

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

Port Augusta-Quorn Newsletter

May 2021

The cooler weather is definitely here and hopefully there is more rain to come in the next couple of months. This is the second newsletter for the Port Augusta-Quorn district to bring you updates on what has been happening and to let you know of any upcoming events. Newsletters will be sent out bi-monthly. Since March we have held a call for new Landscape Group members for the Port Augusta-Quorn district, completed the consultation process for the region's Landscape Plan and closed the Grassroots Grant round for 2021-2022. Read on for more information on news and upcoming events.

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**.



Dutchman's Stern Conservation Park, May 2021

Acknowledgement of Country: We acknowledge and pay respects to Nukunu, Bargala 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

Quorn Planting Day

The Quorn Community Landcare group has been busy over the past few months and there are now lots of plants in the ground ready for rain. The Bush Food garden, established with assistance from the Nukunu community and the Flinders Ranges Council, includes plants traditionally used for medicines, tools and food. The native grass Thutha Patch (“th” pronounced as a “d”) has 1000 tubestock planted of eight native C4 (summer active) perennial native grasses, with more plants to be direct seeded by Seeding Natives in June. The Thutha Patch will act as a seedbank for restoration work around the region, as well as a source of seed for food and harvest trials. The Thutha Patch project is funded by a Grassroots Grant from the SA Arid Lands (SAAL) Landscape Board and delivered in partnership by the Flinders Ranges Council and the Quorn Community Landcare group. A big shout out to Andrea Tschirner for organising and delivering a great project! If you would like to know more about the Thutha Patch, a tour and presentation by Andrea Tschirner from the Quorn Community Landcare group and Andrew Fairney from Seeding Natives on is being held on Tuesday 1 June from 5pm onwards in Quorn. Contact Hannah Ling (details above) for more information and to register.



Planting Day with Quorn Community Landcare Group, April 2021

Port Augusta Coastcare Group

The Port Augusta Coastcare group had a productive fourth meeting in April, deciding on its group name and lining up a few future events. In April, the group was invited to tour Sundrop Farm to see the operations and how it is leading the way in utilising the latest sustainable agricultural technology. A big thanks to Sundrop Farm for hosting the tour! The group is next meeting on **7 June from 5.30-6.30pm** and new members are welcome. The group will hold two events in the next few weeks. Join the group for a ‘Walk and Gawk’ with coastal scientist Peri Coleman to learn more about saltmarsh and mangroves at Winninowie Conservation Park and around Port Augusta, on **Sunday 30 May from 10-3pm**. Peri will provide information on how to identify different coastal fauna and flora, monitor the health of coastal ecosystems and address key threats. A BBQ lunch is included. Glenn Christie from Succession Ecology is also hosting a tour of the restoration works underway at the old Power Station in Port Augusta, on **Tuesday 8 June from 3-4pm**. Places are limited for both events so if you would like to attend either please book with Hannah (contact details above) to confirm a spot.

Senecio megaglossus Monitoring

The Port Augusta – Quorn district is home to a very special and threatened plant, the Large-flower Groundsel (*Senecio megaglossus*). In May, SAAL Community Ecologist Ben McCallum and ecologists Rick Davies, Tim Reynolds and volunteers, headed out to monitor the existing populations. The Large-flower Groundsel has been monitored in this district for more than 20 years, with about 8000 plants counted in 2021. The plant is currently listed as nationally Vulnerable. Population numbers fluctuate considerably as the plant has a short life-span of about five years. If you would like to get involved in Spring monitoring activities please contact Hannah (details above).



Monitoring Senecio megaglossus, May 2021

Upper North Farming System Group’s Pre-seeding Workshop

In April, the Upper North Farming System (UNFS) held a Pre-seeding workshop near Quorn as a part of its Regenerating Goyder’s Line project. The project has three demonstration sites along Goyder’s Line of previously cropped land that has been undisturbed for at least five years. The sites will be seeded with a variety of native and non-native species to restore soil function. The project is funded through the National Landcare Program’s Smart Farms Small Grant and a Northern and Yorke Landscape Board Grassroots Grant. If you would like to know more about this project and get involved, contact Denni Agnew from UNFS on 0431 233 679 or email at denni@unfs.com.au.



UNFS Pre-seeding workshop - Regenerating Goyder’s Line, April 2021

Upcoming Events

Date	Description
Wed 26 May 10-1pm	Woody Weed Control workshop at Melrose Town Hall. Contact Liz Ninnes from Northern and Yorke Landscape Board on 0458 144 562 or at liz.ninnes@sa.gov.au .
Fri 28 May 11-4pm	Reconciliation Community Day at Gladstone Square, Port Augusta. Come together to move forward in respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Bring family and friends and get involved in the yarning circle, face painting, volleyball, arts and craft, BBQ, dance and music.
Sat 29 May 9am-7pm	North East Pastoral Field Day at Mannahill Racecourse, featuring key presenter sessions, trade displays, kid's activities, a BBQ dinner and live entertainment by Paul Costa. Contact SAAL Landscape Officer Di Makotter on 0408 944 751 or at dianna.makotter@sa.gov.au , or visit www.bit.ly/NEPfieldday to register before you go.
Sun 30 May 10-3pm	Coastal 'Walk and Gawk' with coastal expert Peri Coleman starting at 10am at Winninowie Conservation Park and ending in Port Augusta across from the hospital. Peri will share knowledge on how to identify coastal species, monitor their health and address key threats. BBQ lunch provided by Port Augusta Rotary Club. Contact Hannah Ling on 0409 753 495 or at hannah.ling@sa.gov.au .
Tue 1 June 5-7pm	Thutha Patch Native Grass Tour with Andrew Fairney from Seeding Natives. Join us at 5pm at the Thutha Patch in Quorn for a tour, followed by a presentation and questions at the Transcontinental Hotel. Contact Hannah Ling on 0409 753 495 or at hannah.ling@sa.gov.au to register.
Mon 7 June 5.30-6.30pm	Port Augusta Coastcare Meeting 5 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.
Tue 8 June 3-4pm	Restoration works tour at the old Power Station with Glenn Christie from Succession Ecology. Join us as Glenn discusses recent activities to rehabilitate the area. Contact Hannah Ling on 0409 753 495 or email at hannah.ling@sa.gov.au .
Tues 22 June 5-6pm	Landholder Info Session with SAAL Landscape Board in Quorn Bowls Club, covering information on issues such as water affecting activities, pest plant and animal control, biodiversity credits and erosion control. Includes free BBQ dinner at 6pm. Contact Hannah Ling on 0409 753 495 or email at hannah.ling@sa.gov.au for more information.
Fri 25 June 8.30am-6pm	Meatup Forum with Meat & Livestock Australia at Central Oval, Port Augusta. The full day event will deliver the latest in red meat research, development and adoption. For more details and to register visit https://www.mla.com.au/extension-training-and-tools/meatup/