

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

Port Augusta-Quorn Newsletter

Sept 2021

Spring has sprung, the birds are singing and the wildflowers are out. Go for a wander in your local National Park or visit the Native Flora Reserve in Quorn to see what's flowering this season. Check out this [brochure](#) of native trees, shrubs and herbs in the Quorn foothills. Below from left to right – Pimelea Daisy-bush *Olearia pimeleoides*, Chocolate Lilly *Arthropodium strictum* and Yam Daisy *Microseris lanceolata*



Flora Reserve Quorn, September 2021

Feel free to get in touch with your Community Landscape Officer Hannah Ling any time if you have information to share or if you have any questions. Hannah can be contacted at hannah.ling@sa.gov.au or on **0409 753 495**.

Acknowledgement of Country: We acknowledge and pay respects to Nukunu, Barngala and Kokatha Nations, their elders past, present and emerging, and their strong connection to Country on which the Port Augusta – Quorn district is located.

News

New Landscape Group Members

We're excited to announce the new Landscape Group members for the Port Augusta – Quorn district. The PAQ Landscape Group includes Kym Thomas (Chairperson Nukunu Wapma Thura Aboriginal Corporation), Renata Hackett (Quorn resident), Melissa Clifton (Port Augusta Coastcare), Steve Marafiote (CEO Sundrop Farms), Richie Paynter (Quorn agriculturalist) and Francene O'Connor (Port Augusta City Council). The six new members met for the first time in August to discuss key priorities for the district. The group will meet again in October to develop a new district plan over the next few months, providing a local context for the new [SAAL Regional Landscape Plan](#).

Science Week Program

Science Week was celebrated in Port Augusta and Quorn with sessions by Animals Anonymous, Bugs n Slugs and plant propagation with Andrea Tschirner. In total 28 shows across seven schools were delivered in five days, including a Bugs in the Dark evening show at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. A big thank you to all the schools, teachers, students and presenters who participated and an even bigger thank you to the many furry and crawly critters who let us interact with them and learn about their incredible adaptations.



Animals Anonymous at Augusta Park Primary School, August 2021

National Landcare Conference

The National Landcare Conference was recently held online with a range of talks on coastal care, sustainable agriculture, community partnerships, biodiversity and much more. Check out the [website](#) to view session topics and catch up on recorded talks.

AUSMAP Training

Eleven members of the Port Augusta community learnt how to monitor microplastics in marine and coastal environments at an AUSMAP training event in September. A national volunteer program, AUSMAP monitors and collects information on microplastics to detect pollution hotspots and identify the type of pollution. The data obtained from the monitoring program can then be used to manage the source of microplastics and track the impact of management activities. Locally, the event trained volunteers for an ongoing microplastics monitoring program. Members of the Port Augusta Coastcare Group will now select a number of sites at which the monitoring will take place four times per year. If you are interested in joining the program, or the Port Augusta Coastcare Group, contact Hannah Ling on 0409 753 495 or hannah.ling@sa.gov.au.



AUSMAP training, September 2021

New Grassroots Grants

Five Grassroots Grants applications were successful in securing funding in the Port Augusta – Quorn district this financial year. The Upper North Farming Systems group will develop a pastoral native plant guide and the Port Augusta Coastcare group will deliver a show 'This Show is NOT Rubbish' to schools and community in 2022.

Three applications for the Flinders Ranges Council were approved. The first will support more plantings at the Bush Food Garden and riparian restoration of the nearby Pithiowie (Pinkerton) Creek, as well as interpretive signage to communicate the plants' cultural, ecological and agricultural properties.

Down the road a little, a second Grassroots Grant will support educational signage at the Quorn Native Flora Reserve. Previously a quarry site, the area now has at least 44 native plant species, including some of which are rarely seen elsewhere such as Sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*). The grant will also fund the removal of non-native trees at the site entrance and replacement with local native species.

The third Grassroots Grant involves revegetation of one thousand native seedlings at Warren Gorge to rehabilitate eroded areas and provide habitat for native species such as the local Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. Interpretive signage will offer visitors information into the ecological, cultural and historic significance of the area.

Clean Up Day

Illegally dumped waste on the outskirts of Port Augusta has been well publicised as an ongoing issue, but some of it has now been cleared. Eleven community members pitched in to help clean up the waste in September in a collaborative effort involving Port Augusta City Council, Department of Infrastructure and Transport and the SAAL Landscape Board. While the volunteers put in the hard labour, the event was facilitated by the SAAL Landscape Board, which also provided insurance for the volunteers. Port Augusta City Council provided a tip truck and excavator to pick up and dump the rubbish, while the Department of Infrastructure and Transport contributed \$2000 to cover dumping fees.



Yorkeys Crossing, September 2021

Resources at Your Fingertips

Want to learn more about biodiversity in South Australia? Here are three key resources to explore:

1. **[Nature Maps](#)** – an online mapping system with records of native plants and animals across South Australia and multiple information layers including vegetation, water resources and soil types.
2. **[iNaturalist](#)** – an interactive website and app where you can upload your recordings of native flora and fauna to add to scientific knowledge and research. You can also interact with other citizen scientists and run bioblitzes to find as many species in one location as possible.
3. **[Aussie Wildlife Show](#)** – an informative podcast featuring wildlife experts and their favourite animals from across Australia, delivered by Dr Steve Crawford and Adrian Sherriff from Animals Anonymous.

Upcoming Events and Grants

Date	Description
Thurs 23 Sept 9.30-2.15pm	Outback Ladies Day at the Transcontinental Hotel Quorn, a day to bring women together for networking and professional development, featuring Leadership & Influence by Jeanette Gellard and Bush Foods and Native Grasses by Andrea Tschirner. Book online at www.trybooking.com/BTZAF or contact Hannah Ling on 0409 753 495 or at hannah.ling@sa.gov.au
Thurs 23 Sept 7.30-8.30pm	Biteback Webinar on Microsoft Teams, learn about the SA Dog Fence Rebuild, bait preparations and new dog disease. To register visit www.trybooking.com/BTRUA or contact Anna Rogers on 0447 134 951 or at anna.rogers@sa.gov.au
Sun 26 Sept	Quorn Show at the Quorn Town Oval, Park Terrace. See https://www.sacountryshows.com/user/24/ for more information.
Tues 12 Oct	PAQ Landscape Group Meeting
Wed 13 Oct 5.30-6.30pm	Port Augusta Coastcare Meeting 9 at SAAL Landscape Office at the Port Augusta Railway Station. New members most welcome. Contact Hannah Ling on 0409 753 495 or email at hannah.ling@sa.gov.au for more information.
Fri 15 Oct 9-11am	Fox Bounty Collection at Port Augusta Racecourse, contact PIRSA on 8429 0823 or at pirsa.fox.bounty@sa.gov.au for more information
Fri 12 and Sat 13 Nov, 10-2pm	Bush Food workshops with Neville Bonney at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens (two dates available). More information soon. Contact Hannah Ling on 0409 753 495 or email at hannah.ling@sa.gov.au to register.
2-3 Dec	Pastoral Field Day – Save the Date, more information soon.



Nudibranchs (*Ceratosoma brevicaudatum*), Port Augusta

Photo Credit: Jeff Bowey