



# Bandicoot Tails

## Newsletter of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

No. 178  
March – May 2020

---

**Website:** [www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au](http://www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au) **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/friendsofscottcreekcp](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofscottcreekcp)

Welcome to your autumn edition of *Bandicoot Tails*.

Unfortunately my wishes for some more moderate weather and rainfall over summer seemed to come out as the exact opposite for the first two months, with fires raging across many parts of the country.

With the end of summer, our regular scheduled working bees return to their 9.00am starting time, meeting at the Almanda car park. Please let the leader know if you will be late and want to meet at the work site, in case there is a late change of location.

Unless otherwise indicated, all articles and photos by Peter Watton. Please send any contributions for the winter edition to [president@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au](mailto:president@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au) by mid-May.



### The President's words:

The scale and impact of the many fires that have raged across many parts of the country have drawn attention across the world.

Our thoughts are with all those who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods. There has been an enormous impact on communities, wildlife and the environment. A huge thank you to all the emergency services personnel who have responded to these events, from our local Cherry Gardens CFS and Cherry Gardens Air Support, through all the other South Australian, Australian and international volunteers and staff involved.

It has been wonderful to have such an outpouring of support for affected communities, both locally and around the world. This support has come in many forms, from donations and volunteering to simply offering an exhausted firefighter a cup of tea.

Contents	page
The President's words	1
Australian Bushfires – Prof Bob Hill	2
DEW Prescribed Burn Program	3
My time on Kangaroo Island	4
City Nature Challenge 2020	9
Working Bees	11
Contractor report	12
Bird Banding	13
Almanda Creek Restoration Project	15
Micro Bat monitoring	18
Laratinga Wetlands visit	20
Update on KI development in Flinders Chase	21
State Planning Reforms	22
Environmental Defenders Office	29
Photo Gallery	30
Calendar of environmental events	31
Schedule of activities	34
Office bearers	35
Park map	35

There has also been much contributed to saving our wildlife, with rescues, treatment and provision of food and water. Already there is much regeneration of native vegetation in the Cudlee Creek fire area, and even on Kangaroo Island where the area burned seemed less patchy.

Unfortunately we are now getting to the time when some people are looking to cast blame. Hopefully this will not deflect from sensible discussions about what happened, what worked well and what didn't, so that we can improve things for the next time. Fires have happened in the past and will happen in the future, it is a fact of life in Australia and has been for millennia. The sheer number and breadth of fires over the past few months has caught many by surprise, but perhaps shouldn't as our summers continue to get longer, hotter and drier.

The Australian bush has evolved with fire, both wildfires and Aboriginal cultural burning. Many of our native plants are adapted to fire, and some even require fire to germinate. In most cases, the bushland will regenerate and we need to give it time. This bushland is the home for our unique and diverse wildlife, so aiding in its recovery is helping our wildlife.

Bushfire encourages mass germination of weeds, and this is going to be the biggest threat to the regeneration of our bushland. Weeds compete for resources with native plants (space, light, nutrients and water) and can increase the fuel hazard, thereby contributing to a higher fuel load and potentially more intense fires.

However, immediately following a fire, weeds can help protect the topsoil from erosion. In some cases, leaving weeds in place for 6-12 months can be helpful as long as they are dealt with after that time, and definitely before they flower and set seed.

Following are a number of articles relating to fire, including an account from our member, Barb Copus, who spent time on KI assisting with the wildlife rescue effort.

*Peter Watton*

## **<sup>1</sup>Australian bushfires – expert reaction from Professor Bob Hill**

Posted on January 13, 2020 by Annemarie Gaskin Environment Institute Blog.

Recently, the director of the Environment Institute and paleobotanist Professor Bob Hill, spoke to the Australian Science Media Centre about the devastating fires raging over the Australian countryside. He had this to say:

"The fires around Australia are tragic at many levels and the cost in human life and of animals, both domestic and native, is appalling. Perhaps less well understood is the potential cost in terms of future vegetation. Australian plants in many vegetation types have evolved in response to a high fire regime over tens of millions of years and they are well known for their capacity to regenerate, either from seed or vegetatively, after major fires.

However, the risk is that we are now seeing fires that are so intense that they are reaching temperatures

where these adaptations are no longer effective, and if this continues we will begin to see plant species losses from burnt sites as their regeneration processes fail. Over time, this has the potential to be catastrophic. The short-term solution is to invest much more heavily in fire-fighting technology, but the only long term solution is to reverse the impact of climate change by reducing the level of critical greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This is a global catastrophe that has now hit Australia hard. There is no reason to believe that this is an isolated event."

Many experts from across the nation gave their specialist opinion as well. Read about them at AusSMC [here](#).



<sup>1</sup> <https://blogs.adelaide.edu.au/environment/2020/01/13/australian-bushfires-expert-reaction-from-professor-bob-hill/>

## **DEW Prescribed Burn Program:**

While wild fires were burning across many regions of the country, the native vegetation in the park is recovering well from the Quarry Ridge east prescribed burn that took place in November last year. This burn was featured in the last Bandicoot Tails, with a collection of photos.

This burn was fairly uneven, as moisture in the gullies prevented some of the fuel from igniting. Similarly, some of the tree canopies were scorched and the leaves subsequently fell, while others remained fairly green. This certainly shows some of the differences between a controlled prescribed burn and a wildfire.



**Above:** Eucalypt crowns still in leaf behind Almunda car park, and epicormics growth from the trunk.



**Above and below:** The area burned along Quarry Ridge Track, with regrowth of Yacca, Holly Flat-pea, eucalypt and rapier-sedge.



## **My time on Kangaroo Island:**

I headed over to Kangaroo Island (KI) early in the New Year looking for a week or so of reading a book, doing some walks, bike rides and generally having a relax. Instead what I experienced was 2½ weeks of volunteering at the Kangaroo Island Wildlife Park and Aquarium run by Sam and Dana Mitchell after the bushfires in January 2020. This fire was started by a lightning strike in late December and burnt most of the Flinders Chase National Park, caused significant stock losses, destroyed more than 60 homes and a hundred of other buildings and the deaths of 2 locals.

Large contingents of volunteer firefighters, army personnel and volunteers all pulled together to help local residents, their stock and the wildlife. I worked long hours, learnt how to wrangle a koala, feed joeys and generally look after injured wildlife. I met and worked with a wonderful group of people, many of whom I have kept in contact since leaving. The work we did made a huge difference to the large numbers of native wildlife that was brought into the park, most of which were koalas.

A day or so after my arrival on KI I heard that there was callout for volunteers for a variety of different jobs. As I'm a Registered Nurse I thought I could help out at the local hospital and I also volunteer at the Adelaide Zoo and am a member of Fauna Rescue looking after injured animals to then release them so had experience with animals. I was asked if I was happy to travel out to Parndana to the wildlife park as they were beginning to get some burnt animals in and needed help. Local resident, Phoebe and I headed out the first day and after a tour around the park started off by feeding bottles to the koala joeys.

Every day I would get out to the park by around 8.30am and then start working on anything from cleaning out cages, getting fresh water, moving koalas to and from the hospital, helping to change bandages, give subcutaneous fluids to rehydrate them, triage injured animals as they were brought in by locals and rescuers, organise fresh brush and helping to sort through the immense amount of goods that were donated by people from everywhere.

Early on in my time there we had to evacuate from the park as another fire came through the area but although a lot of the area was burnt, the park and nearby township of Parndana escaped unscathed. However, as some of the photos will show the road and surrounding area out did not.

After the first week, my daughter Lara joined me on the island to help as well. She is 17 years old and loves all animals. Currently she is doing Year 12 at Urrbrae so felt she could help out and learn something as well. I believed she enjoyed her time out there, met a variety of people including 'Vet on the Hill' star Scott, but obviously saw some animals with severe injuries that needed to be euthanised.

During the time that I spent there so many animals came through the park that we had to increase the numbers of enclosures for the immediate care of the burnt koalas, have new 'soft release' enclosures built and work out where koalas could be released once they were given the all clear by the vets. A hospital was needed, and this was one of the first things that Sam and Dana organised by buying a transportable which was then brought over by ferry and placed out near the enclosures. Up till this arrived we used a table in a small garden shed, the kitchen in the park, a table in the outdoor eating area and finally an inflatable hospital. After I had left, people from 'The Block' on Channel 9 came over and built a house in a week for the koala joeys which up till then were all living in Sam and Dana's lounge room. This experience is something I will remember for the rest of my life and I hope to return to the park very soon to help once again and see firsthand the changes and how everyone is.

Following are a small selection of photos of my time on Kangaroo Island.

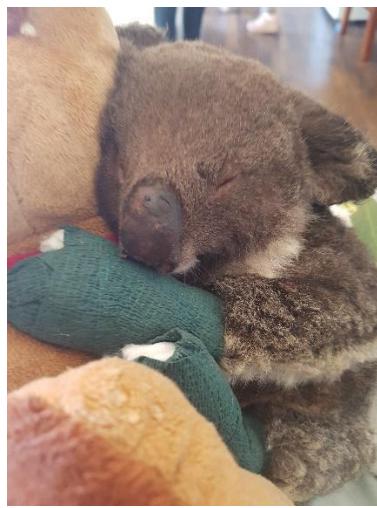
*Barb Copus*



*Singie – one of the first koalas bought in*



*Koala joey with burnt nose and paws*



*Just need a cuddle*



*Wheelbarrow as an ambulance*



*I've been sedated*



*Recovery*



*Inflatable hospital from SAVEM*



*Transportable – new hospital*

**Some photos to show some of the burnt areas on KI**



**The different varieties of injured native animals bought into the park**



Sedated echidna



Wedge-tailed eagle with burnt wings



Kestrel with open break to wing



Sam & Billy with goanna



Dobbie, baby brushtail possum



Pygmy possum



Orphaned joey kangaroos



Orphaned wombat joey

### Some of the Team



Barb and Lara



Phoebe



Army Reserve boys



Alex, koala wrangler



Garnett, Army Vet



Belinda from SAVEM



Jess, Army Vet, Flick, Local Vet, Barb



Bree, Army Reserve



Team runs on their stomach



Dana, Connor and Barb



Thanks from all of us

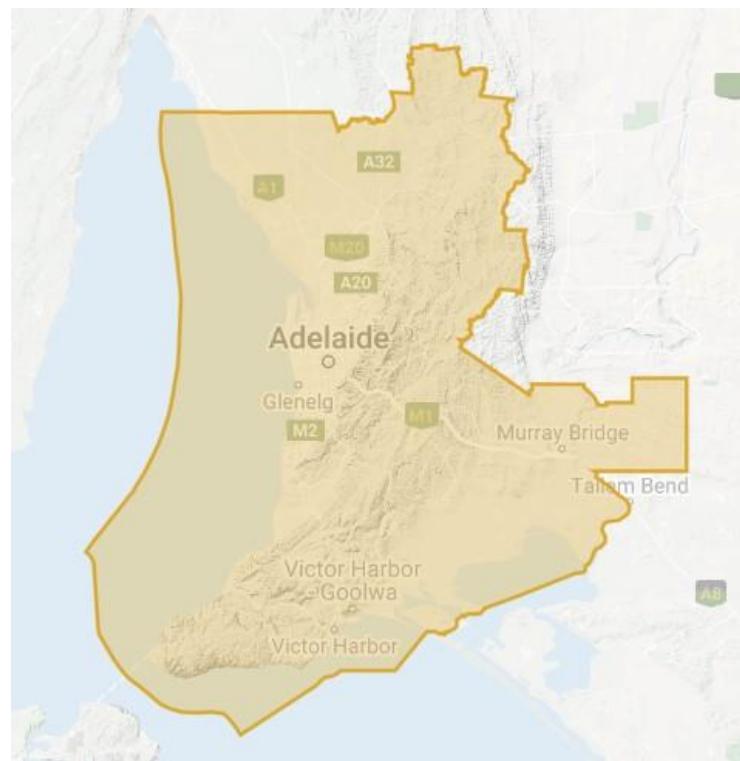
## <sup>2</sup>City Nature Challenge 2020: Greater Adelaide

In 2020, Adelaide, South Australia will be participating in the City Nature Challenge for the first time! Help us compete with cities from around the world by making the most natural observations possible from April 24-27, 2020. Let's show the world the incredible diversity Adelaide has to offer. From koalas and kangaroos, to flora and fauna of all shapes and sizes!

During the 4-day window of this challenge, if you are anywhere in Greater Adelaide, snap a photo of your natural observation and upload it to the iNaturalist website making sure to include the location! The observations will automatically be pooled to this project so that we can compete with participants from cities all over the world!

Let's get out there and have fun! More information on the challenge can be found here:

<http://cbynaturechallenge.org/participate/>



### What is the City Nature Challenge?

Invented by citizen science staff at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (Lila Higgins) and California Academy of Sciences (Alison Young). The City Nature Challenge is an international effort for people to find and document plants and wildlife in cities across the globe. It's a bioblitz-style competition where cities are in a contest against each other to see who can make the most observations of nature, who can find the most species, and who can engage the most people.

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE ORGANIZED BY



### Why participate in the City Nature Challenge?

There is nature all around us, even in our cities! Knowing what species are in our city and where they are helps us study and protect them, but the ONLY way to do that is by all of us – scientists, land managers, and the community – working together to find and document the nature in our area. By participating in the City Nature Challenge, not only do you learn more about your local nature, but you can also make your city a better place – for you and other species!

### Create your own iNaturalist account

- Visit [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org)
- Download the app from the [AppStore](#) or [Google Play](#)
- Sign In
- Start sharing your observations
- Get feedback from actual scientists, experts, and other naturalists



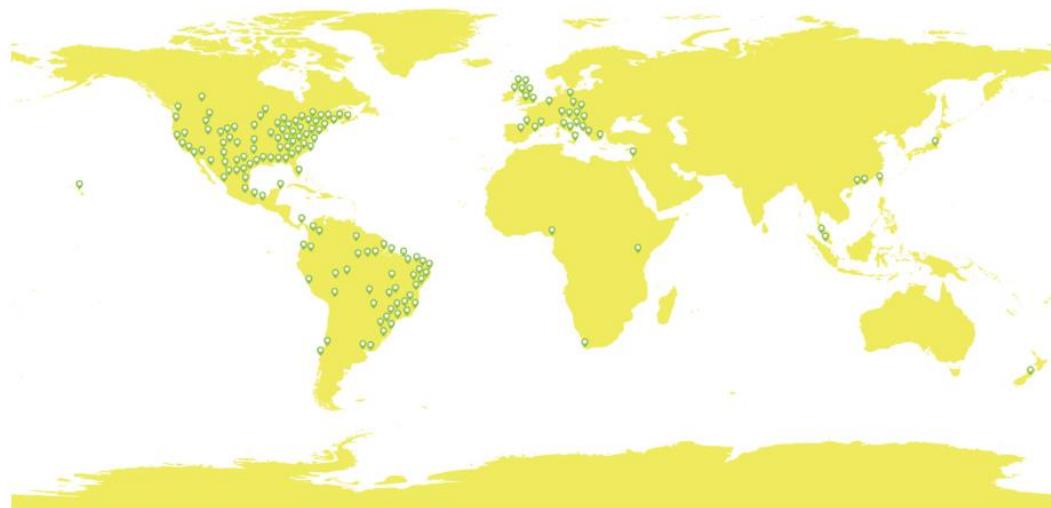
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2020-greater-adelaide?tab=about>

The City Nature Challenge was started in 2016 for the first Citizen Science Day as an eight-day competition between Los Angeles and San Francisco, engaging residents and visitors in documenting nature to better understand urban biodiversity. Over 20,000 observations were made by more than 1000 people in a one-week period, cataloguing approximately 1600 species in each location, including new records for both areas.

In 2017 the City Nature Challenge went national, and in 2018, it became an international event. In 2019, 159 cities were involved globally, with more than 35,000 participants, but none in Australia. However, this year there are four cities representing our nation: Adelaide, Geelong, Redlands (Brisbane) and Sydney. You can participate anywhere in Greater Adelaide, which includes all of the metropolitan area and extends to places like Kapunda, Murray Bridge, Goolwa, Victor Harbor and Aldinga (see the map when you register). Simply find wild plants and wildlife in Greater Adelaide and record them using the iNaturalist app or website.

## Results of Participating Cities 2019

---



159 Cities Took Part

**35K**

More than 35,000 people participated

**963K**

Over 963,000 observations were made

**31K**

31,000+ species were found

**1100+**

1,100+ rare / endangered / threatened species documented!

## Working Bees:

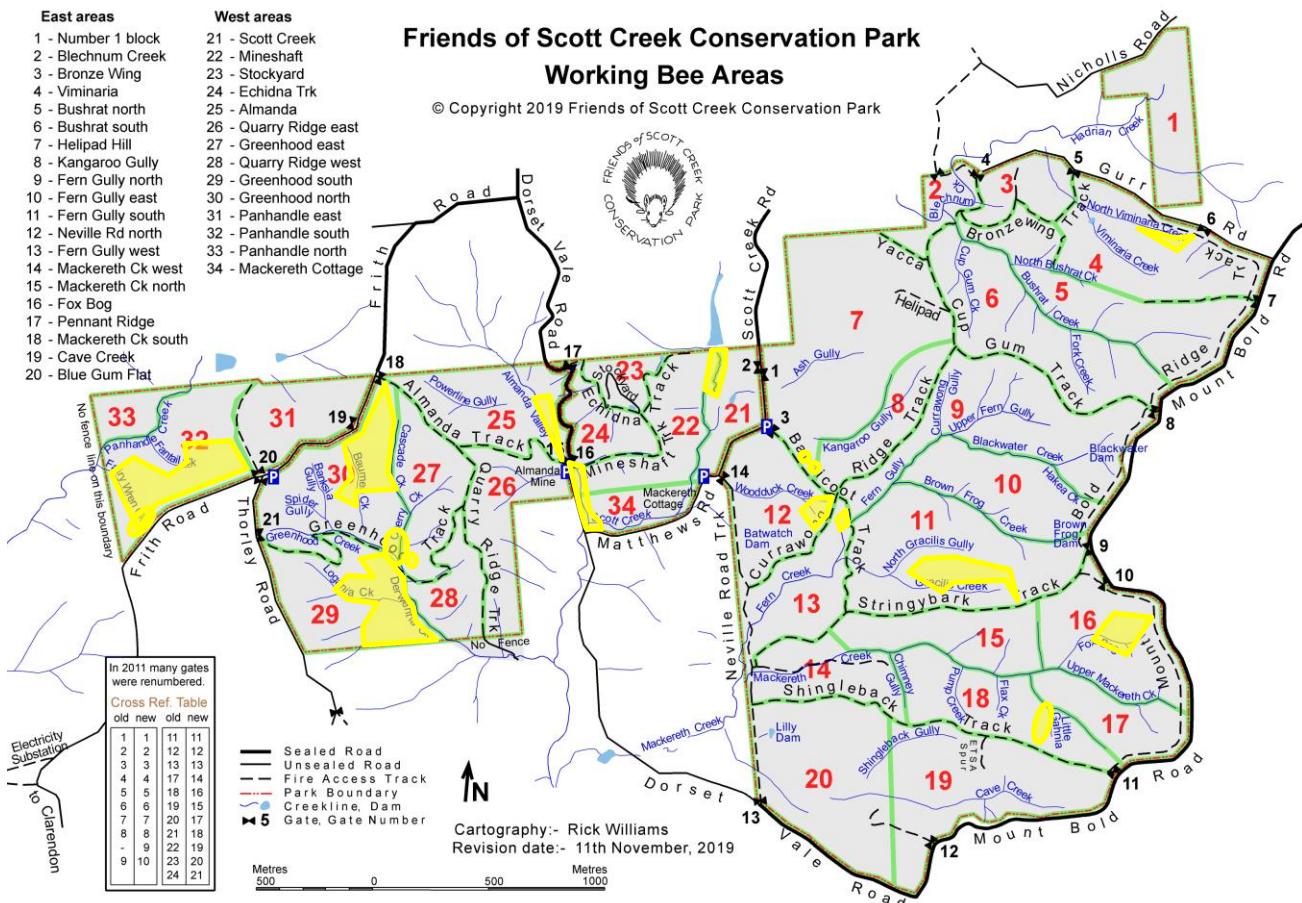
You only need to look at the map below to see that we have travelled far and wide across the Park for our summer working bee days. Unfortunately we lost both December weekend working bee days to total fire bans, but we made up for it in January and February, with some extra individual contributions spraying Blackberry and treating other woody weeds following bird banding excursions to various parts of the Park.

Not surprisingly, the weeds worked on were the usual suspects, including Boneseed, Erica, Sollya, Olive, Watsonia and both Montpellier and English Broom. A couple of the summer growing weed daisies that occur in disturbed areas, including on and adjacent to tracks and in moist areas like Derwentia Creek, are Fleabane and Stinkwort. Quite a number of these were hand weeded opportunistically during bird banding.

Another surprise weed found in Greenhood south was a pair of head-high Topped Lavender. These don't appear to have been regenerating, but were growing in an unusual spot that suggests they weren't planted. Either way, they have now been despatched, but we will need to check for future seedlings coming up.



**Above:** The two Jennys after removing a large multi-stemmed Erica from Panhandle south.



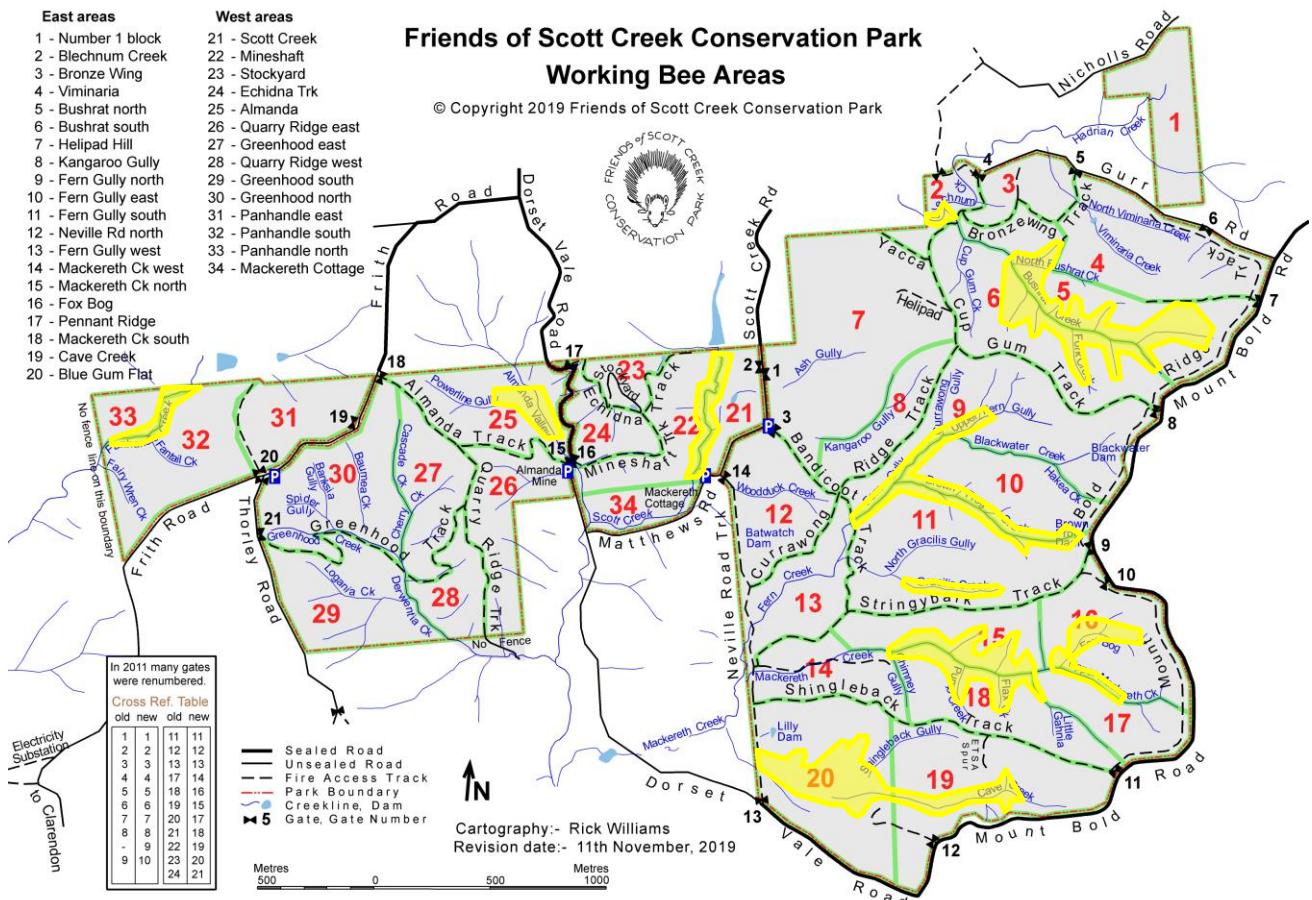
## Contractor work being undertaken in the park:

If spring was the lull in contractor activity in the Park, summer was certainly the storm!

Due to the past couple of years having particularly hot and dry summers, Blackberry spraying has been problematic if left to the latter half of the season. As Blackberry is semi-deciduous, and becomes dormant over winter, its active growth takes place from late spring through to the middle of autumn. However, with the dry summers, except for Blackberry growing in the deepest gullies in the Park where it is well shaded and there is still some moisture in the soil, it tends to become dormant from mid-summer. At this time it also often suffers from insect attack and can get covered in dust. These conditions generally result in poor uptake of herbicide.

To overcome this issue, work orders for Blackberry control this season were arranged a little earlier than past years, with a special request that it be treated as early as possible, but before the end of January. In addition to Blackberry spraying, woody weeds like Gorse, Boneseed, Montpellier Broom, English Broom, Rose and Erica were treated opportunistically in these areas.

The funding for this work was a combination of the final (third) year of the work plan funded from the Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (NR AMLR) Land Management Program, the final payment from our NR AMLR Community Environment Grant 2018-19, the first payment from our 2019 DEW on-park Volunteer Support Grant, plus part of the funds from the two very generous \$10,000 donations we received, including the second one from the Carthew and Fisher families through the Carthew Foundation.



## Bird Banding Notes:

As usual we do bird banding as the weather dictates. In one very dry summer we have had only one cancellation due to very hot weather and another day was just too wet. We have been out on 8 occasions in the quarter and netted 118 birds from 18 species and with 15 recaptures – more on those later.

14-15/12/19 Gate 9 above Fox Bog 21 birds 10 species 4 retraps

One of the retraps was a White-browed Scrubwren of 4+ years. A young male Scarlet Robin came visiting and gained some leg adornment for his trouble. These Robins keep on popping up across the various sites and are always a delight to watch in their ‘perch and pounce’ feeding activities. A Golden Whistler female dropped in for a check-up following her first visit to see us some 4 years ago. The second day was much quieter with only a total of three birds which were netted by 9.30 am so there was much sitting around and talking until pack-up time. Be assured the nets were also checked regularly.



**Above left:** We had a good number of visitors at our Fox Bog banding.



**Above right:** A pair of Golden Whistlers (photo Petra Hanke).

4-5/1/20 Gate 7 36 birds 13 species 5 retraps

On the map this area is called ‘The Plantation’ because of the extensive planting activity about 20 years ago. It is now a tangled challenge for any species bigger than a Golden Whistler. The birds love it. It had been very dry in the weeks leading up to this weekend and the meat ants were carving out trails on the track in their billions. They attacked many an unwary leg. We netted 6 Superb Fairy-wrens on this morning, 3 of them retraps and one brilliant old male has been around this patch for over 10 years. I wonder if he can remember when the much junior Golden Whistler male retrap started singing just over 5 years ago? As we were packing up on Saturday a family of 4 Buff-rumped Thornbills dropped in for a visit to our processing table. The family tradition was repeated early on Sunday when 4 very smart Brown-headed Honeyeaters graced the net. A familiar Crescent Honeyeater also checked in on Sunday after his first call in to us over 6 years ago.

18/1/20 Mackereth Creek 23 birds 7 species 2 retraps

The bracken either side of Twisted Chimney Track is a haven for New Holland Honeyeaters and Crescent Honeyeaters. But they are probably newcomers when set against one ancient White-browed Scrubwren who has been there for more than 12 years. His sidekick, also a retrap has only been there 4+ years. These birds move very tightly within a small area and seem to be doing very well in this part of the park. At 12+ this WBSW was in magnificent condition.

2/2/20 Gate 20 Panhandle 5 birds 2 species 0 retraps

Don’t blame me, I wasn’t there – sometimes the birds just don’t turn up. This normally very productive area was in need of a good mow. Thankfully 3 Superb Fairy-wrens and 2 White-browed Scrubwrens gave the team something to talk about.

15-16/2/20 Derwentia Valley 33 birds 11 species 4 retraps

The bird population of this most beautiful of sites just loved getting out and about in the very fine mist that came and went several times on the first morning. A good team of banders were kept busy all Saturday morning with 26 birds to process. The resident White-browed Scrubwrens that were re-trapped were not as old as those caught at Mackereth Creek, but at 3+ years two of them are still evidence that this hardy species values life in our park. A solitary 3+ White-naped Honeyeater was also re-processed while the rest of its gang was chattering up high in the tree canopy.



**Above left:** The misty rain didn't deter the birds.  
**Below left:** Pack up time at gate 20 (photo Chris Grant).



**Above right:** Crescent Honeyeaters – mum, junior and dad? **Below right:** Posing for the camera (photo Chris Grant).



### Cave Creek Bird Banding

The project in Cave Creek is going into a less intense phase until it becomes clearer what will be happening in terms of the prescribed burn of this area. We have at least established that most of the usual suspects bird-wise are in this part of the park. We were hoping to do some focussed banding around the area that has been burnt up against Quarry Ridge Track as well. It is of interest that the part of the Cave Creek line that is well vegetated near the 'flatter' paddock seems to be a breeding place for Striated Pardalotes. We have a family photograph as evidence. The Yacca growth up towards Shingleback Track has plenty of birds, but the species range is very similar to Twisted Chimney Track.

*Jim Spiker*

**Right:** Striated Pardalotes (photo Jim Spiker).



## Almanda Creek Restoration Project

As the Hills wetlands dry out due to climate change, the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park are endeavouring to save the biodiversity of the Park by setting up colonies of the disappearing plants along Almanda Creek which will probably be the last wetland in the Park.

With our world governments attempting to balance short term jobs against long term environmental disaster, whether or not the project is successful in the longer term probably depends on the miracle of Bernie Sanders becoming the President of the United States, as President of the world's leading power he can turn around the world direction by choosing the environment ahead of short term jobs and thus Almanda Creek continuing to flow.

So! Our US election slogan should be:

**"Keep Almanda Creek Flowing – Vote 1 Bernie Sanders"**

Leaving politics aside, the Almanda Creek Restoration Project is extremely successful with over 150 indigenous species of plants, 50 of them rare, now thriving along its banks.

Let us look more closely at a few of these amazing plants:

With over a dozen species of thistle growing locally, only one, the Water Thistle (*Sonchus hydrophilus*) is indigenous. One plant was found in Fox Bog and the seeds from this plant were used to start a colony at Almanda Creek which is now thriving.



**Above:** Matilda and River Wamsley showing off a 2.5 metre high Water Thistle.



**Above:** Water Thistle seedlings.

The new seedlings appear in January and grow very quickly. They are considered, by the kangaroos, to be a luxury. Those that survive the kangaroo onslaught

flower in April and can go on for two or three years but very few do. They are fairly easy to recognise. The leaves look prickly, a bit like the Prickly Sow Thistle (*Sonchus asper*), but in fact are quite soft.

They can grow very large with some attaining 2.5 metres in height in their first year with a stem diameter up to 30 mm.

What is so special about water thistles? They are an uncommon indigenous plant and they are growing along Almanda Creek.

Of the ten species of fern growing along Almanda Creek, the Coral Fern (*Gleichenia microphylla*) is perhaps the most interesting. Unlike most ferns which send up a frond that lasts about three years, Coral Fern sends up a frond that then grows lateral fronds that then grows lateral fronds, etc. This means a clump of Coral Fern can be metres high forming a massive tangle of Coral Fern.



Above: A young Coral Fern

Impossible to transplant and difficult to grow, one must set up the perfect potential Coral Fern garden and patiently wait. However! A Coral Fern will not grow in an area where other ferns are growing. No! Coral Ferns have integrity, they are not just another common fern.

They require a wet area free of other plants. Once they establish themselves they will reasonably quickly spread to fill any clear moist area.

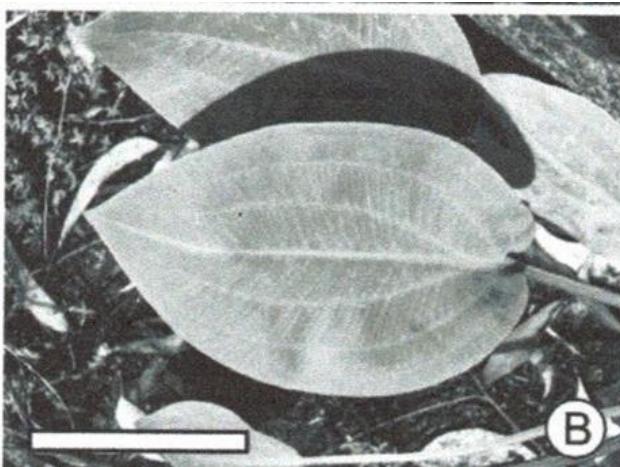
What is so special about Coral Fern? It is a rare indigenous plant and is growing along Almanda Creek.

One of our amazing plants is our native Water Plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*).

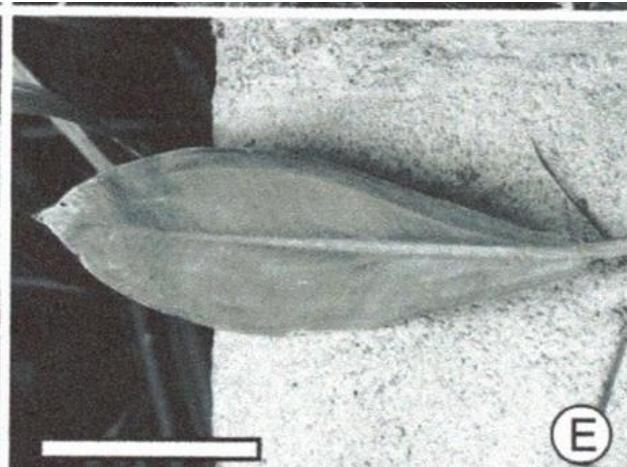
In 2012 John G. Conron of The University of Adelaide published a paper titled “The genus *Alisma* L. (Alismataceae) in South Australia”.

In the introduction he says, “As a result of field work by the author in wetlands across the Southern Lofty and South East regions, it quickly became apparent that there were two *Alisma* species in South Australia: the introduced *A. lanceolatum*, but also the native *A. plantago-aquatica*. Examination of all the *Alisma* collections at AD further supported this, as well as providing historical data on some now extinct localities for *A. plantago-aquatica*. Because the recent Flora of Australia account only lists one species in the State (Jacobs & McColl 2011), a revised account for South Australia is necessary both to update distribution, as well as to detail known localities of the native species for conservation. This is especially relevant as several native populations are the target of eradication programs due to misidentification as the introduced weed.”

He goes on to say, “It is unfortunate that the failure in the past to realise that there were two *Alisma* species – one native and one weedy has meant that an already uncommon native plant in South Australia has possibly been targeted for removal due to its misidentification as a weed. Measures should be taken to encourage its conservation at those places where it still occurs, rather than physical or chemical removal.”



Above left: leaf of *A. plantago-aquatica*. Right: leaf of *A. lanceolatum*.



What is so special about Water Plantain? It is an endangered indigenous plant and is growing along Almanda Creek.

Note: I sent this article to Bernie Sanders and this was the reply –

"Dear John,

Thank you for your note and for the LTTE.

We appreciate you taking the time to reach out to us and share your thoughts about how electing Bernie will affect the Almamax Creek, and I will be sure to pass your note on to our team!

As you know, we're a grassroots campaign funded and powered entirely by everyday Americans like yourself, and so we take the feedback of our supporters very seriously.

Thanks again for helping us create a campaign, a government, and a country that works for all of us, not just the 1%.

In solidarity,

Cathy

Team Bernie"

*John Wamsley  
(including photos above)*



**Above:** flower of *A. plantago-aquatica*.



**Right:** Chris and John on their hands and knees in the "paddock" at the Matthews Road corner (soon to be re-named), after Steve had slashed back the Phalaris.



**Above:** Eastern Water Skink (*Eulamprus quoyii*) and White-browed Scrubwren are both frequently seen by the volunteers working along Almamax Creek at the Matthews Road corner. They are on the lookout for any food that might have been disturbed by our activities.

## **Micro Bat Monitoring:**

After a false start during December, when total fire bans preventing us getting out in the Park, a few of the Friends joined Elisa Sparrow, from Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, and ‘batmen’ Terry Reardon and Dennis Matthews for a foray into the Park on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, to do some micro bat mist-netting and harp-trapping.

We gathered at the car park near Mackereth Cottage at 7.00pm, so we could check out potential locations to set things up while it was still light. We ended up placing two mist-nets at the dam half way along the revegetated paddock alongside Scott Creek, which looked to the experts to be a perfect location. Harp-traps were set up near the cottage and in the vicinity of the dam.

Unfortunately the bats didn't cooperate by venturing into any of the nets or traps, but the number of bat recorders/monitors picked up quite a bit of activity around us. There were five bat species identified:

- Gould's Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*)
- Little Mastiff Bat (*Mormopterus planiceps*)
- Lesser Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*)
- White-striped Free-tail Bat (*Austronomus australis*)
- Large Forest Bat (*Vespadelus darlingtonia*)

All in all a very enjoyable evening in the park, with plans to do some more monitoring to see what other bat species may be present.

Our Facebook post about the micro bat monitoring was our most productive in terms of people reached and engagements.



**Above:** We all gathered around to receive our instructions.

**Right:** Two mist-nets were set up across the water in the dam.



**Above left:** Elisa and Dennis setting up a harp trap.

**Below left:** Checking another harp trap later in the night.



**Above right:** The finished result.

**Below right:** The idea is that the bats fly into the harp strings and drop into the pouch at the bottom.

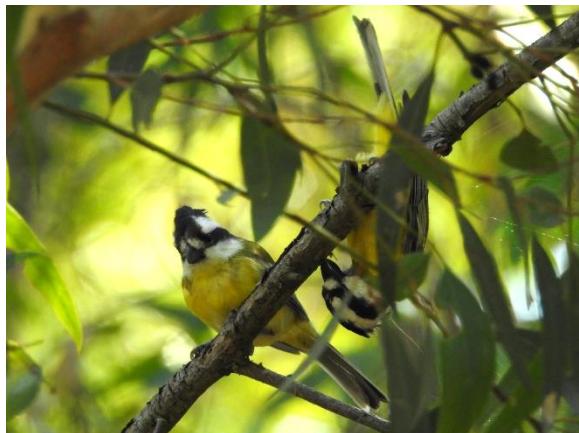


## Laratinga Wetlands Visit:

We had one of our regular visits to the Laratinga Wetlands in Mount Barker on the last Sunday of February, with eight attending. It was a clear and sunny day that started out a bit chilly, but turned out pretty warm by the time we headed to Millie's Bakery, after three hours wandering about, enjoying some good birding and good company.

Our combined species list came to a solid 52.

Australasian Grebe	Freckled Duck	Purple Swamphen
Australasian Shoveler	Galah	Rainbow Lorikeet
Australian Magpie	Grey Fantail	Red Wattlebird
Australian Reed-Warbler	Grey Shrike-thrush	Silver Gull
Australian White Ibis	Grey Teal	Silvereye
Australian Wood Duck	Hardhead	Spotted Turtle-Dove
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Hoary-headed Grebe	Striated Pardalote
Black-fronted Dotterel	House Sparrow	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Blue-billed Duck	Little Corella	Superb Fairy-wren
Chestnut Teal	Little Grassbird	Tree Martin
Common Blackbird	Little Pied Cormorant	Welcome Swallow
Common Bronzewing	Little Raven	White-faced Heron
Crested Pigeon	Magpie-lark	White-naped Honeyeater
Crested Shrike-tit	Masked Lapwing	White-plumed Honeyeater
Crimson Rosella	New Holland Honeyeater	Willie Wagtail
Dusky Moorhen	Noisy Miner	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Dusky Woodswallow	Pacific Black Duck	
Eurasian Coot	Pink-eared Duck	



**Clockwise from left:**  
Male Crested Shrike-tit; young and female Crested Shrike-tit; Jenny, Chris and Sue; Freckled Duck in the foreground, Australasian Shoveler and Grey Teal behind.



## **Update on KI development in Flinders Chase:**

### Email from Eco-Action KI, 29/1/2020:

The bushfires that burnt out Flinders Chase National Park have put a new complexion on the plan to build luxury accommodation on the coast, away from the Kangaroo Island Walking Trail.

The Crown had asked for a deferral of the court case because of the fire devastation. Our lawyers agreed subject to conditions related to the development not proceeding and being notified of any further related applications. The matter has been listed for a further directions hearing on Wednesday 1 April 2020 at 9.30am.

The hearing is listed to start in the afternoon of Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and continuing on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (now a 2 & ½ day hearing).

In the deferral hearing, Australian Walking Company, through their lawyer, said that the proposed development was not sufficiently in doubt for the matter not to proceed. He indicated that his client expected to know where the matter is at within weeks, rather than months. It was also confirmed that as far as the Attorney-General was concerned, it would proceed.

SA Environment Minister David Speirs said on ABC radio that he was in talks with the proponents Australian Walking Company. He said, 'Now, it gives me an opportunity as the responsible minister to step back and say, let's take a good look at this again. That project was to progress throughout 2020; now that won't be the case because simply the landscape and the place where that was going to be is completely different, it's completely burnt.'

Should the project be shelved, Eco-Action will have to reconsider the case altogether and the what to do with the money raised from you, our supporters. We are well aware that this could have been a test case for many other proposed developments in the national parks system. That will come into our deliberations. Of course, a lot of the money has already been spent on the preparatory work for the case.

### Interesting snippet from an email from Mark Parnell:

One thing Speirs says that isn't correct is that he presumes that the AWC have received the \$830,000 (+GST) under the Labor Government's grant. We heard last year from the Treasurer (after I asked questions in Parliament) that NO money has been handed over. The AWC confirmed that today (22/1/2020).

### Radio interview on ABC 891 with Neil Lynch, 22/1/2020:

(*Bevan: Let's go to Neil Lynch ... Executive Director of Australian Walking Company ... who wants to put this development in the park ... is it too dangerous to have this kind of project in that park?*) The simple answer is no ... for 32 years we've been operating in a wide variety of parks dealing with not only fire, but other weather events. In December we had evacuations for snow in [unclear] so working in consultation with local experts as we have in South Australia and the local fire authorities, we believe you can manage that risk but importantly, to pick up on a point that's been made, you don't stay and defend. You evacuate and you evacuate early and leave behind the buildings.

(*Clarke: So do you still want the same development that you were pitching before in exactly the same way?*) At the moment we hold valid approvals for the same development in the same way. What we've agreed to at the state's request is, to take a pause while we concentrate on ... dealing with the fires and supporting the local community while it rebuilds.

(*Bevan: ... are you open to the suggestion that the Government might be able to revisit this project ... you've heard the interview ... David Speirs gave us yesterday ... what do you make of that? What signals is he sending?*) ... we've had a number of discussions with the Department, not with the Minister personally but with the Chief Executive about what all this means ... it's important to note that these are long-term projects for us. We've been involved in this project now since 2015 when the State, led by the Labor Government approached us to be involved in the Kangaroo Island trail. So we see it as a long-term project and if that involves more discussions on top of the 21 sessions we've already held with people on the island and in South Australia, we're happy to be a part of that because the community support ... the broader community, not just special interest groups, is important to us.

## **State Planning Reforms:**

*The next few pages relate to changes to the state planning system as they relate to National Parks.*



**Government of South Australia**

Department of Planning,  
Transport and Infrastructure

<sup>3</sup>South Australia is currently undergoing the biggest modernisation of its planning system in 20 years.

A modern planning system is fundamental for South Australia, as it will ensure our state remains liveable, prosperous and vibrant; and can meet the future demands of our great state.

The renewed planning system is underpinned by the new [Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016](#) and introduces a raft of new tools and a 24/7 digital ePlanning system that will allow South Australians quick and easy access.

<sup>4</sup>On 1 October 2019, the draft Planning and Design Code went on consultation for Phase Two councils (rural areas) and Phase Three councils (urban areas).

The [Planning and Design Code](#) (the Code) is the cornerstone of the new planning system that will help revolutionise the way that development is regulated in South Australia. Consultation on the Code represents an important opportunity for South Australians to influence the way we live, work and move.

The Code is being developed in [three phases](#) and by July 2020, the Code will replace 72 development plans with one universal, state-wide document. On 1 July 2019, Phase One of the Code became operational for out of council areas.

Phase Two of the Planning and Design Code includes rural council areas with small towns and settlements, excluding regional towns and cities. The Planning and Design Code will become operational in these areas in April 2020.

Phase Three of the Planning and Design Code includes urban council areas and councils with regional towns and cities. The Planning and Design Code will become operational in these areas on **1 July 2020**.

### **Update Report**

In response to feedback from councils and communities, the State Planning Commission has released a *Planning and Design Code Phase Three (Urban Areas) Code Amendment - Update Report*. This report has been prepared by the State Planning Commission as the half-way point in the consultation phase for the draft Urban Areas (Phase Three) Code Amendment. The report highlights some key proposals for improvement to the Code, including a range of technical and policy improvements that the Commission proposes to the Phase Three draft Code in response to feedback received during October and November.

Given the status of the consultation process, this is not intended to be a full summary of all proposed changes to the Phase Three Code and should not be taken as such, it is intended to provide support to the engagement process.

#### **7.3 Conservation Zone**

The Commission is aware of concerns in relation to areas of our state, in particular those national parks that have not attracted 'conservation' zoning. In most cases, this is a legacy of current development plan policy. The Commission has publicly stated its intention to correct this and to include all national parks within a Conservation Zone.

#### *Extract from Update Report*

**Proposal:** Include national parks and other protected areas proclaimed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* within a Conservation Zone. The Commission will recommend updating the zoning in these cases and in areas where inappropriate zoning has been applied through the transition.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/planning\\_reforms](https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/planning_reforms)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/have\\_your\\_say/Draft\\_Planning\\_and\\_Design\\_Code#Phase\\_Three](https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/have_your_say/Draft_Planning_and_Design_Code#Phase_Three)

*The following is an information sheet provided by the Department for Environment and Water that relates to tourism development within parks and how they fit under the new Planning and Design Code.*

## **Information Sheet - Tourism accommodation development in parks and the new Planning and Design Code**



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Environment and Water

### **What is the Planning and Design Code?**

The Code will be the cornerstone of South Australia's new planning system. It will replace 72 Development Plans, to become the state's single source of planning zones and rules for the assessment of development applications. It will take effect by 1 July 2020.

The Code aims to make the development application process quicker, simpler and more equitable, giving people access to planning information that is consistent, clear and available online.

### **Consultation on the Planning and Design Code**

Consultation on the code has been split into three parts – Outback Areas (Phase 1), Rural Areas (Phase 2) and Urban Areas (Phase 3).

Consultation on Phase 1 was completed on 29 March 2019. This part of the Code became operational on 1 July 2019.

Consultation on Phase 2 is currently in progress. Feedback on Phase 2 is required by 29 November 2019. This part of the Code will become operational in April 2020.

Consultation on Phase 3 is also underway. Feedback on Phase 3 must be submitted by 28 February 2020. This part of the Code will become operational in July 2020.

### **Tourism development in parks**

South Australia has set a goal to achieve a \$12.8 billion visitor economy by 2030. Nature-based tourism is a significant driver of visitation and currently contributes \$1.4b to the State's economy.

South Australia's standout nature experiences such as Cleland Wildlife Park, Wilpena Pound Resort, Seal Bay and the Neptune Islands are a major catalyst for visitor expenditure growth. Government recognises that there are significant opportunities to drive further growth in visitor expenditure by creating more standout experiences. This may require the development of tourism infrastructure (such as accommodation) in partnership with the private sector.

Ecologically sensitive and thoroughly planned tourism developments can help to create employment and contribute to South Australia's regional economies. New experiences in parks can also help to engage more people in nature, building stronger community support for the long term conservation and management of the State's parks.

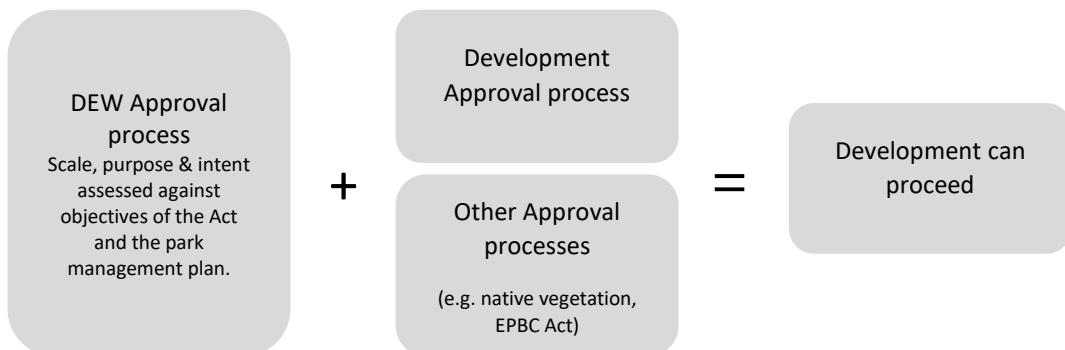
## Authorising tourism development in parks

National parks, conservation parks, recreation parks, game reserves and regional reserves are managed in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. Wilderness protection areas and zones are managed in accordance with the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*. In addition, parks are managed in accordance with park management plans when these have been adopted.

As guided by the legislation and park management plans, the Department for Environment and Water undertakes tourism development activities in parks such as trail construction to provide safe and sustainable access to parks. Development by the Crown does not require development approval. However, DEW also authorises others to undertake tourism activities that may include development. All commercial tourism activities in parks requires support from DEW. Those activities that entail development, also require development approval under the *Development Act 1993* (current for regional and metropolitan areas), or under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (current for outback).

Therefore it is important that DEW approvals under the *National Parks Act 1972* and the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* take place in concert with the development approval process (See Figure 1 below).

Figure 1



## Issues for discussion

What is proposed?	Why is this proposed?
1) In the final Code, all parks will be within the 'Conservation zone'.	<p>Under the old planning system several different zones applied to development in national parks. Over the years, this has created complexity and inconsistency in the assessment of development applications in parks.</p> <p>The new Planning and Design Code will address this problem by applying the Conservation zone to all parks proclaimed under the <i>National Parks Act 1972</i> and the <i>Wilderness Protection Act 1992</i>.</p> <p>(Note: The mapping in Phase 1 and the mapping that is currently out for consultation (Phase 2&amp;3) does not depict parks as being in the Conservation zone. This matter will be resolved in the final Code).</p>
2) In the final Code, tourist accommodation development within the Conservation zone that <b>has not been 'contemplated'</b> in a park management plan will be 'Restricted'	<p>This will ensure that any tourist accommodation development application for parks that has not been 'contemplated' in the park management plan will follow the 'Restricted' assessment pathway.</p> <p>This assessment pathway includes public consultation and third party appeal rights.</p>
3) In the final Code, tourist accommodation development within the Conservation zone that <b>has been 'contemplated'</b> in a park management plan will be 'Performance assessed'.	<p>This exclusion would be applied when a future tourism accommodation development has been outlined in an adopted park management plan.</p> <p>This will ensure that all tourism accommodation developments that have been contemplated in parks will follow the 'Performance assessed' pathway.</p> <p>The 'Performance assessed' pathway is likely to include the opportunity for public consultation.</p>
<p>For discussion:</p> <p>4) A definition of 'contemplated' is required to ensure that exemptions to the 'Restricted' pathway (see 3 above) are consistently applied.</p>	<p>For discussion:</p> <p>A park management plan could 'contemplate' tourism accommodation by including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An explanation of how the tourism accommodation would further the objectives of the Act.</li> <li>• A spatially defined zone established under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.</li> <li>• A description of scale and purpose of tourism accommodation within this zone.</li> </ul>

## **Appendix 1 Pathways for the assessment of tourism accommodation development in parks**

There are three categories of development established in the new planning framework:

1. Accepted.
2. Code assessed (Deemed-to-satisfy or performance assessed).
3. Impact assessed (Restricted or impact-assessed).

Each of these categories will also have a series of potential assessment pathways that will define the relevant authority and set public notification requirements. The key similarities and differences between the ‘Performance assessed’ and ‘Restricted’ categories are summarised below.

Category	Meaning	Assigned by	Relevant Authority (Planning)	Notification	Agency referral	Assessment tool	Appeal rights
<b>Code assessed - performance assessed</b>	Planning assessment on merit	Planning & Design Code	Assessment panel, assessment manager or accredited professional as prescribed.	Notification required, unless a form of development is exempted from notification by the Code. Notification of adjacent land owners/occupiers and members of the public by notice placed on the relevant land.	Only for certain development in specified locations (e.g. bushfire affected) or for specific land uses (activities of major environmental significance), as prescribed in the Regulations.	Planning & Design Code	Applicant appeal of decision. Relevant authority appeal of a deemed consent.
<b>Impact assessed - restricted</b>	Planning assessment on impact	Planning & Design Code	The Commission (or its delegate).	Notification required. Notification to adjacent land owners/occupiers, others affected to a significant degree, any other person of a prescribed class, and the public generally by notice placed on the relevant land.	Only for certain development in specified locations (e.g. bushfire affected) or for specific land uses (activities of major environmental significance), as prescribed in the Regulations.	Planning & Design Code (but not bound by the Code).	Applicant appeal of decision. Relevant authority appeal of a deemed consent. Third party appeal.

Extracted from: Assessment Pathways - How will they work? Technical Discussion Paper, August - October 2018 (Page 59), Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure.

[https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/487003/Assessment\\_Pathways\\_-\\_How\\_Will\\_They\\_Work\\_-\\_Technical\\_Discussion\\_Paper.pdf](https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/487003/Assessment_Pathways_-_How_Will_They_Work_-_Technical_Discussion_Paper.pdf)



Mr Duncan MacKenzie  
President  
**Friends of Parks Inc.**  
C/o GPO Box 1047  
ADELAIDE SA 5041

81-95 Waymouth Street  
Adelaide  
GPO Box 1047  
Adelaide SA 5001  
Australia  
Ph: +61 8204 9000  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

Dear Mr MacKenzie

**Re: South Australia's new Planning and Design Code**

I write to provide you with an update on South Australia's new Planning and Design Code and the outcomes of recent discussions on this matter with Friends of Parks group members.

One of the key reforms in the new planning system is to replace the 72 Development Plans with a single Planning and Design Code (the Code). The establishment of a single Code provides an opportunity for a more uniform approach to the zoning of parks.

Currently, development in South Australia is assessed against the zoning and general provisions of the respective Development Plan. For historical reasons, many parks and reserves are not zoned 'Conservation' at present, but rather 'Primary Production' and other zones that do not have a focus on conservation.

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) have jointly developed an approach that will see the Conservation zone applied to all parks proclaimed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*. While this may not have been fully reflected in the draft Code mapping at this stage, this position is supported by the State Planning Commission (SPC) and has been well described in the engagement material accompanying the draft Code.

On the 25 November 2019, DEW hosted the second of two information sessions for Friends of Parks Inc. and Friends groups members at the Joinery. I acknowledge that the planning reforms are extensive and that consolidating the views of members in time to meet SPC's deadline for submissions on Phase 2 of the Code is a challenge. However, I would like to express my gratitude to all those that attended the information session and contributed to the discussion.

This session provided an explanation of the new Planning and Design Code and outlined three key changes proposed to be incorporated to finalise the Code in July 2020.

1. All parks are zoned 'Conservation'.
2. The 'Conservation' zone will define tourism accommodation as 'Restricted development'.
3. Tourism accommodation development that has been *contemplated* in a park management plan will be exempt from the restricted assessment pathway. In these cases, tourism development will be *performance assessed*.

The first proposal is generally supported. However, further clarity is required on what *contemplated* means in the second and third proposals. It is acknowledged that the location and purpose of a *contemplated* tourism accommodation development needs to be articulated in the relevant park management plan if it is to be *performance assessed*. DEW will continue to work with DPTI to clarify how this can be reflected in the Code.

I welcome any further thoughts you may have about the interface between park management plans and the Code. I can assure you that DEW will continue to engage with Friends of Parks Inc. and its member groups to ensure that the final Code achieves an acceptable and workable position on this matter.

Consultation for Phase 2 of the Code has officially closed. However, DPTI is willing to accept comments on matters common to Phase 2 and 3 until the end of Phase 3 consultation on 28 February 2020.

For further information regarding this matter, please contact Barry Hayden on [Barry.hayden@sa.gov.au](mailto:Barry.hayden@sa.gov.au) or 8124 4818 or Gill Peacey on [Gill.Peacey@sa.gov.au](mailto:Gill.Peacey@sa.gov.au) or 8124 4931.

Further information about the planning reforms and the new Planning and Design Code, please go to: [https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/planning\\_reforms](https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/planning_reforms)

Yours sincerely



**Mike Williams**  
Executive Director, National Parks and Wildlife  
Department for Environment and Water

10/12/2019

## **Environmental Defenders Office:**



Australia's new national, not-for-profit, legal watchdog for the environment

<https://www.edo.org.au/2019/11/21/welcome-to-the-new-environmental-defenders-office/>

Eight state and territory EDOs, including South Australia, have joined forces to become the national Environmental Defenders Office the largest community legal centre for the environment in the Asia-Pacific.

The national EDO is dedicated to protecting our climate, communities and environment by providing access to justice, running ground-breaking litigation and leading law reform advocacy.

As David Morris, Chief Executive Officer, says "Now more than ever, national leadership is required to protect Australia's natural and cultural heritage. That's where the new national EDO steps in."

For more information, explore the new website including:

- Find out the places being defended such as the Great Australian Bight and Murray Darling Basin
  - <https://www.edo.org.au/the-latest/>
  - <https://www.edo.org.au/2020/01/22/court-action-oil-drilling-bight/>
  - <https://www.edo.org.au/2017/11/06/murray-darling-irrigation-case/>
- Subscribe to the newsletter
  - <https://www.edo.org.au/take-action/>
- To get legal advice
  - Contact Melissa Ballantyne South Australia's Managing Lawyer based in Adelaide at [edosa@edo.org.au](mailto:edosa@edo.org.au)
- Become a friend
  - <https://www.edo.org.au/become-a-friend-of-edo/>

*Anna Dutkiewicz*

## Photo Gallery:



Above left: Tau Emerald Dragonfly  
(photo Petra Hanke).



Above centre & right: Horned Orchid (*Orthoceras strictum*),  
dark & green forms.



Above left: Box Mistletoe (*Amyema miquelii*).  
Below left: Golden Pennant (*Glischrocaryon behrii*).



Above right: Dwarf Wedge-pea (*Gompholobium ecostatum*). Below right: Orange Spotted Sun-moth.



## Calendar of Environmental Events coming up:

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March is World Water Day

The World Water Day 2020 is on March 22. The day was first observed in 1993 when the United Nations General Assembly declared March 22 as World Day for Water. This day was first formally proposed in Agenda 21 of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Observance began in 1993 and has grown significantly ever since.

The UN and its member nations devote this day to implementing UN recommendations and promoting concrete activities within their countries regarding the world's water resources. Each year, one of various UN agencies involved in water issues takes the lead in promoting and coordinating international activities for World Water Day. Since its inception in 2003, UN-Water has been responsible for selecting the theme, messages and lead UN agency for the World Day for Water.

In addition to the UN member states, a number of NGOs promoting clean water and sustainable aquatic habitats have used World Day for Water as a time to focus public attention on the critical water issues of our era. Participating agencies and NGOs have highlighted issues such as a billion people being without access to safe water for drinking and the role of gender in family access to safe water.

This text has been taken from [www.cute-calendar.com](http://www.cute-calendar.com)

<sup>5</sup>World Water Day, on 22 March every year, is about focusing attention on the importance of water. This year's theme, 'Nature and Climate Change', explores how water and climate change are inextricably linked.

As the global population grows, so does the demand for water, which depletes natural resources and damages the environment in many places. Solutions include protecting carbon sinks such as oceans and wetlands, adopting climate-smart agricultural techniques, and increasing the safe reuse of wastewater.

Water is our most precious resource – we must use it more responsibly. We must balance all of society's water needs while ensuring the poorest people don't get left behind.

<sup>6</sup>Water and climate change: what do we mean?

*What do we mean when we say: 'We cannot afford to wait. Climate policy makers must put water at the heart of action plans'?*

Climate delay is almost as dangerous as climate denial. Every country in the world must work more quickly.

Extreme weather events are making water more scarce, more unpredictable, more polluted or all three.

Humans need water to survive, as do all the systems we rely on: sanitation, healthcare, education, business and industry.

Action plans to tackle climate change need to be integrated across different sectors and coordinated across borders. And they must have one thing in common: safe and sustainable water management.

Learn more in the [UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate Change and Water](#).

*What do we mean when we say: 'Water can help fight climate change. There are sustainable, affordable and scalable water and sanitation solutions'?*

Fighting climate change will open up vast opportunities for the economy in many areas. We need to embrace circular production systems and use water much more efficiently.



<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unwater.org/world-water-day-2020-water-and-climate-change/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.worldwaterday.org/2020-home/learn/>

As the global population grows, so does the demand for water, which depletes natural resources and damages the environment in many places. Solutions include protecting carbon sinks such as oceans and wetlands, adopting climate-smart agricultural techniques, and increasing the safe reuse of wastewater.

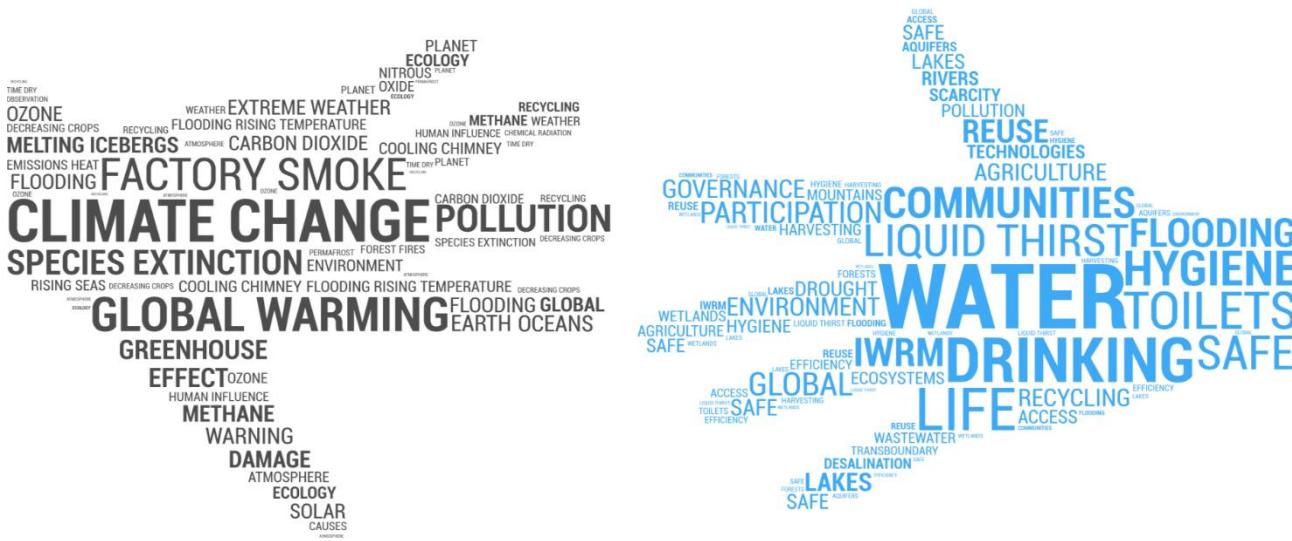
Water is our most precious resource – we must use it more responsibly. We must balance all of society's water needs while ensuring the poorest people don't get left behind.

*What do we mean when we say: ‘Everyone has a role to play. It is surprising how many water actions anyone, anywhere can take to address climate change.’?*

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said: "Warnings are necessary. But fear will not get the job done."

Yes, climate change can feel scary and daunting. But there is one simple step you can take immediately that will make a big difference: don't waste water.

Thousands of people are logging their climate actions on the [United Nation's ActNow website](#). Check out all the easy lifestyle changes that will help save the planet.



7

## **Earth Day 2020 theme: Climate Action**

Every year the Earth Day Network, as organizers of the original Earth Day, selects an environmental priority to engage the global public.

The enormous challenges – but also the vast opportunities – of acting on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary year. At the end of 2020, nations will be expected to increase their national commitments to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, so the time is now for citizens to call for greater global ambition to tackle our climate crisis.

Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. Unless every country in the world steps up – and steps up with urgency and ambition – we are consigning current and future generations to a dangerous future.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.unwater.org/world-water-day-2020-water-and-climate-change/>

Earth Day 2020 will be far more than a day. It must be a historic moment when citizens of the world rise up in a united call for the creativity, innovation, ambition, and bravery that we need to meet our climate crisis and seize the enormous opportunities of a zero-carbon future.

The enormous challenges — but also the vast opportunities — of acting on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary. Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.

At the end of 2020, nations will be expected to increase their national commitments to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. The time is now for citizens to call for greater global ambition to tackle our climate crisis. Unless every country in the world steps up — and steps up with urgency and ambition — we are consigning current and future generations to a dangerous future.

Earth Day 2020 will be far more than a day. It must be a historic moment when citizens of the world rise up in a united call for the creativity, innovation, ambition, and bravery that we need to meet our climate crisis and seize the enormous opportunities of a zero-carbon future.

### **Building on the Earth Day Legacy**

[The first Earth Day in 1970](#) mobilized millions of Americans for the protection of the planet. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans — 10% of the U.S. population at the time — took to the streets, college campuses and hundreds of cities to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet. The first Earth Day is credited with launching the modern environmental movement and is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event.

Earth Day led to passage of landmark environmental laws in the United States, including the Clean Air, Clear Water and Endangered Species Acts. Many countries soon adopted similar laws, and in 2016, the United Nations chose Earth Day as the day to sign the Paris Climate Agreement into force.

"Despite that amazing success and decades of environmental progress, we find ourselves facing an even more dire, almost existential, set of global environmental challenges, from loss of biodiversity to climate change to plastic pollution, that call for action at all levels of government," said Denis Hayes, the organizer of the first Earth Day in 1970 and Earth Day Network's Board Chair Emeritus.

"Progress has slowed, climate change impacts grow, and our adversaries have become better financed," said Earth Day Network president Kathleen Rogers. "We find ourselves today in a world facing global threats that demand a unified global response. For Earth Day 2020, we will build a new generation of environmentalist activists, engaging millions of people worldwide."

**"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."**

— Chief Seattle, 1854

**"In nature, nothing exists alone."**

— Rachel Carson, 1962

### **Autumn Program of Activities March – May 2020**

The Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park welcome visitors to any of our activities, but it is best to contact us beforehand to confirm details. For enquiries or information see contact details at the end of this program or on our website [www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au](http://www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au).

**NOTE:** Activities in the park and social events in the Adelaide Hills will be cancelled if a fire ban or severe weather warning/thunderstorms are announced for the Mount Lofty Ranges. Bird banding will also be cancelled in conditions that may adversely affect the birds. See links to BOM & CFS websites below.

#### **Working bees: meet at 9.00am, Almanda Mine Car Park, Dorset Vale Rd**

This enables everyone to sign in and be brought up-to-date with last minute changes. BYO morning tea and a small back pack to carry it, in case we are working further from the cars.

*There are also some regular mid-week bush gardening activities at Almanda Creek and bird banding in a couple of special project sites in the park, contact our Administration Assistant for details.*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>MARCH</b>			
Tuesday	3	Working bee	Gate 17 vicinity, woody weeds
Sunday	8	Working bee	Gate 7 Viminaria Creek south revisit
Saturday, Sunday	14, 15	Bird banding	Gate 3 Kangaroo Gully, 7.00am
Thursday	19	<b>Social Lunch</b> <b>All welcome!</b>	<b>New venue!</b> Coffeed Café – Aberfoyle Village 142 The Hub, Aberfoyle Park (beside Drake's Foodland)
Saturday	28	Working bee	Gate 3 Area 6 Cup Gum Creek
<b>APRIL</b>			
Saturday, Sunday	4, 5	Bird banding	Mackereth Cottage, 7.00am
Tuesday	7	Working bee	Gate 3 Area 5 Bronzewing Track west
Tuesday	7	<b>General mtg</b> <b>All welcome!</b>	At Butler's residence, 5 Trevelyan Court, Coromandel Valley at 4.15pm
Sunday	12	Working bee	Gate 17 Area 22 south-east, Boneseed
Saturday, Sunday	18, 19	Bird banding	Gate 11 Pennant Ridge, 7.00am
Tuesday	21	<b>Social Lunch</b> <b>All welcome!</b>	<b>New Venue!</b> Harvest Mylor Café – 240 Strathalbyn Road Mylor (corner opposite the oval)
Saturday	25	Working bee	Gate 13 Area 14 Twisted Chimney Track's north slope, Erica
<b>MAY</b>			
Saturday, Sunday	2, 3	Bird banding	Gate 3 Cross Roads, 7.00am
Tuesday	5	Working bee	Gate 5 Area 3-4 Lower Viminaria Creek vicinity
Sunday	10	Working bee	Gate 12 Area 19 around track's hillside area
Saturday, Sunday	16, 17	Bird banding	Gate 13 Twisted Chimney, 7.30am
Wednesday	20	<b>Social Lunch</b> <b>All welcome!</b>	The Artisan – Blackwood at noon (adjacent to Bendigo Bank)
Saturday	23	Working bee	Gate 20 Area 32 upper Fantail Creek, Erica
Saturday, Sunday	30, 31	Bird banding	Gate 7 Bushrat Creek, 7.30am

**BOM website:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/dorset-vale>

**CFS website:** [https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans\\_and\\_ratings](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans_and_ratings)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Office bearers:** Any queries on Friends activities, please contact your office bearers, general queries to [info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au](mailto:info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au)

**President:** Peter Watton (M) 0427 010 949, Email: [president@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au](mailto:president@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au)

**Vice President & Correspondence Secretary:** Jim Spiker (M) 0430 247 705, Email: [secretary@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au](mailto:secretary@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au)

**Treasurer & Minute Secretary:** Donella Peters, (H) 8339 5639 (M) 0407 417 247, 10 Boomerang Cres, Aldgate, 5154. Email: [treasurer@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au](mailto:treasurer@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au)

**Administration Assistant:** Jenny Dawes (H) 8388 2297 (M) 0427 841 425, Email: [info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au](mailto:info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au)

**Membership Officer:** Lorraine Billett (H) 8278 6623 (M) 0427 093 839, Email: [lorray66@tpg.com.au](mailto:lorray66@tpg.com.au)

**Bird Banding Coordinator:** Don Reid (H) 8388 2123 (M) 0488 174 992, Email: [dre00249@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dre00249@bigpond.net.au) and Jim Spiker (contact details above)

**Working Bees:** Peter Watton (contact details above), Jenny Dawes (contact details above), Glenn Giles (M) 0413 615 514, Email: [gilesgd81@gmail.com](mailto:gilesgd81@gmail.com) & John Wamsley - Almunda Creek mid-week activities - (M) 0407 716 074, Email: [john@johnwamsley.com](mailto:john@johnwamsley.com)

