



# *Bandicoot Tails*

## Newsletter of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

No. 179

June – August 2020

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

Welcome to your winter edition of *Bandicoot Tails*.

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



### **The President's words:**

Well, a lot has happened since the last edition of *Bandicoot Tails*!

It seems so long ago that the destructive forces of wildfires impacted large parts of the country, to be replaced almost immediately by the worldwide outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

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On March 27<sup>th</sup>, National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia (NPWSSA) implemented measures to prioritise the health and safety of its staff, volunteers and park visitors. This included a decision that Friends of Parks members cease all organised activities in our parks until further notice.

While volunteering has had to cease, many people have taken the advantage of extra time on their hands to visit parks, including Scott Creek CP. I and other members of the Friends group, who have gone for a walk in the park, have seen many others from the broader community out there enjoying the many health and wellbeing benefits of being in nature.

As the Federal and State Governments slowly relax the many restrictions that have been placed on us all, we hope that people will continue to enjoy the values of the park.

While dogs and bikes are not permitted in Scott Creek CP, people can visit the NPWSSA website to find a nearby park that does allow these activities.

It is important that we all continue to follow the protocols put in place by the South Australian Government and SA Health. These include practicing social distancing, maintaining good hygiene and maximum group sizes.

The good news for our Friends group is that on May 13<sup>th</sup> we were advised by NPWSSA that we could re-commence volunteering in the park, following the easing of relevant restrictions by the SA Government on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Your committee worked together with our Senior Ranger, Brent Lores, to develop a plan for a safe return to volunteering, and this was sent to our members on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Like the rest of the community, we must follow the protocols put in place by the South Australian Government<sup>1</sup> and SA Health<sup>2</sup> in all of our activities. We encourage members who are in the most vulnerable categories, particularly those with chronic health conditions, to seek medical advice before resuming volunteering. Also, do not feel obliged to re-commence volunteering if you are not ready. Your health remains the most important factor, so wait until you feel the time is right.

We do not intend to hold our bi-monthly general meetings or social lunches for the time being, but the FoSCCP committee is keeping in regular contact with each other, to ensure any important issues are dealt with and will keep our members informed of any relevant matters and changes as they take place.

The following are the protocols put in place by the FoSCCP committee for its activities.

For your safety and the safety of park visitors:

- Do not attend any activity if you are feeling at all unwell, or if you have been in recent contact with anyone else who is unwell or been to high risk places.
- A maximum of ten people allowed on site at one time, including for bushcare working bees and bird banding. To ensure this is maintained, you will be asked to let the activity leader know if you intend to attend any activity, after a notice is emailed to you in the week beforehand.
- Sign in sheets will be completed by the activity leader, not by the individual volunteer.
- Maintain social distancing, including a minimum of 2m from each other.
- Bring your own safety equipment, e.g. gloves and safety glasses, per our workplace health and safety requirements.
- Bring your own hand sanitiser (70+% alcohol or soap and water).
- We will have one person open and close the gate when driving into the park, using gloves or disinfectant.
- At bushcare working bees, bring and use your own tools if you have them, otherwise, use the tools provided to you and disinfect them with methylated spirits before and after use. No sharing tools once on site.
- At bird banding we intend to have specific protocols in place that will restrict handling the birds to a few nominated persons with their own equipment, i.e. no shared equipment for this activity. Other protocols will be included in the email sent to our regular banders before the activity.
- Do not share food or morning tea.
- Avoid car-pooling.

Please contact the FoSCCP committee if you have any questions about these protocols (contact details at the back of this newsletter).

*Peter Watton*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au>

## **NRM Reform:**

In April, we received the following letter addressed to all volunteer groups in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Range region from Kim Krebs, Regional NRM Manager.

28 April 2020

Dear all,

### **RE: Changes to volunteer support in the AMLR region**

I am writing to provide you with information about the landscape reform and how that may affect volunteer support in the future.

In November 2019, the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* replaced the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* as the key framework for managing the state's land, water, pest plants and animals, and biodiversity. Eight new regional landscape boards will replace the current NRM boards to administer the new Act.

Presiding Members have now been appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water to lead each of the new regional landscape boards. To ensure certainty and a smooth transition for communities and land users, current NRM services will continue to be delivered as normal under the existing Act until 1 July 2020 when the new Act is fully operational.

The landscape boards will continue to support off-park volunteer groups in their region and the Department for Environment and Water is committed to supporting the groups operating on-park. More detail on the level of support provided by landscape boards for volunteer groups will be available once the boards form. You will also be invited to help the boards to develop their 5 Year Landscape Plan, and your voice as dedicated volunteers will be highly regarded.

A key element of the landscape reform is establishing a grassroots grants program for each region to support volunteers and not-for-profit organisations. The grants will be used to undertake local projects, and establish the landscapes priority fund to invest in large scale projects.

On behalf of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, I would like to thank all the volunteer groups, and the many individuals who make up these dedicated groups, who we have worked in partnership with over the years and congratulate them on their impressive achievements to date. The ongoing contribution of volunteer groups across the region has been immense. To give you a snapshot, in 2018-19 alone, 109 volunteer groups (more than 12,000 volunteers) contributed 207,910 hours to maintain, protect and expand our natural resources throughout the region.

We look forward to continuing to build the capacity of environmental volunteer groups in the region through the newly formed landscape boards.

For further information on the landscape reform and new regional boundaries visit <https://landscape.sa.gov.au/>. We will keep you updated as information becomes available through our monthly volunteer newsletter Sedge Snippet and the Natural Resources AMLR website and NRM board Facebook page. For other enquiries please contact Hugh Kneebone, Manager Community Engagement, Natural Resources AMLR (P 82739133 [hugh.kneebone@sa.gov.au](mailto:hugh.kneebone@sa.gov.au)).

Yours sincerely,

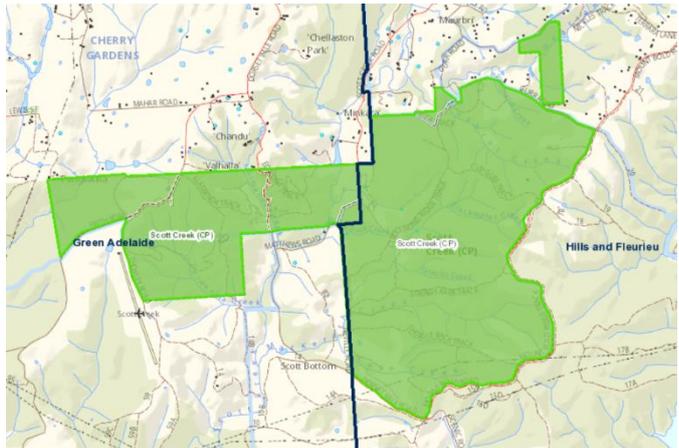


Kim Krebs  
Regional NRM Manager - Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges  
Department for Environment and Water

As stated, from 1<sup>st</sup> July this year the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* is to be fully operational, with new Landscape SA Boards and Green Adelaide replacing existing NRM Boards. These boards will continue to support off-park volunteer groups in their region, while DEW is to support the groups operating on-park, that is, groups like ours.

Scott Creek CP will be divided between Green Adelaide and the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape SA Board, with the boundary following the council borders in this part of the hills.

FoSCCP has had tremendous support from the NR ALMR over the years, and I felt it was important to let Kim and her team know how much it has been appreciated. Following is my email:



Kim Krebs  
Regional NRM Manager – Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges  
Department for Environment and Water

Dear Kim and staff,

**RE: Changes to volunteer support in the AMLR region**

On behalf of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park, I would like to express my gratitude to you and your staff for the terrific support that you have provided our group over the past five or so years, since I became president of the group.

While I am constantly thanking your staff when I meet with them in person, chat over the phone or in email conversations, there is a tendency to not to send this message back up the line to the rest of the team in the office. When I received your update on 28<sup>th</sup> April, regarding the replacement of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 with the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, I was determined to rectify this...albeit nearly three weeks later.

It is a bit hard to cover all of the staff who have helped us out over the years, but I particularly want to thank Kat Hill and Mark Fagan for their exceptional support, and I don't use the term lightly. While we greatly appreciate the funding that they have directed to on-ground work in the park, which has made a huge difference to our capacity to restore the park's natural values, and the extra bits of equipment and first aid kits Kat provides us with from time to time, it is the interest and passion that they take in the park and our volunteers that is quite overwhelming. This same interest and passion has been shown by other NRM staff we have dealt with over the years as well, including Kat's maternity leave replacement Sophie Bass, previous NRM district ecologist Anthony Abley (who we will be most fortunate to be able to continue to work with in his similar role with DEW/NPWSSA), and all the staff managing the Community Environment Grants program.

While it appears that landscape boards will not be supporting on-park volunteer groups from the 1<sup>st</sup> July, I hope to still be able to maintain contact with those staff moving across from the NRM. Hopefully additional funding support for on-park volunteers will be made available through DEW as part of this transition.

Thank you once again Kim, to you and your entire staff.

Kind Regards,

Peter

Peter Watton  
President Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

## Bushcare Activities:

As you would expect, when we had to cancel all of our scheduled bushcare activities from March 27<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup>, we were going to have a lot less area of the park covered during autumn!

We managed to get the three scheduled activities in March completed, though numbers were down.

Our first Tuesday bushcare activity saw Jenny and Richard patrol between Dorset Vale Road and Echidna Track, finding a bit of variety with Boneseed, Montpellier Broom and a couple of Olives. Then at our Sunday activity, we had six along to find a larger than expected patch of Erica in Viminaria Creek.

Following this activity, Glenn sprayed two patches of Stinkwort along the track down from gate 7 and in from gate 5, while Peter started drilling and filling the first few small Weeping Willows along Eulamprus Reach. Unfortunately it was getting late in the season and the Willows had started getting their autumn leaf colouring, a sign that they were heading into their winter dormancy. The herbicide is not likely to be as effective at this time, so this task will resume as the trees green up again in spring later in the year.

On the fourth Saturday activity in Cup Gum Creek, just before the NPWSSA cease organised activities directive, we just had the two volunteers again. This was, however, again very productive, with all the area patrolled between the creek and Cup Gum Track, with just a few Boneseed and one Erica found along the creekline, but lots of Montpellier Broom and Fleabane in Bushrat Creek at the northern end of the area.



Above: Morning tea in Viminaria Creek back in March.



Above left: Rick patrolling Cup Gum Creek in March.



Above right: Erica removed from Fantail Creek in May.

There were also a couple of smallish patches of Blackberry in Cup Gum Creek, which Peter sprayed at the end of the activity. He also sprayed a patch of Stinkwort and Fleabane and more Blackberry near the northern end of Currawong Ridge Track, while Rick drove along a number of the park tracks, including Cup Gum Track up to and along Mount Bold Ridge Track, stopping in numerous spots along the way to remove Boneseed and Broom.

Once the COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed and organised activities on NPWSSA land were able to recommence, a very keen group of seven of us headed out on the misty and drizzly morning of the fourth Saturday of May to continue our work on the Boneseed and Erica down Fantail Creek in the Panhandle.

While the weather was a bit uncomfortable, we got plenty done and the park was looking wonderful after all the rain we have had so far this year.

Meanwhile, plenty of work has been going on in Almanda Creek and around the corner into Quoyii Flat. In addition to the completing the first weed removal along Almanda Creek and continuing follow-up in this area, a huge amount of effort has gone into Quoyii Flat and the adjoining stretch of Scott Creek, which has been dubbed Eulamprus Reach. These names are derived from the scientific name for the frequently encountered Eastern Water Skink in this area: *Eulamprus quoyii* – Eulamprus means 'good-beautiful' and Quoyii is named after J.R.C. Quoy, French naturalist. (Encyclopedia of Australian animals: Reptiles. Angus and Robertson)



**Above:** Quoyii *Eulamprus* (Eastern Water Skink).

Quoyii Flat had little native understorey growing in it other than areas of Bracken Fern and a small patch of Stiff Flat-sedge (*Cyperus vaginatus*), but had large amounts of pasture grasses (mainly Phalaris) and Blackberry growing throughout. Other than the planning, the main focus of the work was slashing down the Blackberry and pasture grasses, which Steve attended to over a number of visits with the brushcutter, and then follow-up cutting and swabbing of the slashed Blackberry.

Patches of Blackberry were left on either side of the bridge, after Bandicoots were seen crossing the creek via the bridge. The group received a special treat when they witnessed a mother Bandicoot cross the bridge followed by a youngster, which was still golden in colour.

John W had noticed a correlation between the density of Golden Wattle and the diversity of native plants underneath them on the eastern side of Almanda Creek and thought that might lead to a quicker way to restore Quoyii Flat. The aim was to revegetate the broad area with Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*), to help outcompete and minimise future weed regrowth, while also providing an environment that should promote greater diversity of native understorey species.



**Above left:** Quoyii Flat, the dish-shaped holes prepared for seeding with Golden Wattles.



**Above right:** Quoyii Flat, Golden Wattle seedling germinated.

Following the initial weed control, a small dish-shaped hole was prepared for each individual seed, which were all scarified one by one by John. Scarification, the scoring of the hard coating of the seed, helps breaks its dormancy, to provide more reliable germination.

There were about 4,000 seeds sown, counted by their weight, 22g to the thousand. The area is about 4,000m<sup>2</sup>, so that averages one seedling per square metre. Many of the seeds have already germinated, and it is hoped that, with predicted good winter rainfall, these should thrive this year.

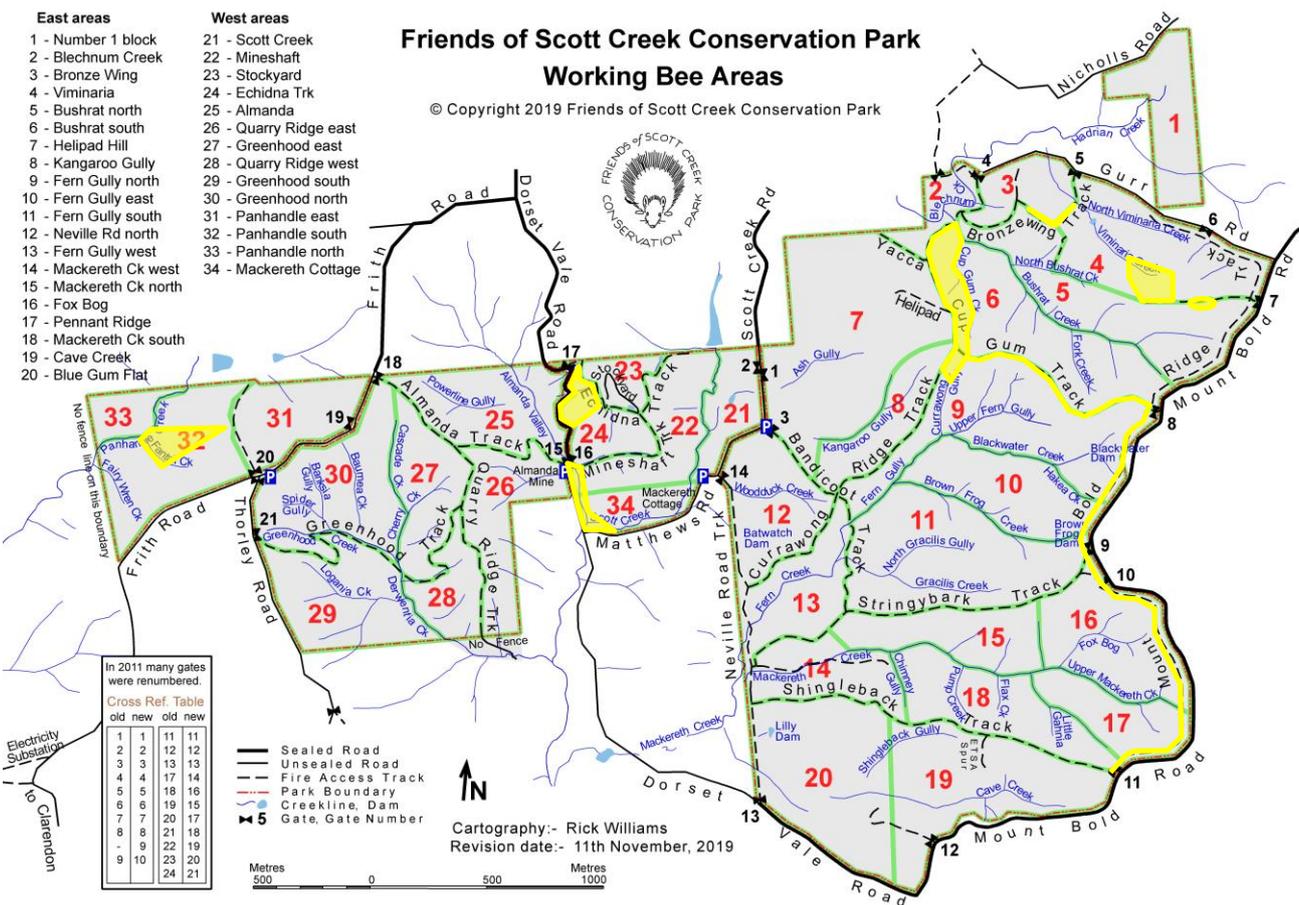
Of added interest, the list of plant species growing along Alminda Creek has grown to an impressive 236, of which 167 are indigenous to the area and 47 have conservation ratings ranging from nationally endangered to locally rare.

Late in May, NR AMLR District Officer Mark Fagan arranged a visit to Alminda Creek with John, to be shown the results of the group's efforts to date. To quote Mark: "I really enjoyed the tour yesterday, it's given me a lot of food for thought. I think what you and the rest of the group have accomplished and the future plans are fantastic."



Above left: Quoyii Flat 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Above right: Quoyii Flat 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020.



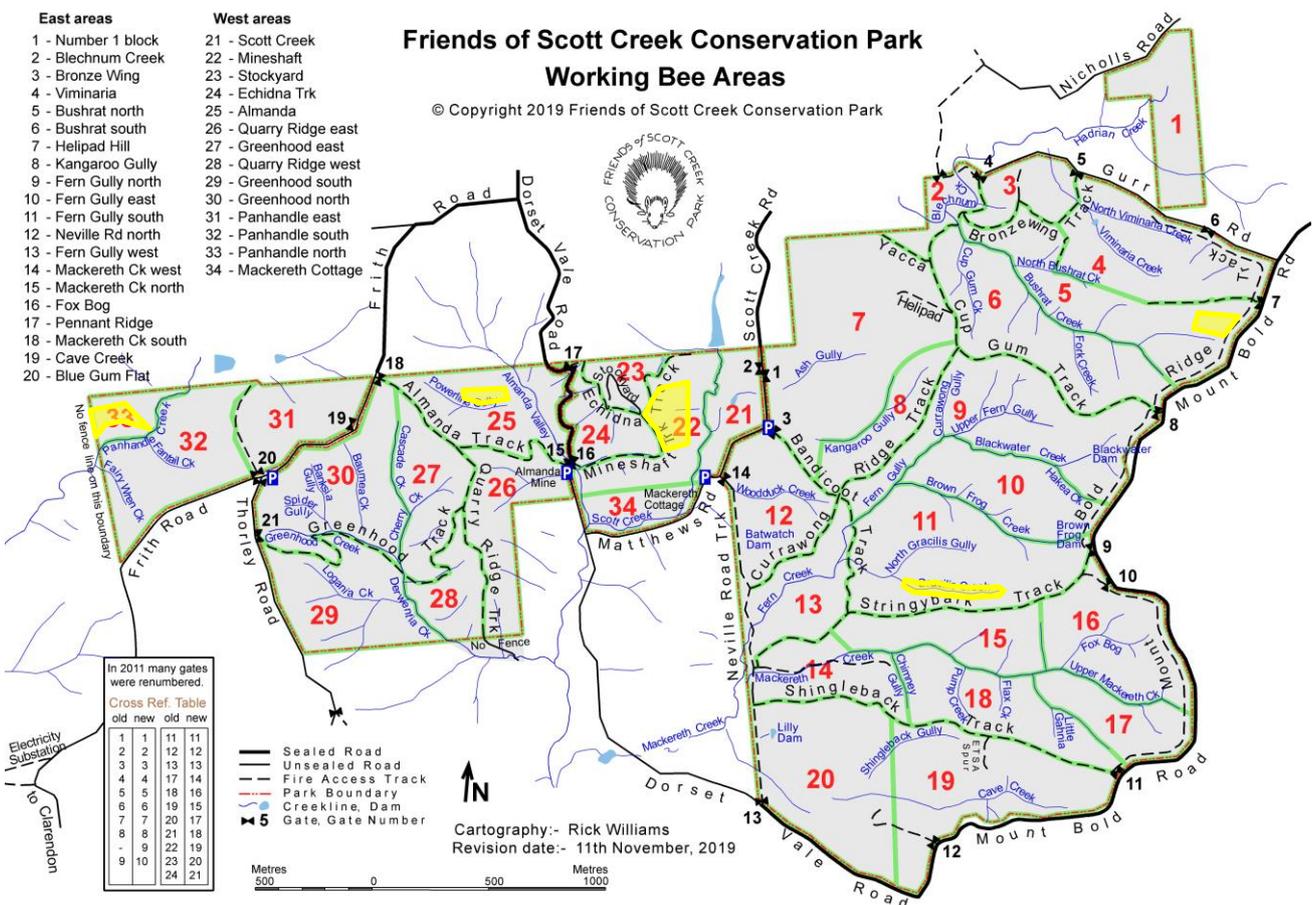
## Contractor work being undertaken in the park:

After the very busy summer period, mainly due to extensive Blackberry control, things quietened down again during autumn. Fortunately, contractor work was able to continue despite the COVID-19, albeit with some modified protocols to ensure the health and safety of those workers.

Work on woody weeds continued in various parts of the park, including Erica and Sollya in the main Panhandle infestation north of the creekline, Erica regrowth near gate 7 and at the northern end of Almada Valley, various woody weeds east of Mineshaft Track, and a second patrol for Blackberry in Gracilis Creek.

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 Friends of Parks On-Park Volunteer Support Grant 2018-2019, plus more 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.

As we near the end of our three-year work plan for the park, it will be necessary to be very strategic with future available funds, to ensure all previously funded weed control receives adequate follow-up. Future grant funding opportunities and donations will be crucial in achieving this.



## Bird Banding Notes:

Here are the stats for the last three months of action, or rather inaction, with no banding able to take place since the COVID-19 shut-down on 27<sup>th</sup> March. Now that volunteer activities are again permitted by NPWSSA, we scheduled our return to banding on the last weekend of May.

14-15/3/20 Kangaroo Gully 9 captures 7 species 2 retraps

We had a quiet couple of days here, with only 5 captures on Saturday and 4 on Sunday. The recaps include a 4+ Scarlet Robin female and a 4+ Red-browed Finch, both banded at the Kangaroo Gully site.

The rest is history as they say, we can call it the Corona Hiatus. During the latter part of this time, Jim managed to visit the park to investigate a couple of likely new areas to run bird banding. He took the photo to the right of a Crescent Honeyeater along Cup Gum Track, at least 500m from our nearest banding site. The bird had been banded and part of the number was clear in the photo, one to trace in our records.



**Above right:** Banded Crescent Honeyeater from Cup Gum Track (*photo Jim Spiker*).



**Above left:** Part of the bird banding team at Kangaroo Gully.

**Below left:** Female Superb Fairy-wren.



**Above right:** Part of the team heading back empty-handed after checking the nets.

**Below right:** Female Scarlet Robin.



## Environmental Defenders Office:



Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) is a national community legal centre dedicated to protecting the environment.

Did you know that the EDO has a range of fact sheets to explain South Australian law on different topics, such as native vegetation, planning and climate change?

You can find the fact sheets on their website at <https://www.edo.org.au/south-australia-factsheets>.

The list is extensive and includes information such as:

- Protection of Native Animals and their Habitat
- Water Resource Management Conservation and Protection
- Protection of Native Vegetation
- SA Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Act
- Development Control
- Information Guide: Volunteers Protection Act

## Photo Gallery – Motion Sensor Camera:

April this year, Mark Fagan, District Officer NR AMLR, set up a motion sensor camera at a water-pool in Bushrat Creek to see what he could find. The camera was set up for two of periods covering a couple of days at a time.

A total of 3,190 photos were taken over the two periods, which is a lot of photos to scroll through to see what appeared. In addition to the 25 species of birds that could be identified, there was a regular visit by a Koala at night, Yellow-footed Antechinus, several Deer and a Fox. The highlight was a single image of a Bassian Thrush (state rare) heading out of the back of one of the photos.

I think it would be valuable to be able to use these cameras more often in the park, to see what we can find in various locations. Water-holes in warmer weather definitely attract wildlife.

Here is the list of bird species that visited the water-hole and could be identified:

Bassian Thrush	Grey Shrike-thrush
Brown Thornbill	Laughing Kookaburra
Brown-headed Honeyeater	New Holland Honeyeater
Brush Bronzewing	Red-browed Finch
Common Blackbird	Scarlet Robin
Common Bronzewing	Striated Thornbill
Crescent Honeyeater	Superb Fairy-wren
Crimson Rosella (Adelaide form)	White-browed Scrubwren
Eastern Spinebill	White-naped Honeyeater
Elegant Parrot	White-throated Treecreeper
Golden Whistler	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Grey Currawong	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Grey Fantail	



**Above and left:** Bassian Thrush caught ducking out of the picture taken by the motion sensor camera.



**Left:** Laughing Kookaburra.  
**Below:** Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo.



**Above and insert:** Yellow-footed Antechinus.



**Above:** Koala  
**Left:** Feral Deer.

**Photo Gallery:**



**Above left:** Common Wasp-mimic Bee, removed from bird banding net (*photo Chris Scholz*).



**Above right:** Ichneumonidae species.



**Above left:** Giant Green Slant-face.  
**Below left:** Golden Orb-weaver Spider.



**Above right:** Black and White Tiger Moth  
**Below right:** Rain drops on a spider's web.





**Above left:** Golden Whistler.



**Above right:** Spotted Pardalote (*photo Jim Spiker*).



**Above left:** Rain drops on moss.



**Above right:** Moss and lichen.  
**Below right:** Flame Heath (*Stenantha conostephioides* syn. *Astroloma conostephioides*).



**Below left:** Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*).



## Calendar of Environmental Events coming up:

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June is World Environment Day**

<sup>3</sup>World Environment Day 2020: theme will be on “Biodiversity.” UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that Colombia will be hosting World Environment Day 2020 in partnership with Germany. The main focus of World Environment Day 2020 would be on Biodiversity.

World Environment Day 2020 is widely celebrated in more than 143 countries. It is popularly being called “People’s Day” to show their care and support for the Earth and their environment. Knowing the ways to protect the environment is really important, let us look in detail about the objectives, themes, and history of World Environment Day.



## World Environment Day 2020



<sup>4</sup>“With 1 million species facing extinction, there has never been a more important time to focus on biodiversity.”

Colombia is one of the largest “Megadiverse” nations in the world to hold 10% of the planet’s biodiversity. Since it is part of the Amazon rainforest, Colombia ranks first in bird and orchid species diversity and second in plants, butterflies, freshwater fish and amphibians.

Ricardo Lozano, Colombia’s Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Jochen Flasbarth, Germany’s Secretary of State for the Climate, and Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, said that with one million species of plants and animals facing extinction, there has never been a more critical time to focus on the problem of biodiversity.

2020 is a critical year for nations’ commitments to preserving and restoring biodiversity

Why should we care about Biodiversity?

Ecosystems are relying on all parts from the smallest bacteria to the largest vertebrate. It’s all interconnected. Some are producing oxygen that others are breathing. Some provide food for larger species, which in turn become prey to even larger species. Every living organism has a role to play in the maintenance of balance.

You can ultimately lose much more than one species by removing one element. More than 98% of the species in nature are extinct.

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June is World Oceans Day**

<sup>5</sup>For 2020 World Oceans Day is growing the global movement to call on world leaders to protect 30% of our blue planet by 2030. This critical need is called 30x30. By safeguarding at least 30% of our ocean through a network of highly protected areas we can help ensure a healthy home for all!



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.themightyearth.com/world-environment-day-2020/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://swikblog.com/world-environment-day-2020-theme/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://worldoceansday.org/>

<sup>6</sup>United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) provides the first ever global scientific consensus on the severe consequences of climate change for the ocean, the millions of fish and other wildlife that inhabit it, and ultimately the human race.

Climate change jeopardizes everything the ocean does for humankind — supplying our food, supporting our coastal economies, regulating our weather and climate, buffering our shorelines from storms, and serving as a place of inspiration and wonder.

Now is the time for action. It’s not too late—we still have a choice about the kind of future we leave our children. To implement a strong ocean climate action agenda, we must:

- Substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon dioxide, which causes ocean acidification. This is the most important thing we can do for the ocean. Ocean-based solutions, like reducing emissions from offshore industries and supporting well-sited offshore renewable energy, must be implemented as well.
- Protect the ocean’s natural ability to store carbon and mitigate climate change, by conserving and restoring coastal “blue carbon” ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrass beds, and salt marshes.
- Implement adaptation strategies to increase ocean resiliency to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. This includes strongly protecting at least 30% of the ocean in areas where marine wildlife can thrive, as well as promoting sustainable fisheries management, pollution reduction, ocean habitat restoration, and ocean planning.

*What the latest ocean and climate science tells us:*

Climate change is causing devastating impacts in the ocean, and the pace of change is accelerating. Without dramatic climate action, impacts will only get more severe.

For decades, the world’s ocean has been “taking the heat” for climate change, absorbing over 90% of the heat and nearly a third of the carbon dioxide from greenhouse gas emissions. The result is an ocean that is warmer, more acidic, starved of oxygen, and less habitable for fish and marine wildlife.

This new report synthesizes the latest ocean and climate science, providing in-depth analysis and predictions. According to the scientific consensus:

- Melting land ice, sea ice, and glaciers are causing sea levels to rise at an accelerated rate, altering ocean circulation and changing the ocean’s chemistry. This threatens ocean ecosystems, coastal communities, and traditional ways of life around the world.
- Coastal flooding will increase as sea levels continue to rise, putting coastal communities and low-lying islands at greater risk. Extreme events like hurricanes and storm surges are becoming more common and more severe.
- The ocean is becoming warmer at all depths. Tropical and cold-water coral reefs are under threat from many ocean changes related to a warming climate.
- The ocean is becoming more acidic, making it more difficult for shell-building organisms to make a home. The amount of dissolved oxygen in the ocean is decreasing, increasing low-oxygen “dead zones,” where ocean wildlife can no longer breathe.
- Polar habitats will shrink, threatening traditional ways of life and ecosystems in the Arctic and affecting critical Southern Ocean food webs. As permafrost thaws, it is releasing additional greenhouse gases, further contributing to climate change.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://worldoceansday.org/resources/messaging-un-on-protecting-climate/>

- Changing ocean temperatures are disrupting historical fisheries as the fish seek cooler water, threatening the main food source and livelihood of millions of people around the globe who rely on healthy fish populations, especially indigenous communities. In some regions, fish catch is already declining, and it is predicted to decline globally.
- The loss of polar habitats and coral reefs will lead to significant biodiversity loss.

*What we need to do now:*

The science is clear. To keep the ocean and planet healthy, we must take bold and decisive action now. The good news: We already know what we need to do, and we have the ability to do it. To take ocean climate action, we must:

(1) Substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially CO<sub>2</sub>, which causes ocean acidification. This is the most important thing we can do for the ocean. To do this, we must:

- Greatly decrease our carbon emissions -- and push for net zero by 2050 -- to remain below 1.5C of warming. The current Paris target of 2C is simply not enough to safeguard the ocean.
- Set limits for carbon dioxide emissions based on acidification mitigation targets developed in partnership with the scientific community.
- Transition away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy sources, including well-planned and sited offshore renewables like wind and tidal energy.
- Decrease shipping emissions, which, on their current trajectory, are predicted to represent as much as 18% of our global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- Block the expansion of offshore oil exploration and drilling. Expanding offshore oil drilling will intensify climate change and threaten ocean and coastal habitats that are important to healthy fish, marine wildlife, and coastal economies.

(2) Protect the ocean's natural ability to store carbon. To do this, we must:

- Restore and protect coastal blue carbon ecosystems (and their associated food webs), including mangroves, salt marshes and sea grasses. These coastal ecosystems absorb carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and safely store it at a rate of up to four times that of forests on land. They also serve as a buffer that can limit the impacts of coastal erosion, flooding, and storms--all while providing habitat for marine wildlife and fisheries.
- Support research to better understand the ways other ocean ecosystems beyond coastal blue carbon systems function as part of the ocean's tremendous carbon sink.

(3) Implement adaptation strategies to help us and the ocean be more resilient to the impacts we can't avoid. To do this, we must:

- Protect and restore ocean habitats such as coral reefs, kelp forests, and deep sea corals that promote resilience and biodiversity, and are home to fish, sea turtles, whales, sea birds and many more ocean wildlife. This means:

- o Strongly protect 30% of the ocean, as recommended by scientists, to save the diversity and abundance of life on Earth. Protecting special places in the ocean -- much as we do with national parks on land -- via an effectively planned network connects biologically rich areas, creates sanctuaries in which ocean wildlife can thrive. This includes maintaining and strengthening existing marine protected areas (MPAs) and identifying and protecting additional areas that provide important benefits to coastal communities and marine species.

- o Restore and protect coral reefs that can improve the ability of marine species to adapt to climate change. Reefs harbor the highest biodiversity of any ecosystem, and they are also among the most threatened.

- Decrease the amount of stress we already place on the ocean. Healthy ocean systems are better able to adapt to the effects of climate change, and therefore produce the goods and services that humankind are dependent upon. To do this, we must:

- o Maintain and strengthen fisheries management systems, both nationally and on the high seas, to support rebuilding and ensure a sustainable supply of wild caught fish. Overfishing can exacerbate the impacts of climate change, while healthy fisheries are better able to adapt.

- o Reduce the inflow of plastics into the ocean and the runoff and dumping of chemical pollution which sickens and kills sea life.

- o Support community adaptation and resiliency planning. We need both to adapt to the changes that are happening now and to prepare for the changes that are yet to come. Indigenous, coastal and historically disadvantaged and underserved communities are most at-risk from climate change. We need to support and fund adaptation and marine planning that will protect these communities and their ways of life.

A new paper from the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy highlights the important role of the ocean as a solution to global climate change, reinforcing the importance of taking ocean climate action.

*Immediate next steps:*

All countries around the world should be taking immediate action. The IPCC has painted a stark picture of the consequences of inaction.

- Governments must assert a leadership role and act now to cut greenhouse gas emissions, especially ocean-damaging carbon dioxide, to avoid the worst impacts of 1.5 C plus warming on the ocean, adapt to today's changing environment, and plan for and mitigate the threats of tomorrow.

- Globally, all coastal nations must incorporate ocean-focused actions into their national climate plans under the Paris Agreement. The time is now for countries to update their plans in advance of a 2020 deadline.

- At COP25 in Chile, the world must speak with one voice for the ocean and chart a course that builds off of the IPCC ocean report, pursuing concrete, global climate commitments for our ocean.

World Oceans Day is uniting conservation action, working to grow the global movement calling on world leaders to protect 30% of our blue planet by 2030. This critical need is called 30x30. By safeguarding at least 30% of our ocean through a network of highly protected areas we can help ensure a healthy home for all.

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July is Schools Tree Day**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August is National Tree Day**

<sup>7</sup>National Tree Day is Australia's biggest community tree-planting event.

National Tree Day, proudly sponsored by Toyota Australia, was co-founded in 1996 by Planet Ark and Olivia Newton-John. It has now grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature protection event. Planet Ark is asking Australians to help us plant one million new native trees and shrubs across the country.



National Tree Day is a call-to-action for all Australians to come together and give back to their community. Annually, about 300,000 people volunteer their time to engage in environmental activities that educate individuals about the world around them. It's a day to venture outdoors and get to know your community, and most importantly, to have fun!

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<sup>7</sup> <https://treeday.planetark.org/>

### *COVID-19 update for our community*

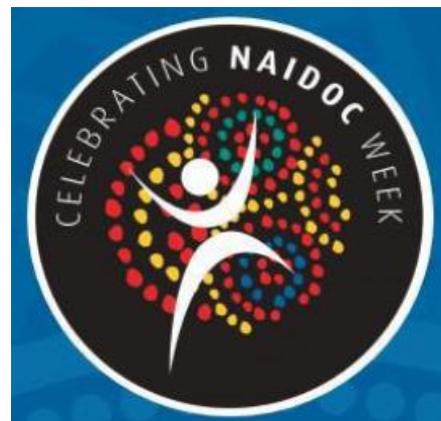
Despite the uncertain times, we are still looking forward to celebrating National Tree Day this year. It may look a little different to previous years, so stay tuned for more details in the coming months. Keep an eye on our social channels for all Tree Day news, updates and stories from our community.

Stay safe, from everyone at Planet Ark.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July is NAIDOC Week**

<sup>8</sup>NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself.



### *Important update NAIDOC Week 2020*

The National NAIDOC Committee has decided to postpone NAIDOC Week 2020 (5 July - 12 July) in the interest of safety for our communities. This decision was not taken lightly.

We have taken on-board the advice from the Federal Government, health experts, our key partners and from leading national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations.

We all believe that an escalating COVID-19 (Coronavirus) crisis as we head into winter would have disastrous impacts on our mob - especially for our elders and those in our communities with chronic health issues.

The National NAIDOC Awards scheduled for Saturday 11 July in Alice Springs will not go ahead as planned.

We are in the process of finalising a new date for NAIDOC Week 2020 - towards the end of the year - and we'll continue to work closely with the National Indigenous Australians Agency and our partners for NAIDOC Week 2020.

### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August is Keep Australia Beautiful Week**

<sup>9</sup>Keep Australia Beautiful Week is held late August each year to raise awareness about the simple things we can all do in our daily lives to reduce our impact on the environment and encourage action.

#### *Do The Right Thing*

Litter costs the public pocket an estimated \$300 million to \$350 million annually (NSW EPA).

For example, in Victoria the cost for local government to provide litter maintenance and street sweeping services is in excess of \$98 million (Sustainability Victoria).

Western Australians spend up to \$30 million on litter clean ups (Keep WA Beautiful).

In South Australia, KESAB estimates the figure to be up to \$20 million.



<sup>8</sup> <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://kab.org.au/keep-australia-beautiful-week/>

### Winter Program of Activities June – August 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. This is particularly important with regard to COVID-19 restrictions – see page two of this newsletter for protocols in place at the time of publication for all FoSCCP activities. This makes it essential that anyone considering a visit to an activity contact us beforehand to ensure this will still be possible at the time. Thank you.

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, contact our Administration Assistant for details.*

Month	Date	Activity	Location
<b>JUNE</b>			
Tuesday	2	Bushcare	Gate 5 Area 4 west, lower Viminaria Creek
Sunday	14	Bushcare	Gate 1 Area 7 south hillsides Kangaroo Gully, Erica
Saturday, Sunday	20, 21	Bird banding	Mackereth Cottage, 7.30am
Saturday	27	Bushcare	Gate 8 Area 9 “Peter’s Patch”, Erica below Tom’s Outlook
<b>JULY</b>			
Saturday, Sunday	4, 5	Bird banding	Gate 11 Pennant Ridge, 7.30am
Tuesday	7	Bushcare	Gate 12 Area 19 hillsides, Boneseed, Broom, Olive, Cotton-bush
Sunday	12	Bushcare	Gate 7 Area 5 east, Erica
Saturday, Sunday	18, 19	Bird banding	Gate 3 Cross Roads, 7.30am
Saturday	25	Bushcare	Gate 9 Area 11 central hillside between Gracilis Creeklines, Boneseed
<b>AUGUST</b>			
Saturday, Sunday	1, 2	Bird banding	Gate 13 Twisted Chimney Track, 7.30am
Tuesday	4	Bushcare	Gate 11 Area 18 southern part from gate to Flax Creek
Sunday	9	Bushcare	Gate 7 Area 4 east, Erica
Saturday, Sunday	15, 16	Bird banding	Gate 7 Bushrat Creek, 7.30am
Saturday	22	Bushcare	Gate 3 Area 7 Helipad heading north-west and check Broom at the end of Yacca Track
Saturday, Sunday	29, 30	Bird banding	Gate 16 Mineshaft Track, 7.00am

**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)

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**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)

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**Bird Banding Coordinator:** Jim Spiker (contact details above) and

**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) and John Wamsley - *Almanda Creek mid-week activities* - (M) 0407 716 074, Email: [john@johnwamsley.com](mailto:john@johnwamsley.com)

