



SEGMENTS

Volume 19 Number 3

December 2003

Journal of the
Scientific Expedition Group

C. Warren Bonython Retires from SEG

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Friday 29th August 2003 was the last day in the job for Warren. It marked the end of over 20 years association with SEG and its forerunner ANZSES.

ANZSES (SA) Branch was part of a national organisation operating out of Melbourne. In 1980 Richard Willing, Joc Schmeichen and Warren and other interested people formed the State branch of the Australian & New Zealand Scientific Exploration Society, and in four years the local branch ran 4 expeditions for young people of South Australia to the Gammon Ranges, Kangaroo Island, Mt Remarkable and the Coorong.

In 1984 the local group were host to a national ANZSES expedition on the Coffin Bay Peninsula. Soon after this successful expedition ANZSES consolidated its activities into a single headquarters in Melbourne. Rather than let the experience, enthusiasm and contacts built up over the previous few years disappear, the Scientific Expedition Group was formed to carry on work in SA.

From that small beginning Warren has overseen with the aid of others SEG operations in no less than sixteen expeditions to such diverse parts of SA as Chowilla, Canunda, Gawler Ranges, Coongie Lakes and Venus Bay to name a few. SEG has also under his leadership seen the formation of on going projects such as Fleurieu Peninsula Road Reserves Survey, Gammon Ranges Scientific Project (GRaSP) and Minnowarra Biological Monitoring Project.

SEG's membership has grown over the years, and with the support of

the SA NPWS, SA Museum, Plant Biodiversity Centre and the SA Water and other government departments and agencies Warren has witnessed the growth of the dreams of the founders to provide a vehicle to fulfil its Mission Statement - SEG takes young people on expeditions to areas of ecological importance and combines adventure with training in scientific field techniques.

Warren's close association with the members of the State Governor's Office has proved beneficial in SEG gaining the Patronage of the State Governor and the Governor's attendance to our 10 year celebration in 1994.

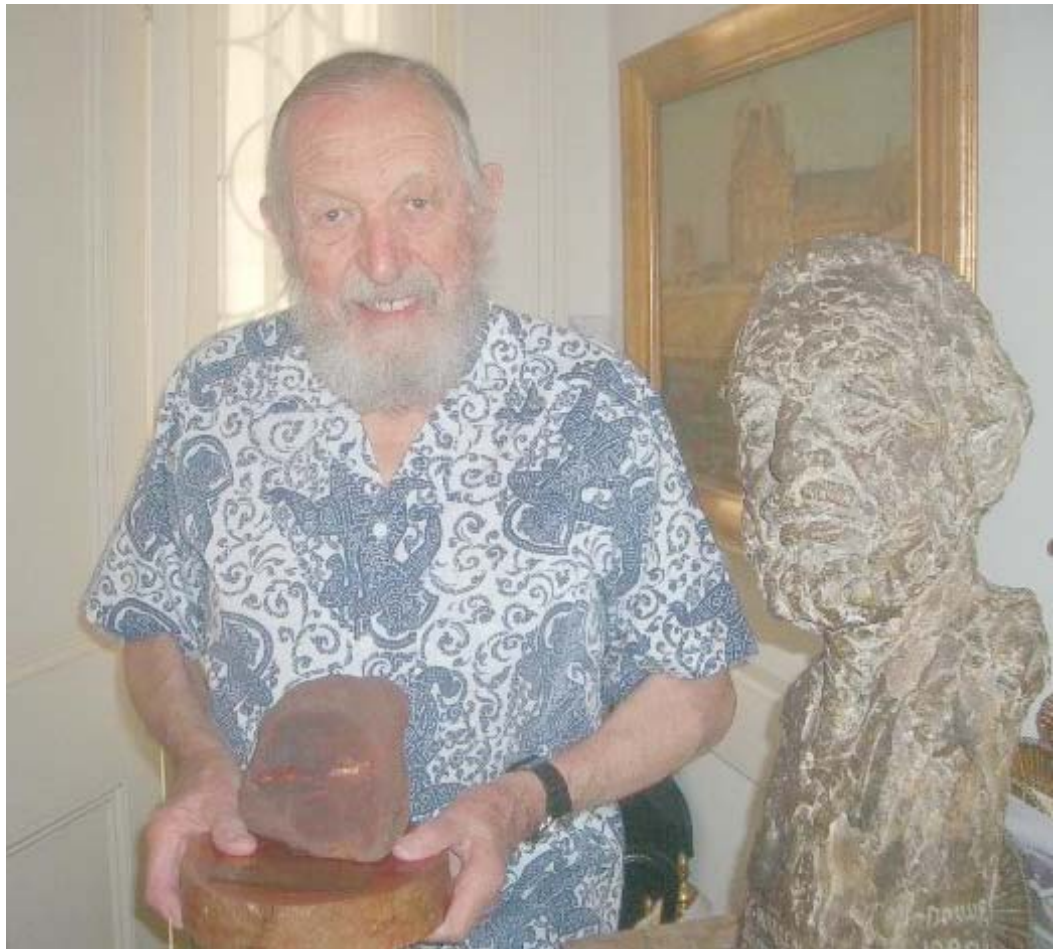
A small plaque mounted on a red gum base on which sits a Flinders Ranges rock (millions of years old) was presented to Warren at the 2003 AGM to mark the occasion of his retirement from the Scientific Expedition Group. The Committee has formed the position of President Emeritus and appointed Warren to the position in recognition of his service. The plaque now has pride of place just inside the front hallway at his Magill residence.

SEG says, "thank you Warren" for without your outstanding contributions and generosity of time and application to your office of President, SEG would not have grown in stature and be recognised by government and other institutions as a respectable body of dedicated people prepared to promote the values of wilderness and to encourage the knowledge and appreciation of the natural environment.

The SEG Committee and Members.

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

PO Box 501
Unley SA 5061



Two views of Warren Bonython with the plaque presented by the Scientific Expedition Group in recognition of his long service to the group



Gammon Ranges Data Recovery Trip

17th - 21st Oct 2003

Graham Blair David Kemp
Tricia Williams Andrew Austin

Friday 17th

In support of the data collection objectives of the trip, the Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation sponsored the transport with a State Fleet 4WD. This provided ample room for the 4 expeditioners and all gear. The drive from Adelaide to the Gammon Ranges, via Balaclava, Clare, Jamestown and Orroroo was accomplished in good time reaching the park entrance by 2:30pm. Road conditions along the dirt from Copley to Arcoona Creek were good.

The water level & enclosure loggers were visited. No water was present in the level recorder pool. The SDS water level data logger was re-installed, having been removed for repairs and modifications since May. A calibration check was made to the enclosure rain gauge, indicating it has been recording accurately.

Saturday 18th

Saturday's weather forecast was for heat so an early start was made. The South Branch rain gauge was visited en route to Wild Ass Creek for lunch. Andrew was using the trip to qualify for a Duke of Edinburgh Award so he participated actively by navigating along most of the route. Numerous small pools of water were found along both South Branch and Arcoona Creek. Wild Ass Water hole contained water so was photographed. The weather forecast proved accurate with the afternoon temperature reaching about 33 degrees. Despite the heat, good progress was made to Vandenberg campsite, which was reached by 2:30pm.

Everywhere, vegetation was in flower and the good condition suggested reasonable recent rainfall and the reduction in

goat numbers. The absence of fruit on the Quandong trees however, seemed irregular compared with their usual presence on previous October expeditions. The group speculated that perhaps they require stressful conditions to produce fruit.

To avoid the heat, the Sambot rain gauge site was visited later in the afternoon. Once again, the operation of the logger and the calibration were very satisfactory.

Clouds started covering the sky after sunset, though it remained warm well into the night. Despite Graham and Andrew leaving half their food back at the car, there seemed an abundance of food for all. Water for cooking etc. was taken from the pool about 200 metres up from the junction of Western Tributary and Arcoona Creek.

Sunday 19th

Rain started falling at about 5am and the temperature had dropped considerably from the previous evening. This didn't deter an early start, with the departure for the plateau by 6:50 am. All of the photo-points en route to North Tusk summit were visited. The rain had stopped before reaching the summit however the wind chill made a striking contrast to the walking conditions of the previous day.

With Andrew navigating, we reached the Plateau rain gauge by 9:45am. The weather started improving and by midday the sky was cloud free. The rain gauge equipment was found to be operating well. Attempts with photography however, were less successful. It was not until most photo sites had been visited that it was discovered there had been no film in the slide camera. To make matters worse it was later

discovered that the print film camera had actually been loaded with slide film.

The walk back to Vandenberg Camp was via Eichler Creek and Sambot water hole. Although numerous pools of water were encountered along Eichler Creek, Sambot was found to be dry.

Monday 20th

As always, the walk back along Arcoona Creek was quicker and easier than the walk in. Even with 2 rest stops, the overall walk didn't take much longer than 2.5 hours.

After a lazy few hours during the middle of the day everyone participated in the YF Rock Wallaby Watch. No Rock Wallabies were seen and only 2 Euros were sighted at the junction of Evasive and Arcoona Creeks. The new Arcoona Saddle rain gauge was checked, being an excellent place to have a cup of tea and enjoy the spectacular view.

Tuesday 21st

With the Copley Bakery in mind, the group packed and left the park by 08:00am. After the Bakery visit and a fuel stop at Leigh Creek, a stop was made to Arcoona Dam. The trip back to Adelaide was once again via Orroroo, arriving in the thick of 5pm rush hour traffic.

EXPEDITION TO MUNYAROO CONSERVATION PARK PRELIMINARY NOTICE

SEG will be conducting its major expedition early in the year of 2004 at Munyaroo Conservation Park on Eyre Peninsula. The Park is approximately half way between Whyalla and Cowell. It consists of habitats varying from coastal sand dunes, samphire and mangroves through open woodland of mallee and western myall, native peach, native pines and even some sandalwood to areas of bluebush and saltbush. The area is rich in bird species, invertebrates, mammals and reptiles.

The purpose of the Expedition is to conduct a biodiversity survey of the western part of the Park. This area was not covered in the 2002 Expedition to the Park. The Expedition will include an Adventure Phase of several days bushwalking for those who would like to participate. The Expedition will run from 9th April to 24th April 2004 and transport & food are provided. For further information: e-mail trentasaurus@bigpond.com or phone Trent Porter on 82789078



GRASP PROJECT

.Trips are planned in the near future as follows:

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

Kids Corner

This time the hidden words are related to the Christmas season. They are hidden in all directions. Can you find them all?



WORD LIST

CHRISTMAS
YULE
YULETIDE
NOEL
HOLLY
WREATH
TREE
PRESENT
GIFT
SANTA
CLAUS
REINDEER
STAR
GOLD
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH
MANGER
CHAMPAGNE
TURKEY
CHIMNEY
RUDOLPH
GIFT
TOYS
SLEIGH
STABLE
HAM
DONKEY

EDITORIAL

At the end of another year we can look back with some pride to a successful year in SEG. Under the able leadership of Richard Willing a magnificent expedition was held in Witjira National Park. GRaSP has continued with the help of Linda-Marie Hall after Chris Wright went overseas. The Minnowarra Project has continued to probe the hinterland of Myponga.

After a well deserved Christmas break we look to 2004 and with the expedition to the western end of Munyaroo coming up in April it will only be a short break.

The only cloud on the horizon is that we have not yet found a new Editor for SEGments. This issue is the last I wished to edit but as yet no one new has surfaced. Please consider it you can do the editorship. It is very rewarding and not too time consuming with only four issues per year. Please contact me if you are prepared to carry out this work.

I wish a compliments of the season, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our members and readers.

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.
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Unley S.A. 5061

Patron: Her Excellency, the Honourable Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, AC, CVO, MBE,
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