



SEGMENTS

Volume 19 Number 2

September 2003

Journal of the
Scientific Expedition Group

Chairman's Report 29th August 2003 Richard Willing

In this issue

- 1 Chairman's Report
- 3 Witjira Report
- 5 Bushwalking in the Middleback Ranges
- 7 Kids Corner
- 7 Editorial

As SEG enters its 20th year it is with great pleasure that I present my final Chairman's Report. It includes: Warren Bonython's retirement as President; the changing face of the SEG committee and their dedication; the two most recent annual expeditions, Munyaroo and Witjira; two new Life Members; the Gammon Ranges Scientific Project (GRASP); the Minnowarra Biodiversity Project (MBP); future events; Segments and the new web site. I welcome Mark Pharaoh, our guest speaker. He is curator of the Mawson Collection and arranger of this fine venue for the meeting.

Warren Bonython, AO, is the Foundation President of SEG. An eminent explorer, walker, writer and ecologist, he has established many useful contacts for SEG and been an active committee member. Upon his retirement I acknowledge his enormous contribution to this group. Joc Schmiechen, a former committee member, will talk briefly about Warren's exploits later. Reluctant to sever our ties with Warren completely, the committee has decided to appoint him "President Emeritus", in addition to him continuing as a Trustee of the Scientific Expedition Foundation.

The Committee has a changing face. During the year Chris Wright left to work overseas, leaving a huge gap in the ranks. We wish him well. Among other things he has run the Gammon Ranges Project for more than 15 years, as well as having much input to the committee over this time. The tireless Graeme Oats, besides being Treasurer, has also done much of the networking that I should have. John Love, our secretary, is able to create plausible

minutes from our monthly wide-ranging, exuberant meetings, but can also swing a mattock or hike in the Gammons Ranges. Trent Porter, a strong supporter for many years, has excelled himself by handling the catering and logistics for the last two major expeditions. Phil Cole has been a constant source of useful information and contacts with his many other commitments. Duncan MacKenzie, now heavily involved in running Gluepot, helps run the Minnowarra Project as well. Peter Bailey, a welcome addition to the committee, has just edited the excellent Munyaroo report. John Hayes, continues his strong support for SEG by nominating as Vice-chairman, a position he has held in the past. Linda-Marie Hall returned to Adelaide with a lot of energy, was coopted onto the committee again, and has taken over the organizing the GRASP trips. Sarah Telfer has overcome constraints of family and work to help us through the year. Bob Major, committed to his geological interests, and Paul Wainwright, tied up with erratic working hours, have both had difficulty attending meetings, despite their enthusiasm, and we thank them for their support. Since living out of Adelaide for the past three years it has been difficult for me to network for SEG, so I have decided to retire as Chairman. By chance it coincides with Warren's departure, so we two founding members step down together. I shall maintain a strong association with the SEG committee. Alun Thomas, vice-chairman and editor, has nominated for the job of Chairman. I am sure that he will carry on the traditions of SEG, but put his own stamp on its program. He has spent much time this year bringing SEG into the 21st century on the

SEGments is the
authorised journal of the
SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION
GROUP INC.

PO Box 501
Unley SA 5061

internet.

I take this opportunity to commend the enthusiasm and dedication of the members of the committee. Each monthly meeting generates hours of follow up work. Planning an expedition involves many hours of meetings and work with the leaders. This time is donated generously working in a common cause with dedication and good humour. This has been so since SEG was founded and I thank all who have helped in this way.

I am glad to report that the committee has approved Life Membership for two of our long term supporters, John Love, the Secretary for years, and Trent Porter, expedition organizer extraordinaire.

The Gammon Ranges Scientific Project (GRASP) seems to develop more each year. Under Chris Wright's steady hand a small party has travelled each quarter by car and foot to service the equipment. A CDMA telephone link is now established to the pluviometers and the site is an official weather recording station - look for Gammon Ranges in the weekly rainfall report. Linda-Marie Hall has stepped into the breach to take over the organization of the maintenance trips to the Gammons.

The Minnowarra Biodiversity Project (MBP), established three years ago, has become a twice-yearly fixture on the SEG calendar when areas of native scrub are studied in Spring and Autumn for four days. We are gaining an insight into what happens to wildlife when grazing farm animals are excluded from the scrub. The next survey is in early October, with a working bee on 28th September. Volunteers are most welcome.

Alun Thomas, editor of our quarterly publication, SEGments, has excelled himself by publishing it on-line this year, significantly reducing printing and postage costs. He is to be commended for finding interesting articles and keeping this bulletin of activities current. Articles on a wide range of topics are welcome.

SEG now has its own website. Alun Thomas followed up the suggestion to get an IT student to design a website for us, and it has worked very well. SEG may now be visited at www.communitywebs.org/scientificexpeditiongroup where a wide range of information relating to past, present and future activities can be found. In addition Alun has also organized a SEG email address: segcomms@telstra.com

For the recent major expeditions I acknowledge the generous financial support of our major sponsors: Onesteel for Munyaroo; Arid Areas Water Catchment Board and WMC Pty Ltd for Witjira. Both expeditions were successful because of sponsorship, collaboration between good scientists and experienced SEG logistic support.

Expedition Munyaroo, on eastern Eyre Peninsula in September 2002, took 28 SEG members and scientists (mostly from SA Museum) and laid the groundwork to catalogue the plant and animal biodiversity with eight long-term sites established in the eastern half of the park, and a good start made on the vegetation. This was the initial invertebrate survey for the area, particularly for ants and spiders, and two new species were identified. More birds were added to the existing bird list, and reptiles and mammals were documented from the trapping program. This was a good location to work on the western myall- dry mallee associations between plants and animals, and is a good training ground for field techniques. It will lead to further work in the area. The excellent report was edited by Peter Bailey and Kingsley Turner.

Expedition Witjira 2003, held last July was the most major collaboration with a scientific group that SEG had undertaken, involving 45 SEG members, scientists and officers of Department for Environment and Heritage and National Parks and Wildlife SA. Based at Dalhousie mound spring, the survey area extended from the gibber plains near Blood Creek in the west to the sandhills of the Simpson Desert in the east. Feral date palms have clogged many of the mound springs, so the scientific work was based around water, vegetation, shading, invertebrates and vertebrates, as well as rare rodent and kowari searches. This was a collaboration to try to establish a management plan for the palms. This collection of professionals and amateurs, young and old, worked with commendable harmony doing a lot of hard work such as hacking through reeds and palm trees, repairing fences, measuring water properties from a boat, counting fish while snorkelling, counting birds, checking mammal traps and preparing meals. Collation of results has commenced, but will take some months.

Future events. The value of an organization like SEG in providing personnel keen to undertake field work is becoming recognized. It is hoped that cooperation with such scientific bodies will provide SEG

with long term plans for further expeditions. Future surveys of other National and Conservation Parks will be considered.

One of these is Munyaroo Conservation Park. Scientists of SA Museum are keen to return there to complete a survey of the western part of the park. If this can be arranged a return trip to Munyaroo will be organised next year, probably in Spring.

The ongoing short expeditions, GRASP and Minnowarra will proceed as usual.

In summary, SEG is in robust health, has performed creditably in its last two annual expeditions where it collaborated with scientific bodies in biological surveys. There is the possibility of similar future collaboration. The changing face of the committee augurs well for the longevity of this dynamic organization.

As I conclude my last Chairman's Report I hope you will indulge me while I reflect on some happenings over the past 19 years. SEG was born in 1984 out of the SA Branch of ANZSES, after severing our connection with the parent body, for which we had been running expeditions for several years. It was a small beginning for SEG, with one expedition that ran at a loss nearly sending us broke. Warren and I dipped into our pockets so that SEG could afford a mail-out to its members. Since then SEG has grown, become an incorporated body, attracted the SA Governor as its Patron, established a gift fund (the Scientific Expedition Foundation), received various grants for scientific projects and is financially stable. Expeditions have been organized to the South East, Kangaroo Island, Eyre Peninsula, Gammon Ranges and the Far North. Initially catering for the 15-25 year age group, mature adults have been encouraged to "top up" numbers over the past decade. This has helped subsidize fees for young people. All ages share a remarkable ability to get along well in the field with harmony, good humour and cooperation. SEG has no paid employees and is entirely a volunteer, non-profit organization. Again, I would like to pay tribute to all those "true believers" who have served on the committee or helped in other ways over the years.

I am very proud to hand over the running of this robust organization to my successor.



EXPEDITION WITJIRA 2003

A VERY PRELIMINARY REPORT

Richard Willing

Expedition Witjira 2003 was held from 12-26th July 2003 with the camp based near the Ranger's quarters close to the Dalhousie main spring in Witjira National Park in the Far North of South Australia. It was a major collaboration between the Scientific Expedition Group (SEG), Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The main objective was to conduct a biodiversity survey of the area, particularly the mound springs, to observe any differences where feral date palms are invading the springs. Other objectives were to search for rare rodents, kowari and marsupial moles and survey for feral animals.

Background

The Dalhousie Springs area has been a significant site of aboriginal culture for a long period, both for living and as a meeting and ceremonial place. European discovery occurred in 1870, and the first pastoral lease taken out in 1872. Early settlers planted date palm seeds near some of the springs. More than a century later these have flourished and spread far beyond their initial distribution. This poses a problem for NPWS, as some springs are heavily infested and have stopped running. A credible management plan is needed to deal with them in an environmentally friendly fashion.

Scientific work

A large volume of data has been accumulated during this survey. It will obviously take a long time to process, so final results will not be available for some months. What follows is a brief review of the scientific methods used and trends where available. A panel of SEG volunteers is preparing to process the data.

Vegetation monitoring

Denise Noack has studied Dalhousie vegetation for years while gathering data for her PhD. She coordinated the mapping of five springs affected by date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) in the Kingfisher mound spring complex, finding 120 mother palms and 650 offshoots. As an estimated 20% of the 108 springs in the complex have problems with date palms this represents an enormous problem. Vegetation in the B1 and B2 springs was also measured.

3 Mapping of *Eleocharis geniculata*, a spike-rush, near the main pool was

undertaken to see if this would be suitable to assess visitor impact. The area of its growth appears to have increased since the camping area moved away from the pool.

Mound spring monitoring

Travis Gotch spends much of his time in mound springs working towards his PhD. He was in charge of mound spring monitoring and has accumulated a large amount of raw data needing time for analysis. Invertebrate monitoring of the Kingfisher complex included searching for invertebrates in the spring and tail, including cutting transects through the phragmites, sampling of the water and the benthic layer, setting pitfall traps, malaise traps and pan traps for invertebrates, as well as counting fish numbers near and away from date palm roots. The traps showed a greater diversity of invertebrates in melaleucas than in date palm areas, and more fish fed near melaleuca roots than date palm roots.

Physical properties of mound springs Michaela Birrell, Wetlands Officer, DEH, was in charge of measuring physical properties of the mound springs. This was painstaking work measuring, at different times of the day, turbidity, dissolved oxygen content, pH, temperature, conductivity and shading both in springs and down the tails. A large amount of number crunching is necessary before final results are available.

Laboratory

Lynette Queale, DEH, the laboratory manager, set up the lab in a shed complete with binocular microscopes and various weighing and measuring devices. Many SEG members were able to help in the sorting and identification of the many specimens collected, and some have also volunteered to help with data entry back in Adelaide. Jenny Bourne, Outback Scientific Officer, DEH, and a veteran of previous SEG trips, was responsible for coordinating data collection and specimen labelling.

Vertebrate monitoring at mound springs

Kelli-Jo Kovac (KJ), environmental scientist with WMC, Roxby Downs, assisted by Richard Willing, set 135 Elliot traps along the Kingfisher complex, B1 and B2, and Dalhousie

main springs for four nights. Many house mice (*Mus musculus*) were caught and despatched, earning Richard the title of "Dr Jekyll", but significant numbers of natives such as plague rat (*Rattus villosissimus*), paucident planigale (*Planigale gilesi*) and an attractive skink (*Ctenotis saxatilis*) were also trapped.

Rare rodent monitoring

KJ supervised the monitoring of the Rare Rodent site on a gibber plain near Mt Crispe, 30 km west of our camp. This had been set up by Rob Brandle some years previously. 200 Elliot traps set in a grid pattern caught stripe-faced dunnart (*Sminthopsis macroura*), fat-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*), Forrest mouse (*Leggadina forrestii*), and a plains rat (*Pseudomys australis*) - only the third caught in the area in recent years.

Kowari search

Rob Brandle and Stuart Pilman, Biological Survey, DEH, set up lines of Elliot traps 10km long on gibber pavement country east and west of the camp searching for evidence of kowari (*Dasycercus byrnie*). This endangered inhabitant of the east side of the Lake Eyre basin has not been found on the west side of the basin since 1895, and maintains this record. The search, though, was exciting for those who rode across country in the Oka research vehicle navigating by GPS.

Other animals

A few tracks of Ampurta (*Dasycercus hillieri*) were seen, with the distinctive 5 toed pattern compared to the kowari 4. The strong wind and sand blasting that occurred midway through the second week halted this program. Twenty four pits dug at four sites in the sand of the western Simpson Desert revealed tracks of the Marsupial Mole (*Notoryctes typhlops*) in 3 of them, probably the first report of this mammal in this area.

Queale set up a mist net on a couple of nights and caught one bat (*Vespertilio finlaysoni*) and a tawny frogmouth!

Bird surveys

Surveys of the regular trapping sites for 20 minutes at the Kingfisher and other springs took place as well as opportunistic sightings in the area. Among those sighted were: Crow, Raven, Welcome swallow, Bustard,

Black kite, Wedge-tailed eagle, Rufous night heron, Singing honeyeater, Spiny cheeked HE, Zebra finch, Variegated wren, Crested pigeon, Galah, Black duck, Pink eared duck, Aust grebe. A complete bird list will be published with the final report.

Total grazing pressure management Brendan Lay and John Maconochie, Rangelands, DWLBC, were in charge of this ongoing project, starting with repairing some enclosure areas which Brendan had set up a couple of decades ago. With the release of the rabbit calicivirus a few years ago the rabbit population in the area had decreased to such an extent that there was a great regeneration of native vegetation even outside the enclosures. There was still considerable grazing pressure from feral camels, donkeys and horses, particularly for 25 km around Purni Bore in the western Simpson Desert.

Visitor impact

Travis, Michaela and Denise spent several long days at the main pool monitoring ofr visitor impact, providing boating in the desert for many. Those who saw it years ago remembered an island in the centre of the main pool. This has now disappeared, probably because of the disturbance of swimming by visitors, and the diminution of the

benthic layer. The usual physical properties were estimated as well as a bathymetric survey to assess the shape and depth of the pool. Grab samples of the benthic layer had many sieving mud on the shore. Elliot traps caught *Rattus villosissimus* and *Planigale gilesi*, while Denise mapped an increase in spike-rush.

Monitoring of feral animals
An ongoing aerial monitoring of feral animals was timed to coincide with the expedition. The plane, flown at 100 knots at 250 feet altitude in a grid pattern by Robin Young, contained Scott Jennings and John Pitt observing an area of ground beneath each wing equivalent to 5 sq km each 97 seconds - periods of great concentration! A couple of expeditioners were chosen by ballot and joined the flights. Plenty of feral camels and donkeys were sighted giving an indication that there is still considerable grazing pressure in the park despite reduction in rabbit numbers.

Overview

This has been the most ambitious collaboration with a scientific survey undertaken by SEG. The array of scientists and NPWS staff (19) almost matched the number of SEG members (26). Although the

matching of personnel for scientific projects to those of personal requirements created some minor difficulties the whole operation worked with harmony. SEG members at times worked harder than they had anticipated, and there were other times of waiting around because of hitches in the scientific program. There was never a complaint, even when the promised day off was fractured into assorted hours when some people could catch up on washing and bathing. As I watched people having breakfast and making lunches in time for a 7.15am departure I was proud that the operation was running like a well-oiled machine.

Special thanks are due to Trent Porter who, once again, provided culinary delights far beyond expectations. Most said it was the best they had ever eaten while in camp. His daily organization of food and help for the cooks ensured that all ran smoothly.

Congratulations to everybody - SEG members, scientific and NPWS staff - for being so resilient, accommodating and hard-working. It ensured the success of a combined operation whose importance will become even more obvious with time.



GRASP PROJECT

.Trips are planned in the near future as follows:

October 17 to 21, pre-trip meeting in September 2003 This trip will focus on the rainfall data collection, but will include other projects of interest, such as Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby watch

January - long weekend, pre-trip meeting December 2003/ January 2004 (Linton Johnston, Kent Wilson)

April - Easter weekend, pre-trip meeting March 2004 (Peter Love, Christine Arnold)

All GRASP Leaders will be invited to the Annual GRASP leaders meeting early next year and trip leaders will be expected to attend the pre-trip meetings for the trips they are leading.

For any more details on any of these please contact Linda-Marie Hall.

Email: linda-marie.hall@state.sa.gov.au

Bushwalking the Middleback Ranges

Trent Porter

This Bushwalk was part of the Expedition Munyaroo

Day 1
Tuesday 1st. October 2002

At 5.30 the eyes suddenly snapped open and the ears registered the now familiar pre-dawn song of the White fronted Honeyeater from the nest in the bush next door. Last day of our time at Munyaroo - lots to do -all that packing up---Move, Move, Move. As usual, everyone went to work, eating breakfast with one hand and packing with the other. By 8.45 the whole encampment was on the truck and ready to go. Graeme Oats gathered Ray Hickman, Kevin Burrett and me, and stuffed us and our packs into his Daihatsu (very squeezey) to begin our next three days of bushwalking the Middleback Ranges.

Our start point on the plain gave us a good view of what appeared to be a mysterious ruined castle on the flank of Mt. Middleback and we could not resist the temptation to investigate but as we approached it disappeared. Just shows what perspective and a bit of mirage can do! As we climbed, the view to the east across the plains toward Munyaroo became more and more spectacular until after surmounting many false crests, we reached the summit. What a change of aspect! The landscape to the west was completely excavated away by mining activity and giant trucks and excavators roaring through the dusta contrast to the calm wilderness we had just climbed through. After attacking the lunch box we moved on down the north eastern side of the mountain and then turned north through sparse mallee and Triodia toward Cook's Gap. The country gradually changed to fairly dense shrubland then small eucalypt forest giving way to more open Callitris (almost park-like) until we came upon the ruins of the old "Highlands" property. This was really worth exploring and gave a sense of the fierce struggle the early settlers must have had to just survive, let alone prosper. All that obvious hard work over years-then abandoned!

Our next task was to find the water dump left previously by Graeme but

here we missed the right track, apparently obscured by sheep. Although we quickly realized the mistake, we felt we had to continue in case our water dumper had made the same error. Fooled again- no water so a quick sprint across country through rocky outcrops and pretty thick mallee for several kilometres until the correct track appeared. Ray's worry lines at last flattened a bit when heaps and heaps of water containers loomed up in the saltbush through the gathering dusk. We wearily made a camp in a grove of mallee trees from which we were carefully watched by a group very curious Pt. Lincoln parrots. They must have thought we were nuts but we thought it was great lying under the stars spotting satellites -amazing just how many are up there.

DAY 2
Wednesday 2nd October 2002

A red sky in the morning promises, it's said, a hot day to come but conditions were quite pleasant as we packed up and headed off towards the very prominent Iron Warrior in the distance. With some km of salt bush and low shrub country traversed I suddenly noticed that the vegetation was quite different- quandongs?- no!- sandalwood trees- groves of them mostly bearing a good load of fruit- How were all these missed by the early tree pullers? - it gave an idea of how thick they might have been before the harvesting began. Not far into this well vegetated country, a fence line crossed our path at right angles and the contrast could not have been greater - one side quite lush and the other almost barren! I think maybe someone was overgrazing. All the while, the wind had been rising and, as we turned north to follow the railway tracks of the mining operation, it became a head-on gale. It must have looked quite funny with us all bent forward at a 45 deg. angle at least trying to make some progress---very tiring! What a slog! We escaped for a little while to eat lunch near a dry waterfall then continued.

The afternoon brought us out at the head of a long, ungrazed and very

pleasant valley and crossing the saddle gave us a great view of the remains of Iron Queen and Iron Baron (amazing how much had just disappeared entirely) and the signal tower, away in the distance, where our water was to have been left..and it was, to our relief!!

Our well camouflaged camp was quickly established under a large myall tree and rest was commenced only to be interrupted by the dust clouded approach of a miner's vehicle at very high speed, the driver evidently having spotted our colourful water drums left under a tree by the roadside. He jumped out to inspect the drums but as we all approached to say G'day he leapt back into the vehicle and made a hasty exit backwards doing at least 30-40 km.-? Didn't think we smelled that bad! He came back again just before dark for another look but by that time we had moved the drums away and he didn't spot us so he's probably still wondering. Gathering clouds prompted Kevin and I to rig a tarp over our sleeping bags for the night but wind and rain eventually broke through and quite some dampness ensued.

DAY 3
Thursday 3rd October 2002

Ray smiled triumphantly as he emerged, warm and dry, from the cosy tent he had struggled to carry over all the countryside but it didn't take long to dry things in the morning sun before wandering the 1 km or so to the Iron Baron Township. There it was--- GONE! Nothing left but a few remaining bits of garden and flowering street trees along the deserted main street.

John Love's Prado appeared at the head of a cloud of dust as we walked back to camp and we loaded the gear into the wagon and headed back to Middleback Station for a much anticipated shower and proper tucker



5

ISN'T THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FUNNY

Aoccdnrig to rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoentn tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can siltl raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey ltteter by it slef but the wrod as a wlohe.

MINNAWARRA BIODIVERSITY PROJECT SPRING SURVEY OCTOBER 2003

Dates of the next survey:

Working bee on pitfalls Sunday 28th September. Volunteers needed and welcome. Come early and enjoy the scenery while re-establishing the sites. Bring all you require for a BBQ lunch.

Traps opened Thursday 2nd October and closed again on Monday 6th November (Labour Day).

The survey is conducted in the Heritage Area scrub on Minnowarra farm near Myponga. The aim of the surveys is an attempt to assess the long-term effect of exclusion of grazing stock. There are eight sites scattered through the 117 Ha of scrub. Each has a line of permanent pit-fall traps. As well, Elliott and cage traps are set near each line. A vegetation survey and bird counts are done, as well as trapping invertebrates. An Anabat bat-detector will be set running at night. The results will be entered into the SA Biological Survey. Common trappings in the past have been bush rats, swamp rats, antechinus, different frogs and various lizards and skinks. The wild flowers are usually spectacular in the spring.

SEG is a volunteer, non-profit organization that aims to encourage an awareness of the natural environment. Young people and adults are welcome, especially as these dates are within school and university vacations. Places are still available on this next survey. Attendance can be for one or several days. There is plenty of camping space around a large shed (with heater and electricity). A small marquee may be erected for those without a tent. Cooking facilities are provided, and there is access to toilet facilities in the farmhouse 100 metres away. A small charge of \$10 per family is made, but you will need to provide your own food.

For information, registration of interest and how to find us:
ring: 8558 6381; mobile 0408 807 517; fax 8558 6212;
email willingr@comstech.com

Richard Willing
Chairman, SEG and Coordinator Minnowarra Biodiversity Project



Kids Corner

This time the hidden words are taken from the Witjira Report. They are hidden in all directions. Can you find them all?

WORD LIST

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

EXPEDITION
WITJIRA
REPORT
DALHOUSIE
FERAL
PALMS
KOWARI
VEGETATION
PARK
DATA
DATE
SPRINGS
MOUND
SCIENTIFIC

PROBLEM
INVERTEBRATE
WETLANDS
FISH
MELALEUCA
LABORATORY
OUTBACK
VERTEBRATE
RODENT
GIBBER

EDITORIAL

As you will have seen from the leading article in this issue the face of the Scientific Expedition Group has changed with the retirement to President Emeritus of Warren Bonython, the elevation of Richard Willing to President and my appointment to the position of Chairman. SEG has been ably served by Warren and Richard and their elevation will leave a hole in the Committee which will be hard to fill.

Richard's swansong, in effect, has been Expedition Witjira which was a huge success. It has built strong relationship between SEG and the relevant government departments and they can see a role for us assisting with biodiversity surveys in other parks in South Australia. With proper planning ahead SEG should be able to fulfil its aims of providing adventurous science to young people while providing material benefit to the community.

The immediate effect of the change of leadership is that now that I am Chairman I would like someone to take over the position of Editor and in the longer term someone to take over the job of Website Manager. Neither of these jobs are particularly onerous. Please contact me if you are prepared to assist with either of these positions.

The next Minnowarra Biodiversity Survey is coming up at the end of the month. I encourage all members that can to assist.

I apologise for the lateness of getting out this issue of SEGments and the uneven layout. This is mainly due to the page layout software I have been using failing and I have had to prepare SEGments from the beginning using a different program. I think this is called character building.

ALUN THOMAS

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).....

Email.....

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: Her Excellency, the Honourable Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, AC, CVO, MBE,
Governor of South Australia

COMMITTEE

President Emeritus	C. Warren Bonython	AO			
President	Dr Richard Willing	8558 6381 Mobile 0408 807 517	Fax 8558 6212		Email willingr@comstech.com
Chairman	Alun Thomas	8296 9453	8223 2588		alun@madderns.com.au
Vice-Chairman	John Hayes	8234 6017			hayes.john@saugov.sa.gov.au
Hon. Secretary	John Love	8379 1172			jsp@senet.com.au
Hon. Treasurer	Graeme Oats	8278 3179	8278 5577		oatsgd@senet.com.au
Committee:	Phil Cole	8390 0250	8303 9555		pjcole@senet.com.au
	Duncan MacKenzie	8332 1204	8364 5527		dmackenzie@iname.com
	Peter Bailey	8370 2464			elaineeter@picknowl.com.au
	Trent Porter	8278 9078			trentasaurus@bigpond.com
	Linda-Marie Hall	8204 9117			linda-marie.hall@state.sa.gov.au
Editor	Alun Thomas	8296 9453	8223 2588		athomas6@bigpond.net.au Address:23 Rutland Ave. Brighton S.A. 5048

SEG WEBSITE www.communitywebs.org/scientificexpeditiongroup

SEG EMAIL ADDRESS segcomms@telstra.com