



Bandicoot Tails

Newsletter of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

No. 188

September—November 2022

Website: www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/friendsofscottcreekcp

Welcome to your spring edition of *Bandicoot Tails*.

During spring, our scheduled bushcare activities continue to start at 9.00am, 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 summer edition to info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au by mid-November.

The President's words:

I was talking to a close friend a few weeks ago. About six years ago her youngest grandchild moved interstate with her family. The grandchild was just under two years old at the time. For one reason or another—including Covid-19 restrictions—she has not been able to visit. In that time the grandchild has lost all her toddler attributes and is now, at 8 years old, showing all the skill and grace of a budding ballet dancer.

A lot happens to people, especially little people, over a few years. A lot is happening in our Scott Creek Conservation Park environment too. It is curious to listen to people who have not been in the park before as they comment on how beautiful it is as it is slowly coming in to spring. For many of the Friends, it is still deeply scarred from the fire in 2021. We are impatient for it to jump a few years and start to show signs of substantial recovery. The reality is that we are only in PHASE 3 (Medium-term actions, 1 to 3 years after fire) of the DEW Recovery Framework.

This stage of recovery is looking for the Outcome: Priority species, threatened species and habitats maintained or improved through ongoing management.

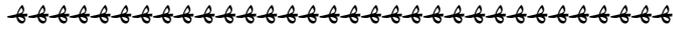
Some of the possible actions in the Framework that I thought we should consider at Phase 3 are:

- 3.1 Establish protected locations for additional populations of range-restricted species.
- 3.5 Monitor recovery of populations of key species.
- 3.19 Secure long-term and adequate resourcing for the management and recovery of threatened species, to improve their resilience to fire and other crises.

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Thank you to the great teams of 'Bushcarers' who are keeping up their great effort in re-establishing SCCP as a premier environmental icon for SA.

Jim Spiker

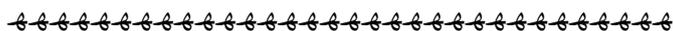


Vale Don Reid

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park foundation member Don Reid at Mary Potter Hospice on 26th August 2022. Don will be deeply missed by his many friends in the group. We express our heartfelt sympathy to Donna, Kerry, and Mark. We will publish a fitting tribute to Don in the next issue of Bandicoot Tails. He was a source of strength and optimism for many of us. A legend in his own time.



Above: A rare pair—Don at bird banding with a nationally vulnerable Bassian Thrush.



Our new website!

If you haven't already done so – check out our fresh new-look website!

friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

We would love your feedback. Please email me your comments about the new website at webmaster@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au.



Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

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Explore and discover:

- the natural wonders of the park from bandicoots, rare orchids and a rich birdlife
- the [Bandicoot Tails archive](#) with issues going back to 1995!
- the [Friend's walking trail map](#) for downloading or, new in 2022, you can buy our detailed contour map too!
- how the Friend's work in the park is helping nature to thrive, even after the 2021 bushfire
- how you can be part of supporting the park by joining bushcare activities or being part of regular bird banding to see the park's birds up close.

A big thank you to all those Friends who helped to make the website possible including the generous donation from Stirling Market!

Anna Dutkiewicz

Latest News

Welcome back to the Park! It's been over a year since the bushfire in January 2021. The fire-affected section is open! You are able to [enjoy walking along its peaceful tracks](#) and seeing the Park recover.



Please care for the Park's flora and fauna inhabitants by keeping to the tracks, and especially no dogs are allowed.

Alerts from National Parks and Wildlife SA

If you would like to help the Park recover and thrive, please visit [Information About Volunteering](#) or [Donate](#). Or find out more about bushfire recovery activities in our newsletter [Bandicoot Tails](#).



Scarlet Robin

Welcome

The Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park (FoSCCP or the Friends) are a diverse group of volunteers who have been protecting and restoring the natural wonders of Scott Creek Conservation Park for over 30 years. The Park is a [significant conservation area](#) in the Mount Lofty Ranges and is home to many threatened species.

Visit [About us](#) to see more about the Friends group. We warmly welcome new Friends and you can find out more about getting involved [here](#).

Details of our events and working bees can be found in the [Calendar](#) or in our regular newsletter [Bandicoot Tails](#).

[Bandicoot Tails newsletter](#)



Koala

[The new look website](#)



[A hillside of yuccas \(Xanthorrhoea semiplana ssp. semiplana\) in flower after the 2021 bushfire](#)

Spring.

Jason Tyndall

Spring has sprung! What a beautiful season it is. The wildflowers wake and within a few short weeks a mosaic of colour fills the trails throughout the Park. Stumpy lizards are emerging from their brumation (like hibernation) and the mornings are even more melodic with bush birds singing their hearts out as the sun rises. The fire affected areas will continue their process of healing and regeneration. It will be fascinating to see what emerges from the burnt ground. Perhaps new populations of threatened orchids will be found or other plants that haven't been cited in the Park for years will emerge – fire often paves the way for new life.

As spring sets in we are reminded that even though winter can be harsh and cold – the seasons do change and hope germinates from fertile soil – much like us in times of adversity. This spring, take a slow walk through the Park, phone off, and no intention of going anywhere. Just wander, listen and let gratitude find you.

Here are some life forms that you may encounter during spring:

White Spider Orchid (*Caladenia rigida*)

One of the rarest orchids in the Mt Lofty Ranges and listed as nationally endangered, our Park has a few scattered plants throughout. Although once common, grazing, land degradation and trampling has resulted in this beautiful orchid declining. What we do know is it can respond well to fire – so when you are exploring areas recovering from fire keep an eye out and if you spot one be sure to let Pete know so it can be recorded (and be very careful as they are such a rare gem).



Twining Fringe Lily (*Thysanotus patersonii*)

In late winter the green delicate tendrils emerge from soil following rain. As spring arrives buds appear as the plant begins to gently twine around surrounding plants. On sunny spring days the lilies open with their three finely-fringed petals. Unlike other twining plants, this one has little impact on whatever it twines onto. A beautiful sign that spring has arrived.



Spotted Donkey Orchids (*Diuris pardina*)

Of the two common donkey orchids in the Park the Spotted Donkey is the early bloomer followed by the larger Wallflower Donkey Orchid (*Diuris orientis*). Donkey orchids are bee pollinated and occur along paths scattered in small colonies. Orchids are a great way to engage children in the natural world as they are named in ways easy to remember (spider, donkey, helmet, mosquito, purple cockatoos etc) and also can teach children about sticking to paths and looking after the bush.



Common Froglet (*Crinia signifera*)

The familiar sound of 'crick-crick-crick-crick-crick' around Almanda carpark is the Common Froglet. A small frog to 3cm that attaches its eggs to leaves and twigs in the water from later winter into spring. Within four weeks they can go from tadpole to frog. Other frogs in the park include the well-known and much larger Banjo Frog, Spotted Marsh Frog and Brown Tree Frog. A great website to jump over to is FrogWatchSA which includes ID tools, sounds and opportunities to engage in citizen science.



A poem from the book *Where the Birds Sing and Wildflowers Dance* by Jason Tyndall that guides us into spring:

Nature, you have my heart

A language
of her own,
rhythms wrapped
in mystery.
She smiles
in wildflowers
and weeps
through the rain.
With every storm,
she is renewed;
stronger than
ever before.

Her effortless complexity
is woven into every leaf,
every grain of earth,
every breath of wind,
every trickling stream.

She tells stories
of wonder,
to all those
who listen.
How our hearts
can hear so much.

She teaches us lessons
in patience,
resilience,
and change.
She shows us
how the simplest
of things
can be the most
beautiful.

Below: Spectacular cloud formation seen at bushcare in July near Cup Gum Track.



Bushcare activities:

During winter, the Almanda Bush Gardening continued working along Bryophyte Flat, removing invasive weeds and protecting habitat and food plants for the Southern Brown Bandicoot. BandiBunch have continued their work between Scott Creek and Matthews Road, from Dorset Vale Road to Mackereth Cottage.

7th June 2022—cancelled due to wet weather.

12th June 2022—14 volunteers worked across the top of Viminaria Creek, entering from gate 6 on Gurr Road, to continue treating the large number of English Broom we started on the last Saturday of May. There were also a few other weeds treated, including Montpellier Broom, South African Daisy and Tree Lucerne, plus a patch of Watsonia.



Above left: English Broom hidden amongst native Varnish Wattle regrowth at the upper parts of Viminaria Creek.



Above right: Treating English Broom in the area at the top of Viminaria Creek.

Below left and right: Before and after photo of the team working on Sugar Gum growth at the old house site on the corner of Stringybark and Mount Bold Ridge Tracks.



25th June 2022—7 volunteers returned to the old house site near the corner of Stringybark and Mount Bold Ridge Tracks, near gate 9, to continue treating the numerous Sugar Gum and Tree Lucerne plants that came up after the fire. There were a few other weeds dealt with, including *Acacia longifolia*, Boneseed, South African Daisy and Black Nightshade.

5th July 2022—7 volunteers patrolled the eastern side of Scott Creek, at the northern end, treating many Montpellier Broom, Boneseed and South African Daisy. This followed up earlier contractor work in the area.



Above left: Mal using the tree popper to remove Cup Gum growth at the old house site near gate 9.



Above right: The team working on Montpellier Broom along the banks of Scott Creek at its northern end in the park.

10th July 2022—11 volunteers roamed the gullies and hillsides between Upper Fern Creek and Cup Gum Track, finding a few isolated Boneseed and Erica, but overall very pleased with the excellent condition the bushland is in this area.

23rd July 2022—11 volunteers followed up previous contractor work on Montpellier Broom near old gate 10 at Upper Mackereth Creek. There were many weeds found and dealt with, which tends to show spraying of these woody weeds, once they get much beyond seedlings, results in inconsistent results. This reflects what was seen in Scott Creek during June.

2nd August 2022—cancelled due to forecast rain and strong winds.

14th August 2022—13 volunteers patrolled either side of Bandicoot Track from gate 3 to the Crossroads, and then north along Currawong Ridge Track for Montpellier Broom, Tree Lucerne and English Broom, knocking off a few other miscellaneous weeds as we went.

27th August 2022—9 volunteers roamed across the hillside north of Mineshaft Track from gate 16, in the part that was burnt in the January 2021 fire. We treated many scattered Boneseed, including a number that were large and had started flowering. There were only four resprouting Erica found where a largish patch had previously been worked on, one of which was in bud. The area had a very large number of tall South African Daisy through the lower parts, showing that it had a history of disturbance. This reinforces the benefits of removing this weed that thrives on disturbance when it is found in small numbers in good quality bushland. Reducing its seed set in these areas means that when there is a fire, we get less of this and more of the native colonising Groundsel.



Above: What a view! Rick taking a break from bushcare for morning tea at Tom's seat on Cup Gum Track, after its restoration post-fire.

Peter and Glenn did some more spraying when the weather was compliant, including spraying Blue Periwinkle, thistles and bulb weeds near Mackereth Cottage, old gate 10 near Upper Mackereth Creek, and gate 8 near the corner of Mount Bold Ridge Track and Cup Gum Track.

There was also a patrol though the upper parts of Bushrat Creek checking for Montpellier Broom, where many seedlings were found in isolated small patches, but the overall reduction in number since contractor work started post-fire has been absolutely remarkable.

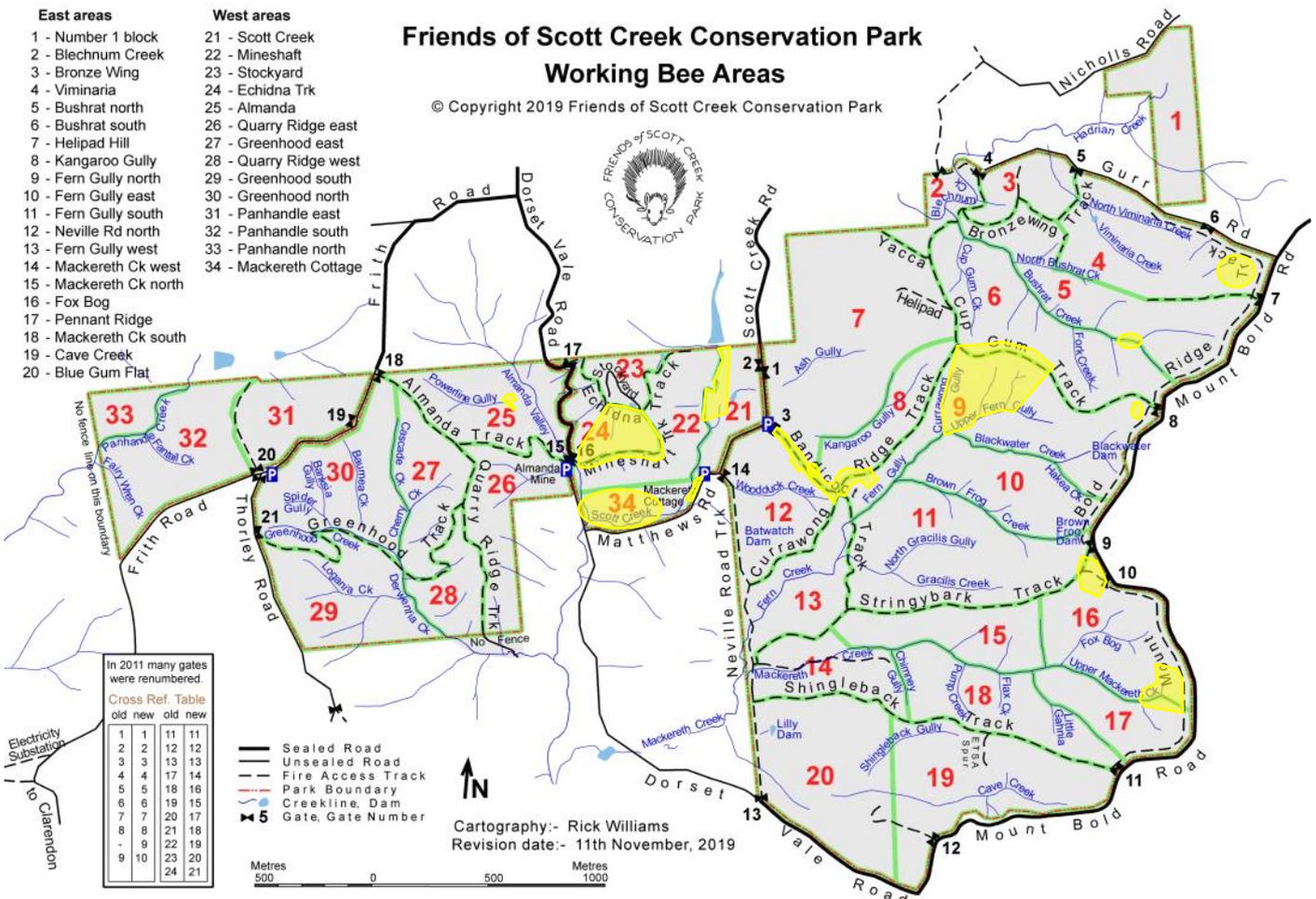
Other work included spraying some of the large infestation of Cape Tulip at upper Almada Valley and at around the junction of Bandicoot Track and the side track to the tanks overlooking Kangaroo Gully.

Peter Watton

Right: Montpellier Broom along Bandicoot Track.

Below left: Andrew tackling one of many scattered Boneseed north of Mineshaft Track, which had started flowering by the end of August.

Below right: Tree Lucerne seedlings still germinating alongside Currawong Ridge Track, 18 months post-fire.



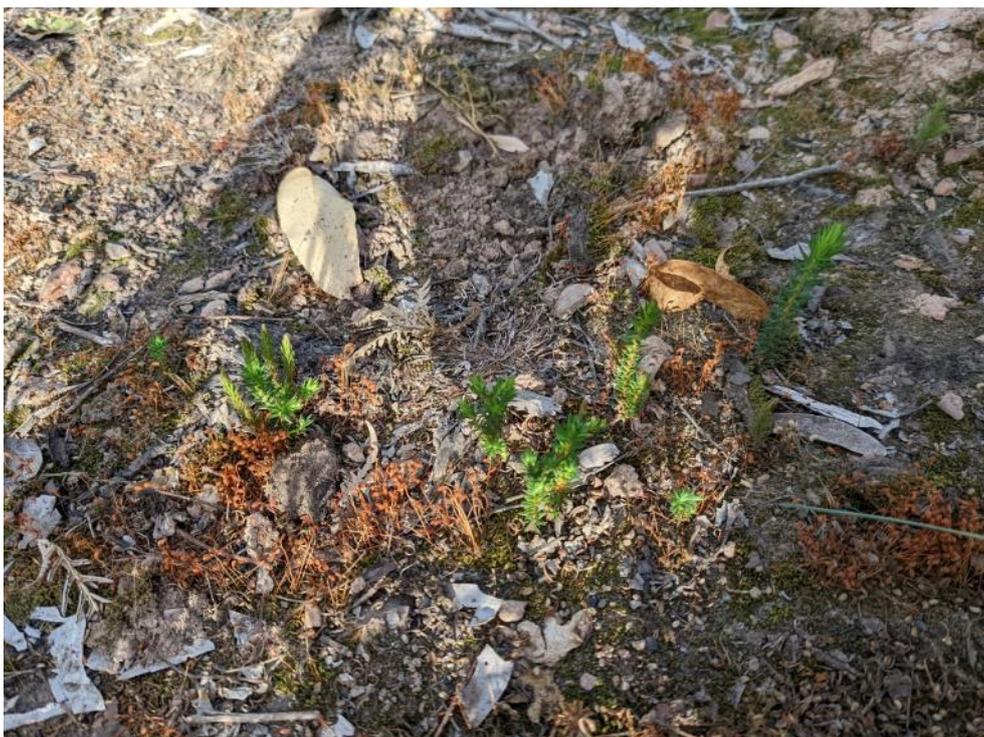
Almanda Bush Gardening:

We had just commenced work on the bushland we had named Bryophyte Flat when the so-called Cherry Gardens fire struck. It totally burnt the whole of the flat leaving nothing but black burned ground. There wasn't much we could do until the Autumn rains, so we spent some time planning our attack. Our plan was simple, as the new plants germinated just remove the plants we did not want and look after the ones we did.



Above: Bryophyte Flat - after the fire

The Australian bush managed disasters for millions of years and survived. It was well able to recover from a bushfire. A whole class of plants had evolved to restore the soil after such a disaster. We call them ruderals. Those who do not understand how the bush works shrug off ruderals as **“a plant species that is first to colonize disturbed lands”**. However! It is much more than that. Its job is to restore the soil so the bush can return to its former glory. Some examples are acacias, senecios and various grasses. These plants have an ‘evolutionary knowledge’ of what is required.



Above: Acrotriche seedlings



Above: Native cherry seedling.



Above: Young myoporum.



Above: Young goodia.

Unfortunately! We, in our ignorance, have introduced many ruderals that have a different 'evolutionary knowledge'. They are working to a different set of rules. Some examples are broom, gorse, erica and blackberry as well as many introduced grasses.

However! After a nice hot bushfire, many of the seeds that have accumulated in the soil are destroyed by the fire. This gives an opportunity to restore the bush simply by removing the introduced ruderals and encouraging the indigenous ones.

We started by collecting corflute tree guards. A guard would protect the special plants. We would remove the nasties. This sounds easier than it was. The main problem being that when the rains came, the whole flat exploded with life – mostly weeds. But how do you tell? They all look much the same when the first leaf appears.

Starting at the western end we systematically went through removing the ones we knew were weeds and protecting the ones we knew were goodies. It took about 8 months to get to the eastern end of the flat. At this stage it was interesting to see the results.

We had completed the first sixth in about a month. It was clear that we had acted too early. It had covered with weeds that germinated after we had passed. These had matured and gone to seed. It did not look much better as a result of our work.

The middle two thirds was brilliant. It took about 4 months, and the result was just as we had planned. A mass of manna gum seedlings, Acacia seedlings, native grasses and much more.



Above: A forest of young manna gums.

By the time we got to the last quarter it was a mass of weeds that had gone to seed and bracken. Although bracken is an indigenous, it seemed to us that it was a bit too invasive and wanted to form a monoculture. So! We removed it. These weeds had smothered the plants we wanted. It took about three months and in the end it was basically bare.

We then commenced the second run starting over at the western end. Unfortunately, it is now fairly bare but there are some good patches. The centre bit is fantastic. The eastern end was won by the bracken, so it is now fairly bare.



Above: A forest of dead willows.

Along the northern side of Scott Creek, the creek is looking good. When we were working along Bryophyte Flat, we noticed the epicormic shoots on the manna gums. They started at the base of the tree and gradually moved up the tree. We decided that was all about getting water back up to the top of the tree. If the basal epicormic shoots were removed, the tree would probably die. We used the same theory on the willows and now most of the willow trees along the northern side of Scott Creek are dead.

This presents us with another problem. Scott Creek between the cottage and Dorset Vale bridge is a beautiful creek. It is defined by the willow trees. Without the willows, will the creek just become a drain like it is further east? We are now growing rushes and sedges to take the place of the willows. Hopefully we can retain the present form of the creek.



Above: Once blackberries – now tassel sedge.

We were also concerned at the removal of the bandicoot shelter provided by the blackberries. We left a few patches to allow the blackberries to return. We also planted out an area that we hoped would become a

bandicoot shelter, using native blackberries (or raspberries as South Australians call them for some strange reason) and the three species of billardiera left in the area. Unfortunately, the local wildlife (kangaroos and deer) thought they were pretty good to eat, so we had to replant in autumn.

We also put some thought into increasing the bandicoot food supply and planted a few hundred chocolate lilies, leek-lilies and yam daisies, hoping they may like them.

We have now removed the corflute guards which did a fantastic job. If anyone wants some corflute tree guards, then now is the time to ask. We have a thousand or two left over.

John Wamsley

Funding and Contractor report:

Funding update:

- Submitted the acquittal for our 2020-21 NPWS On-Park Volunteer Support Grant for \$5,500 (including GST).
- Submitted the acquittal for our Department for Environment and Water funding for \$27,500 (including GST) and held by Friends of Parks Inc.
- Submitted the acquittal and final report for the Nature Foundation Wildlife Recovery Fund grant of \$25,000 and we have received the additional \$3,000 approved.
- Contacted by Nature Conservation Society of SA to advise they wanted to fund \$3,000 in contractor bushcare in Scott Creek, along the stretch between the creekline and Matthews Road, under funding they have under the Bandicoot Superhighway Project.
- Submitted the first budget report for our three year 2021-22 NPWS On-Park Volunteer Support Grant under the Partnership Grants Program. A submission has been submitted adjusting the timelines for this grant, as the funding was delayed and DEW offered this option. Awaiting approval.
- Our Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board Grassroots Grant for \$3,000 has been approved and funds lodged with Friends of Parks Inc.



Above: Watsonia treated by contractors in Kangaroo Gully this August.



Above left: English Broom sprayed near gate 1 on Scott Creek Road, a challenging weed to kill using this technique, but, in open ground like this, a much more efficient primary treatment than hand weeding or cutting and swabbing.



Above right: The Cape Tulip treated in 2021 in Fern Creek was very effective, with few new leaves emerged amongst the dead material left from last year.

Below is a list of the main work that contractors have completed during winter:

- Panhandle—TFL Works treated Erica and Sollya in the north-western corner, with some funding leftover from the above Green Adelaide Grassroots Grants Program, supplementing work funded by a NPWS On-Park Volunteer Support Grant under the Small Grants Program.
- Gate 3 either side of Bandicoot Track and Kangaroo Gully—TFL Works followed up last year's spray treatment of bulb weeds, focussing mainly on Cape Tulip along Bandicoot Track and a patch near the Kangaroo Gully Dam, then Freesia, Watsonia and other miscellaneous bulb weeds in the area.
- Pennant Ridge—Mint Green followed up last year's spray treatment of Cape Tulip, funded from our new Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board Grassroots Grant.

The above Nature Foundation Society of SA funded work, as part of the Bandicoot Superhighway project, is being arranged with Mint Green, treating Blackberry and Willows on the south side of Scott Creek alongside Matthews Road.

Other work being scheduled includes more follow-up of last year's spray treatment of Cape Tulip, Watsonia and other bulb weeds along Neville Road Track, in Fern Creek and from Batwatch Dam to gate 14, follow-up treatment of seedling and resprouted Erica and previous spray treatment of English Broom above North Bushrat Creek junction, and follow-up of previous treatment of Erica, English Broom Blackberry and various other weeds near gate 1.

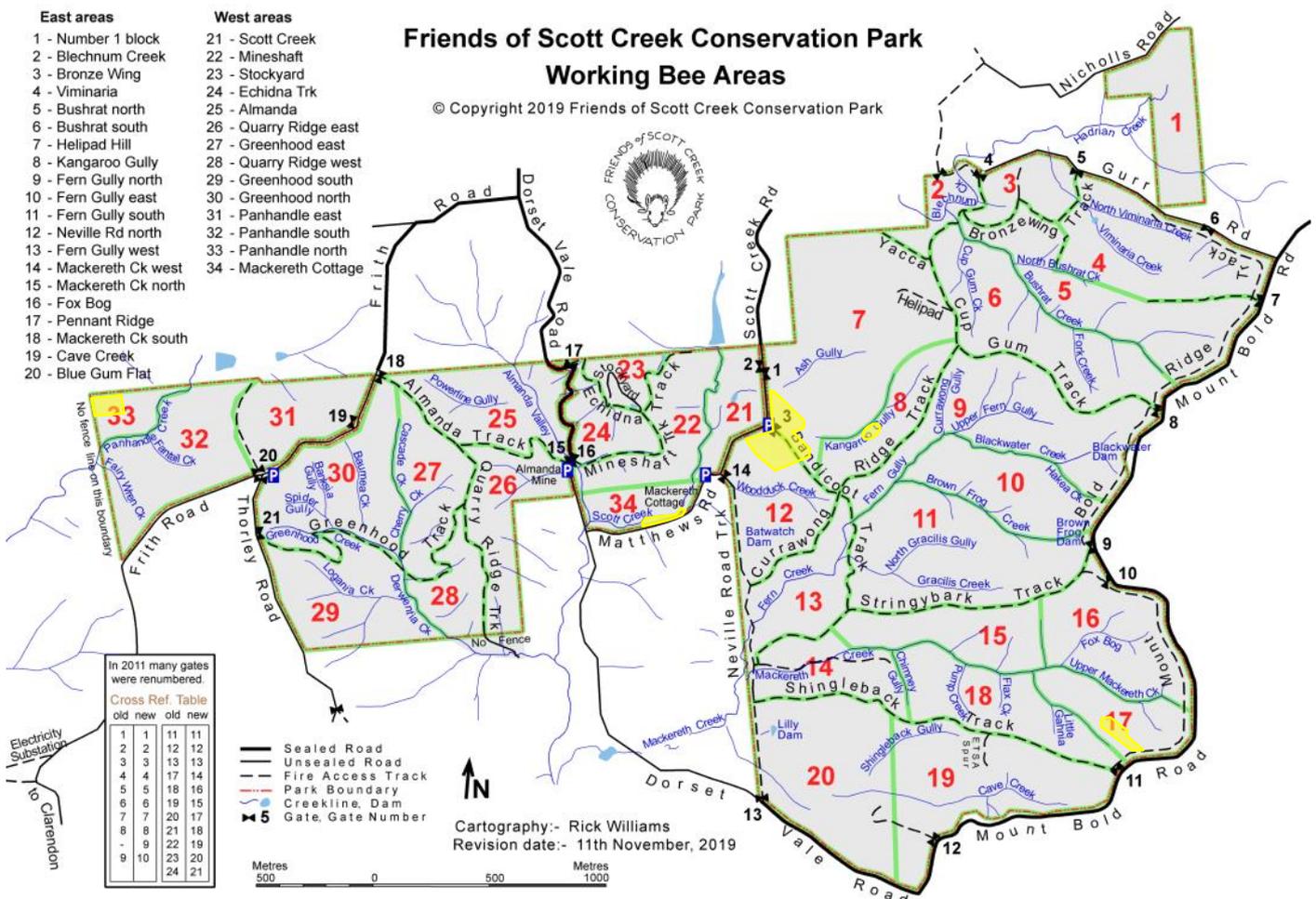
Peter Watton

Bushcare—Grants & Funding, Contractor Liaison & Reporting



Government of South Australia

Department for Environment and Water



Bird Banding Notes: June—August 2022



Above: Spotted Pardalote banded at our Gurr Road site at gate 4.

We have tried to keep the momentum going over the winter quarter. All our banding has been in the 2021 fire area with only one on the 'fringe' (Gurr Road).

We had some improved numbers at Kangaroo Gully and Pennant Ridge. However, the bulk of these two days came in a rush of Striated Thornbills and Superb Fairy-wrens with a little help from Red-browed Finches.

The safe habitat for small birds is gradually returning after the fire, but the honeyeaters which are notable by their absence, clearly have not yet found the food they need. We will be watching the trees in the next quarter for blossoming activity but so far it looks like the flowering will be light this year.

This quarter we only captured 5 honeyeaters and 9 last year. Before the fire, in 2020 for the same season, we captured 61 – it was a great year for New Holland Honeyeaters. The birds which are around are increasingly the long-term residents. 18 of our captures have been through the nets before representing a recapture rate of 22.8%. We had one old-timer Striated Thornbill at 9+ years and a New Holland Honeyeater at Gurr Road at 6+ years. Both birds obviously found refuge during the 2021 fire.

Species observations have been down to around 18 at each outing, improving to an encouraging 26 each day at Gurr Road. A Peaceful Dove has been heard a few times without an actual sighting, but their call is distinctive. Raptors are around with several sightings of Wedge-tailed Eagles and a pair of Brown Goshawks was seen at Gurr Road.

Bird	18/19 Jun Mackereth Cottage	2 July Kangaroo Gully	7 Aug Pennant Ridge	21 Aug Cross Roads	27/28 Aug Gurr Road	Total
Brown Thornbill			1			1
Buff-rumped Thornbill			2		1	3
Golden Whistler	1				1	2
Crescent Honeyeater	1					1
Crimson Rosella (Adelaide)				1		1
Yellow-faced Honeyeater			1			1
New Holland Honeyeater					3	3
Red-browed Finch		7				7
Scarlet Robin		1	1		1	3
White-browed Scrubwren					3	3
Silvereeye			7		1	8
Spotted Pardalote					1	1
White-throated Treecreeper		1				1
Striated Thornbill	5	9	9		3	26
Superb Fairy-wren	2	8	1	4	2	17
Common Blackbird					1	1
TOTAL	9	26	22	5	17	79



Above left: A pair of Superb Fairy-wren.



Above right: Smile for the camera—female Scarlet Robin.



Above: Crimson Rosella (Adelaide), a two person job, Jim holds the beak away from Peter's fingers as he removes it from the net. We only recently obtained the necessary special bands so that we can band parrots and rosellas as part of our project.

In the background we have been active in renewing our Wildlife Ethics Committee permit and the project with the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme. All our data is sent to the ABBBS for a national resource of bird records in Australia.

We are going back to banding on both weekend days when scheduled for the next quarter, in the hope that we can track how the birds are returning for the spring season. Please check the program at the end of this newsletter for dates and times. If you would like to receive an email notice, get in touch with me at president@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au.

Jim Spiker
Bird Banding Coordinator



Above left: White-throated Treecreeper.



Above right: Red-browed Finch.

Photo Gallery:



Above left to right: Spotted Donkey-orchid (*Diuris pardina*), Blunt Greenhood (*Pterostylis curta*), Small Gnat-orchid (*Cyrstostylis reniformis*)



Above left: Slender Riceflower (*Pimelea linifolia* ssp. *linifolia*).

Above right: Climbing Sundew (*Drosera macrantha* ssp. *planchonii*).

Below left: Neckless Fern (*Asplenium flabellifolium*).

Below right: Native Lilac (*Hardenbergia violacea*).



Photo Gallery:



Above left: Elegant Parrot.



Above right: Scarlet Robin.



Above left: Fungi.



Above right: Fungi.



Above left: Eastern Brown Snake.



Above right: Sawfly larvae.

Photo Gallery:

There has been some threatened species recovery work undertaken with some of the plant species in the Park. In partnership with NPWSSA, the Seed Conservation Centre of SA, Green Adelaide, Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and Trees For Life, FoSCCP has been involved in reintroducing the nationally vulnerable Leafy Greenhood (*Pterostylis cucullata* ssp. *silvicola*), and reinforcing existing populations of nationally critically endangered Mt Lofty Speedwell (*Veronica derwentiana* ssp. *homalodonta*), nationally endangered Bayonet Spider-orchid (*Caladenia gladiolata*), state endangered Tall Daisy (*Brachyscome diversifolia*), and state rare Showy Copper-wire Daisy (*Podolepis jaceoides*). These are important actions to help protect and enhance these threatened species, particularly in the post-fire environment.



Above left: Mt Lofty Speedwell (*Veronica derwentiana* ssp. *homalodonta*).

Above left: Bayonet Spider-orchid (*Caladenia gladiolata*).

Photo Gallery:



Above left: Leafy Greenhood (*Pterostylis cucullata* ssp. *sylvicola*).

Above right: Tall Daisy (*Brachyscome diversifolia*).

Photo Gallery:

Friends group member Anna took some sciencey friends to the Almanda Mine site and quarry on a weekend in June and they all loved the layering and colours of the quarry. One was a hydrogeologist and was able to explain a bit about the when the sedimentation was formed and the chemical inclusions.



Above: Some of the layering and colours the group (shown in the photo top left) enjoyed, with Anna bottom right (no, she's not really leaning over, that's the angle the photo was taken!) - photos supplied by Anna.

Calendar of Environmental Events coming up:

September is National Biodiversity Month

September is National Biodiversity Month which means it is time to celebrate plants and animals.

Biodiversity is the variety of all living things around us. Australia's biodiversity is rich and unique, it is home to more than 500,000 animal and plant species, many of which are found nowhere else – making Australia one of the world's 'megadiverse' countries. Native vegetation is a vital component of our nation's biodiversity with most of our plant species endemic to the continent.

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Program has identified 16 other megadiverse countries: Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, United States, Philippines, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa and Venezuela. Being a developed nation, we have an extra special responsibility to take care of our native species.

www.nationaltrust.org.au

How can we protect biodiversity?

We can protect biodiversity by preserving habitats and ecosystems (Australian Museum, 2018). We can assist in protecting Australia's natural biodiversity by:

- Creating a natural ecosystem in your garden,
- Replacing non-native vegetation with local native species,
- Not releasing unwanted pets into the natural environment,
- Trying to keep pets inside (or contained in a secure environment),
- Utilising the natural environment in an environmentally sustainable way, i.e. clean up after yourself and not picking wildflowers,
- Supporting or volunteering with a not-for-profit organisation that protects biodiversity values,
- Make responsible food choices – Be an informed eater, purchasing food from socially and sustainably responsible growers. Try to reduce food wastage by only buying what you need.

www.integratesustainability.com.au

Thursday 1st September is National Wattle Day

Why do we celebrate National Wattle Day?

We celebrate National Wattle Day to celebrate Australia and being Australian.

We celebrate National Wattle Day because:

- National Wattle Day includes everyone;
- Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) is our national floral emblem. It is a symbol that comes directly from our land;
- Golden Wattle is a unifying symbol of Australia and Australians. There is no other symbol that says so much about us and our land, Australia;
- Wattles are Australian with great diversity (more than 1,071 species) and resilience like our people;
- Wattle welcomes the spring, and is among the first plants to regenerate after fire, reminding us of the importance of renewal as it paints our national colours across our landscapes; and
- All wattles remind us of Australia and Australians.

www.wattleday.asn.au



Wednesday 7th September is Threatened Species Day

7 September marks an important date in Australian history—the death of the last remaining Tasmanian tiger.

On 7 September each year, many people stop and reflect on the fact that on that same date in 1936, Australia's Tasmanian tiger, also known as the thylacine (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*), slipped over the extinction line. Sixty years later in 1996, the Threatened Species Network founded by WWF-Australia and the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust established National Threatened Species Day to commemorate the death of the last Tasmanian tiger at Hobart Zoo.

National Threatened Species Day is a day when we shine a spotlight on all the Australian native animal and plant species that are facing similar fates to that of the Tasmanian tiger. Today we celebrate our iconic Aussie wildlife and the incredible conservation work to restore our environment is our mission to Regenerate Australia.

Over the last eighteen months, since the devastating 2019/20 bushfires, we've collaborated with our dedicated partners to conduct on-the-ground projects and we're already seeing results. From discovering the silver-headed antechinus population in Queensland survived the megafires to rewilding the brush-tailed bettong on South Australia's Yorke Peninsula, we have restored habitat, re-introduced species and taken steps to safeguard the future of our diverse ecosystems.

Over 518 native species are currently listed as threatened under Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999, and after the catastrophic bushfires in 2019-20 with nearly 3 billion animals impacted, many of these species are being pushed further towards extinction.

This National Threatened Species Day, it's time to reflect on all the species we've lost and work together to protect what remains. Join us on our mission to Regenerate Australia and help to conserve Australia's precious wildlife and their homes for generations to come.

www.wwf.org.au/what-we-do/species/national-threatened-species-day

Sunday 25th September is World Rivers Day

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and encourages the improved stewardship of rivers around the world.



"Rivers are the arteries of our planet; they are lifelines in the truest sense." *Mark Angelo*

www.worldriversday.com

Saturday 1st to Friday 7th October is Australian Wildlife Week

Australian Wildlife Week was established by the Society in 2019 and is celebrated across the country during the first week of October to encourage a positive relationship between humanity and nature.

Unfortunately, due to direct anthropogenic impacts, Australia's wildlife has suffered significant declines since European colonisation. Land clearing, invasive species, and climate change are substantial threats to wildlife ecosystems and are key contributing factors to the loss of Australia's threatened species.



The Society has established many projects over time to help safeguard Australia's wildlife. The President of the Australian Wildlife Society, Dr Julie Old, said "We hope to raise awareness of wildlife conservation issues across Australia and inspire all Australians to explore and develop a deeper understanding of these issues, gain the necessary skills to make informed decisions, and implement wildlife conservation action where possible."

This year, we are hosting an Art Display, Video Competition, and Online Webinar to celebrate Australian Wildlife Week.

www.aws.org.au/Australian-wildlife-week-2022/

Monday 17th to Sunday 23rd October is the Aussie Backyard Bird Count

How to get involved.

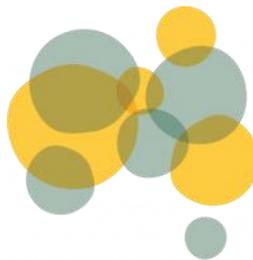
The #AussieBirdCount is a great way to connect with the birds in your backyard no matter where your backyard happens to be—a suburban backyard, a local park, a patch of forest, down by the beach, or the main street of town.

You can count as many times as you like over the week, we just ask that each count is completed over a 20-minute period. The data collected assists BirdLife Australia in understanding more about the birds that live where people live.

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>

Saturday 12th to Sunday 20th November is Australian Pollinator Week

Australian Pollinator Week acknowledges our important and unique insect pollinators during our southern spring (November). It is a designated week when community, business and organisations can come together to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and support their needs.



**Australian
Pollinator
Week.** 12–20
Nov 2022

www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au

Australia has lots of wild pollinator insects that are often overlooked. European honey bees get a lot of attention because they are an adaptable, generalist forager, which means they are happy to visit almost any flower, in most climate zones. They are also a social species, so their hives are easy to domesticate and manage.

However, many native insects also contribute to pollination in crops and gardens all around the country. We still need to do a lot of research to identify all our pollinator insect species, understand their ecology and how they are affected by human activities. So far, we know that Australia has around 2,000 native bee species, all of which are important pollinators. We also know there are a couple of thousand butterfly, wasp, fly, moth, beetle, thrips and ant species, some of which are documented pollinators. Unfortunately, we don't have a lot of information on the ecology of many of these insects, what flowers they pollinate, or where they are found.

The Wild Pollinator Count gives you an opportunity to contribute to wild pollinator insect conservation in Australia. We invite you to count wild pollinators in your local environment and help us build a database on wild pollinator activity.

There are no counts scheduled in 2022.

<https://wildpollinatorcount.com>



Spring Program of Activities September–November 2022

The Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park welcome visitors to all of our activities, which include regular bushcare, bird banding and bush gardening.

For enquiries and information: E info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au W www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

Bushcare activities: meet at 9.00am, Almada Mine Car Park, Dorset Vale Rd

Be prepared for walking through sometimes rugged bushland, including areas recovering from fire, and bring a small back pack to carry your morning tea.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Local activities will be cancelled if a fire ban or severe weather warning is 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.

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

CFS website: https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans_and_ratings

Month/Day	Date	Activity	Location
SEPTEMBER 2022			
Tuesday	6	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Sunday	11	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Saturday, Sunday	17, 18	Bird Banding	FB: Fox Bog, Gate 9, 6.30 am
Tuesday	20	Social Lunch All Welcome	Joan's Pantry—Hawthorndene at noon (Watahuna Ave opposite the oval)
Saturday	24	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Sunday	25	Nature Festival	Open Day incl. public walks in the Park with NaturePlay SA
OCTOBER 2022			
Tuesday	4	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Sunday	9	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Saturday, Sunday	15, 16	Bird Banding	TC: Twisted Chimney, Gate 13, 6.30 am
Tuesday	18	General Mtg All Welcome!	Butler residence, 5 Trevelyan Court, Coromandel Valley, 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Sunday	23	Social outing All Welcome	SA Museum: Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of 2020 exhibition, meet 10.30am in its coffee shop
Wednesday	26	Social Lunch All Welcome	Joan's Pantry—Hawthorndene at noon (Watahuna Ave opposite the oval)
Saturday, Sunday	29, 30	Bird Banding	PH: The Panhandle, Gate 20, 6.30 am
NOVEMBER 2022			
Tuesday	1	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Saturday, Sunday	5, 6	Bird Banding	DV: Derwentia Valley, via Thorley Rd & Gate 23, 6.30 am
Sunday	13	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Tuesday	15	AGM All Welcome!	Scott Creek Hall, 517 Scott Creek Road, Scott Creek (opposite school oval), 7.30pm
Saturday, Sunday	19, 20	Bird Banding	MC: Mackereth Cottage, Cottage Carpark, 6.00 am
Thursday	24	Social Lunch All Welcome	Joan's Pantry—Hawthorndene at noon (Watahuna Ave opposite the oval)
Saturday	26	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location

Office bearers:

Any queries on Friends activities, please contact the relevant person below, general queries to info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

President: Jim Spiker (M) 0430 247 705, Email: president@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

Vice President: Peter Watton (M) 0427 010 949, Email: info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

Treasurer: Andrew Biven, (M) 0404 878 344, Email: treasurer@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

Correspondence Secretary: Diana Wright Email: secretary@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

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

Minute Secretary: Vacant—please let us know if you would be able to help with this role

Membership Officer: Lorraine Billett (H) 8278 6623 (M) 0427 093 839, Email: lorry66@tpg.com.au

Other roles and positions:

Bird Banding Coordinator: Jim Spiker (contact details above)

Bushcare Coordinator: Jenny Dawes (contact details above)

Assistant Bushcare Coordinator: Glenn Giles (M) 0413 615 514, Email: gilesgd81@gmail.com

Bushcare — Grants & Funding, Contractor Liaison & Reporting: Peter Watton (contact details above)

Bush Gardening Almada Creek: John Wamsley (M) 0407 716 074, Email: john@johnwamsley.com

Editor Bandicoot Tails & Facebook: Peter Watton (contact details above)

Website Coordinator: Anna Dutkiewicz (M) 0415 494 090 , Email: webmaster@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

Social & Events Coordinators: Jenny Dawes (contact details above), Sue Braddock-Smith (M) 0447 028 458, Email: almada11@bigpond.com

