



Bandicoot Tails

Newsletter of the Friends of Scott Creek
Conservation Park

No. 191
June—August 2023

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

Welcome to your winter edition of *Bandicoot Tails*.

During winter, our scheduled bushcare activities will start at 9.00am, meeting at the nearest gate for the location of the activity. An email will be sent to bushcarers advising the location in advance. Any new members can contact the leader on info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au to receive the emails.

Unless otherwise indicated, all articles and photos by Peter Watton. Please send any contributions for the spring edition to info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au by mid-August.

The President's words:

Back in the 90's the big thing was how people communicate with each other. There was a study that went viral throughout the training education scene. It was quoted in tertiary courses, made its way as evidence into text-books on communication and seemed to have a dominant place in journals and magazines. That's the build-up. What was discovered (and 'proven') in a university study was that 91% of communication between people is non-verbal. That is: the words don't really contain the message – it is all in body language (53%) and tone of voice (38%) with the actual words conveying only 9% of meaning.

All the touchy-feely people loved it. You could swan around mumbling and humming and everyone was supposed to know exactly what you meant, because meaning is communicated non-verbally. Really? Some people obviously liked the idea because it made it into degree courses...but wait. Little by little it just did not make sense. But there was evidence – right? Well, yes there was.

When in doubt check your sources. The original study was conducted in a small university somewhere in the USA, (wait, don't get cynical) and it was briefly done this way. Six university students, one by one, spoke one word – 'maybe', in a room that was soundproofed from observers who guessed what was said. The conclusion was that in this experiment the 53%, 38%, 9% rule applied.

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For the cynical amongst us, the researchers never said that this was about ALL communication – just what was revealed in these six people. Less discriminating people just ran away with the idea.

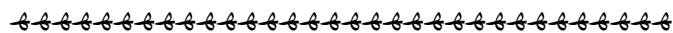
Application. When we are quoted “the evidence says that what we do for the environment is causing greater harm than leaving it alone”, then we can pleasantly thank the observer and then together check the original for: who said it?, who paid for it?, what was the research model?, can it be replicated here?

When we have done that exercise then we may still be in a scientific muddle. Because contrary to popularist thinking, science is not about making one-off discoveries that apply for all time. We keep discovering new bits of information that modify and challenge ‘accepted wisdom’.

In the end, there is a lot of good common sense to be had in just going about making a difference and learning as we go. We should not however be disheartened by those who troll offensively without providing reliable information about their ‘evidence’.

Jim Spiker

President Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park.



Rotary Club of Burnside Parks Awards:

The Parks Awards set out to recognise both paid service and volunteer activities of those looking after our National Parks and are an annual event organised by the Rotary Club of Burnside. The award has been presented since 1983 (formerly Ranger of the Year) and in 1988, the Volunteer of the Parks award was introduced.

In May the nominees, including our Vice President, Peter Watton, gathered at the Kensington Hotel, for the presentations. Congratulations to the winners:

Volunteer of the Park:	Kevin Mott, Friends of Mount Gambier Area Parks
Leadership in Conservation:	Ross Anderson, District Ranger, Lower South East

Right: Nominees for Volunteer of the Park, with winner Kevin Mott third from right.

Below: Nominees for Leadership in Conservation, with winner Ross Anderson far right.

Photo credit: David Dewar



In memory of Don Reid:

On a misty autumn day in May, a small group of “Friends” and family gathered at the corner of Neville Road Track and Stringybark Track, to dedicate a memorial seat to Don. The timing was to coincide with a short visit to Adelaide by his son Mark, who lives in America. Unfortunately, while the concrete slab for the seat had been prepared by NPWS staff (thanks very much for this), the seat itself was not quite ready in time.

The location was one of Don’s favourite bird banding spots in the park, at the start of Twisted Chimney Track, and the get-together followed a successful morning’s banding there. There were a few words spoken by Jim and Mark, and Don’s daughter, Kerry, read a poem in the grand tradition of Don, with accent included.

We then shared a lovely lunch and cuppa, and had a couple of commemorative photos taken.

We will let everyone know when the seat is installed with a photo and Facebook post.

Clockwise from top left: Gathered under the gazebo to share some words; Kerry reading a poem; the family on the memorial seat’s footings—Mark, Kerry, Lisa and Donna; a group photo (thanks for taking the photo Betty).



Autumn walk in the park:

Our autumn park walk was delayed a day due to inclement weather and took place on Sunday 16th April. We had about 20 visitors join the Friends in a walk from gate 3 up Bandicoot Track to visit Jim and our bird banding team at the Crossroads, to see what this long term project entails. The timing was just right for people to see some birds being banded, measured and released, with Jim explaining the process.

We then wandered along Currawong Ridge Track, stopping here and there to have a look at the regeneration of the vegetation since the Cherry Gardens fire, where Peter would explain a bit about what we were looking at and what had happened. Then we headed up Cup Gum Track to Tom's Outlook, where we stopped for a break and some morning tea. Afterwards, some of us walked to the end of Cup Gum Track, before we all returned the same way we came, just as the bird banding team were also packing up for the day. All in all a great morning in the park!



Above: Walkers visit bird banding at the Crossroads.
Below: Peter holding court on Currawong Ridge Track.
(photo credits Jen Pitman)



Above: Jim with a Yellow-faced Honeyeater. (photo credit Jen Pitman)
Below: Returning back along Currawong Ridge Track.



Below: A beautiful image of fungi captured by Jen Pitman along the walk.



Below: There were many tiny Parson's Bands (*Eriochilus collinus*) at Tom's Outlook.



Winter is here

Jason Tyndall

Here are some things to see as winter sets in:

Yellow Navel

As winter arrives the fungi and lichen are in full bloom. Some large and boisterous, other soft and delicate. Unknown to many, the Yellow Navel is actually a lichen and not a fungi. As the wet weather sets in bare areas of earth will often be covered in little forests of this yellow gem.



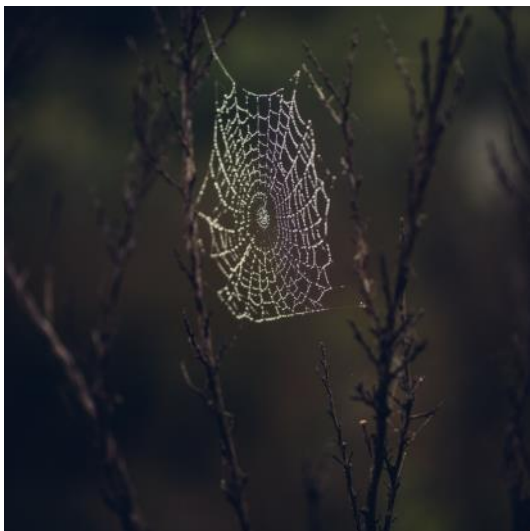
Mosquito Orchid

As autumn turns to winter a handful of orchids are in full bloom. Parson's Bands (*Eriochilus cucullatus*), Midge Orchids (*Genoplesium* species), Hare Orchid (*Leporella fimbriata*), and the Mosquito Orchid (*Acianthus pusillus*). The heart-shaped leaves of the Mosquito Orchid resemble the larger and later flowering Mayfly Orchid (*Acianthus caudatus*) and the Gnat Orchids (*Cyrtostylis reniformis* and *C. robusta*). A key difference is that the underside of *Acianthus* is purple/maroon while *Cyrtostylis* is green. You will find them growing in colonies around gum trees, yaccas and other sheltered areas.



Spiders

Throughout the park there are a number of spiders on the move such as male mouse spiders, trapdoors, and wolf spiders. These ambush predators live in burrows – however it's the web-dwelling spiders that create silk masterpieces that, when covered in water droplets, look like diamonds. An early morning hike will reward you with hundreds of these treasures.



Short-beaked Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*)

Winter is the season where you are likely to encounter Echidna trains – up to eight males following a single female in the hope they will father her 'puggle'. Signs of Echidnas can be seen around ant mounds, disturbances in soil, and through their scats – which have ant exoskeletons through them.



Beyond winter

There are times when
our hearts can be
so full of winter.
Parts of us remain
dormant like the bulbs
of lilies buried deep
in the soil.
But beyond the
mountains of winter,
spring waits
where the wildflowers
will bloom once again
and wonder will
fill our days.

Jason Tyndall, 2023

Below: Pennant Ridge on a misty morning in May.



How is our new look Friend's website going?

The new look website <http://friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au/> was launched August 2022.



Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [The Park](#) [Gallery](#) [Support the Park](#) [Calendar](#) [Contact Us](#)



A great way to tell how people are using the website is through website statistics. We find it fascinating and wanted to share some of the stats with you!

Since it launched, the website is averaging around 20 visitors per day. Each visitor has a good look around the website and checks out our different webpages. These statistics are called *Hit Statistics*.

Hit Statistics

Reload ▲



Number of visitors and page visits for March 2023

The majority of visitors are from Australia. But we do get visitors from the United States, Europe and other countries. So, lots of people are finding out about this beautiful and biodiverse part of the Adelaide Hills and the work being done to care for it.

The most popular page is the [Homepage](#) followed by [Bandicoot Tails](#), then [About Us](#), [Contact Us](#), [Walking Trails](#) and more. We are delighted that the *Bandicoot Tails* newsletter is being downloaded, and not just the most recent issues! There is lots of interest in back issues from our [Bandicoot Tails Archive](#) going back to the early issues from 1995.

Bandicoot Tail Issue (release date)	January	February	March	April
Autumn issue 190 (28 Feb 2023)	-	4	22	23
Summer issue 189 (5 Dec 2022)	11	71	5	2
Spring issue 188 (5 Sept 2022)	33	2	2	2
Other archived issues	18	19	10	24
Total downloads per month	62	96	36	51

Number of Bandicoot Tails downloaded in 2023 by month

Happy website exploring!

Anna Dutkiewicz

Webmaster

webmaster@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

Opera house style yabby nets to be banned:

Adelaide Hills Council News—Hills Voice May 2023

Adelaide Hills Council are celebrating a win for biodiversity with the South Australian Government announcing it will ban the use of opera house style yabby nets (OHT's), effective from 1 July 2023.

The welcomed change is set to protect native aquatic fauna at risk from the use of the enclosed style nets and bring South Australia in line with the majority of the other Australian States.

"This is a huge win for all wildlife adversely affected by these traps," said Adelaide Hills Council Biodiversity Officer, Tonia Brown.

"This regulatory change will help to protect species such as Rakali (Water-rats), Platypus and fresh-water turtles that have been continued to be exposed to this serious threat."

Adelaide Hills Council has been a long-time advocate for these changes, with considerable efforts put into educating residents and lobbying the State Government for an immediate ban on enclosed yabby nets. "This decision further compliments Council's continued commitment to managing biodiversity across all Council owned lands, including waterways and lakes, through its Biodiversity Strategy and Council Bylaws."

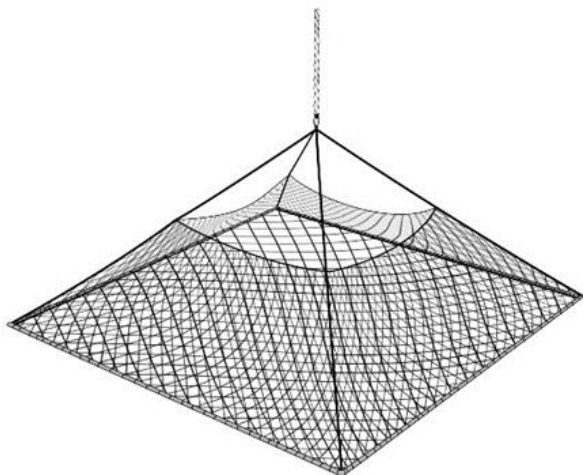
The ban will impact all fishers across the State, both recreational and commercial. Fishers will still be able to use pyramid nets for yabby fishing, allowing people across South Australia to fish for yabbies without the need to change gear.

For more information about the types of permitted fishing equipment permissible after the 1 July 2023 see the Department of Primary Industries and Regions website.

Right: Opera house style yabby nets, which will be banned in SA from 1st July 2023 (Australian Platypus Conservancy).

Below right: A Rakali swimming (photo credit Colin Phil Cook).

Below: Pyramid nets will still be able to be used for yabby fishing (PIRSA website).



Square-tailed Kite tracking:

Green Adelaide News – May 2023

A landmark project from Green Adelaide has seen satellite trackers placed on 2 square-tailed kites for the first time, in a bid to shed light on these rare birds of prey.

Two young female squared-tailed kites – nicknamed Betty and Goldie – have been fitted with satellite trackers to understand their movements and determine the habitat restoration activities that could support these local birds of prey into the future.

Over the last decade, there have been as few as 3 known square-tailed kite breeding pairs seen annually in SA.

Green Adelaide ecologist Jason van Weenen said this project, as part of Green Adelaide’s rewilding efforts, aims to better understand the characteristics of foraging habitats for the birds.

“Given the rarity of square-tailed kites in South Australia, this project will help build our knowledge of local critical habitat for the species,” Mr van Weenen said.

“Square-tailed kites are known to prefer forest and woodland areas, and satellite tracking will provide useful information on the amount and type of preferred habitat of the birds.

“As higher order predators, the presence of square-tailed kites is a great indication of a healthy ecosystem.”

The tracking project has involved extensive planning and monitoring of juvenile breeding pairs from volunteers and experts, to ensure satellite trackers were fitted at the right time to trace the birds’ movements once they leave their nests.

Mr van Weenen said the project is already providing valuable insights about these birds of prey.

“The birds did spend lots of time around their nesting area after first flying, honing their skills to become independent,” Mr van Weenen said.

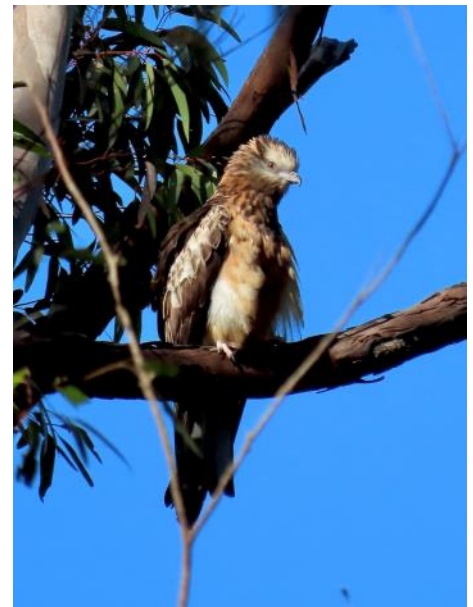
“Goldie was the first to leave the nest, followed by Betty who left 2 weeks later.

“The satellite data we’re receiving is building a picture of the sort of distances the young birds are travelling.

“The data will help take some of the guess work out of where these birds spend their time through autumn and winter, when they disappear from the greater Adelaide area,” Mr van Weenen said.

This project paves the way for more trackers to be placed on the juveniles during the next breeding season from August to understand how habitat protection and enhancement could support the rare species.

Green Adelaide is leading this project to learn more about square-tailed kites, with support from raptor experts and ornithologists, volunteer observers, the Department for Environment and Water, Birds SA and local landholders.



Above: A square-tailed kite in a tree.
Photo credit: Bevin Scholz.



Above: A square-tailed kite with a satellite tracker. Photo credit: Sam Gordon

The 6th Mass Extinction Is Further Along Than We Thought:

Story by Darren Orf

Scientists agree that the Earth is currently undergoing the sixth mass extinction in its 4.6-billion-year history.

A new study says that there may be a time lag between when humans implement environmental actions and when these actions affect animals, meaning that effects of this mass extinction could be “locked in” up until 2050.

Despite this time lag, a concentrated, global conservation effort to reverse this trend is more pressing than ever.

The Earth is no stranger to mass extinctions. Stretched across its 4.6-billion-year history, the planet’s undergone five of them. Everyone knows the cataclysmic, asteroid-sized drama that consigned the dinosaurs to oblivion, and 200 million years before that fiery inferno, all life on Earth was nearly ended thanks to unending volcanic eruptions. Most scientists agree that we are now living through a sixth mass extinction, but this one isn’t caused by world-ending space rocks or lava-belching volcanoes—it’s caused by us.

While extinctions on Earth might be old hat, this is the first threat to biodiversity caused by a single species living on the planet itself. And the actions of that species—both past and present—have big, long-lasting consequences. A study published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* last week concludes that not only is the sixth extinction real, it may be further along than we expected.

“There is wide recognition that time is short for the integrated, ambitious actions needed to stop biodiversity loss by 2050,” writes Natural History Museum zoologist Richard Cornford along with other scientists. “This work shows that time is even shorter than had been thought.”

That’s because nature isn’t one to move quickly (evolution, after all, is measured in epochs). The deleterious effects experienced by Earth’s biodiversity today are likely the result of the poor environmental choices made by humans as long as 40 years ago. Where animals, such as small birds, might experience these effects within 13 years, larger animals will feel the hurt decades down the road. In other words, we are just now starting to hear the canary in the coal mine, even though it’s been chirping for years.

Cornford and his colleagues argue that these “time-delayed biodiversity responses” aren’t accounted for in environmental models even though their existence is well-documented. Even if humans radically changed ecological course tomorrow, population declines would still occur, essentially “locking in” those downward trends.

“Using data for birds and mammals from around the world, we show that population trends are best explained by past changes in temperature and anthropogenic land use,” the study concludes. “Model projections indicate that both increases and declines are expected for future bird and mammal abundance, with populations up to 2050 still responding to environmental changes that have already happened. Even radical land restoration efforts may therefore fail to end population declines by 2030.”

Luckily, the Earth’s sixth mass extinction has one thing going for it that the others didn’t—humans. More specifically, it has rational actors capable of understanding the problem and trying to fix it, even though they caused it in the first place. Big climate initiatives, including the Paris Climate Accords, as well as more recent measures like the UN’s “Peace Pact with Nature” are major steps forward in trying to protect Earth’s biodiversity. But the world needs urgent, swift, and wide-reaching action—among all nations and across all ecosystems—to stem the worst effects of this new great dying.

Time is of the essence, and we might have less of it than we thought.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/environment/a43680664/sixth-mass-extinction-timeline/>

Thanks John Wamsley for bringing this article to our attention.

A Little Travelogue, with Observations:

Life on planet earth is ubiquitous. From bacteria found inside the rocks of Antarctica to blind moles burrowing in the sand of an Australian desert, the life processes are unstoppable. This was never more apparent to me than on a trip to the north of South Australia.

Oddly enough, though I had visited the centre of Australia and circumnavigated the continent via highway one, I had never traversed the Stuart Highway between port Augusta and the Northern Territory border.

My imaginings of this arid area were based on maps and photos which tended to show a landscape dominated by salt lakes and dry watercourses with little or no vegetation beyond low shrublands within places designated as 'desert'.

The reality was a revelation. Admittedly, I was travelling immediately after the last massive inland flooding, with the highway still bearing the scars of inundation and a wealth of drying grass testifying to the burst of germination which accompanied the deluge, but the extent of the permanent vegetation was obvious.

Immediately north of Port Augusta there are huge expanses of Western Myall woodland (*Acacia papyrocarpa* syn. *A. sowdenii*). Its weeping, silvery foliage is distinctive and this tree forms a band of woodland south of the Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) association which favours the increasing dryness further inland.

Mulga presents a dull grey aspect with upright branches and also covers vast areas of country which people tend to regard as desert, though on an international scale it can be argued that our deserts are not comparable with truly barren places like the Sahara or the Middle Eastern deserts. The phenomenon which distinguishes our arid places is the occurrence of intermittent years of very high rainfall, usually as a result of monsoonal systems which penetrate inland. The unique vegetation of Australia is able to survive the intervening years of drought, thereby keeping the woodlands and shrublands alive.

How much the composition of these communities has been influenced by pre-European human intervention may never be known, but the impact of many thousands of years of human habitation cannot be denied. Within our own short span of contact, and notwithstanding our depredations, we can regard the landscape as 'balanced' on its fluctuating base of variable rainfall.



Distant ridges are a dark blue colour under the blanket of low trees. This is not at all what I expected to see, plus the clear skies and temperatures in the low to mid-twenties were a delight in the middle of a South Australian winter.

The only eucalypts to be found anywhere along hundreds of kilometres of highway were at the rare creek crossings.

Of course, there are places where the land assumes the form popularly ascribed to deserts, where the vista is of stony plains and rises with few obvious signs of life. It is in these places where the great contrast between the northern lands and the more humid south is most evident.

In the southern woodlands and forests, the eyes are drawn to the foreground and the dense layers of understorey which often characterise these communities.

In the north, the gaze is mostly lifted to the enormous views which open up into a seemingly limitless interior, full of silence and a deceptive emptiness, with flat-topped hills sometimes breaking the horizon. Without witnessing it in detail, I know that even the most extreme of our arid environments harbour brilliantly adapted invertebrates and reptiles, plus populations of birds and mammals which move into the landscape after rains.



The sense of being in the centre of the continent is palpable. To the east is the Lake Eyre basin and to the west the Great Victoria Desert, one of the most remarkable wilderness regions on the planet, recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Unlike most of the country traversed by the Stuart Highway, the Great Victoria Desert has never been opened up for grazing by introduced livestock. Its saving grace is the complete absence of any sizable surface waters compounded by the fact that it lies outside the perimeter of the Great Artesian Basin. One day I hope to travel through this country, but travel is only possible with a well-equipped expedition.

There are tantalising glimpses of the Island Lagoon salt lake, with its conical 'island' poking out above the shimmering surface, and the highway provides a good vantage as it skirts the extensive Lake Hart, which was full to the shoreline after rain.



The only significant settlement along the Stuart highway is Coober Pedy (according to our tour guide, the name is derived from indigenous words meaning 'White Fella in a Hole'). Incongruously, the town, which is substantial, rests within the most 'desert-like' part of the whole landscape. Coober Pedy is without any doubt the strangest place I have ever seen. While it looks like a cross between a quarry and a garbage tip for rusting machinery, it holds superb mysteries hidden under the ground, and the surrounding alien hinterland, given relief by the hills of the 'Breakaways', is enchanting in the setting sun. Be sure to visit the place before you die.



Beyond the superb Martian landscape surrounding Coober Pedy, the Mulga woodland resumes, and gradually blends into the Northern Territory environment on the way to Uluru, but that is for another time.

I brought back two things from the trip. One was the sense that western-style humans operate a high energy lifestyle which is profligate of resources, as witnessed by the hundreds of huge four-wheel-drives towing equally huge caravans, lined up by the diesel pumps at each roadhouse.

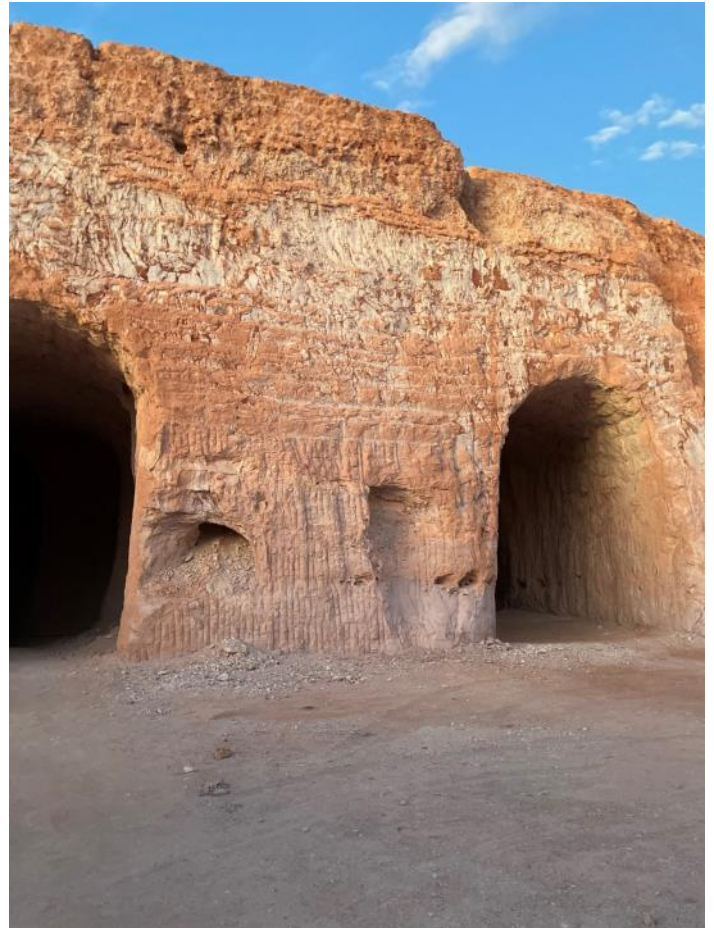
In the Coober Pedy opal fields, we have used machines to rip apart the earth into mounds of pale soil and rock, all for the sake of tiny pieces of coloured stone which has no value outside of that which we give it.

All this is in inescapable contrast with the life which used to be led by indigenous people, even as late as the nineteen fifties. They survived with a few wood or stone implements and found everything they could possibly need in the natural environment.

My second observation was to be stunned by how beautiful these 'desert' places really are. I had not expected to be so affected by the vastness and mystery of it all. No images can ever match the feelings which these lands evoke in the perceptive traveller. If you cannot be moved by these places, then you have truly lost your way.

The arid woodlands and the solitude go on forever, and it is my profound hope that we will never allow the natural assets of these rare expanses to disappear.

Steve Davey



Bushcare activities:

Autumn has come and gone, and the park continues to recover strongly from the Cherry Gardens fire. I think that, as we fight our way through some of the dense wattle species in various parts of the park, we think perhaps it has regenerated a little too strongly! It is most impressive how different species of wattle dominate in different areas, including the Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*), Varnish Wattle (*A. verniciflua*), Swamp Wattle (*A. provincialis*) and Myrtle Wattle (*A. myrtifolia*). Unfortunately a few of the weedy ones have done likewise, including the Sallow Wattle (*A. longifolia* ssp. *longifolia*) and Cootamundra Wattle (*A. baileyana*). We had one scheduled bushcare day cancelled due to weather, but had one extra session when we were joined by some staff from Ceridian on their staff volunteering day.

Almanda Bush Gardening:

The Almanda Bush Gardening team has continued work along the north side of Scott Creek, next to Mathews Road, removing invasive weeds and protecting habitat and food plants for the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

While regeneration of the native vegetation continues to amaze, unfortunately the weed growth is equally impressive.

We hope to get more contractor support along this stretch of Scott Creek, and Peter has drilled and filled several more Willows along the north side of the creek.

Bandi Bunch:

We are continuing to guard some of the regenerating natives that are vulnerable to trampling and/or grazing, prioritise dense diverse habitat in healthy soil, hand weed priority woody weeds (blackberry, broom), and cut and swab where hand-removal isn't possible (e.g. big, old crowns of blackberry too deep to dig out without damaging surrounding soil and vegetation).

Right: Debbie (Bandi Bunch and SOWFI), Ori (Bandi Bunch) and Kieran (for Duke of Ed—great to have this next generation of bushcarer coming along regularly to these sessions).

Below left: Kieran with a handful of Blackberry.

Below right: Looking down over Scott Creek, where Ori and Kieran are removing Broom.





Above left: Phil and Peter removing a large *Erica lignotuber*.



Above right: Ollie and Glenn removing *Erica* in Cherry Creek.

Scheduled bushcare activities during autumn:

7th March 2023—three volunteers patrolled the southern edge of the park at the end of Thorley Road, treating many Boneseed and a handful of *Erica*.

12th March 2023—six volunteers were joined by rangers Courtney and Donna, who also brought along young Jack, to roam across the hillside in Quarry Ridge west from Derwentia Creek, treating many Boneseed and a few other scattered weeds like Blackberry, *Erica*, Montpellier Broom, Olive seedlings, Rose and South African Daisy.

25th March 2023—10 volunteers patrolled through the area either side of Cherry Creek from Greenhood Track, treating Boneseed, *Erica*, Rose, South African Daisy and some Blackberry and Olive.

4th April 2023—six volunteers were joined by Jodie Woof from Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu to search for *Acacia longifolia* between gates 4 and 5 on Gurr Road. Unfortunately there were many more than we hoped for, plus we treated smaller numbers of Boneseed, Blackberry, South Africa Daisy, an *Acacia baileyana*, *Erica* and some patches of Montpellier Broom.

9th April 2023—six volunteers returned to work through more of the areas between gates 4 and 5, this time extending to include the part between Bronzewing Gully and Bronzewing Track. There were many more *Acacia longifolia* and Montpellier Broom, plus a few of the other weeds previously encountered, plus one large Pussy Willow was drilled and filled next to Viminaria Creek.

22nd April 2023—A bumper crowd of 13 volunteers, including three newbies, worked along the east side of Scott Creek from gate 2. There were large numbers of the quick growing Montpellier Broom, lots of Spear Thistle, and a few Boneseed, Blackberry, Rose, Sollya, South African Daisy and Fleabane.

Below left: Jodie with a collection of Boneseed and *Acacia longifolia* along Bronzewing Gully.



Below right: Phil and Glenn hunting for large *Acacia longifolia* in larger native vegetation in Bronzewing Gully.





Above left: Philip, Khiana and Elazar joined us for the first time, working on Montpellier Broom in Scott Creek.



Above right: The team working on more Montpellier Broom, this time in the Panhandle.

2nd May 2023—cancelled due to adverse weather forecast.

14th May 2023—another big turnout, with 12 coming along on Mother's Day to work on the large infestations of Montpellier Broom along Panhandle Creek. We also found and treated Boneseed, Blackberry, Rose, Sollya, South African Daisy, Fleabane, Thistles, Arum Lily and bulbs including Watsonia and Gladiolus, and drilled and filled 18 Hawthorn trees of various sizes.

23rd May 2023—a special bushcare session with five staff from Ceridian enjoying a morning's bushcare on Yacca Hill with five of our regular group. There were plenty of large Boneseed removed, it is amazing how quickly these weeds grow.

27th May 2023—nine volunteers headed into the Panhandle again, this time a couple worked across the area closer to Frith Road, while the rest went down towards the bottom of Fantail Creek, to work on a known patch of Erica there. While we got through this patch, there are more isolated patches along to the west, some of which have very large lignotubers. There was also large Sollya, scattered Boneseed, a patch of Montpellier Broom up closer to the gate 20 track, and other weeds in smaller numbers treated.

Additional independent bushcare activities:

7th March 2023—after the bushcare activity Peter headed up to Pennant Ridge and walked down Mackereth Creek past Pump Creek, checking for weeds and the previous location used for a remote wildlife camera. The creekline and old walking tracks were very overgrown and close to impassable, but the weeds numbers were fairly low, just a few large Boneseed that were removed and small Blackberry in and alongside the creekline which were waypointed.

Below left: This is civilised bushcare, gently removing Montpellier Broom from under a Native Cherry.



Below right: Ollie using the tree popper to remove Montpellier Broom in the Panhandle.





Above left: Some of the Hawthorn Peter drilled and filled in the Panhandle.



Above right: Glenn spot spraying Montpellier Broom in the Panhandle.

12th March 2023—Glenn went back to check on the Boneseed he had seen near the corner of Frith Road and Thorley Road while driving in to the bushcare session. He treated these, plus found more and a patch of Erica that required further follow-up.

21st March 2023—Peter spot sprayed Stinkwort along Neville Road Track from gate 14, together with a patch of Blackberry at Woodduck Dam.

25th March 2023—after bushcare, Peter and Glenn stayed to spray Blackberry along Cherry Creek, Derwentia Creek and up side creeks to the east, also dealing with a few more Boneseed, Montpellier Broom, Rose and small Olive.

1st April 2023—after bird banding Peter went to Eulamphrus Reach and drilled and filled 14 Weeping Willows and one Pussy Willow.

22nd April 2023—after bushcare Glenn stayed and spot sprayed Blackberry and some of the remaining Montpellier Broom along Scott Creek, from gate 2.

14th May 2023—after bushcare Glenn stayed and spot sprayed Montpellier Broom near Panhandle Creek.

21st May 2023—after bird banding, Peter was joined by Mark Fagan, previously with Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu, to check on previous *Erica baccans* patches on the north side of Pennant Ridge. There were 470 seedlings hand weeded from the two small areas, all less than about 20cm tall. A patrol further around Pennant Ridge to Shingleback Track only resulted in a couple of small Boneseed needing to be removed.

Peter Watton

Below left: *Erica baccans* (Pink Erica), growing on Pennant Ridge.



Below right: Some of the 470 *Erica baccans* seedlings removed.





Above: The Ceridian team that helped with bushcare on Yacca Hill, as their staff volunteer day—thanks heaps for your contribution, helping restore the park.

Below: With others from our team on the day and a few Boneseed.



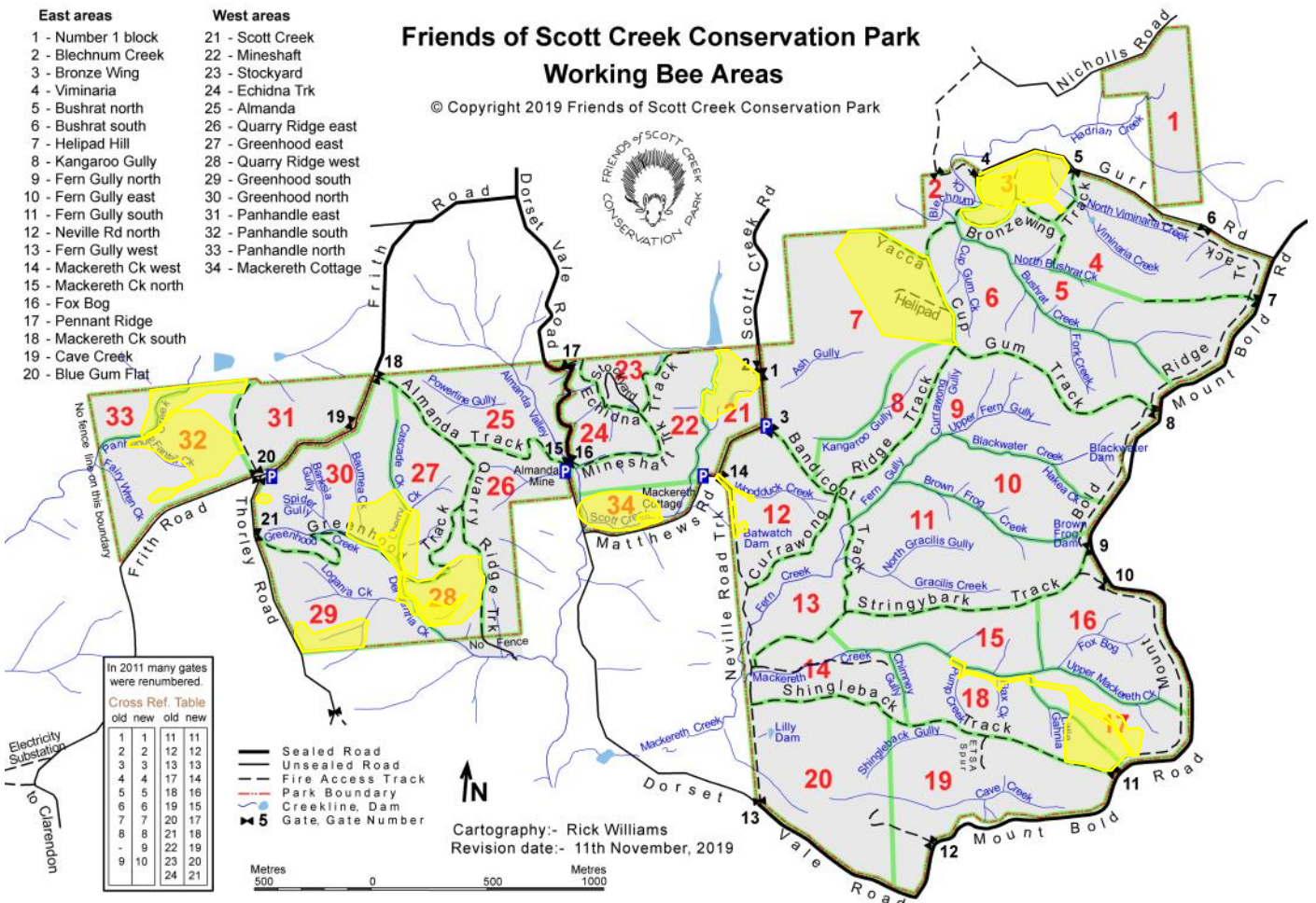
Above: Nice sized South African Daisy!



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| East areas | West areas |
| 1 - Number 1 block | 21 - Scott Creek |
| 2 - Blechnum Creek | 22 - Mineshaft |
| 3 - Bronze Wing | 23 - Stockyard |
| 4 - Viminaria | 24 - Echidna Trk |
| 5 - Bushrat north | 25 - Almanda |
| 6 - Bushrat south | 26 - Quarry Ridge east |
| 7 - Helipad Hill | 27 - Greenhood east |
| 8 - Kangaroo Gully | 28 - Quarry Ridge west |
| 9 - Fern Gully north | 29 - Greenhood south |
| 10 - Fern Gully east | 30 - Greenhood north |
| 11 - Fern Gully south | 31 - Panhandle east |
| 12 - Neville Rd north | 32 - Panhandle south |
| 13 - Fern Gully west | 33 - Panhandle north |
| 14 - Mackereth Ck west | 34 - Mackereth Cottage |
| 15 - Mackereth Ck north | |
| 16 - Fox Bog | |
| 17 - Pennant Ridge | |
| 18 - Mackereth Ck south | |
| 19 - Cave Creek | |
| 20 - Blue Gum Flat | |

Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park Working Bee Areas

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Funding and Contractor report:

Funding update—thanks to Anna for her help with these:

- Submitted Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu Grassroots Grant application for \$3,000 to fund contractor follow-up of Sollya regrowth post-fire across Yacca Hill west;
- Submitted Green Adelaide Grassroots Grant application for \$10,000 to fund contractor primary control and follow-up of priority weeds along Scott Creek between Mackereth Cottage car park and the northern boundary of the park, mainly Montpellier Broom and Boneseed;
- Submitted Green Adelaide Grassroots Grant application for \$10,000 to fund contractor primary control and follow-up of priority weeds in the Panhandle, mainly Sollya, Erica and Montpellier Broom.

Below is a list of the main work that contractors have completed during autumn, funded from the NPWS On-Park Volunteer Support Grant—Partnership Grants Program:

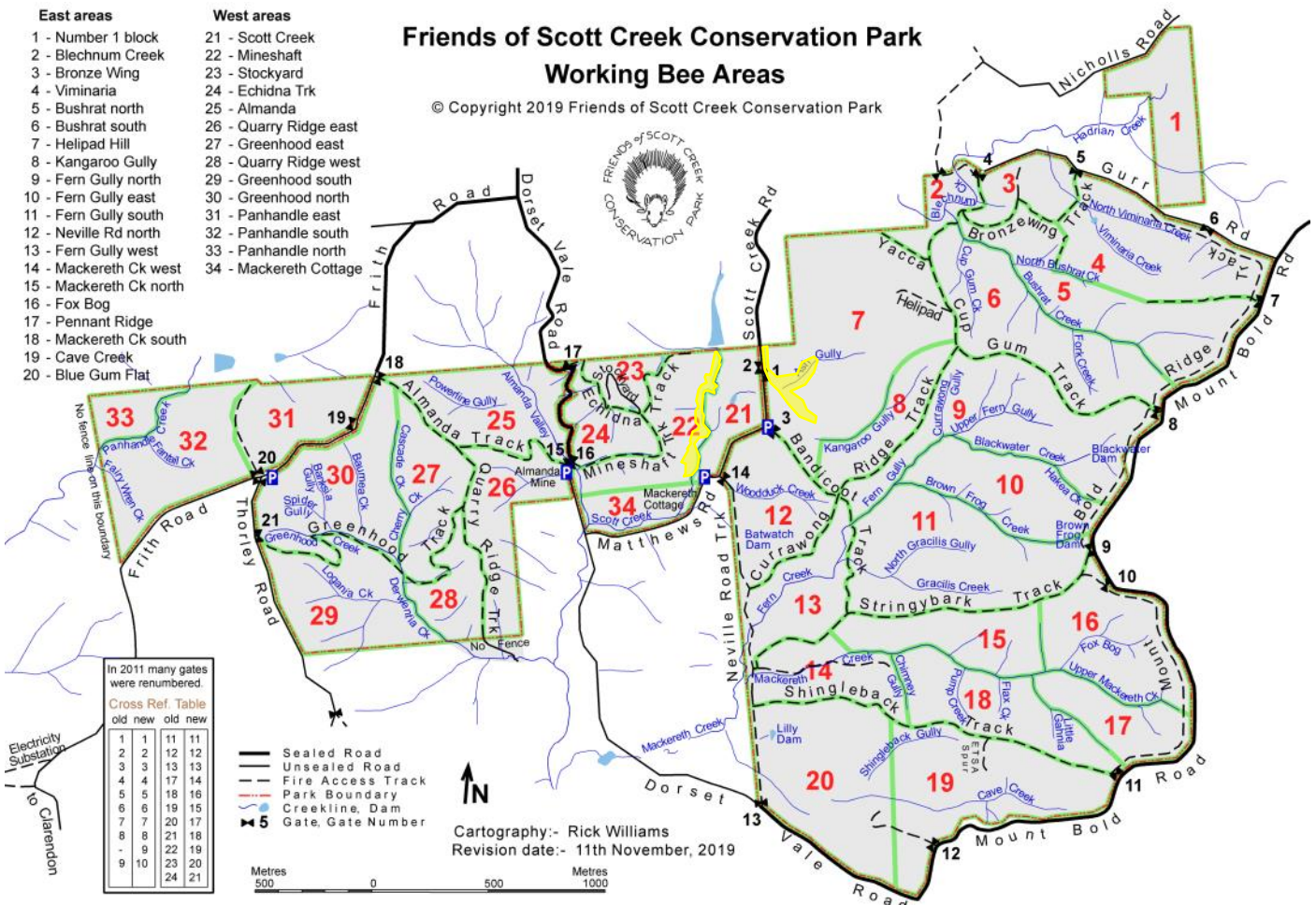
- Scott Creek between Mackereth Cottage and the northern boundary of the park—TFL Works treated Montpellier Broom, Boneseed and regrowth Willows.
- Gate 1 fenceline to the north and Ash Gully to Kangaroo Gully—Mint Green continued work and follow-up on Blackberry, English Broom, Erica and other priority weeds.



Above: Before and after photos of treatment of Montpellier Broom in Scott Creek, provided by TFL Works.

Peter Watton

Grants & Funding, Contractor Liaison & Reporting



Bird Banding Notes: March—May 2023

We are at last starting to see more birds around across more areas of the Park. In particular New Holland Honeyeaters are back at Twisted Chimney and little flocks of Thornbills are getting more common. The Thornbill flocks usually include a few other species to make the mix interesting. This quarter we have in fact more than doubled our catch from 42 to 94 birds. Brown Thornbills are popping up at more places as well.

We had one Striated Thornbill recaptured at Pennant Ridge from before the 2021 fire – yet another mystery as to how it survived and where it went to find shelter. There was a female Crescent Honeyeater banded at Fox Bog with unusual white feet (top right). For comparison most Crescents have rather dark to black feet (bottom right) – you would not notice this unless the bird was in your hand. Overall it is clear that birds are back in the fire scar and many of our captures were of first year birds. There has only been one bird (the Striated Thornbill mentioned above) at older than 3 years. It would appear that the majority of birds either re-located or perished during the fire. We will keep monitoring to see if is a long term trend.

Please check the program at the end of this newsletter for dates and times of future banding sessions. Visitors are welcome to ‘come and see’ banding without having to commit to an early start. If you would like to receive an email notice, get in touch with me at president@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au.

Jim Spiker
Bird Banding Coordinator

Below left and right: Something to sing about—the New Holland Honeyeaters have returned to Twisted Chimney.



Below left: We had some visitors at our Fox Bog banding.



Below right: Brown Thornbills seem to be more widespread.





Above left: Female Crescent Honeyeater.



Above right: Male Crescent Honeyeater.



Above left: Female White-browed Scrubwren.



Above right: Male White-browed Scrubwren.



Above left: Young Golden Whistler.



Above right: Grey Fantail.

BIRD	4/5 Mar Alminda Battery	18/19 Mar Derwentia Valley	1/2 Apr Fox Bog	16 Apr Crossroads	6/7 May Twisted Chimney	21 May Pennant Ridge	Total
Brown Thornbill		1		3	2	1	7
Striated Thornbill	2		6	1	1	11	21
Golden Whistler				1		1	2
New Holland Honeyeater	1	2		2	13		18
Buff-rumped Thornbill						3	3
White-throated Treecreeper		1					1
Crescent Honeyeater			3	4			7
Yellow-faced Honeyeater			1	2			3
Grey Fantail			1				1
Red-browed Finch		1					1
Silvereye				4		1	5
White-browed Scrubwren	1		1	2	4		8
Grey Shrike-thrush		2					2
Superb Fairy-wren	1	3		2	7	2	15
TOTAL	5	10	12	21	27	19	94



Above right: A handsome male Superb Fairy-wren in non-breeding plumage

Below left: Banding at Pennant Ridge in May.



Above right: White-throated Treecreeper.

Below right: Striated Thornbill.



Photo Gallery:



Above left: The Camelia at the Crossroads pre-fire in 2020.

Above right: In April 2022 a year after the fire, with little regrowth.

Below left: After pruning away dead burnt branches.

Below right: Regrowth April 2023.



Above left: The old tractor at Twisted Chimney in 2018.

Above right: June 2021 after the fire, silt has filled the well.

Below left: November 2021 with strong vegetation regrowth.

Below right: December 2022—it's in there somewhere!



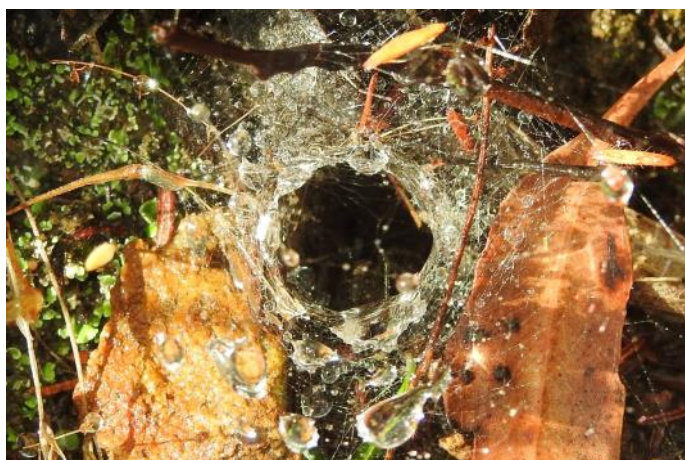
Photo Gallery:



Above left: Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) leaf.
Below left: Scorpion-tailed Spider, Derwentia Valley.



Above right: Moss, Derwentia Valley.
Below right: Spider hole after rain, the Panhandle.



Above left: Brown Tree Frog, Derwentia Creek.
Below left: Wasp on Large-leaf Bush Pea.



Above right: Native snail shell, Mackereth Creek.
Below right: Cranberry Heath (*Styphelia humifusa*).

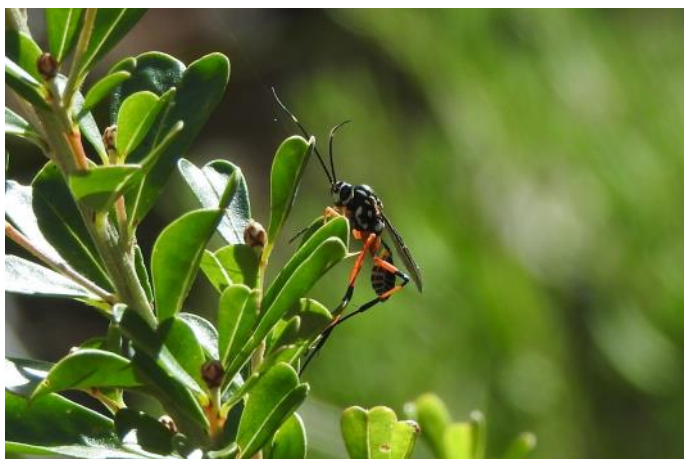
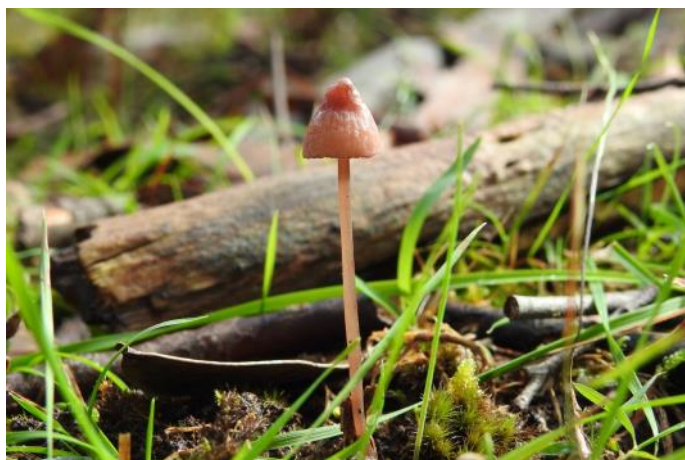


Photo Gallery: some fungi



Calendar of Environmental Events coming up:

Monday 5th June is World Environment Day



2023 THEME AND HOST

The theme for World Environment Day on 5 June 2023 will focus on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution.

The world is being inundated by plastic. More than 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced every year, half of which is designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10 per cent is recycled. An estimated 19-23 million tonnes end up in lakes, rivers and seas. Today, plastic clogs our landfills, leaches into the ocean and is combusted into toxic smoke, making it one of the gravest threats to the planet.

Not only that, what is less known is that microplastics find their way into the food we eat, the water we drink and even the air we breathe. Many plastic products contain hazardous additives, which may pose a threat to our health.

The good news is that we have science and solutions to tackle the problem –and a lot is already happening. What is needed most now is a surge of public and political pressure to scale up and speed actions from governments, companies and other stakeholders to solve this crisis. This underscores the importance of this World Environment Day mobilizing action from every corner of the world.

World Environment Day 2023 will showcase how countries, businesses and individuals are learning to use the material more sustainably, offering hope that one day, plastic pollution will be history.

THE HOST COUNTRY

World Environment Day 2023 is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with the Netherlands.

Côte d'Ivoire is showing leadership in the campaign against plastic pollution. Since 2014, it has banned the use of plastic bags, supporting a shift to reusable packaging. The country's largest city, Abidjan, has also become a hub for environmentally minded start-ups.

"The scourge of plastic pollution is a visible threat that impacts every community," says Jean-Luc Assi, Côte d'Ivoire's Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development. "We are proud to champion diverse treatments for the plastic pandemic."

This year's World Environment Day will be supported by the Government of the Netherlands, which is one of the countries taking ambitious action along the plastic lifecycle. It is a signatory of the New Plastics

Economy Global Commitment and a member of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter.

“Plastic pollution and its detrimental impacts on health, the economy and the environment cannot be ignored. Urgent action is required. At the same time, we need true, effective and robust solutions,” said Vivianne Heijnen, Netherlands’ Minister for the Environment. “As part of several policies aimed at plastics, The Netherlands and the European community at large are fully committed to reduce the production and consumption of single-use plastic, which can and must be replaced with durable and sustainable alternatives.”

WHAT IS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

World Environment Day, held annually on 5 June, brings together millions of people from across the globe, engaging them in the effort to protect and restore the Earth. This year marks the event’s 50th anniversary.

THE COMMUNITY

World Environment Day is a global platform for inspiring positive change. People from more than 150 countries participate in this United Nations international day, which celebrates environmental action and the power of governments, businesses and individuals to create a more sustainable world. The event has been led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since its inception in 1973.

HISTORY

World Environment Day puts a global spotlight on the pressing environmental challenges of our times. This UN international day has become the largest global platform for environmental outreach, with millions of people from across the world engaging to protect the planet.

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global>

Thursday 8th June is World Ocean Day

The 2023 Conservation Action Focus: Protect at least 30% of our blue planet by 2030.

Recently, world leaders made a global commitment to protect 30% of our blue planet by 2030 (30x30). To create a healthy ocean with abundant wildlife and to stabilize the climate, it’s critical that 30% of our planet’s lands, waters, and ocean are protected.

Why should we prioritize the 30x30 goal?

Leading scientists worldwide have determined a healthy ocean is a critical part of the solution to the climate and biodiversity crises.

By supporting 30x30, we can protect our planet’s life support systems – specifically the interconnected issues of ocean, climate, and biodiversity. Currently, less than 17% of land and 8% of the ocean worldwide is protected.

The good news is, due to the efforts of the growing global 30x30 movement, including those involved in the World Ocean Day network, our nations’ leaders made a global commitment to 30x30 during the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in December 2022.

<https://worldoceanday.org>



Friday 28th July is Schools Tree Day and Sunday 30th July is National Tree Day

Planet Ark's National Tree Day started in 1996 and has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event.

It's a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to the community.

While every day can be Tree Day, we dedicate the celebration of Schools Tree Day and National Tree Day on the last Friday and Sunday in July.

Planet Ark

Planet Ark Environmental Foundation is an Australian not-for-profit organisation with a vision of a world where people live in balance with nature.

Established in 1992, we are one of Australia's leading environmental behaviour change organisations with a focus on working collaboratively and positively. We help people, governments and businesses reduce their impact on the environment in three key areas: sustainable resource use; low carbon lifestyles; and connecting people with nature. We promote and create simple, positive environmental actions - for everyone.

Our campaigns and programs build on our positive and action-based philosophy to work with a broad range of individuals, schools, councils and workplaces.

In short, we define ourselves by what we are for rather than what we are against.

<https://treeday.planetark.org>

Monday 31st July is World Ranger Day

We're a global not-for-profit organisation that provides support to rangers, because rangers are the frontline professionals protecting wildlife and the natural world.

We do this by providing effective training, vital equipment, and emergency support to rangers and their families, and developing strong global networks for rangers and their communities.

Our purpose

Every day, Park Rangers risk their lives to protect wildlife and wild places from poaching and other threats. Sadly, it's estimated that over 1,000 park rangers have been killed in the line of duty over the past 10 years – a large percentage of these are due to commercial poachers and armed militia groups. Park Rangers are generally under-equipped, underpaid, and often under-appreciated. We think they are heroes. And we work tirelessly to provide them with the support they need to continue to protect threatened species around the world.

What we do

The Thin Green Line Foundation Protects Nature's Protectors by providing vital support to Park Rangers and their communities who are the front-line of conservation. We work predominantly in developing nations and conflict zones, and with Indigenous Park Rangers within Australia and abroad.

We are the only organisation solely dedicated to providing Rangers worldwide with the assistance they deserve and need. As the official charity arm of the International Ranger Federation, TTGLF has unparalleled access to Rangers worldwide.



**WE STAND WITH
THE WORLD'S
RANGERS**

WORLD RANGER DAY - 31 JULY



The Thin Green Line
FOUNDATION

The Thin Green Line Foundation is highly successful at delivering much needed support to Rangers, with a wide range of effective programs worldwide – from Kenya to Tanzania, Costa Rica to Guatemala, Thailand to Indonesia, and in many, many more places around the globe.

In the sad circumstance of a Ranger losing his or her life in the line of duty, TTGLF helps to ensure the widows and families are looked after into the future.

Through our work we aim to ensure that:

- Park Rangers are valued for their vital role at the front line of conservation.
- Park Rangers, when in contact situations with poachers, have the ability to defend themselves.
- Park Rangers are provided with decent working conditions and a living wage.
- Park Rangers are provided with the skills and tools they need.
- Park Rangers families and communities have on-going support when Rangers are injured or killed in the line of duty.

Background

The Thin Green Line Foundation was founded by award-winning conservationist, documentary filmmaker and Park Ranger, Sean Willmore.

In 2004, Sean set off around the world to make a documentary about the stories and plight of Park Rangers. Taking almost 12 months to travel through 23 countries, he uncovered many inspiring stories along the way.

The Thin Green Line documentary premiered in 2007, capturing people’s hearts in over 50 countries. The film has since become an international success story, offering a sense of hope and pride for Park Rangers around the world.

The documentary became the catalyst for Sean to set up The Thin Green Line Foundation, to support Park Rangers in danger.

How to stand with Rangers on World Ranger Day

On July 31st we pause and reflect on the courage and sacrifice that Rangers make. We honour Fallen Rangers and stand with the people bravely protecting wildlife on the frontline of conservation.

World Ranger Day is an initiative of the International Ranger Federation (IRF) promoted with its official charity, The Thin Green Line Foundation. Help us recognise the work of Rangers globally using the methods below:

Honour Fallen Rangers: Pause for a moment on July 31st to honour those Rangers who have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our planet’s natural treasures and cultural heritage. Please see the resource kit below for the 2022 Honour Roll.

Post on Social Media : Post pictures of yourself, friends and colleagues holding the World Ranger Day sign (available in our downloadable resource kit) and pay tribute to our conservation heroes. Share these pictures with us on the International Ranger Federation Facebook and The Thin Green Line Facebook social pages using the hashtags: #WorldRangerDay #StandWithRangers #NaturesProtectors

Show Support by adding the “I stand with Rangers” frame to your Facebook and Twitter profile pictures. Frames are available in .png file format in our resource kit (available below), or skip the download and upload directly via Facebook Frame Studio and Twibbon.

<https://thingreenline.org.au/world-ranger-day>



Winter Program of Activities June–August 2023

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: During winter we will meet at **9.00am** at the **nearest gate for the activity location**.

An **email** will be sent to bushcarers advising the location in advance.

Any **new members** interested in joining us, contact the above email address to receive the email.

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

Bird Banding activities: Contact the Bird Banding Coordinator (see next page) to receive emails about activities.

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/meteve/dorset-vale>

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

Month/Day	Date	Activity	Location
JUNE 2023			
Saturday, Sunday	3, 4	Bird Banding	PH: Panhandle, Gate 20, 7:30 am
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	AT: Almanda Track, Gate 18, 7:30 am
Tuesday	20	General Meeting All Welcome!	4:30 pm, the Butler's 5 Trevelyan Court, Coromandel Valley
Saturday	24	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Tuesday	27	Social Lunch All Welcome	Sheoak Café—Belair at noon (cnr Sheoak and James Roads, parking on three sides)
JULY 2023			
Saturday, Sunday	1, 2	Bird Banding	GR: Gurr Road, Gate 4, 7:30 am
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	MC: Mackereth Cottage car park, 7:30 am
Saturday	22	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Wednesday	26	Social Lunch All Welcome	Brass Monkeys Café—Blackwood at noon (down alley between Bendigo Bank and Blackwood Pharmacy Main Rd)
Saturday, Sunday	29, 30	Bird Banding	
AUGUST 2023			
Tuesday	1	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Saturday, Sunday	5, 6	Bird Banding	KG: Kangaroo Gully, via Gate 3, 7:30 am
Saturday, Sunday	12, 13	Bird Banding	<i>Introduction to Bird Banding at Gluepot Reserve – Jim leading</i>
Sunday	13	Bushcare	Post-fire weed regeneration will determine location
Tuesday	15	General Meeting All Welcome!	4.30pm, venue to be confirmed
Saturday, Sunday	19, 20	Bird Banding	MT: Mineshaft Track, via Gate 15, 7:00 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: Email: secretary@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

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

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

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 Almanda 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: almanda11@bigpond.com

