



KINGOONYA NRM GROUP NEWS

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Kingoonya Natural Resource Management (NRM) Group News. This newsletter is intended to update the Kingoonya district on the activities of your local NRM Group.

You can expect to receive an update from us twice a year.

NRM Group members play a key role in achieving the sustainable management of South Australia's natural resources. NRM Groups are an important channel for community input to the SA Arid Lands NRM Board's programs and the development and review of the Regional NRM Plan.

The NRM Groups consist of up to seven members, appointed by the NRM Board who collectively have the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to enable the Group to carry out its functions. The NRM Groups meet a minimum of four times *per year*. The meetings are open to the public.

For the Kingoonya NRM Group, overwhelmingly, our conversation always came back to "we are here to listen and be the voice of our community, and to help our community tackle important issues".

We will be regularly calling out to our community, asking for your opinions and what you think our Group should address in our district.

If you would like to raise an issue, you can call any of the Kingoonya NRM Group members, and they can bring specific queries to the next meeting. Alternatively, you are welcome to come to our meetings.

Enjoy the read.

Ashley Williams (Chair)



Photo: Group Chair Ashley Williams and SA Arid Lands NRM Board member Murray Tyler at the state feral goat forum in December 2016.

Meet your Kingoonya NRM Group members

2016 saw significant change of membership in the Kingoonya NRM Group. Coming from a range of backgrounds, each member brings a unique set of skills and perspective to the Group, covering pastoralism, conservation, mining and town management.

Ashley Williams (Chair)

I have a pastoral upbringing and have experience working in the mining industry. I want to contribute to the community and help ensure that the land is cared for and managed in a sustainable way. My interests include archaeology, land care, small native mammals and fishing. I am the manager of Lake Everard Station.

Stephen Lyons

I grew up in a farming environment in Tasmania. My family history goes back to Aboriginal people from Tasmania – a connection with land and water



resonates with me. I have worked mostly in public administration jobs at both Commonwealth and state levels. I put my hand up

for the NRM Group as I encounter various environmental issues in my role as Town Overseer in Andamooka and have a strong belief that we can always do more and always do better.

Jessica Barry

My husband and I manage Commonwealth Hill Station for Jumbuck Pastoral Pty Ltd with our two children. We have been working together in the North West Pastoral for 14 years now. With a general interest in land management and with my time spent on the ground I have knowledge on pastoral station management, water and land management. I would like to see the

land kept in its most natural state, while still being a productive resource.



I wanted to become an NRM member to be a voice for pastoralists in the North West, to get their concerns and interests heard.

Jasmine Richards



I am an environmental scientist and hydrologist, specialising in the mining industry. I bring a broad knowledge to the NRM Group on environmental management, and more specifically on groundwater management.

My interest in the NRM Group comes from wanting to understand the broader issues within the arid lands than just those we come across at the mine. I want to be a member to get to know the community that I work within, in a broader context than the immediate neighbors to the mining operation. I am also keen to give back to the community where I can and hope that the NRM Group will be a great way to do this.

Ian Matheson

I joined the NRM group because I am interested in the community and pastoral industry as a whole, not just on a property scale. Trained as a plumber, I began working on stations aged 23 in WA and SA. In my fifth year as a station manager, I currently manage Wilgena Station.



David Hunter

I have a station and mining background. I grew up and worked on Anna Creek Station, becoming the youngest head stockman there at age 18. I worked on stations before marrying and moving to Carrieton to start a family. My wife and I ran the post office and telephone exchange.

I am interested in seeing the environment looked after, conserving the natural resources, whilst allowing for production outcomes.



Group proxies

So as to keep the momentum and productivity of the Group at its highest capacity, many members have teamed up with partners or community members of similar skill sets. If you bump into any of the three proxy members below, please also communicate any issues or priorities you would like to see on the Groups agenda.



Leighton Randell, OZ Minerals (above)

Edwina Bowie (Proxy to Ian Matheson)
Wilgena Station.

James Barry (proxy to Jess Barry,
Commownwealth Hill Station.

Our shared vision and values

As a Group we have a shared vision.

“To support and contribute to a sustainable vibrant Kingoonya community while looking after the land, water and environment.”

To be able to achieve this we all sat down and determined what we stand for, what we want to be able to promise you the community, about the way we will do business and how we will include you. What we came up with are our group core values:

Community – engage with the community to provide the group with an understanding of issues relevant to the district.

Teamwork and Accountability – be an inclusive and accountable team making decisions based on community priorities.

Education – be informed by and provide information to the community.

Productive and Contributing – make a difference and contribute to a sustainable Kingoonya district with productive outcomes.

Our annual work plan

The Kingoonya NRM Group's Annual Work Plan identifies the Group's:

- Priorities for the coming year, which are in line with the Board's key investment areas and in response to current issues in our area.
- Commitment to increase their knowledge in all areas of NRM, and to share knowledge and skills with others in the community, providing leadership at a local level to get things happening.

As a Group, we realise that some priorities are outside of our control but our main concern is to form partnerships with community groups, government departments, non-government organisations and industry bodies to ensure information flow.

For this financial year we have decided to develop five projects:

Cactus mapping – understand the distribution of cactuses in the Kingoonya district.

Community calendar – create a calendar indicating the good and bad times for workshops and information sessions within the community, in the hope to allow more participation options.

Kangaroo tag awareness – increase the awareness of the kangaroo tagging program and its components.

Water in the landscape workshop – incorporate theory with site visits and presentations focussing on efficient use of graders to minimise soil erosion and increase water retention in the land.

Introduce the new NRM Plan – host a space where the community can review and comment on the new plan.

Buffel Grass educational display – develop and maintain an events display with up-to-date information on Buffel Grass (i.e. environmental impacts and control options) and the story of its eradication so far.

Out & about

Kingoonya NRM Group members represented the interests of the Kingoonya community in 2016 in the below workshops.

SA Far North Region – Climate Change Adaptation Plan (1 member present)

Run over two workshops, stakeholders explored the risks and opportunities of climate change to the Far North Region and discussed how the community and industry will respond to climate change. They aimed to prioritise adaptation options relevant to a range of sectors, including agriculture, mining, tourism, health services, emergency management, water, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation.

Here's what Stephen Lyons had to say:

"The Climate Change workshop was an absolute mind-blower. I've always accepted that climate change is real and happening, but I have always had doubts about the degree of impact that we are having on it, given that ice ages have come and gone without our industrial effects.

This incredibly broad-ranging workshop covered issues that I would never have considered to be part of the mix. I came away with a much wider view of the climate change debate and a million more questions. I look forward to attending more workshops on similar lines."

Unlock Your Pastoral Profit (UUP) Workshop

The UPP workshop gave an understanding of the trends in land condition over time can assist in making management decisions. For example, if you are a pastoralist and are grazing stock – what class of stock, how many, where and for how long.

If you are running a conservation reserve and/or pastoralist – what

weeds/feral animals, where, how many and what control methods are the most cost effective to use.

The word on this comes from Stephen Lyon also:

"Pastoral Profit in Glendambo was my first NRM workshop. Got educated on the range of issues that affect pastoral profit, way beyond pure dollars. As a bookkeeper my focus tends to be on dollars but clearly there is much, much more to the equation."

To learn more visit YouTube to watch videos about: climate forecasting for the rangelands, property biosecurity, financial management and business literacy, and landscape literacy, managing grazing for the long term.

https://www.youtube.com/user/enviro_nentsagovau/videos?flow=grid&view=0&sort=dd

Site Clearance Inspection

On Tuesday 14 February Sarah Voumard and two Arabana people, Amy and Ken, visited Billa Kalina station to undertake a site inspection. Following a GPS track of the proposed fenceline across a paddock, the land was searched for areas of cultural significance. No sites were located. Now the fenceline can be graded.



Photo: Sarah Voumard, Amy Khan and Ken Buzzacott

Goats

On Tuesday 13 of December, Ashley Williams along with many others attended a Feral Goat Forum focused on the issue of feral goats and their future in Australia, particularly their future in our patch, South Australia.



To put the discussion simply, you could crudely place the views expressed over the afternoon (however it was much more convoluted and complicated than this) into three categories:

1. Total Eradication by any means necessary
2. Mustering and processing goats, combined with humane destruction to continually control and maintain a lower number of goats across the board
3. Totally legalise the farming of goats.

There was a healthy diversity of people who attended the forum, from people on the land, people from a biodiversity background, government workers, politicians and even some people from the meat processing industry in attendance. With such a diverse range of expertise came a lot of different angles and a huge amount of knowledge from the different respected parties.

Of course with such a wide range of expertise, came multiple side views with mixed and even sometimes conflicting opinions expressed in conjunction with all three of the main groups. However in the end it was the clear majority view that things should stay as they are currently, with feral goats remaining on the Feral Pest List, the mustering and selling of goats to remain legal with the release of already captured goats still to remain illegal even if they are deemed to have 'No Commercial Value' because they are under weight, and of course the humane destruction of goats by landholders and government bodies alike to still be encouraged.

This was mainly due to groups one and two having quite a lot of common goals and idealistic views about the feral goat and the almost inevitability of its continued existence in this country.

Of course the idea of the forum was not for a decision to be made by those of us in attendance or for one to even be made that same afternoon. The idea of this forum, was to collect a range of views from a wide array of people and to hopefully find a general consensus among them.

I am sure we will hear more in the future about Feral Goats and I am confident that this issue will be with us for a long, long time to come.

Publications

Target 100

Target 100 is made up of 100 active research, development and extension projects that focus on animal welfare and environmental sustainability within the context of profitable agricultural systems.

The initiatives consider the issues of biodiversity, water management, reducing emissions and promoting soil health in conjunction with sustainably producing some of the world's best beef and lamb.

Target 100 projects are led by cutting edge research groups including Meat & Livestock Australia, universities, the CSIRO, and government departments and agencies.

<http://www.target100.com.au/100-Initiatives>

Pest Smart CRC

Track the movement of the rabbit RHDV2 across SA and explore articles and reference material, including over 8,000 scientific research papers, maps of pest animal distribution, images and case studies.

Keep up-to-date on all the latest best practice pest management tools and tactics by subscribing to the eNews mailing list.

<http://www.pestsmart.org.au/>

Banded stilts

Researchers have been using satellite imagery to track Satellite tagged Banded Stilts. 'P2', one of the tagged birds, returned to her birthplace at Lake Torrens. Following over 60mm of rainfall at Lake Torrens, on 27 December P2 flew from St Kilda Beach in just 24-36hours!



Tracking over the last two years shows that she has spent several months on the Yorke Peninsula, and travelled to Lake Gardiner, Lake Everard and Lake Acraman.

There was speculation about the Banded Stilts attempting to breed on an island at Lake Torrens as they did in 2013. Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources staff Rob Brandle, Sarah Voumard and pilot Matt Graham took to the air on Wednesday 8 February 2017. The lake has dried up quickly, with no nesting sites found.



11 December 2014
P2- Sub-adult female



17 March 2015

Behind the district's wild dog data

Wild dog mapping data in the district for 2016 showed an increase in dogs reported to have been shot (30 more in 2016) and trapped (41 more in 2016) within the district. It also showed that there were 9,516 extra baits that went out in 2015/16 compared to the previous year. Here's some more stats from wild dog activity data in the district.

Map returns

69% of maps from this district were returned in 2016, which was 4% more than the previous year.

Baiting

65.5% of properties were supplied baits for ground baiting in 2015/16. This was up from the 51.7% of properties in the previous year. This equated to a total of 20,376 baits or bait equivalents (14,476 injected, 5,850 manufactured baits and 50 CPE Capsules). An increase of 9,516 more baits compared with the previous year. However, as the data does not record how many baits are actually going out on the ground (or are sitting in a freezer waiting to be put out) baiting data needs to be read with a grain of salt. Aerial baiting has stayed constant, with 68.9% of properties in Kingoonya participating.

Stock losses

2016 map records indicated a total of 1,963 stock lost from wild dog attacks. This is significantly higher than the 232 reported in the 2015 calendar year.

Sightings

In 2016, 16 dogs were recorded to have been seen in the district compared to eighteen during the 2015 calendar year. Many of the dogs sighted may have been controlled with baits, trapped or shot.

Trappings

75 dogs were recorded to have been trapped in the district during the 2016 calendar year. This was 41 more than the previous year.

Shootings

85 dogs were recorded to have been shot in the district during the 2016 calendar year. This was 30 more than the previous year. Remember, the more maps that get returned, the clearer the picture of what is actually going on in the region, and where more effort is needed to reduce wild dog impacts to stock.

Wild dog baits

In November 2016, the wild dog bait injection service

comprising Chris Havelberg, Ken Wright and guest injector Sarah Voumard visited the Kingoonya District.

Picking up their baits were Tash Masters (manager of Mobella Station), Sharna Guy from Commonwealth Hill, Hamish from Mobella, Kym Kakoschke from Mulgathing and James Barry (manager of Commonwealth Hill Station).



2016-2017 wild dog alert

In the South East of the Kingoonya District wild dog numbers have remained high despite land manager efforts to bring them under control. Biteback staff are working closely with these properties to reduce the wild dog impacts.

Teaming up with RICE

With several of the Kingoonya NRM Group having children, the NRM Group have teamed up with Remote and Isolated Children's Education (RICE).

This amazing support by the lovely ladies at RICE has meant our NRM Group members can concentrate on the job at hand and the children can have an awesome play date!

If you would like your children to get into the action of a district play date coinciding with one of our meetings, contact the Kingoonya Community Engagement Officer. While the children play you can also come and join in on the NRM conversation.



Photo: Jessica Barry with son Conner, Samantha Mundy with Winsome and Sam Matheson, and Ros with baby Asher Barry at the July 2016 Kingoonya NRM Group meeting.

Do you have weeds – and lots of them?

Kingoonya NRM Group's spray unit is available to borrow NOW!

Good summer rainfall is actively encouraging weed growth and spread. Stored at Bon Bon Station you can borrow the 600L Spray Unit free of charge! It comes with a 'Spray Unit Herbicide Guide' that sets out best practice for weeds present within the Kingoonya district.

Contact the Kingoonya Community Engagement Officer on (08) 8648 5903.



NRM Group Members

Ashley Williams (Chair), Lake Everard Station, Livestock, (08) 8648 1884
Ian Matheson, Wilgena Station, Livestock, (08) 8672 2039
Jessica Barry, Commonwealth Hill Station, Livestock, (08) 8672 1907
Stephon Lyons, Andamooka, Town Overseer, (08) 8672 7246
Jasmine Richards, OZ Minerals, Environmental Division, (08) 8672 8349

Proxies

Edwina Bowie: Wilgena Station
James Barry: Commonwealth Hill
Leighton Randell: OZ Minerals

Further information

If you would like more information on the Group's activities or wish to attend the next Kingoonya NRM Group meeting please either contact a Group member or the Kingoonya Community Engagement Officer, Sarah Voumard on (08) 8648 5903, Mobile 0437 795 792 or email sarah.voumard@sa.gov.au.

What is coming up in the district?

Event	Date	Location	Detail
Performance is Personal	27 February	AALBG Port Augusta	Focussing on multi-generational businesses and leadership. Presented by rural facilitator Jill Rigney.
Field Day	9-10 March	Mt Barry & Coober Pedy	Presented by Marla-Oodnadatta NRM Group with numerous guest presenters and stalls.
Grader Workshop	21-22 March	Roxby Downs Station	Presented by NT expert Col Stanton who has 25 years experience delivering grader expertise in arid areas.
Back to Kingoonya	14-17 April	Kingoonya	Reunion
20 year Celebration	14-17 April	Arid Recovery, Olympic Dam	Celebrating 20 years of Arid Recovery Conservation efforts.
Easter Market	14-17 April	Andamooka	Easter market, egg hunt and pancake breakfast.
Information workshop grasses	23 May	Roxby Downs	
Rock Festival	5-7 May	Andamooka	Proposed mineral, gemstone and rock festival.
'Biteback' 1080 Injection Services	16-19 May	Various	Meat is injected for wild dog control.
Water in the Landscape	31 May	Billa Kalina	Learn more about on-ground soil conservation works.
Kingoonya NRM Group Meeting	5 June	Kingoonya Pub	Group members meet. Members of the public welcome.
Camp Oven Cook-off	9-11 June	Kingoonya	Camp cooking competition
Women's Retreat	16-18 June	Woomera	
Horse Races	5 August	Roxby Downs	Annual Horse Racing event at Roxby Downs
Combined Kingoonya & Gawler Ranges NRM Group Meeting	18 August	Port Augusta	
National Science Week	12-20 August	Australia	Opportunities to learn more about science
Kingoonya NRM Group Meeting	29 November	Lake Everard Station	10am - meeting and cactus control workshop



Grader and Soil Conservation Workshop

Fully Catered

Accommodation
Available

DVD and
Workbooks
Provided

Two Full Day
Workshops
9am – 5pm

ROXBY DOWNS STN

TUE 21 & WED 22 MARCH 2017

RSVP by 1st March 2017

Interested in improving your grader skills, track design and knowledge? Save yourself time and dollars. Learn how to improve your station roads and tracks and maintain your pastoral country.

Workshops are open to landholders, contractors and professionals working in the Arid Lands region. Workshops will be delivered by Northern Territory soil expert Col Stanton, who has over 25 years' experience sharing his grader expertise in the arid zone.



Natural Resources
SA Arid Lands

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION / RSVP CONTACT

Lisa Stevens 8648 5300 /
0438 720 469 or email
lisa.stevens@sa.gov.au