



Journal of the  
Scientific Expedition Group

# ENCOUNTER 2000 MOUNT BROWN RE-ENACTMENT

## A BRILLIANT SUCCESS

THIS EDITION CELEBRATES THE SUCCESS OF THE  
RE-ENACTMENT OF THE ASCENT OF MOUNT BROWN BY  
ROBERT BROWN 200 YEARS AGO WITH ARTICLES BY SOME OF  
THE WALKERS

### Satellites Not Sextants Retracing Brown's Steps. Paul Wainwright

I was awoken to the sound of a foot pump, 4.30ish on the morning of March 10. I lay on my back, anticipating some movement but everything was completely still. Not a breath of air. Above my head sat a huge piece of timber, hinged at right angles to the mast. To my right, a maze of rigging, web-like, tensioned effortlessly to the gunwales. Above it, a sky filled with stars and moving satellites. I had to remind myself I was on a sailing ship moored in Spencer's Gulf, about to alight on a rubber-ducky not a long boat.

As I waded ashore 200 years to the day, re-enacting the exploratory journey of Robert Brown and his colleagues, I couldn't help but think about the meaning of 'progress'. What has 200 years meant? How significant are the changes? Are we heading in the right direction?

Robert Brown didn't have to negotiate a pipeline or a highway, high voltage power lines or agricultural fences. In 200 years we've invented the combustion engine which carried us swiftly ashore. We've introduced the

pasture grasses that clung to my socks and developed plastics, Coca-Cola, and synthetic materials. We've also altered the natural environment by introducing foreign animals and alien crops. The intent to benefit humanity has sometimes led to the detriment of the environment.

I was a proud to be a representative of Scientific Expedition Group. An organisation which promotes scientific fieldwork and understanding, and encourages young people to value adventure in the natural environment. Explorers like Robert Brown and Matthew Flinders had the spirit that we admire. A desire to push outside of their comfortable norms to learn and understand. It seemed fitting that we were involved in the commemoration.

The vegetation we see today, surprisingly, is not too different from what Robert Brown may have seen. The first 8-10kms of the walk leads across saline low lands, initially rich in samphire species, later salt bush. Small dry salt lakes and sandy ridges are common through this area. Across the highway and towards the uplands,

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scattered *Acacia*, Eucalypts and sugarwood feature amongst the introduced pasture grasses. Vegetation is generally very open except in creek or drainage lines. Vegetation density increases when the hills proper begin. Higher up, towards the summit, Eucalypts are smaller but denser. Canopies touch and the understorey is quite open – presumably cleared at some stage. The Mt Brown lookout

stands two stories high atop a rocky outcrop camouflaged amongst the trees. The 360 degree panorama is spectacular. It's not surprising Brown thought this would be a good vantage point and work out for his team!

Matthew Flinders used a sextant to determine his position; we use Navstar satellites buzzing through the sky. For the most part, I think March 10, 2002

was not too different from what Robert Brown may have experienced 200 years earlier. Brown wanted to survey the countryside and further his understanding of natural history by collecting specimens. We were challenged by the heat and terrain, just as he may have been, but wanted to celebrate and draw inspiration from his achievements.

## An Archaeological View of Re-enactment

Keryn Walshe  
Department of Archaeology  
Flinders University

Having set off at a brisk pace at precisely 6am, I found myself loitering on a deflated dune site just after dawn. I was feeling rather energetic still, having been fired up by the unexpected and spectacular sight of an exploding comet low on the horizon soon after our departure, but also due to the fact that we had just departed. This particular dune, approximately 5km from Chinaman's Creek is actively deflating into that typical bowl shape so characteristic of quaternary dune systems and so much the delight of archaeologists. Post contact material was revealed alongside stone tools and hearth stones. The remnants of a rusted iron pot, broken fragments of a decorative dinner plate, a buckle and green glass with pontil bases. The latter were interesting in that the bottles were complete and may well have been stashed in the sand by Indigenous people some 100-150 years previously. Indigenous people very quickly embraced the new raw materials made available to them by European settlers to produce a range of glass and ceramic tools, previously generated from stone and bone. Thus it is not unusual to locate such items on post contact sites, but it is unusual to locate complete objects, particularly bottles. I suggest that these were carefully stashed in the dune with the intent of returning later

to work the raw material. European bottle dumps thus became the new quarry source. The stone tools (mostly flakes) in association are

material was noted on a bare clay surface. A range of silcrete flakes and scrapers, a quartzite hammerstone, quartz flakes, crystal quartz

(unmodified) and modified glass glinted away in the early morning sun. This was surprising to see, considering its vicinity to highly disturbed corridors such as the pipeline, highway and transmission line. I am often surprised though by the sheer tenacity of stone tool scatters to cling to a piece of ground.

Just before crossing the Old Wilmington Road I stumbled into another glass artefact, nestled against a clump of dry grass. A thick piece of green bottle glass had been broken from the body of a bottle and modified into an impressive scraper. Micro flaking around the perimeter indicated both use wear and later re-sharpening of the glass.

Over the road to Spear Creek, and we came across a scarred tree. A most unusual

scar, having been cut twice into the lower trunk of the *Acacia* and measuring approximately 1m by 0.3m. The shape suggested a shield or very large bowl.

typical of the types of tools found in Nukunu Territory and reflect the most readily available stone - silcrete.

A few kilometers on, prior to our morning tea stop and alongside the pipeline, an extensive scatter of



At last the spring - our lunch time stop. A time for reflection on the value of fresh water and therefore the importance of this particular spot to Indigenous people. Numerous scatters of broken glass and ceramic surround unknown crumbling stone structures associated with the spring. The site deserves a thorough archaeological investigation at some stage, I note in my book.

Now we begin the ascent, slowly beginning to wind upward along Woolundunga Creek and I notice more

scars on a number of the mature Eucalypts shading our path. Definitely need to return to carry out a full survey. The era of contact is little known archaeologically and yet so evident here. We are here simply because Mr Brown and his party similarly toiled their way in the hot sun 200 years ago to this peak standing above us. Nukunu's first direct encounter with Europeans. Nukunu whispering away into the night as some of his servants wait fearfully by the spring. What manner of portent did they whisper? Where,

what is the archaeology of a whisper? Something to contemplate as I find my knees starting to really work.

I thank Nukunu People's Council for inviting me to walk on their behalf. I also thank SEG for their precise organisation and commitment to the project. I am immensely privileged to have completed the journey and I now fully understand the saying "mad dogs and Englishman go out in the midday sun..." but as Nukunu People know – "and archaeologists".

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## Impressions and perspectives of the Mt Brown re-enactment weekend

### Helen Smyth.

I had my reservations about enjoying the re-enactment walk. March is not what I consider an ideal time to undertake a one day 31 km walk; my SA walking is generally confined to the cooler months. Furthermore, during the reconnaissance trip undertaken the previous year (in April), I had my fears confirmed regarding the vegetation along most of the route. I describe it euphemistically as botanically uninteresting, however, it did make for relatively easy walking. I thought how much harder it would have been for the original party, not having their route thinned by decades of grazing.

However, I was excited about being part of this historic event and was quite humbled by my inclusion. This came about because of my employment at the State Herbarium of South Australia (and of course, the physical ability needed to complete the task. My workmates were in no doubt about this after annually being subjected to my south-west Tasmanian bushwalking holiday snaps and stories). I was in part representing the botanical interest of the original party, namely Robert Brown himself, although at the time of the walk I was employed by the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, so I can claim a link to Peter

Good, the Investigator's gardener, as well.

The support for Encounter 2002 was overwhelming as we arrived at the Port Augusta dock just as the tall ships were arriving; along with what surely must have been most of Port Augusta! We were treated to the "long lunch" in the very comfortable sailing clubrooms before eventually making our way to the "Enterprize" to start



The successful walkers at the top.  
From right. Paul Wainwright, Helen Smyth, Mark Darter, Laurie Haegi, Graeme Oats, Keryn Walshe, Alun Thomas, and John Zwar  
Courtesy John Zwar

our part in Encounter 2002 in earnest. The experience would have been much less were it not for this first stage which was a definite highlight. The tall ship "Enterprize" had a fantastic, welcoming crew who seemed genuinely interested in our endeavour. As we left the dock, sails billowing, I was thinking how great it

was to be on the ship taking part, rather than watching from the dock.

We took in the views as we chugged down the Gulf, wondering how the explorers could possibly have judged Mt Brown to be 5 rather than 15 miles distant. Nearing the area we would anchor for the night the captain and crew (especially the one hanging off the mast, looking for channels) worked to manoeuvre through the sandbars to get as close to the coast as possible. A long, slow tilt of the ship to port told us that a sandbar had scored a point on us and if you've ever been on a Murray houseboat that's struck a sandbar, you'll know what happens next. All crew and passengers first to one side, then to the bow to help ease the ship successfully off the sand. I knew then that Matthew Flinders must have been the seaman he is renowned to have been, navigating these channels, without the benefit of the technical gadgetry, or diesel motor.

The size of the evening meal was inversely proportional to the galley and given the three course lunch earlier in the day we were in danger exceeding the load rating of the rubber dinghy that would take us in three trips to the coast early the next morning. The beautiful cool, clear night beckoned a few of us to spend

the night sleeping up on deck under the stars as opposed to the quarters below. This turned out to be a wise decision as below decks was uncomfortably stuffy. Despite having to get up at 3.30am, it was one of the best sleeps I've ever had.

At 6.30am we were seen off in the pre-dawn darkness by Alun Thomas, our faithful driver, the local landowner and his dogs. The cool of the early morning was too quickly displaced once the sun came up and again, my thoughts turned to how much more difficult it would have been for the original Mt Browners; they hadn't been met by a bus load of cool drinks

and refreshments at convenient intervals. After lunch near the Woolundunga Spring, it was time to get serious about ascending. It was pretty much a head down effort all the way to the summit except for a few stops to admire the ever improving views. We arrived at the summit at about 4pm to join the crowd (including those dogs and a horse) and enjoy the success of our achievement. It was grand that all of the party eventually made it to the 964m summit, and even a few more metres up the new lookout!

Overall a very satisfying and well-organised experience with a real sense

of history; I was thankful to have been a part of it all. Here are some of my other highlights:  
Dolphins swimming at the bow of the "Enterprize"  
Phosphorescence in the water (I'd always wanted to see that!)  
Wading through the shallows of Spencer Gulf  
Falling star at dawn that broke into two (okay, it was more than likely space junk but it was still beaut)  
Grand old Western Myall (Acacia papyrocarpa) on route  
Being met by a local shortly before the summit offering home-made apple slice and cool drinks.

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## ENCOUNTER 2002 - MT BROWN

### GRAEME OATS

#### BACKGROUND

How many times have I written or said "Encounter 2002 - Mt Brown" in the last four years.?

In 1998 the State Government called a Public Forum to discuss projects by interested parties to celebrate the meeting by chance of two of the world's greatest navigators off the coast of South Australia now known as Encounter Bay on 8th April 2002. I attended the Forum representing SEG.

From those expressions of interest grew the largest series of projects, festivals and events in South Australia since the sesqui-centenary in 1986 and Australia's Bicentennial celebrations of 1988. Encounter 2002 was born, the first bicentennial celebration of South Australia's beginnings.

In 1986 the Adelaide Bush Walkers (ABW) had conceived a plan to commemorate the first ascent of Mt Brown by Robert Brown on March 10 1802, by placing a bronze plaque on the summit of Mt Brown. 1986 was the 40th anniversary of the ABW and I happened to be the President that year.

A birthday party was held at "Broadview" and a party of about 45 members climbed the summit to unveil the plaque.

When I heard of the intended 2002 plans, I immediately decided that here was a chance for SEG to be part of the celebrations & that SEG seemed to be the appropriate group to carry out a re-enactment by a botanist to climb the mountain. Those four years seem to have flown by and March 2002 arrived all too quickly and now three months later the weekend seems but a blimp on the horizon, albeit a significant blimp to me.

#### THE PARTICIPANTS

The final composition of the group that completed the re-enactment walk were: Laurie Haegi, former head of the Plant Biodiversity Centre (PBC) - Adelaide, Helen Smyth from the PBC, John Zwar President of the Australian Aridland Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta, Keryn Walshe President, Anthropology Association SA, Paul Wainwright, Environmental Resource Management, Mark Darter, bushwalker and adventurer and myself. We also had the privilege of the company

of two of Capt. Matthew Flinder's descendants, his great-great granddaughter Lisette Flinders-Petrie, and her daughter, Rachel Lewis, although they did not complete the whole of the re-enactment walk due to other official engagements during the day. They did, however, greet us at the summit later.

One of the comforts not enjoyed by the original participants was back up support bus. Our driver (and Editor of SEGments), Alun Thomas, the grandson of Sir Douglas Mawson also participated in the last 5 kilometres (700m ascent), as did SEG's Patron and SA environmentalist, Mr. C Warren Bonython AO (in his 86th year).

#### THE EVENT

The participants assembled during Saturday 9th March at the wharf in Port Augusta to attend a "getting acquainted" luncheon. Around 4pm we boarded the tall ship "Enterprize" and left the wharf waving to the huge crowd. We spent a wonderful balmy evening on board, being well catered for by the crew, Rachel having the chance to climb aloft, looking at our destination next day from about where Flinders and Brown

had done exactly 200 years ago to the day.

One can only try to imagine what were the thoughts in the minds of those men of discovery, looking from the Investigator at those high hills to the east and north and wondering, did this sea continue north, was there a link with Australia's north coast?

Trying to get as close to the eastern shore as possible we grounded the Enterprize for few minutes, probably something that Flinders didn't do, and luckily for us that we have the power of diesel engines to pull us off.

The evening was warm, the boat's sleeping compartment was even warmer and although there was sleeping room for everyone (if you were sardines you would have been comfortable) some of us decided that the deck was the place to be. Lying there on deck with a clear sky I wondered what life

would have been like 200 years ago. I am probably grateful for living in the 20th and 21st centuries, but I just wonder if I would have liked living in the late 18th early 19th centuries.

It was 3am or thereabouts that I heard noises on deck. The crew were preparing our landing craft, not a row boat, but a rubber duckie with outboard. As the craft could only handle four including one crew we were ferried ashore, the first group leaving at 4.30am. We had planned to meet Alun with the bus at the little fishing settlement of Chinamans Creek, but the ships captain had suggested that it would be very difficult finding our way up the narrow channel among the mangroves to the landing at Chinamans Creek, so we elected to come ashore on the beach south of the village.

By 6am all were ashore and we could see the lights of the bus approaching. Having a large

torch we beamed Alun in to our location. A short walk to the bus and then a few kilometres around the mangroves. At 6.30am we were ready for the long walk to the summit.

It is estimated that Brown would have landed probably 2kms south of our landing and that he would have set his bearing on a straight line to the summit. From his position he could see that there could be a long ridge leading from the plains to the summit. We were in approximately the same position and of course with the aid of 1:50000 maps we were able to plot a similar course.

The rest of the story is ably described by my companions in these pages. Suffice to say that, I reckon Brown and company were men of great courage and conviction, if not heroes of their time they were so recognised 200 years later.

## Mount Brown John Zwar

As a horticulturist and environmental scientist, with an interest in history, I was keen along with another member of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Management Committee at Port Augusta, to recognise the expedition by Robert Brown and others from Matthew Flinders Investigator voyage of discovery of the southern coast of Australia, to the summit of Mount Brown in 1802. We suggested a re-enactment of the expedition. This was about five years ago but the other members of the Committee and City Council showed little interest in the possibility and the idea lapsed for want of support. I was delighted to hear late in 2000 of a proposed re-enactment of the original Mount Brown expedition

by the SEG in March 2002 as part of the bicentenary celebrations of Flinders voyage, and was thrilled to be invited to participate.

The Mount Brown re-enactment was part of a major community based event called Encounter 2002, celebrating the bicentenary of the expeditions and the encounter between British captain Matthew Flinders and his French counterpart, Nicolas Baudin, in SA waters in 1802.

I prepared for the Mount Brown re-enactment for some weeks by going for long daily practice walks through sand dunes and on bush tracks out from Roxby Downs in hot summer weather.

Saturday was the big day for those involved in the Mount Brown re-enactment. In the morning I provided a guided tour at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden for a group of special guests from Adelaide, before walking over the bridge to the main wharf adjacent to the city centre. The tall ships, "Enterprize" and "One and All" had just arrived and there were several thousand people present to welcome the ships. A huge carnival was set up adjacent to the wharf with stalls, rides, crafts and many activities. Although I missed the formal welcome ceremony at the wharf, Lisette Flinders Petrie later told me how moved she was to be formally welcomed to Australia by Aboriginal elders, and given a gift, a necklace. They pointed

out that they were happy to welcome her as it had not been possible to welcome her famous ancestor 200 years earlier. A "long lunch" was organised at the nearby yacht club and in an adjoining marquee, and the group involved in the Mount Brown re-enactment met there for the first time and enjoyed a meal together. The meal featured English, French and Aboriginal foods, recognising the original "encounter" of these cultures 200 years earlier.

Towards 4.00pm, the SEG expeditioners assembled on the wharf near the "Enterprize", a replica of the ship which took the first settlers from Tasmania to the Port Philip Bay settlement, now Melbourne. This 27 metre schooner was launched in 1997 and seemed surprisingly small to me, when considering the cargoes of general goods, coal, livestock and of course passengers carried between Tasmania and the Yarra River during its working life. The "Enterprize" with the SEG group aboard was farewelled by a large crowd as it left the main wharf at Port Augusta to head down the gulf to a point off Chinaman's Creek. Gulf waters were very calm and there were fine views of Port Augusta, and then the Flinders Ranges as we sailed south. It was interesting to compare the profile of the Ranges with drawings made by William Westall, the landscape artist on The Investigator, 200 years earlier. Dolphins accompanied the ship to the delight of passengers.

Towards evening, after running aground on a sand bar from which it was freed after a short effort, the ship anchored off shore from the point where we were to go ashore in the

morning to commence the walk to Mount Brown. The evening meal was taken on the deck. At night the cramped living conditions on the ship were really more obvious. I found the small sleeping berth in a tiny cabin accommodating eight people hot and airless and very claustrophobic so went up on deck and spent the rest of the night there. The stars were spectacular and the gently lapping gulf waters very calm. Phosphorescent marine life, made an interesting spectacle. About 3.30am preparations commenced for ferrying the



expeditioners to shore. An inflatable dinghy was prepared and breakfast taken, and gear packed. Groups of three were ferried in to shore from 4am and by about 6am all were on shore. After a short walk through coastal swamp we met the bus where sleeping gear was stored and which took us the short distance to the point from which the walk began.

After group photographs, the walkers left just as it was becoming light, for the first section across samphire flats. Besides the SEG group, Lisette Flinders Petrie and her daughter Rachel joined the walkers for the first section across saltbush plains towards the base of Mount Brown. The pace was fairly brisk in order to maintain a fairly tight schedule. Occasional

kangaroos were seen, and a sleepy lizard, but little other wildlife. The day became hotter, and the first substantial rest at the point where we crossed National Highway One a couple of hours after leaving was enjoyed by all. Once refreshed the walk continued over very gently rising dry saltbush plains, with a thick covering of dry prickly weeds, just made for collecting in woollen socks. There were few trees on this section and a few dry creeks to cross. Occasional Native Apricot trees, singly or in clumps, some Red Mallee and an occasional

Western Myall tree provided relief, but these were few and far between. Introduced Pepper Trees are common in a few locations, especially east of Highway One. I wondered how much the vegetation had changed since Brown saw it 200 years earlier. Certainly numerous introduced weeds

largely from South Africa and the Mediterranean were now well established. I enjoyed talking to Lisette and Rachel about Matthew Flinders and found that he is not widely known in the UK. They were impressed by his relative fame in Australia, where so many places and things are named after him. The day got hotter and wind increased. The next stop was at the old Main North Road crossing where we rested before the final section over undulating rising plains to the base of Mount Brown.

I chose not to walk this next section as I had done it the previous year, so went in the bus to Old Woolundunga ruins at the base of the mountain with SEG bus driver Alun Thomas, as I was keen to conserve energy

and reach the summit. When the walkers arrived we lunched in shade near the creek, where the Woolundunga Spring was still trickling. (This was one of the early water supplies for Port Augusta). By now it was 38 degrees and quite gusty as the walkers left for the summit. The group was joined by well known veteran Flinders Ranges walker, 85 year old Warren Bonython, and Alun Thomas. Although not especially high, at just over 1,000 metres, or especially rugged for the most part, much of the climb is very steep, with sections where climbers go up and then down again which seemed a waste of effort on this hot day. Rest stops and drinks became more common, and faster walkers went ahead. The steep mountain sides are largely weed and grass covered (dry at the end of summer and very slippery) with sections of saffron thistles. Sheep graze much of the mountainside and there are some severely eroded sections. In the deep creeks and on some hill sides River Red Gums grow, and occasional Yackas are an interesting feature in the landscape. Scatterings of Native Pine occur, this species being found throughout the Flinders Ranges.

As we climbed higher, the vegetation changed to an open parkland like woodland in some areas, and it became cooler but still very windy. Towards the summit, eucalyptus woodland is thicker, and there is a large boulder strewn scree which was difficult to cross, then a climb up a low broken cliff to the summit, where an impressive new lookout structure had been officially opened earlier that day. It had been flown in by helicopter in sections and assembled on site. On the top deck of the tower are interpretive panels featuring topics including the Aboriginal custodians of the area, the Nukunu people; Robert Brown – the botanist and scientist; the marginal farmland

on extensive plains to the east, and the Flinders Ranges as seen from this magnificent vantage point. Certainly as you climb the last stage of the mountain to the summit it is clear that you are higher than all surrounding peaks, and the view is stunning. To the east the extensive dry Willochra Plain stretches to the horizon. Northwards the well vegetated parallel ridges of the Flinders Ranges with dry grassy valleys between, and Devil's Peak are seen. Southwards is the crumpled maze of steep hills around Horrock's Pass, with Mount Remarkable a prominent peak on the skyline. Looking to the north west into the afternoon haze was Spencer Gulf with the Augusta Power Stations plume of smoke marking the location of Port Augusta. Almost due west could be seen the route we followed up the mountain, and beyond this the parched dry saltbush plains to the coast. Mount Granger, a low hill on the coast near Chinaman's Creek was visible, so it was possible to see most of the route of our walk and climb of about 25km from the summit.

I arrived at the summit about 5pm, well behind the leaders in our group. Once all of the SEG group was at the summit group photographs were taken and we enjoyed a celebration drink with some other walkers from the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of SA who reached the summit on a new 6km walking track from Richmans Valley. Lisette and Rachel Flinders who had left our walk earlier in the day to officiate at other ceremonies were at the summit having arrived with others via different routes. Now it was time for the descent to Old Woolundunga and the SEG bus, which would return us to Port Augusta.

I found the descent more difficult than the climb and extremely

slippery on very steep slopes covered with dry grass. I could see why Warren Bonython walked with a long lightweight wooden staff. My knees felt like exploding! Three of our group were offered a ride back into Wilmington and then to the bus once we were part way down, where some locals had driven in by four wheel drive. This was gratefully accepted, but very cramped for those in the back. It took almost 2 hours to reach Wilmington, perhaps 20 km distant on probably the highest, steepest tracks in South Australia, but the scenery was worth it and my knees will be ever grateful!

Whilst we knew where we were going and what to expect, and had water, it is really quite amazing to think that Brown and his assistants completed their expedition in just two days, whilst collecting numerous plant and other specimens, and sketching landforms for more detailed pictures to be produced later. In addition they had a considerable trek through mangrove swamp at the beginning and end of their journey.

It was a wonderful experience for me to participate in this re-enactment. It was even more significant because of my interest in native plants and botany, and retracing the footsteps of the famous botanist Robert Brown. Meeting Matthew Flinders descendents was a highlight. It was also significant and a fascinating co-incidence that the Flinders Red Cliff site in upper Spencer Gulf is within the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden which I instigated in 1981. My grateful thanks to Graeme Oats and others who invited me to participate in this memorable event.

## FUTURE PROGRAMME

The Scientific Expedition Group (SEG) welcomes enquiries from all members and friends who are interested in participating in one or more of our projects or expeditions. Please contact the leader or convener of the project or expedition that interests you for more information.

We welcome enquiries from anyone from 16 - 60 years (or more) who would like to participate in our scientific, environmental and educational projects.

### Current recurring projects

#### GRaSP

Gammon Ranges Scientific Project (GRaSP) is now in its thirteenth year. The project involves a four or five day trip to the Gammon Ranges about four or five times a year. A data collection project involving flora and fauna and rainfall gauging which also involves bush camping and trekking. Other activities include feral animal counts, fox baiting and yellow footed rock wallaby counts. Expeditions are being planned for September and December 2001.

Contact Chris Wright 8278 8818

#### Minnawarra

SEG is running a biodiversity project in the Spring Mount area near Myponga based on a number of Heritage Sites on Richard Willing's property, Minnawarra. . The next survey will take place during October. For information contact Richard Willing on mobile phone 0408 807 517.

#### Future Expeditions

An expedition to Munyeroo on the eastern coast of Eyre Peninsula is in planning . See the notice at the back of this issue. For information contact Jarrod Eaton (h) 8270 1839 email: [jarrod.eaton@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jarrod.eaton@adelaide.edu.au) or Trent Porter [grevillia@ozemail.com.au](mailto:grevillia@ozemail.com.au) (h) 8278 9078 or SEG, Box 501, UNLEY SA 5061.

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## SEGments BY EMAIL

We are going to send this month's SEGments by email to those for whom we have email addresses to see how practical it is and to try to save on printing and postage costs, a significant cost in the SEG budget.

We invite your comments on this practice. If you received it by email was it easily readable? If you would like to have your SEGments delivered by email please send your email address to [athomas6@bigpond.net.au](mailto:athomas6@bigpond.net.au) or [oatsgd@senet.com.au](mailto:oatsgd@senet.com.au) .

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## FOXES IN TASMANIA

### Robert Read

A small number of foxes has become established in Tasmania, which has previously been fox free. See the link below for more information

<http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/SJON-56P2RG?open>

"The Australian" earlier in the year carried a report that sounds alarming. Despite a major effort by Parks and Wildlife only two foxes have been shot. According to Professor Short of the University of Melbourne "it's going to require more money and resources than Tasmanians can afford".

The only hope is to eradicate the foxes before their breeding season in July. This is the sort of emergency that governments are notoriously bad at dealing with, as it needs immediate and expensive action. However the long term costs of saving species that may become endangered once foxes become established will be far higher.



# Kids Corner

This edition's word puzzle is made using words from the upcoming Expedition Munyaroo

G	E	R	U	T	N	E	V	D	A	Q	D	J	E	H	K
O	K	Y	L	O	J	S	N	A	I	B	I	H	P	M	A
Y	A	G	A	M	M	I	S	E	G	N	A	R	V	V	N
D	O	Y	T	I	S	R	E	V	I	D	O	I	B	N	L
E	K	G	S	L	L	A	F	N	I	A	R	E	F	K	I
R	C	Q	A	Q	M	A	L	L	E	E	L	E	U	R	N
S	A	S	O	A	C	T	F	M	Y	A	L	L	H	B	E
H	L	U	C	I	L	L	O	O	R	A	Y	N	U	M	L
R	B	O	I	N	V	E	R	T	E	B	R	A	T	E	S
U	K	C	A	B	E	L	D	D	I	M	X	E	F	C	W
B	S	P	U	R	Y	N	O	I	T	A	T	E	G	E	V
L	Z	W	R	F	S	S	L	A	M	M	A	M	O	J	U
A	D	N	A	L	D	O	O	W	J	Q	S	P	A	R	K
N	B	A	T	S	R	Y	U	M	B	A	R	R	A	G	I
D	J	R	J	P	I	M	A	L	L	E	E	F	O	W	L
H	E	R	I	T	A	G	E	R	E	P	T	I	L	E	S

## WORD LIST

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| HERITAGE      | VEGETATION   |
| INVERTEBRATES | WOODLAND     |
| LINE          | YUMBARRA     |
| MALLEE        | ADVENTURE    |
| MALLEEFOWL    | AMPHIBIANS   |
| MAMMALS       | BATS         |
| MIDDLEBACK    | BIODIVERSITY |
| MUNYAROO      | BLACKOAK     |
| MYALL         | COASTAL      |
| PARK          | GOYDERS      |
| RAINFALL      |              |
| RANGES        |              |
| REPTILES      |              |
| SHRUBLAND     |              |

## EDITORIAL

This edition is mainly dedicated to the very successful Encounter 2002 Mt Brown Expedition with articles by some of the expeditioners.

I played my part in the Expedition as the bus driver (a luxury Brown and his party did not have) but had a chance to do the final climb to the summit which was challenging but enjoyable. I can assure you that the weather was against us with a 35 to 38 degree day in Pt Augusta but we succeeded and felt a great sense of achievement. I hope you enjoy the expeditioners reports.

Planning is proceeding well for Expedition Munyaroo and the expedition will be underway when the next edition of SEGments goes out. Please note the Annual General Meeting on **FRIDAY 30 August 2002**. Laurie Haegi will be a very interesting speaker.

Alun Thomas

## LOST AND FOUND

FOUND in the back of my car - a man's wrist watch, good quality, analog face, stainless steel case and wrist band, still ticking, set to summer time. If you think it might be yours, please write to me at the SEG address or email [jsp@senet.com.au](mailto:jsp@senet.com.au).

John Love.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 30 August 2002

In the Fullarton Park Centre, 411 Fullarton Road  
(corner of Fisher St & Fullarton Rd)

At 7.30 p.m.

**Business will include:**

Reports by the Chairman and the Treasurer

Membership subscriptions

Election of the 2002-2003 Committee

Any other business

Guest speaker: Dr Laurie HAEGI, former Director of the Plant Biodiversity Centre, now Asst Director of biodiversity in Dept of Environment.

Supper

## Nominations are called for the 2002-2003 Committee

The present Committee consists of : President Mr C.Warren Bonython, Chairman Dr Richard Willing, Vice President and e Editor Mr Alun Thomas, Secretary Mr John Love, Treasurer Mr Graeme Oats, Committee members Mrs Sarah Telfer, Messrs John Hayes, Phil Cole, Chris Wright, Bob Major, Trent Porter, Duncan MacKenzie, Paul Wainwright.

All members will retire and are eligible for re-election.

Nominations must be signed by the proposer and the nominee and sent to The Secretary, PO Box 501, Unley 5061, by 2 August 2002.

John Love  
Secretary

## MUNYAROO EXPEDITION 2002

### RECONNAISSANCE TRIP 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002

MUNYAROO NATIONAL PARK is situated on the S.A.coast midway between Whyalla and Cowell. It has been selected as the area for a BIODIVERSITY SURVEY in September 2002, followed by an ADVENTURE PHASE in the Middleback Ranges with a base at the University Field Station on Middleback Station.

An enjoyable reconnaissance trip by six members on the 26<sup>th</sup> April identified a disused shed on Munyaroo National Park which will be used as the main camp site. There are interesting tracks which traverse the park and will provide access for the surveys. In addition, the park stretches to an extensive flat shoreline which will be of interest.

The University Field Unit on Middleback Station will provide an excellent location for collation of data collected at Munyaroo, and a base for hiking in the Middleback Ranges.This centre also has facilities for accomodation including a shower block.

SEE THE NOTICE ON THE BACK PAGE or contact Jarrod Eaton (h) 8270 1839 email: [jarrod.eaton@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jarrod.eaton@adelaide.edu.au) or Trent Porter [grevillia@ozemail.com.au](mailto:grevillia@ozemail.com.au) (h) 8278 9078 or SEG, Box 501, UNLEY SA 5061

## SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION GROUP

The Scientific Expedition Group came into being at a public meeting on 21st August 1984. Membership is open to any persons, family or organisation interested in the following aims:

The promotion and running of expeditions of a scientific, cultural and adventurous nature.

The furthering of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural environment.

Promotion of the values and philosophy of wilderness.

Enabling people to learn the skills required for planning and running expeditions, and to develop sound field techniques.

Members will receive regular information on S. E. G. activities and expeditions

### SUBSCRIPTIONS (Including GST)

Working adult member -----	\$16.50
Pensioner student or unemployed -----	\$11.00
Family membership -----	\$22.00
Organisation membership -----	\$22.00

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone (H) ..... (W) .....

Details of scientific, cultural, adventuring or other relevant skill or interests you may be prepared to share with the group:

.....  
 .....  
 .....

Applications should be addressed to :      The Hon. Secretary  
    Scientific Expedition Group Inc.  
    P.O. Box 501  
    Unley S.A. 5061

Patron: His Excellency, the Honourable  
 Sir Eric Neal, AC, CVO.  
 Governor of South Australia

### COMMITTEE

Position		Phone	Fax	email
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Editor	Alun Thomas	8296 9453	8223 2588	althomas6@bigpond.net.au
			Address:	23 Rutland Ave Brighton S.A. 5048



scientific  
expedition  
group



## Expedition Munyaroo 2002

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 2002 to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2002 (Uni. Holidays)

### BIODIVERSITY SURVEY

#### Expeditioners wanted

Expeditioners aged between 15-25 years should apply now to join an expedition to Munyaroo Conservation Park and Reserve on Eyre Peninsula. Only 25 applicants will be accepted on a first come-first served basis. The cost for the 14 days will be approximately \$500 (student/concession \$350) which includes travel and food.< Costs are subject to levels of sponsorship becoming available. > **Places maybe available to non-student applicants.**

**SEG** promotes a caring ethic towards the environment and expects participants to adopt minimum impact camping and study techniques.

Munyaroo Conservation Park and the adjacent Conservation Reserve sit on Goyders Line, being the interface between the parallel dune system and associated mallee lands extending from Yumbarra Conservation Park to the west, with low rainfall Myall and Blackoak Woodlands and Chenopod Shrublands.

Facilities will be limited to bush camping. For the first week the expedition will stay at a base camp near the coast within an open mallee woodland. Groups will go out each day with Scientific leaders to study:

1. Small mammals & bats
2. Vegetation
3. Reptiles and amphibians
4. Invertebrates
5. Malleefowl and other birds
6. European Heritage.

The second week encompasses an **Adventure Phase** which will include the choice of bush walks through the scenic Middleback Ranges or exploring coastal environments

Expeditioners will be required to provide personal camping gear e.g. tents, sleeping bag, waterproofs, walking boots and a rucksack etc.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from: Jarrod Eaton (h) 8270 1839 email: [jarrod.eaton@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jarrod.eaton@adelaide.edu.au) or Trent Porter [grevillia@ozemail.com.au](mailto:grevillia@ozemail.com.au) (h) 8278 9078 or SEG, Box 501, UNLEY SA 5061.