also hosted a Snake Awareness workshop in Coober Pedy in September, attended by community members, council staff and the district's pastoralists. The workshop was hosted by Julian Craig (pictured above) and included snake bite first aid.

Top 10 Travels Tips signs will be positioned throughout the district, which were prepared in a joint project with the Marree Innamincka group.

Following recent rains, the group is now planning a new and emerging weeds workshop, which it hopes to hold later this year.

Keep an eye on our website at landscapesa.gov.au/saal for more information about this event and other coming events in the region.

Sarah Stevens 0499 983 877
sarah.stevens@sa.gov.au

North East Pastoral

Di Makotter is the new Community Landscape Officer for the North East Pastoral region and brings with her more than 20 years of weed control, pest animal management, community engagement and sustainable agriculture experience from around the state and overseas.

Having worked with the region for the past three years, Matt Westover will focus on the North Flinders district which now includes Hawker and additional properties in the surrounding area. Matt will support Di (both pictured above) and the group on its current projects and plans while Di gets to know the region.

Projects for the group include the trialling of stem injection applicator machines to tackle woody weeds in the district. See *story on page 19*.

Having two of its members promoted to positions on the new look SAAL Landscape Board, the group is now on the lookout for two new members.

At its most recent meetings, the group was introduced to SAAL's Building Pastoral Sustainability Program, funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Members were also provided with survey results around the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby population and given a Dog Fence rebuild update from PIRSA.

Next on the agenda is preparation and planning for a ruminant nutrition workshop, due to be held in the region in November.

Di Makotter 0408 944 751
dianna.makotter@sa.gov.au

North Flinders

North Flinders Landscape Group members have been working with the World Heritage Community Reference Group, providing input into preparing the region for a potential boost in tourist numbers if the bid is successful.

It is expected that World Heritage status will draw additional tourist numbers and the region is considering how best to cope with the increase. While the World Heritage bid is progressing, there is time for planning to occur with the final decision expected to be a few years away.

During meetings, group members have received updates on the Board's Building Pastoral Sustainability Program.

Bounceback Program Officer Geoff Axford spoke at the February and August meetings to provide updates on the Department for Environment and Water's Bounceback program and shared how the Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies, quolls and possum populations are continuing to do well despite the drought.

Group members are now planning a ruminant nutrition workshop, to be held in Hawker on 31 October.

Matt Westover 0438 816 210
matthew.westover@sa.gov.au

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS 2019-2020

OUR REGION

Covers > **525,000** km²
or **52,500,000** ha

POPULATION

Approximately
26,000 people

OUR BUDGET

In 2019/20, **\$2.2M** levy
income *attracted*
\$2.6M co-investment

With a budget of
\$4.7M, we delivered...



Land management



Pest plant and animal control



Water



Biodiversity



Community capacity building



BOUNCEBACK AND BEYOND

8 surveys of threatened
native animals and
plants across the
Flinders, Gammon,
Olary, and Gawler
ranges (including
Yellow-footed Rock
Wallaby, Malleefowl, and
Flinders Ranges Purple-
spotted Gudgeon

ABORIGINAL PARTNERSHIPS



- Arabana Ranger program
- Indigenous Protected Area support and collaboration

CACTUS CONTROL



36 property visits
20 properties
participating in cactus
control program
9 new releases of
Cochineal biological
control agent



COONGIE WETLANDS WONDERS

50,000 ha targeted
for feral pigs and large
feral herbivore pests



COONGIE RAMSAR



1 strategic adaptive
management planning
workshop

BOUNCEBACK AND BEYOND



17 participating
properties across the
Flinders, Gawlers and
Olary Ranges

VOLUNTEERS



3 pest and weed
projects funded
through community
grants, supporting **39**
volunteers, contributing
2,080 volunteer hours
valued at **\$93,600**

COMMUNITY GRANTS



5 native species
management and
monitoring projects
funded

BITEBACK



128 participating
properties
61 bait injection
services
>120,000 baits
prepared and distributed



LANDSCAPE GROUPS

30 group meetings
across six districts in the
SAAL region

BOUNCEBACK AND BEYOND



700,000 ha of
goat control



VOLUNTEERS

6 volunteer
groups with a total
of **145** volunteers
supported, contributing
7,800 volunteer
hours, valued at
\$351,000



COONGIE RAMSAR

4 surveys of threatened
native animals and pest
species impacts in the
Coongie Ramsar area





COMPLIANCE PEST ANIMALS



Investigated **9**
compliance matters
for pest animals



WATER AFFECTING ACTIVITY (WAA)



31 WAA enquiries
including reviews of
proposals with potential
water-affecting activities

5 WAA permits issued

4 investigations to
assess WAA compliance
issues



LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT

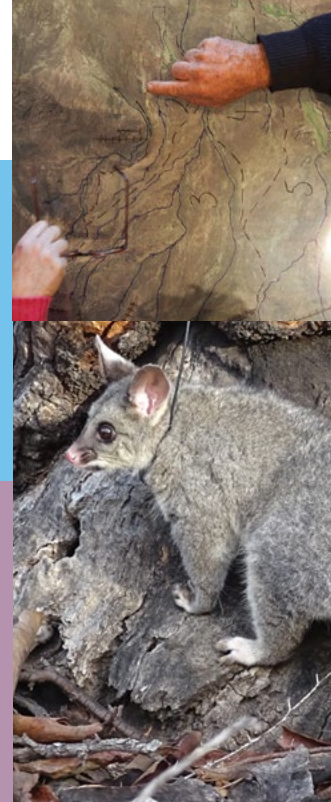
\$1m project
commences focused
on building pastoral
sustainability through
adaptation, innovation
and diversification
through the National
Landcare Program



WELL LOCATION PROJECT



60 property maps with
well locations identified
and distributed to water
licensees



COMMUNITY EVENTS

25 with more than **240** participants, including:

- **5** land manager capacity building workshops
- **5** webinars
- **7** school events
- **7** drought relief events and 'Night at Antro'

BOUNCEBACK AND BEYOND



50,000 ha feral cat
control in the Flinders
Ranges

COMMUNITY GRANTS



6 land rehabilitation,
soil conservation and
revegetation projects
funded

IMPROVING GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN DROUGHT RESILIENCE (IGABDR)



In partnership with
DEW delivered **3**
infrastructure projects
to improve efficiency of
GAB water completed
with estimated **505**
megalitres of water
savings per year

Received **16** EOI's from
property owners to
participate in IGABDR
with **5** properties
participating in year 1



FACEBOOK



3,272 followers

286 posts

Reaching
493,233 people



COONGIE WETLANDS WONDERS

3,100 ha treated
for weeds



BOUNCEBACK AND BEYOND



6 surveys of pest
species and impacts
including aerial and
ground surveys for
goats, and camera
surveys for pests across
28,000 ha in the
Gammon and Gawler
Ranges



PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY

Participated in **3** national or cross border
partnerships for water management

1 community group supported to protect springs

Membership on national Lake Eyre Basin and
Great Artesian Basin committees

Release of report *Great Artesian Basin Springs:
a Plan for the Future*



WATER ALLOCATION PLAN (WAP)

Drafting of Water Allocation Plan for Far North
Prescribed Wells Area

4 WAP community consultation sessions, including
two face-to-face and two online sessions



ACROSS THE OUTBACK

1,200 recipients

- **2** printed editions
- **2** electronic editions

New Pastoral project begins



Building Pastoral Sustainability (BPS) is the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board's new agricultural project, which has been designed to support pastoral businesses to adapt to varying climates and markets, innovate using technology and new management practices and consider options for business diversification.

The three-year program offers a variety of ways for pastoral land managers to participate. These include workshops, field days, boot camps and sticky beak days, a grants program and an opportunity to take part in the one-year Property Management Planning program.

The Property Management Planning (PMP) component of the BPS includes establishing personal business drivers, property mapping, financial analysis and developing an action plan for future property works.

At this stage it is funded for two years and the first participants have commenced the PMP program, with six properties across the Arid Lands region selected to take part.

Participants from Wintinna (Marla Oodnadatta), Holowiliena (North Flinders), Yednalue (new addition to North Flinders district), Mt Lyndhurst (Marree-Innaminka), Buckleboo and South Gap (both Gawler Ranges) met in Port Augusta in September for the first workshop, Personal Business Drivers. The workshop focussed on setting business goals, strategy, business culture and communication.

After the first workshop, participants said:

"I really like how we talked as a whole group and also having everyone in our family group being present to see what actions need to be taken."

"It was good to bounce ideas off of like-minded people."

"The workshop reinforced the values of business plans and implementing them. All of it worked well. Also enjoyed having a beer and networking afterwards."

"Looking forward to stage 2 and 3 – exciting times."

"It was really beneficial discussing as a group about the differences on our properties and the way everyone works"

Following on from the workshop, participants will now receive property visits from Richard Marver from Contour Environmental and Agricultural Consulting for property mapping under stage 2 of the program. James Allen from Bentley's Chartered Accountants will deliver the stage 3 Financial Analysis early in 2021 and Jeanette Long from Ag Consulting will wrap up the program with the Stage 4 Action Plan.

The second round of the PMP will be offered to a further six properties in 2021/22 with applications expected to open in April 2021. The first round of Pastoral Sustainability Grants opened on Thursday 24 September 2020.

For more information on the program, including grants go to landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/Projects_and_Partners/Projects/building-pastoral-sustainability-program

The SA Arid Lands Field Day is also being delivered through the program and will be held in Port Augusta on 3-4 December 2020.

Building Pastoral Sustainability is supported by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Property Management Planning participants from left:

James Kerr, Nic Greenfield, Kate Litchfield, Paul Greenfield, Kate Greenfield, Peter Litchfield, Darren Solly, Amey Solly, Adam Litchfield, Francesca Fennell, Reuben Solly, Francis Frahn, Jake Fennell, Jeanette Long, Gordon Litchfield, James Wright and Luke Frahn



Grants open for building pastoral sustainability

The Board's new *Building Pastoral Sustainability (BPS)* project has released round one of its grants program.

The grants program will have three rounds, offered in 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. The aim of the grants is to support pastoral businesses to trial management practices and technologies that will help them better adapt to varying climates and markets, and improve the sustainability of businesses in the SAAL region.

Applications need to address at least one of the outcomes aligned with the BPS project:

- Assist businesses to adapt to significant changes in climate and markets
- Trial sustainable agricultural practices or technologies that may not yet be widely adopted in the SAAL region
- Improve the capacity of pastoral businesses to demonstrate the sustainability of their operations through the traceability of their products
- Improve pastoral industry sustainability, productivity, and profitability
- Increase adoption of sustainable agricultural practices that directly improve natural resources

Grants for Round 1 will be available for between \$10,000 and \$30,000 (ex GST) with a total funding pool of up to \$65,000 in this round. Applications are due by 5pm on 29 October 2020.

Grant Guidelines, eligibility criteria, and application forms can be downloaded from the Board's website [landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/get-involved/grants-and-funding](https://sa.gov.au/saal/get-involved/grants-and-funding)

For more information contact Sarah Stevens or Lucy Morphet on 8648 5307.



A new tool to tackle woody weeds

New stem injection applicator machines, used to control woody weeds, are now available for loan in the SA Arid Lands Landscape region.

The machine, which is a modern take on the traditional 'drill and fill' method of weed control, was designed by BioHerbicides Australia and attaches to a common drill. It will drill a hole, insert a herbicide capsule and plug the hole in just seconds.

In addition to being quick and easy to use, the herbicides are also safely sealed in capsules, eliminating the risks of exposure to chemicals.

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board has two machines available for use by land managers for short term loans.

A selection of different herbicide capsules have also been purchased to carry out trials across the region.

Community members at Yappala Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) were the first group to trial the machine, involved in a demonstration on a large pepper tree to get a feel for how the process works.

Cultural Rangers have been working on mapping the Hookina Creek and will be talking to the community about using this method to control the pepper trees on the IPA.

If you have a patch of peppertrees, athel pines or any weed with a stem of more than a few inches in circumference, and would like to trial this new machine, please contact Matthew Westover on 0438 816 210 or via email at matthew.westover@sa.gov.au or your Community Landscape Officer.

OUR WATER

Managing the Great Artesian Basin for the future

The Australian Government, in partnership with the New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Northern Territory governments, has launched the latest Great Artesian Basin (GAB) Strategic Management Plan (SMP) to help basin governments manage this vital resource over the next 15 years.

The GAB is one of the largest underground freshwater resources in the world and Australia's largest source of fresh water. It generates nearly \$13 billion for Australia each year, giving life to communities, farms, industry and the environment.

Managing water in the basin presents complex environmental, social and economic challenges as well as opportunities for governments, water users and a range of industries.

To help oversee the plan, a Great Artesian Basin Stakeholder Advisory Committee will be established to advise on whole-of-Basin policies and initiatives in partnership with government, basin communities and industry. The plan is a framework that will foster collaborative management of GAB water resources in line with the agreed objectives and outcomes.

The first GAB Strategic Management Plan was released in 2000 and oversaw the development of collaborative strategies for bore rehabilitation with key stakeholders,

including the \$248 million Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) to improve water infrastructure. It resulted in 750 bores (also known as wells) being capped or decommissioned, 21,390km of open bore drains piped and 250 gigalitres of water saved each year.

Public consultation undertaken in the development of the plan highlighted concerns relating to equity between water users and transparency relating to water use.

“There is a desire for all water users to be accountable in order to contribute to maintaining the long-term sustainability of the Basin,” the plan states.

The plan identifies opportunities to address these issues including:

- more work to increase stakeholder awareness of the value of the basin;
- ensuring new demand does not affect the improvements achieved by the previous plan;
- develop adaptive management approaches to accommodate changes in artesian pressures;
- improve cross-border management of groundwater resources;
- develop monitoring and accounting required to enable tracking of water use and resource condition;
- and clearly define the rights and responsibilities of water users.

It brings new technical knowledge, better sustainable water resource management practices, and changing social and political contexts.

You can find out more about the plan and basin projects at www.agriculture.gov.au/water/national/great-artesian-basin/strategic-management-plan

NEXT STEPS FOR THE WAP

The draft Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the Far North Prescribed Wells Area has been amended to reflect inputs from the community consultation process.

A revised draft WAP was presented to the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board's Water Advisory Committee (WAC) in July for comment by members. WAC members include Douglas Lillecrapp, Ellen Litchfield, Ross Sawers and Tim Flowers, along with technical experts.

The document was again updated, underwent an internal review and was presented as a final version to the WAC at the end of August. The WAC endorsed the WAP for the Board's approval and it has since been sent, along with a consultation report and an implementation plan, to the Minister for Environment and Water for adoption.

The WAP will deliver on South Australia's commitments under the National Water Initiative and is aligned with the GAB Strategic Management Plan that aims to deliver consistent water management across the basin. Importantly the WAP will achieve judicious use of water with an equitable balance between the economic, social and environmental needs for water.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND INFORMATION ON WATER LICENCES AND BORES?

Information is available from the WaterConnect website at www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Pages/Home.aspx

BORE UP-KEEP ESSENTIAL

If you are responsible for a bore you must ensure it is properly maintained. This includes the casing, lining and screen, and the mechanism (if any) to cap the bore.

Maintenance is particularly important for artesian bores, where groundwater is stored under pressure and there is more strain on the infrastructure. Water licences issued under the Far North WAP require licensees to reticulate water through closed, water-tight delivery systems and maintain these in good condition.

As infrastructure deteriorates with age, operation and site conditions, regular maintenance can extend the working life of a bore and fittings, reducing the risk of breakdown. Poor maintenance can in some cases lead to catastrophic failure.

ENSURE YOUR BORE AND WATER SOURCES ARE UP TO DATE

Did you know that water cannot be taken from bores not listed on a water resource works approval?

This means time is running out to provide the information requested to update your current water licence before the draft Far North Prescribed Wells Water Allocation Plan is adopted.

On adoption of the WAP, water licences will be issued based on the information on record. If information needs updating at that point, you will be required to apply and pay the associated fee to vary your water authorisations.

The review of water sources aims to improve the accuracy of bore locations, identify bores to be used for water supply and correct bore status information. It is being undertaken by the Department for Environment and Water, with support from the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board.

Maps were sent to licence holders between February and April this year, with a request for water sources, bore location and status, as well as any other relevant information to be marked.

If you have recently returned your completed map we wish to thank you for your support. If not, please return your completed map to PO Box 78 Port Augusta SA 5700 as soon as possible.

If you have not received a package or need help, please contact Water Project Officer Melissa Horgan via email at melissa.horgan@sa.gov.au or by phone on 0409 896 402.

HELP AVAILABLE FOR BORE MAINTENANCE

Department for Environment and Water (DEW) technical officers are currently visiting properties to review GAB bores and associated distribution infrastructure. You are encouraged to discuss any technical bore maintenance issues during the visit.

The GAB bore review will gather up-to-date information on the condition of more than 190 bores and associated infrastructure. A summary of the field visit findings will be provided to assist owners in addressing any maintenance or corrective measures.

Bore maintenance issues can be complicated, particularly where there are high water pressures and temperatures. DEW technical officers with experience in GAB bores are available to work with you to determine potential ways forward with complex issues.

Contact Melissa Horgan on 0409 896 402 or email melissa.horgan@sa.gov.au





FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR GAB WATER MANAGEMENT

The new Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience (IGABDR) program will help fund projects contributing to water security and drought resilience in the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). Owners of GAB bores are invited to lodge an expression of interest to be involved in the program.

Suitable projects will include:

- Replacement and repair of aging bores
- decommissioning of bores
- installation of water-tight distribution infrastructure including pipes, tanks and troughs
- replacement of aging water distribution infrastructure

IGABDR program follows on from earlier infrastructure programs such as the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABS) which have saved the South Australian portion of the GAB about 48,961 ML of water per year through controlled bores and efficient piping and have been central in stabilising declining aquifer pressures.

Further information is available at www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/water/monitoring/projects-and-activities/improving-great-artesian-basin-drought-resilience or by contacting Senior Water Resource Officer Aaron Smith by email aaron.smith3@sa.gov.au or phone 0417 643 956.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Are you aware that under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* you are required to comply with any conditions on your water management authorisation and you have a responsibility to properly maintain any bores under your control?

Water management authorisations are commonly referred to as a water licence. Two conditions on a water licence include taking water only from the sources described on your licence and notifying the Department for Environment and Water of any changes to licence holders' details.

For Far North licensees there is a condition that stock and domestic water must only be taken if the water reticulation is maintained as water-tight delivery system; self-enclosed water reticulation, piped system with no leaks, including within the bore headworks.

If any condition is not complied with the holder of the water management authorisation may be in breach and, depending on the risk, the Minister may cancel, suspend or vary the water management authorisation.

Bores that are not maintained may be in breach of the Act and as such the Minister may undertake remedial or other work to remedy the problem, at a cost to the land occupier.



Top: This trailer was loaded with items collected along the Oodnadatta Track from Marla.

Bottom left: A pile of 52 freshly dumped tyres were found on the Stuart Highway, north of Port Augusta

Bottom right: One of the trailers fully loaded south of Pimba



Cleaning up the outback's great tracks

The Stuart Highway and Oodnadatta Track are cleaner, thanks to no small effort from the Great Tracks Clean Up Crew.

A smaller than usual contingent set out for this year's event, funded by the crew's own fundraising money after corporate sponsorship previously paid for fuel and food was lost due to COVID-19.

Rather than cancel the trek, a reduced crew of 11 members in five vehicles with trailers travelled nearly 11,000 kilometres and provided 931 volunteer hours.

The team collected 28 tonnes of rubbish, including 595 whole tyres and 596 refundable bottles and cans.

The group left Port Augusta on 20 August, travelling north along the Stuart Highway, cleaning parking, rest and camping areas. Without the usual truck support, trailers filled quickly. A freshly dumped pile of 52 car and trailer tyres only 10 metres from a smaller pile of 16 tyres found 63 kilometres north of Port Augusta was unable to be loaded. Despite this, all trailers were full only 91km into the trip, leaving the group unable to collect any more rubbish before they unloaded 202 tyres in Pimba.

A further 107 tyres were stacked at Marla, where general rubbish was also dumped; 126 tyres at William Creek and another 160 at Marree.

The unusual items picked up this year included truck stone guards, 28 decomposing cooking oil containers, two Commodore and one Ford plastic front bumper bar, babies pram, babies bath, two computers, numerous caravan mag centre caps, wheel trims, truck hub caps and lots of discarded used nappies just dumped on the ground at rest areas.

Group members were disappointed to have to leave bottles and cans strewn on the side of the road, but time and storage capacity was their enemy on this trip.

While no vehicle break downs occurred on the five-day journey, the trip home was a different story. One trailer suffered a major tyre blow out, another a broken gate hinge. One 4WD ran out of fuel and another blew a head gasket and travelled home on a tow truck.

The crew will be back on the road in April 2021, travelling along the Outback Highway and Birdsville Track.



Red dodder alert

A single plant infestation of the State Alert weed *Cuscuta planiflora*, better known as red dodder, has been found growing over bluebush, buffel grass and *convolvulus* sp, about 12km south of Port Augusta on the highway shoulder.

Noticed by a senior biosecurity weeds advisor in July, a sample was collected and its identity confirmed by the State herbarium. The infestation has now been removed and the site treated.

Due to the plant seeds 50-year lifespan, the site will be monitored to ensure no future regrowth.

Dodders are leafless, parasitic annual herbs that twine around a wide range of broad-leaf host plants, and draw nutrition from them. On cultivated annuals such as lucerne crops, leguminous herbs, vegetable

crops, yields are diminished as the dodder absorbs nutrients from its host. A dense mass of twining stems shade out plants and it can cause scoring and death in cattle due to glycosides present in dodder.

Dodder plants spread mainly by seed, but sometimes by stem fragments. Seed is mainly transported in contaminated fodder and seeds for sowing, and through the digestive systems of animals. It can also be spread by attaching to the feet of birds. Infected areas must be quarantined.

WHAT IS A STATE ALERT WEED?

A state alert weed is an invasive weed occurring in low numbers in a restricted area and is one that would pose a serious threat to the State's primary industries, natural environments or human health if it were to become established.

All alert weeds are declared under the *Landscape Act* and their transport and sale prohibited.

If you find any of the alert weeds on your land, their presence must be notified to Landscape authorities. In the SA Arid Lands region, you can report to Sustainable Landscapes Project Officer Paul Hodges on 0417 738 498 or at paul.hodges@sa.gov.au

The full list of state alert weeds is available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/weeds_in_sa/alert_weeds

Cochineal breeding is all in the name of progress

A cochineal nursery will be developed by the Blinman Progress Association, after the organisation received \$9,208 from the Foundation for Regional and Remote Renewal.

The progress association will use the nursery to breed the biocontrol insect to treat problem opuntia (cactus) species in the district.

Local landholders and progress association member Bill McIntosh said the district was working with the assistance of volunteer groups, which were increasingly using cochineal as a treatment for opuntia, which is a weed of national significance (WoNS).

He said it was important to breed cochineal locally so as not to risk cross breeding, which could produce a less effective insect.

"We want to preserve the local strain that's working very well as a control measure. For volunteers, the nursery will be a great help as they will not need to spend the first couple of days finding cochineal to move to other areas," he said.

"In return, they will bring back clean pads for us to keep breeding the cochineal."

The association is also hoping to develop a facility in the main street of Blinman, to serve as a cochineal information feature for tourists.

"It's important that visitors to the area appreciate it is a weed that is a big problem and they have the opportunity to gain an insight into the cactus story and the work we're doing to control it locally."



Targeting feral cats in the Flinders

A trial to reduce feral cat numbers in the Flinders Ranges has returned some early success, showing its greatest impacts where rabbit numbers are low.

The trial using aerial baiting of cat-specific 1080 baits Eradicat® was shown to be effective in removing most cats from 650 square kilometres across the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park and neighbouring Arkaba Station. However, control was least effective where live, feral prey such as rabbits were abundant.

The aerial baiting has occurred in the area since 2017 and followed trials of shooting, trapping and ground baiting. While the earlier ground-based trials removed cats in localised areas, none proved effective in substantially lowering cat populations across large areas.

The Eradicat® baiting trial is now in its fourth year, with 2020 being the wettest year since the trial began. The results from a smaller number of monitored cats showed that 50 per cent of the monitored cats were killed, with the survivors living in areas where rabbit densities were high.

Results from the drier years showed a stronger response. In 2017 more than 85 per cent of monitored cats were killed within a month of the baits being dropped and in 2018 and 2019 93 per cent and 100 per cent of monitored cats were confirmed as killed by the control program.

Reducing cat numbers to low levels has been an important step in managing and expanding the park's reintroduction program of the Western Quoll (Idnya), Brushtail Possum (Virda) and Andu (Yellow-footed Rock wallaby).

Feral cats prefer hunting for prey to scavenging, which is why baiting is undertaken in late autumn, when prey such as lizards and insects are less available. However, an outbreak of young rabbits at this time provides easy alternatives to scavenging, highlighting the importance of having an integrated approach to managing feral predators and introduced prey such as rabbits.

Motion camera monitoring and radio tracking have shown cats prefer to hunt in open areas and areas with the highest rabbit numbers continued to support more cats after baiting.

To encourage the range of idnya (possum) beyond the more forested areas where they appear to be spending most of their time and promote population expansion and limit inbreeding, the Department for Environment and Water's Bounceback program will work with National Parks and Wildlife Service SA staff and the Adnyamathanha community to enable effective rabbit control in the most densely populated areas, and to reduce the total grazing impact of kangaroos, goats and sheep within the National Park.

The Eradicat trial has been undertaken as a partnership between the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board through its Bounceback and Beyond program, and the Department for Environment and Water's Bounceback program.

Bounceback and Beyond is delivered by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Drought support

While many areas have received long-awaited rain and the forecast for a wetter than usual spring is promising, drought conditions continue for many land managers in the region. A range of services are available to support families and businesses through difficult times.

FARMHUB

FarmHub connects Australian farmers to a range of services and support, providing information relevant to farmers and farming communities, including training and climate information.

FarmHub contains four separate resources:

- a comprehensive directory of assistance available to farmers from a range of government and private sources;
- regional Climate Guides with information about weather and climate patterns;
- a Learning and Development directory containing a wide range of training and capacity building options; and
- Informative articles and information relevant to managing a farm business during hardship.

FarmHub has been developed by the National Farmers' Federation using funding from the Commonwealth Government in partnership with numerous government and non-profit agencies.

You can access FarmHub at farmhub.org.au/

DROUGHT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – PASTORAL LEASE RENT REBATE

In March, the Government and Pastoral Board applied an across the board 50 per cent rebate to all 2018-19 pastoral lease rents. Lessees are advised that new invoices are being issued to reflect the reduced rental payment due.

For information on the rebate please contact the PIRSA Drought Hotline on 1800 931 314 or email: PIRSA.drought@sa.gov.au

CONNECTING DROUGHT COMMUNITIES – EVENTS GRANTS

Community groups in the South Australian Arid Lands can apply for event funding under the Connecting Drought Communities – Events Grant. Each organisation can apply for funding for one or more events, up to a maximum of \$10,000 for each event.

This funding pool is expected to be fully exhausted within the next month.

To be eligible, events must be open to the community, offer free or low-cost entry, aim to help build community resilience and wellbeing and be held before 15 June 2021.

FARM MANAGEMENT DEPOSITS (FMD)

Primary producers with an uneven income flow can apply for a farm management deposit (FMD). FMD accounts are provided by selected financial institutions and allow eligible primary producers to set aside pre-tax income from primary production in years of high income, which they can draw on in years of low income. Income deposited into an FMD account is tax deductible in the year the deposit is made and becomes taxable income in the year in which it is withdrawn.

Further information is available from the Australian Taxation Office for business tax enquiries on 13 28 66 or online at www.ato.gov.au/business/primary-producers/in-detail/farm-management-deposits-scheme/

FaB MENTOR

The Family and Business (FaB) Support Program is an experienced team of professionals who will listen and help Primary producers, their families and small businesses dealing with drought to find ways to manage their situation. They provide free, informal advice on where to start and what to do next.

You can connect with a drought FaBS mentor through the PIRSA Recovery team on 1800 931 334 or at PIRSA.drought@sa.gov.au. Alternatively you can call a mentor directly: John White 0447 787 436 or Anne Collins 0427 486 115.

PIRSA DROUGHT HOTLINE

PIRSA has a 24-hour drought hotline, established to assist farmers, farming families and regional businesses in drought-affected communities. The hotline number is 1800 931 314 and further information is available at PIRSA.drought@sa.gov.au

FURTHER SUPPORT

Online resources to help manage life's challenges:

- *Are You Bugged Mate*
www.areyoubuggedmate.com.au
- *ifarmwell – Growing Farmer's Wellbeing*
www.ifarmwell.com.au

NEW DROUGHT RECOVERY OFFICER

Meet Matt Humphrey – the Far North SA Regional Recovery Officer (RRO) for the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency.

Matt is one of a national network of RROs in place to ensure people and communities receive support and works with farmers and pastoralists, regional businesses and communities to match them with Australian Government assistance to meet their individual needs.

RROs live in the regions and work alongside other government and non-government agencies. They connect people in regional and rural areas with the Australian Government, providing a voice from the regions back to the National Drought Coordinator-General, the Hon Shane Stone AC QC, and his team.

Before joining the agency, Matt worked for the South Australian Government in a variety of agricultural roles, with his last position based in the Pastoral Unit. He has worked with regional communities, businesses and land managers and has a passion for sustainable farming and semi-arid agricultural productive systems.

Matt has been fortunate to have worked in the more remote areas of South Australia and is looking forward to meeting and working with communities in the region once again.

Find out more about Matt's work and the National Drought and Flood Agency on their website www.droughtandflood.gov.au and by following them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

You can contact Matt by emailing RROFarNorthSA@pmc.gov.au or calling 0418 498 942.



Matt Humphrey



Kurt Tschirner is growing Sandalwood in Quorn

Sandalwood survives in Quorn

The vulnerable Sandalwood tree is growing in Quorn once again, thanks to the persistence of local community members.

A small tree, the Sandalwood grows in the outback regions of South Australia and Western Australia. It was once commonly found in the Flinders, north of Port Augusta and around Whyalla; but are now rarely seen.

Having enjoyed success raising the plants around their own property in Quorn, having previously sown them on a reserve in WA, locals Andrea and Kurt Tschirner have introduced them in areas of native planting in and around Quorn.

Kurt said seeds were prepared by soaking them in water for 24 hours and then leaving them in the sun to dry. Once the seeds developed a hairline crack, they were planted against the base of a suitable host plant.

Sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) is a root parasite, which attaches to the root system of a host plant, such as acacias, to survive its early years. Natural regeneration of these trees is poor and the foliage highly palatable to sheep, goats, rabbits and kangaroos. In effect, once the current mature trees die from old age there is little chance of recruitment to keep individual populations going. They slowly and quietly disappear from the landscape.

Many of the sandalwoods planted by the Tschirner's have germinated and continued to grow, having escaped the pressure of early grazing. These plants are now also producing seed which are collected to share with other community members to plant out in the district.

The Sandalwood was once highly valued and extensively harvested for more than a century.

Despite its non-descript appearance, it contains a highly prized aromatic oil used in cosmetics, incense, soap and perfumes in overseas markets.

As a result, it was harvested in massive numbers from 1900 to 1940, with not only the trees cut, but roots and butts pulled as well and sent to Port Augusta, which was the main centre for the state's industry. The high level of harvesting was unsustainable and the industry fell away due to the depleted supply.



Tourist travel code launched

Visitors are always welcome in the Flinders Ranges and Outback, and to make tourism sustainable for the landscapes, the region's tourism body Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism (FROSAT) has launched a campaign promoting responsible visitor messages.

The cheeky online campaign uses Aussie humour to sell its messages of responsible travel which includes staying on tracks, not leaving any rubbish or waste, and getting approval to travel on people's properties.

The campaign is based on how we all expect visitors to behave when they visit our homes – an unofficial code of conduct. The Aussie Travel Code concept and brand was developed by regional tourism agency WOOF Media in collaboration with representatives from the FROSAT Board.

A strong welcome message underlies the campaign which uses humour to reinforce travel messages about safety and planning before you head to the Outback, as well as how to conduct yourself when you are visiting someone else's backyard.

When you see the Aussie Travel Code logo, it means you're travelling in—or planning a trip to—a bloody great place. You're in for an unreal experience in an incredible part of Australia.

Welcome!

But, Australia's a big place and things might not be what you're used to back home.

Starting with South Australia's incredible Outback, the Aussie Travel Code gives you the insider knowledge you need for this region. It will tell you how to enjoy your trip, stay safe, and be the kind of traveller you would want to meet in your own hometown.

The project has been funded by the Outback Communities Authority and supported by tourism operators, the South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board, and Regional Development Australia Far North.

Jo Fort, co-owner of the Innamincka Hotel and chair of the FROSAT Board, said the need for a campaign like this is long overdue.

"We've been hearing from tourism operators, pastoralists and Outback communities that visitors need a clearer expectation of acceptable behaviours when they travel to the Outback, and to have a stronger understanding that it is someone's backyard – no matter how big it might be," Ms Fort said.

"The Outback is vast – we have some of the most diverse and fragile ecosystems in the world which people may not realise that once it's been driven over it may never recover. We've also got significant cultural sites and we aim to raise awareness of how to respect these areas."

Ms Fort said while the idea of minimising traveller impacts on the environment is an international issue and one that is complex and difficult to tackle, the FROSAT Board believes the Aussie Travel Code is a grassroots campaign that has the opportunity to gain real traction.

"We are seeking the support of tourism operators, businesses, government agencies and pastoralists to support this campaign which can be adapted to different regions to promote the messaging. With additional funding and in-kind support, we could really make a difference in this space and promote the amazing region we welcome visitors to at the same time."

Find out more about The Aussie Travel Code at www.aussietravelcode.com.au.

Follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/austravelcode and Instagram @austravelcode.

Come Prepared

Stay on Track

**Keep it
Clean**

**Respect
the Outback**

WHS – Practicality over Paperwork

By Alex Thomas, Plant a Seed for Safety

*“We really need to do something about WHS,
but we have NO idea where to start!”*

Let's be honest, when we think of 'compliance' with work health and safety (WHS) legislation, we think of penalties, policies and procedures. Box-ticking, dust collecting, perceived as costly and convoluted – and yet we forget – that the intent of compliance, is simply, just don't kill someone.

What's even more ironic, is that there is nothing in the 601 pages of legislation that states you need to have a 'documented policy or procedure'.

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

In 2012, Safe Work Australia stripped away emphasis on the need for 'safety paperwork' to allow business owners the flexibility to choose how they manage risk. This acknowledged that no two businesses are the same, and that what *might* work for a mining corporation probably won't work for a sheep station.

What legislation does say, is that you need to 'manage the risk to as low as reasonably practicable' i.e. 'do your very best not to hurt anyone – in the context of your business'.

The tricky thing is that a big part of the WHS profession has wedded itself to the old-school that 'safety paperwork' = 'safer outcomes', and that covering your butt (with paperwork) is somehow more important than actually doing something to manage a risk.

FACT: you don't need to 'cover your butt' if nobody gets hurt in the first place, and the best evidence of compliance is when you / your workers can show and tell someone how to do the job safely.



WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

1. Focus on the big stuff.

Don't waste your time creating mountains of paperwork. Get laser-focussed on what could go wrong, how it could go wrong and what you're going to do about it.

Prioritise, take-action on the things that could *actually* save a life.

2. Speak up!

30 years ago nobody wore seatbelts, and today we do it without even thinking about it.

Culture change doesn't happen overnight, and personal choice and engrained habit play a big role in why people get hurt. Talk the talk, walk the walk and start a conversation that makes it 'not cool' to be unsafe or to take shortcuts.

3. Do your best.

Legislation is there to manage criminal negligence i.e. those who make a conscious choice not to do the right thing.

You and your workers are the experts, therefore only you can know what 'doing your best' might look like.

Take practical steps to prevent people from getting hurt and be prepared to share that information with others who may not understand the meaning of 'common sense'.

ALEX THOMAS
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Call for Smart Farms grant applications

Landholders with ideas for programs that increase the adoption of best practice sustainable agricultural are encouraged to put forward their ideas to win a Smart Farms Small Grant.

Round four of the grants program opened in August and offers grants of between \$5000 and \$100,000 to support one or two year projects that will help regional communities increase their awareness, skills and capacity to adopt best practice sustainable agriculture.

Through the \$43.5 million Smart Farms Small Grants program, the Commonwealth aims to strengthen the agriculture industry to make it more sustainable, productive and profitable.

The current round has \$6.5 million available for projects in areas such as pest control, vegetation management, climate and market management and the use of new technologies.

Applicants may also apply for projects that strengthen the capacity of Landcare groups and other community based groups to build their capability to adopt best practices.

Projects can be delivered locally, regionally and multi-regionally. You can apply for a grant at www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/smart-farms

Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator Paul Wordley can help to develop a grant idea. He can be reached on 0438 720 469 or email paul.wordley@sa.gov.au

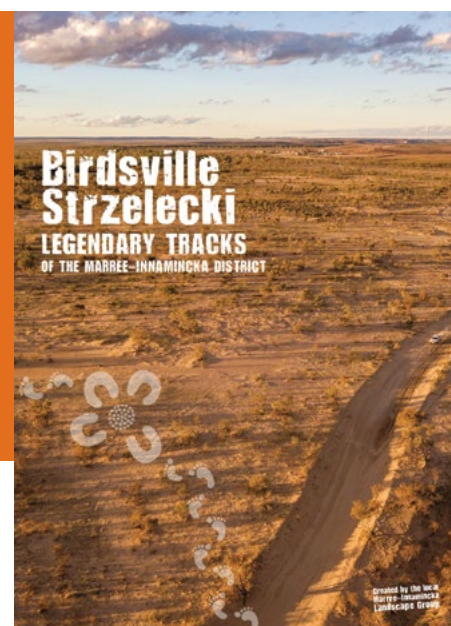
Applications close at 10.30pm on 9 October 2020.

LEGENDARY TRACKS BROCHURE REPRODUCED

The popular *Birdsville and Strzelecki* *Legendary Tracks* brochure has been updated by the Marree-Innaminka Landscape Group, which published the original version in November 2011.

The brochure includes a map of the district and visitor information and also features information about the region, including places of interest and their history, and native plants and animals. Some information has been updated to reflect changes to the region over the past nine years.

The Top 10 Travel Tips poster, created by the North Flinders Landscape Group, now sits on the back page to remind travellers to look after the landscape while enjoying their stay. You can find a copy on the SA Arid Lands website at landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/news-resources/publications/exploring-the-outback





What the devil is it?

There's nothing like a late summer rain to sprout some new green shoots – but in the case of those found in Warioota Creek in April this year, they weren't all good.

Beltana residents reported finding a grim looking weed in the nearby creek and despite its very obvious appearance, the weed had previously been unreported in the North Flinders district and there are very few records across the SAAL region.

It was identified as a Purple-flowered Devil's Claw (*Proboscidea louisianica*), a low growing North American annual herb that can grow up to 50cm high and produces a light purple flower.

The Purple-flowered devil's claw is a summer-growing plant, most commonly found when mature plants are flowering and fruiting, in February to April.

It is similar in appearance to a pumpkin plant, with rounded to heart-shaped leaves on stalks up to 20cm long. The whole plant is covered with glandular hairs and it produces flowers similar in appearance to jacaranda flowers.

The immature fruit of the purple flowered Devil's Claw is brown or black, up to 30cm long and shaped like a bird's head. As it matures the long curved 'beak' splits to form two hard claws that hold black seeds, similar to a watermelon seed.

While it is very distinctive when flowering and fruiting, it is often confused with a curcubit prior to flowering. The devil's claw is distinguished by its covering of sticky hairs.

It is particularly dangerous for sheep, with the claw able to pierce a sheep's skin and get caught in their wool as it dries out.

While it is not a declared weed, it is one that it is best not to let get established.

The best method of control is the herbicide 2, 4-D amine or metsulfuron-methyl used with a wetting agent applied to actively growing plants. Please refer to label directions for use rates.

If you need advice on identification or control of any weed, please contact your Community Landscape Officer on 8648 5307, the Sustainable Landscape Project Officer Paul Hodges on 0417 738 498, or email saal.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au.

The Purple-flowered Devil's Claw was found in the Warioota Creek earlier this year, the first record of its type so far north in the North Flinders district

ACROSS THE OUTBACK

Across the Outback is prepared and edited by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

PLEASE CONTACT

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board
8648 5307
Railway Station, Stirling Road,
Port Augusta

www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal



www.facebook.com/SAALLandscapeSA

cherie.gerlach@sa.gov.au or 8648 5307
michelle.murphy@sa.gov.au



National
Landscape
Program



Government of South Australia
South Australian Arid Lands
Landscape Board



*SA Arid Lands Community Ecologist Ben McCallum took children on a walk to the Dulkaninna Wetland, where they looked at plant species
Left: Declan and Khyson use a magnifying glass*

A day out at Dulkaninna

A chance to hold a woma python and a wetland walk were just some of the opportunities children enjoyed at the Dulkaninna Kids Day in September.

Three children from Dulkaninna Station were joined by 10 students from Marree Aboriginal School, who travelled to the property for the day. They were greeted by a variety of wildlife, including sleepy lizards, geckos, brolgas and a reed warbler which were out and about basking in the warm, sunny conditions.

A pitfall trapping demonstration provided the opportunity for children to learn about the technique and how ecologists use it in the field.

Entomologist Kristen Messenger from Bugs and Slugs showed the children a range of beetles, snails, stick insects and other bugs, while SA Arid Lands Community Ecologist Ben McCallum led a wetland walk and talked about the flora and fauna with the children.

The day finished with a presentation by Tori Wilson and Ines Badman from Arid Recovery, who displayed a range of specimens, skulls and a woma python called Tirari. The children enjoyed the opportunity to be outside in the wide open spaces while learning about their local environment, sharing the experience with friends.

Keep an eye on the SA Arid Lands Facebook page for a video of the day.



Setting pitfall traps



Khyson with woma python Tirari

At the Dulkaninna Kids Day were, not in order, Di, Lucy, Hayley, Ben, Tori, Ines, Janine, Cath, Matt, Pip and Jess with children Lakaysha, Lani, Landen, Raymond, Trentyn, Toby, Kuliah, Khyson, Declan, Lara, Daniel and Cody

