

SEGments



Journal of the Scientific Expedition Group
Volume 27 Number 3



SEGments



Scientific Expedition Group Inc.

Volume 27 Number 3, December 2011.

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ISSN 0816 -6463

SEGments is the authorised journal publication of the Scientific Expedition Group INC., PO. Box 501, Unley SA 5061. It is published four times a year to promote articles about biodiversity, scientific exploration and ecological research.

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Contents

Volume 27 Number 3, December 2011.

	Page
Editorial	1
A Road trip in America	2
Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve	5
Malleefowl Monitoring	9
Cygnets Park Sanctuary	11
Minnawarra survey	13
Early hikes in the Gammon Ranges	15
Arkaroola- A non scientist's experience	18
The new SEG website	20

Editorial

Scientific Expedition Group (SEG) Members responded magnificently when the Arkaroola Management, and Margie Sprigg in particular, invited them to respond to the publication entitled “Seeking a Balance”, produced by the Department of Environment and Natural Resource in 2009. DENR were seeking to change the access zones for mining exploration and resource development in the Northern Flinders Ranges including the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary.

In the Advertiser and on the Adelaide Now website, on 21 November 2001, Associate Professor David Paton, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide, made a clarion call to South Australians to “speak up for the Coorong and the entire Murray-Darling system”. I urge all SEG members to take a stand and write to their politicians. The 2750GL being proposed in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Plan is much less than the 4000GL that experts say is needed. David Paton says 2750GL will be insufficient for a healthy Coorong, and 4000GL may still not restore the system. He was quoted as saying, “I want South Australians to ask questions of their MP’s: do they think that 2750GL is enough and do they believe the science is adequate?” South Australians should “demand a fixed amount of non-negotiable water for the environment as a minimum each year”.

David Paton has studied the Coorong intensively for three decades. He says that for the Coorong and Lower Lakes, ecological damage commences whenever the flows to the Murray Mouth cease. He has determined that the southern end of the Coorong rapidly became four to five times saltier than seawater during the last decade. Only brine shrimp can survive in these salty conditions. Typical salinities in the Southern Coorong usually do not exceed three times those of seawater. Aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates and salt-tolerant fish are key food resources for waterbirds, and were affected by the higher salinities and low water levels. Since 2006 salt levels have exceeded salinity thresholds of key food resources used by waterbirds in the Southern Lagoon, which represents about half of the Coorong’s 110km length. By the end of the decade excessively high salinity levels were appearing further north in the southern part of the Northern Lagoon. In the Advertiser article David Paton said that “Up to 23 out of 40 waterbird species had declined substantially over the past year, with fairy terns down to 200”. Fairy terns breed on islands in the Southern Lagoon during summer. However, they no longer have a supply of fish near enough to sustain themselves and their young, and since 2006 all attempts at breeding have failed. As David Paton said “Birds cannot and do not simply sit around for years waiting for key resources to reappear. Without resources, they disappear.”

There has been a rapid decline in the ecological health of the Coorong since 2005, leading to a dramatic decline in the numbers of waterbirds. The return of the water in 2010

has not brought a return of the key food resources, and the numbers of birds using the Coorong and Lower Lakes were the lowest on record last summer. David Paton reported “The thousands upon thousands of ducks, swans, migratory sandpipers, stilts and plovers that once adorned the shoreline were gone.” I witnessed it for myself last summer.

Continued over-extraction of water from the Murray-Darling Basin is the chief cause of the ecological changes. For most of the last decade it has been necessary to dredge the Murray Mouth in order to keep the Mouth open. Water moves through the Murray Mouth in both directions. The influx of cool, fresh, oxygenated seawater preserves the health of the Coorong. Tidal movement exposes mudflats that are used by thousands of migratory birds each summer and allows fish movement through the Mouth into the Coorong. Outflow of water is important because it allows salt to leave the River Murray system, and because it prevents the incursion of marine sands that would otherwise block the Mouth and channels leading into the Coorong.

The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region is a Ramsar-listed Wetland of International Importance, and was first listed in 1985. Australia undertook to protect this significant area of biodiversity in southern Australia, recognising its diverse range of wetland ecosystems, birds, fish and plant species.

The Murray Darling Basin Plan proposes that 2750GL of water be returned to the environment, however, this does not come into effect until 2019. Until then there is no limit placed on extraction, and the quantity of water returned to the environment will be much less than 2750GL. This timeline means that the health of the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth will be even more diminished. It is hard to be convinced that the MDB Plan is about securing key environmental assets, and honouring Australia’s commitment to the Ramsar-listed Wetland of International Importance. The Coorong and Murray Mouth are iconic sites, and I doubt if any member of SEG is unaware of their importance. Let us fight for these iconic sites and for the Murray Darling Basin, as we fought to save Arkaroola from intrusive re-zoning for mining exploration. Let us respond to David Paton’s request and warnings, and put pen to paper and write to our local Members of Parliament, both State and Federal. Let us not lose “Storm Boy’s Coorong”.

Guest editorial Helen Johnson

Sources : Adelaide Advertiser 21 November 2011

Discussions with Associate Professor David Paton.

“At the End of the River. The Coorong and Lower Lakes”. David Cleland Paton, 2010, ATF Press, Hindmarsh, SA 5007

“Unique plants and animals in the Coorong and Lower Lakes”,

Murray Futures, Lower Lakes and Coorong Recovery Fact Sheet, Government of South Australia, undated

“Murray Mouth Sand Pumping Project”, Brochure from Dept of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, Government of South Australia, undated

A Road trip in America

Andrew Barr

My brother and I went on a 9 day “road trip” in October 2011. It was big item on our “bucket list” to experience some of the American national parks. We visited the Windcave National Park in South Dakota, Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Teton National park in Wyoming.

My brother Geoff (see cover photograph) is a professional wildlife photographer and I am a science education lecturer at the University of South Australia. This trip enabled us to explore our passions of seeing unique wildlife in their natural habitat.

We started our trip from Omaha Nebraska. The Wind Cave National Park in western South Dakota was our first stop. Established in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt, it is the home of a pure herd of about 200-400 American plains Buffalo. The buffalo herds were a food source for many tribes of native Americans in the past. Having been nearly wiped out by early American hunters in the 19th century, some herds are making a recovery in their original habitat with assistance from preservation programs.

While we were in the park we saw many large family groups roaming freely. It was a very rewarding to see this majestic animal as it grazed, unconcerned by our presence.



Figure 1: American plains buffalo (*Bison bison*)

We also saw many herds of Pronghorn antelope on the open plains grazing on the autumn grasses. As I researched for this article I found out that they are not really antelope but a small ruminant mammal resembling an antelope closely related to the giraffe family.



Figure 2: Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*)

The park is a fantastic combination of biomes featuring prairie grasslands and ponderosa pine forests where eastern habitats merge with western ones.



Figure 3: Wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*)

It was also amazing to see wild turkeys running through the pine forests. Thanksgiving had pasted in Canada but was still approaching in the United States, but all we could do was shoot them with our cameras. Still it was great to see the original wild bird stock that have been bred so differently for our dinner tables.

Observing wild animals in their natural surroundings was one of the major thrills that my brother and I experienced visiting when we visited these national parks.

The most famous park in the United States of America is Yellowstone National Park in the state of Wyoming. The United States Congress voted to establish the 2.1 million acre wilderness as a park in 1872, which makes it the world’s first protected wilderness. The National Park



Figure 4 : Finally I have arrived at Yellowstone

headquarters provides a number of well developed visitor centres that educate the many tourists that visit each year.

The Yellowstone area is situated on a large magma chamber that has been very active volcanically in the past. Many huge volcanic eruptions have occurred, and the most recent was six hundred and forty thousand years ago. This eruption left a large caldera which still generates magmatic heat that presently fuels a high concentration of hydrothermal features. The most famous of these is “Old Faithful Geyser” which erupts between 60-90 minutes. They post a schedule at the visitor centre with a plus or minus 20 minute window. We observed the geyser eruptions



Figure 5: Old Faithful Geyser

twice while we were in the area and were amazed by the steaming water that shot hundreds of feet into the air in a spectacular fountain.

The area around Old Faithful has a high concentration of hydrothermal features that create fumaroles, mudpots and hot springs. The dissolved minerals have produced a series of terraces and coloured runoffs. In this hot water (93C) live many types of microbial organism (extremophiles) that thrive in the geochemical/hot extreme conditions. The thermophiles attach themselves to the bottom of the runoff areas and show as brilliantly coloured streaks. At some



Figure 6: Large mineral mounds produced by Hydro thermal action.

sites you can tell the temperature of the water in different channels by the unique colour of the thermophiles. Mother Nature’s own thermometer. Astrobiologists have been studying these organisms to observe as a comparison what life in extreme conditions on other planets might look like.



Figure 7: Yellow colour is the thermophiles

Yellowstone’s wildlife is probably the largest attraction for the many visitors annually. The most famous animal in Yellowstone is the American plains buffalo.



Figure 8: A Solitary old male at Yellowstone Park American plains buffalo (*Bison bison*)

One of the most controversial animals that now resides in the park is the Grey wolf (*Canis lupis*) which was reintroduced to the park in 1995. We knew that the wolf population was small and we thought that our chances of seeing one was very small. Early one morning as we were driving along one of the back roads, we saw a grey shape running through the trees. Both of us reached for our cameras but the animal was too quick for us to take a picture as proof of the sighting. But for us it was another first, seeing a wolf in the wilderness.

The elk population in the park had reached such high numbers that they were destroying the natural vegetation because the wolves who were their natural predators had all been eradicated. Since the reintroduction of the wolves, there has been a gradual restoration of the ecological balance between vegetation, prey and predator. Of the many other animals that reside in Yellowstone, the Wapiti elk are the most numerous but will only tolerate some of the stupid tourists, hence the sign below.



Figure 9: Wapiti elk resting at park headquarters, (*Cervus canadensis*)

Another big first for my brother and I, was sighting a grizzly bear in the wilderness. We watched from the truck, with the motor running, as this large adult male bear ambled across the road. He was grizzled in colour and had a radio collar around his neck. He was close to us and looked very very big, or was that my imagination? The normal habitat of these bears is in the Canadian alpine mountains, Alaska with a few in Yellowstone Park.



Figure 10: Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)

The Mule deer population was also very numerous in the park and were frequently seen early in the morning or just at dusk. They tend to run out in front of cars when frightened and we saw quite a few dead on the side of the roads that were not in the park boundary.



Figure 11: Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

As it was approaching winter in the mountains, the other animal we saw was the very majestic Big Horn sheep. They were gently grazing near a stream at the side of the road.



Figure 12: Big horn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*)

Information about Yellowstone states it is the home for over 200 species of big and small animals. We were lucky to see so many large animals as we were on the road at dawn, and left the park just at dusk so that we had the best chance to observe wildlife. I will go back again but in the spring season to see a different aspect of this wonderful wilderness. Many countries have now seen the value of this unique parks relationship to the natural world and human habitation. I would like thank my brother Geoff for arranging this trip and his sage advice on matters photographic and the text. Our next “bucket list trip” will be from Darwin to Perth, where we can discover some of the unique animals and landscape our country has to offer to explorers.

Photographs by Andrew Barr

Contact email: andrew.barr@unisa.edu.au



Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve

Environmental Education Courses 2012

Gluepot is Australia's largest community operated conservation reserve, situated 64km north of Waikerie and the River Murray in South Australia's Riverland.

Comprising 54,000ha of prime mallee country – much of it old growth – the Reserve is managed exclusively by volunteers with the aim of “effectively managing a large, internationally significant area for biodiversity conservation”.

Amongst the 18 nationally threatened species of birds resident on Gluepot are the Black-eared Miner, Red-lore Whistler, Regent Parrot, Striated Grasswren, Major Mitchell Cockatoo and Malleefowl that are only a small section of the 197 bird species so far recorded. Gluepot is also home to 53 species of reptile and 12 species of bats (some of which are nationally threatened) and there are few areas of the world that support such a concentration of threatened species.

Further Information

For additional information, including a detailed brochure on each course, location map of Gluepot and Registration and Payment form, the following alternatives are available:

For a 'hard-copy' of course brochures, please contact:

By Post: Mrs Anne Morphett Environmental Education Centre
Administrator Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve
61 Sturdee Street, Linden Park, SA 5065

By Phone: (08) 7070 4766 or 0421 582 710

By Fax: (08) 8364 5527

By Email: amorphett@adam.com.au

Or alternatively contact Duncan MacKenzie on: Phone: (08) 8332 1204 Fax: (08) 8364 5527 Email: dmackenzie@iname.com

Detailed course brochures are available in 'Pdf' format on the Gluepot Reserve website at:
www.riverland.net.au/gluepot

The recent drought severely impacted bird populations on Gluepot Reserve. Following great winter rains and an incredible increase in native grasses (not seen for 15 years) and abundant food sources, the Reserve bird population exploded during September and October 2011. Thousands of masked and white-browed wood swallows and budgerigars competed for nesting sites with red-backed kingfishers, tree martins, grasswrens, white-winged fairy wrens, striated pardalotes (10 nests were recorded within a 100m stretch of mallee) and black, white-fronted, grey fronted and striped honeyeaters. The rare scarlet-chested parrot attracted hundreds of visitors including a number of overseas groups and was still being sighted and photographed each day through to the end of October – at least one pair successfully raised a brood of chicks. Also known to have fledged young were at least one pair of Major Mitchell Cockatoos. The influx of bird numbers and species has attracted a large number of Australia's top twitchers and bird photographers with some visiting on multiple occasions during the season. A new species for Gluepot, the barn owl, was recorded and photographed by French Assistant Ranger Alexandre Bertrand. The 2011 breeding season will certainly go down as being one of the most prolific in memory – Paradise has been regained.

On the more practical side, it may not be well known, but Gluepot Reserve has one of the larger collections of environmental reference books and journals in the state. A decision has been taken to build a purpose built library and science room next to the homestead to house the ever growing collection. A recent bequest from Dr Josie Pyle has included 23 Gould Lithographs produced by the British Museum, and these are now exhibited in the Reserve's Environmental Education Centre.

Gluepot recently completed electrifying 36 km of the northern boundary to exclude goats and are seeking funds to do the 12 km western boundary. Motion sensing cameras installed along the first 12 km of electrified fence showed that goats very rarely attempted to go through the fence once they had received their first shock.



Figure 1: Electric fence at Gluepot

A recent Malleefowl survey found that last years successful breeding mound was again being used and a motion sensing camera has been installed to record all activity at the mound through the entire breeding season. Last year the camera faithfully recorded the birds working the mound, the hatching of chicks and a fox on the mound.

The Reserve has 10 French 2nd year environmental students booked to come in 2012 as Assistant Rangers and Ranger positions are booked ahead to midway through 2013.

The Gluepot track system is an integral part of our maintenance work with tracks being faithfully maintained both for fire fighting purposes and for the comfort of visitors. Our 60 year old Caterpillar grader has just about reached the end of its life and we are currently looking at purchasing a grader with a little less longevity.

Email: dmackenzie@iname.com

Education Program for 2012

Getting to Know Reptiles

10 & 11 March 2012 Code:

REP12 Facilitator: **Dr Mark Hutchinson**

A short course on the basics of observing and identifying lizards and snakes in arid environments. The course will run for two days. It will be aimed at anyone who has an interest in observing nature and would like to improve their abilities in finding and identifying reptiles. The course will include a lecture on lizard and snake essentials, especially the roles that temperature and humidity play in determining activity levels. In addition it will have a workshop on identification and making the best of the available reference books. Field activities will include both day and night observation. Aspects of lizard and photography will also be included.



Figure 2: Spiny-tailed Gecko
Photograph by **D. Mackenzie**

An Introduction to Nature Photography

5 & 6 May 2012 Code: NP12A 11 & 12 August 2012

Code: NP12B Facilitator: **Craig Ingram**

This workshop is designed to help you get the most from your nature photography experience and to teach you how to make technically excellent images of birds and other wildlife with an artistic flair. An afternoon lecture on the Saturday will fill your head with tips and tricks to improve your photography and an early morning shoot on the Sunday to capture the best light and put all those new ideas into action. Craig will be there on the Sunday shooting alongside you to help out and answer any questions that may crop up in the field. The course is tailored to fit the needs of photographers from beginners to advanced, so that each will receive the most out of the workshop.

An Introduction to Scientific Botanical Illustration

12 & 13 May 2012 Code: BOT12

Facilitator: **Bronwyn Bean**

An Introduction to Scientific Botanical Illustration will provide you with knowledge and practical experience to create your own scientific botanical illustrations. The two day workshop will take you step by step through the process of creating an illustration, from a beginner's level. It will focus on drawing and painting techniques, aims and components of an illustration. No prior drawing experience is necessary. The workshop aims to introduce participants to the beauty and enjoyment of botanical illustration. Participants will gain an understanding of scientific botanical illustration: History, advantages and applications; Components including use of dissections and annotation; Techniques and materials used; Create a scientific botanical illustration.

GPS and GIS Workshop

19 & 20 May 2012 Code: GPS&GIS12 Facilitators:

Dennis Matthews & Craig Oliver



A workshop that will teach you the basics of your GPS. All GPS units have different functions and this course will explore the features and functions of a variety of GPS makes and models. If you do not presently own a GPS, we suggest that you do not purchase one until you have completed the course, and at that time, make a decision about

which model will best suit your needs. If you really want to buy one now, give me a call and I can advise you Dennis Matthews: (08) 8562 1666 or 0429 385 586.

If you have a Garmin GPS and it accepts uploaded maps you will learn how to use them. Free maps for Garmin GPS units will be available to use. Using a GPS is one thing, but what can you do with the data?? We will explore the options of placing your GPS data on to computer maps using GIS software (Geographic Information Software). This will lead to an introduction of OziExplorer (GIS software) and a discussion on other GIS software packages. If you have a Laptop computer and a data lead for your GPS, bring them - it is always better to learn on your own system.

An Introduction to Bird Banding

25 & 26 August 2012 Code: BB12A : 27 & 28 October

2012 Code: BB12B

Facilitator: **Wally Klau**

This course is an Introduction to bird banding and is led by one of Australia's most experienced and respected bird banders. If you are interested in birds and would like to learn more about how to study them, this course will show you how. In addition to classroom work, you will spend most of your time in the field learning how and where to set mist nets. You will be able to handle birds and experience the excitement of determining the species, age and sex of birds and will be shown the fine detail that determines a correct identification. You will also learn the correct method for banding, weighing, measuring and data collection for each bird you catch. Importantly, you will learn about the vital role that banding plays in bird research. At the conclusion of the course, participants are welcome to spend the rest of the week assisting Wally with banding.



Figure 3: Wally Klau at mist net

Painting Nature

8 & 9 September 2012 Code: PN12

Facilitator: **Wendy Jennings**

Bring nature to life in front of your eyes. If you have ever had the desire to paint or draw our wonderful birds, animals, plants or insects, then this is the course for you. We will talk about wildlife illustration, and what you as individuals would like to achieve. We may collect items from close to camp or you could bring interesting photos, plants, rocks or wood pieces with you. I will supply some reference books and ideas as well. The workshop is open to all students regardless of their painting experience. A variety of techniques using watercolour, gouache, acrylic pen and pencil will be explored. By the end of this workshop you will have found a style that suits you and let you progress into satisfying illustrations of nature. Because

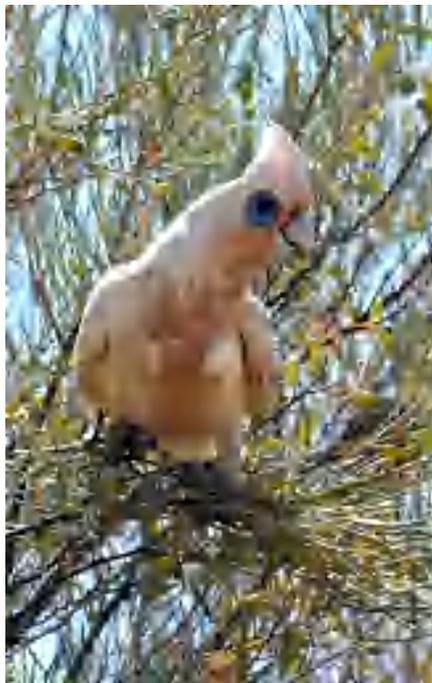
of the detailed work in much of this style of illustration, as many demonstrations as possible will be given, but with plenty of individual help for you to develop your own style of painting.

An Introduction to Birds & Birdwatching

15 & 16 September 2012 Code: BW12

Facilitator: **John Gitsham**

Little Corella Photograph by **D. Mackenzie**



An 'Introduction to Birds and Bird Watching' will take you step by step through the techniques and basic knowledge you will need to get more out of your birding. Bird watching is fun, educational and healthy and the t w o - d a y w o r k s h o p , covering theories and issues of bird watching, will include two guided

trips around some of the best birding locations on Gluepot Reserve. The workshop will provide you with clear interpretation and guidance that will assist you to develop your bird watching skills, and thus obtain the most enjoyment from this fascinating pastime and hobby.

Diversity from Adversity- Mallee Vegetation at Gluepot

22 & 23 September 2012 Code: VEG12

Facilitator: **Judy Morton & others**

The plants which grow in the mallee are some of the most remarkable in the world with characteristics that allow them to flourish in poor soils, extremes of temperature, fire and drought. Gluepot has a range of mallee vegetation associations with over 200 species recorded. During the weekend as well as familiarising you with the plants we shall discuss their special characteristics and examine the geological history of the unique soils and climate. Other topics include plants used by indigenous people and early settlers, weeds and vegetation associations. We will undertake a vegetation survey of a 1ha plot and collect and prepare specimens for vouchering by the herbarium.

The Bats of Gluepot Reserve

30 November & 1 & 2 December 2012 Code: BA12

Facilitators: **Dennis Matthews & Terry Reardon**

A course on the natural history, survey techniques and identification of the insectivorous bats occurring on Gluepot Reserve (of which there are 12). The course runs over three days and two nights and will suit students, consultants, park rangers and wildlife enthusiasts.

The course will involve a combination of lectures, practical demonstrations and actual fieldwork. It will be necessary for those who want to participate in the handling of bats during trapping and identification to have completed a rabies vaccination course.

General topics covered in the course will include: permits required for bat work; ethical approaches to bat work; evolution and natural history of Australian bat; survey techniques for bats; capture and echolocation recording; morphological characters and identification; handling and measuring techniques; call identification; radio tracking and photography.

Further Information

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By Email: amorphett@adam.com.au

Or alternatively contact Duncan MacKenzie on: Phone: (08) 8332 1204 Fax: (08) 8364 5527 Email: dmackenzie@iname.com

Detailed course brochures are available in 'Pdf' format on the Gluepot Reserve website at:
www.riverland.net.au/gluepot

Malleefowl Monitoring- Oct 2011

Mark Darter



Photography by **Brian Swann**

This year's annual malleefowl monitoring trip took place on the last weekend of October. Started in 2008, this is an annual opportunity for SEG members to participate in a rather different type of activity relatively close to home. Being only about 30km east of Swan Reach, it means that you can come for a quick weekend (or just day) away.

The handful of cars arrived at Henry Short's property from late Friday afternoon until well into the night. It's the type of thing you can look forward to after a week at work – leave the office behind, grab a meal along the way, marvel at the dramatically sunset tinted clouds as the ferry pulls its way across a calm Murray on a balmy evening, then drive into the blackness of the mallee.

The camp fire was the social focus for the night, but it wasn't a late night. A million stars were there to remind us city folk of the night time beauty of the bush.

Saturday was work day. By 8.00am we were all dressed for a full day's bushwalk, and Rebecca from DENR briefed

us on the plan for the day. She also explained the operation of the GPS, Palm pilot, and oddments in the large lunch boxes to be carried into the bush. With about 50 known and mapped malleefowl mounds to be visited in the nearby Bakara Conservation Park, we broke up into three smaller groups to enable full coverage in reasonable time.

The mallee country was moderately open and traversed by one or two ancient long dunes. Visiting the mounds in a sequence intended to minimise the distance walked, it was soon obvious that you really needed three eyes – one on the ground for obstacles (and snakes), one on the GPS to keep walking towards the next mound in a reasonably straight line, and one straight ahead to watch out for branches.

On arrival at the mound, the process became increasingly efficient. Put your pack down, photograph the mound, record details of evidence of use, and look for tracks and scats. With about 17 mounds to visit on the Saturday, our group started enthusiastically, but the warm conditions and

constant disappointment that the “mounds” were sometimes barely discernable from a patch of sand did take the excitement away... until we accidentally encountered a pair of malleefowl out for a walk. We were as surprised as the birds themselves, and just a quick glimpse excited us again and raised hopes for finding an active mound nearby. An exchange of news over the radios revealed that one group had just found an active mound. The three groups finished mid-afternoon. Two active mounds (out of about 50) had been found, but no birds other than ours were seen.

After resting up, we all drove out to an active mound right next to an access track. Certainly an impressive feat of avian engineering. About 3m across and 1-1.5m high, the cone had tell-tale scrape marks and foot prints heading through the sand into the bush. The area around had been raked of leaf litter too.

Although some members had to leave after just one day, that night we were boosted by newcomers and we again sat around the mesmerising fire. Sunday was cooler, and this time there were about 45 mounds to visit on Henry’s heritage area. Once again we broke into three small groups

and headed off into the bush. With Saturday’s experience came much more efficiency and all groups finished almost simultaneously at lunch time. Two active mounds were found, but no birds were seen.

The preliminary results for the weekend were positive – four active mounds, up from three in the past few years. The information collected goes into a national monitoring database for greater analysis. Sadly, bird sightings were once common decades ago and malleefowl can be slow to breed. They wait for favourable conditions and tend to reuse old mounds. They are on the increase in some areas across Australia, but in decline in many others. Being predominantly a ground bird, predation by foxes and cats takes its toll.

Thanks go to Henry Short – as a SEG supporter who provided the focus for the weekend (and the camping facilities), and for the establishment of a heritage area. Thanks also to Bruce Gotch for coordinating a successful and enjoyable weekend, and to Rebecca who provided patient guidance and assistance for us monitoring novices.



The Mallee fowl surveys are only conducted once a year during the breeding season.

**Contact details: David Setchell
Mallee Eco Services
PO Box 1649
Loxton SA 5333
Phone: 0428 873 090
Email: dnhsetchell@bigpond.com**

Cygnets Park Sanctuary

Helen Johnson



Source: <http://www.naturefoundation.org.au/our-work/cygnets-park/>

Cygnets Park Sanctuary, Kangaroo Island is a former farming property co-owned by Jack May and Hilary Austin, David and Penny Paton and Nature Foundation SA. Cygnets Park is a 300ha (3sq km) property 20 km south-west of Kingscote. It is managed by a not-for-profit public company called BioR. Over the past seven years, David Taylor, Threatened Plant Project Officer from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has managed a project to re-instate large areas of habitat with plants that are native to the area, some being endemic or endangered.

The Kangaroo Island Planting Festival has been held annually since 2007. The festival is managed by DENR, the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board and Cygnets Park Sanctuary. By 2010 a total of 250,000 seedlings representing 125 different species were planted across more than 150ha of land.

I have previously heard Associate Professor David Paton speak of the Mt Lofty Ranges Woodland Recovery Initiative to stop the dramatic decline of bird species, and so I was eager to join in when I learned from him about the three day Kangaroo Island Planting Festival to be held in July 2011 at Cygnets Park Sanctuary.

From David Paton's lectures I had learned that native vegetation is messy and untidy with typical understorey. Current revegetation suffers from limited structural diversity, wrong spacing and limited species because patches of revegetation are too small. As a keen gardener I was eager to see the range of plant species used, and how they were to be distributed.

Mara Pearson (Bimbowrie 2010) and I attended the Planting Festival for one very full day. The Sealink coach departed from Adelaide for KI at 6:30am and arrived back in Adelaide at 10:15pm. The very reasonable cost for this inspiring day was \$89.00, and lunch, followed by a speaker, was included. The planting at Cygnets Park was over two areas covering 52 ha, an area about the same size as the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and the Botanic Park combined. Mara and I attended on the first day of the three day Festival, although volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia had begun planting on the two previous days. Our work began at 11.00am after two coach trips and a ferry ride.

The planting site for our work was a large, fenced-off, over-grazed area which had been prepared by burning off the stubble and grading to remove the weed seed bank from the topsoil. The topsoil and weeds were piled up to the side of the planting area and formed ridges about half a metre high between the graded strips, which were about four metres wide. We crossed the large barren field to the far corner and began our training. Holes were to be dug using a plant tube shovel; seedlings to be distributed correctly; seedlings to be carefully removed from the pots and then planted. The clay soil was beautifully damp from the winter rains.

Pallets of forty mixed seedlings native to the area were distributed by the volunteers over an assigned length of the cleared strip. The plants included shrubs and trees of varying heights, as well as herbs and grasses. The seedlings were propagated in a purpose-built nursery at Cygnets Park



Figure 1: Volunteers planting
Photograph : Colin Wilson

using seeds collected from local intact plant communities. Looking over the planting field as we got down to work, and seeing the stooped bodies of 165 people, was like looking over a Vietnamese rice paddy. We worked for several hours before being driven to lunch at an area near the Cygnet Park homestead. After lunch we heard about burning-off as a method for regenerating habitat when viable seeds are available in the soil.

The planting was finished at 4:45pm, and those of us who were returning to Adelaide left by coach for Penneshaw. We received a personal Certificate of Appreciation for our assistance. Many people stayed at Cygnet Park in a camping area, ready for more planting on the next day. Some of the returning volunteers enjoyed a Penguin tour at Penneshaw, whilst Mara and I enjoyed a meal at the hotel. We arrived back in Adelaide very tired but satisfied with our KI adventure.



Figure 2: Cygnet Park Sanctuary,
Source: <http://www.bior.org.au/projects/index.php>

The follow-up Emails provided some astonishing facts. Over the three days, plus the volunteer hours on the earlier two days (when 6000 seedlings were planted), a total of 120,288 seedlings were planted by 702 people; that is a rate of 100 plants per minute. The area planted was 51.94ha, equivalent to planting the whole of Granite Island twice!

Before we left Cygnet Park we were shown an area of one-year old plants which were growing adjacent to our planting area. It was wonderful seeing the healthy established plants of varying heights and spacing, some up to a metre, and recognizing that these were the same species as we had been planting. The success rate is well over 90% which I think is astonishing. It certainly made our day's effort feel worthwhile.

I can recommend the Kangaroo Island Planting Festival as a very worthwhile venture.

Email contact: kdolphin@internode.on.net

Minnawarra Biodiversity Project - Oct 2011

Janet Furler

Weather. Mild fine weather occurred during most of the survey period, with a max temp of 24 and with light winds. There were scattered light showers on Tuesday and Friday. Three pit traps were not opened because of a high water table half filling the buckets.

Personnel. 25 Adults + 10 Children contributed more than 300 volunteer hours to this survey. Many thanks to all who came to help, making this a successful survey. One teenage participant came with her mother to help choose future school subjects. She is interested in biology but had no idea what a biologist does. Having seen our setup and the scientific methods used to get objective data, she has a focus and enthusiasm for her final years of school.

Mammals. We had a busy time with rats, with larger numbers of individuals caught. This doesn't count the multiple visits for our yummy food, which would bring the total number of mammals to well over 200 captures.

The table indicates the range of frequency of species found in the different habitats. The one *R lutreolus* (Swamp rat) caught at Site 3 is the first for about 4 years. Site 3 is well above the creekline, and presumably has been too far to travel in dry seasons. Just to confuse us, however, Site 4, with no Swamp rats, is within 10m of a swampy creek.

Bats: none were captured during this survey, it being too cold for much insect activity

Reptiles: Very few trapped because of the cool conditions. Garden skink (*Lampropholus guichenotii*) was, as usual, the commonest species seen.

Amphibians: 18 Frogs were caught, all *Crinia signifera* (Brown Froglet). Their wide range of markings was evident.

Birds: Brian and Jo Blaby completed the bird survey on Wednesday, with the usual species seen. On Saturday morning, when the traps were being taken up, a Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) was seen perched in a tree over the dam by Site 5. It made a great sight as it flew off in leisurely fashion. These are most efficient hunters underwater that are seen uncommonly in these parts. We have seen them here previously, notably when we introduced some trout into a dam years ago. They are also sometimes called "Snake bird" because they swim low in the water with only the long neck and head visible.

Odd bods: The Echidna in the pit was quite a sight, trying hard to dig through the bottom. Fortunately it was a smallish one and didn't fill the whole bucket. With many layers of jumper and several "Ow"s it was scooped out and buried itself until we left. The weird catch from an Elliott trap caused Janet some thought. Without looking in the bag

	Antechinus flavipes	Rattus fuscipes	Rattus lutreolus	Mus musculus	Rattus sp feral	
Site 1	1 (1)	6 (5)	26 (14)	0	0	
Site 2	1 (0)	13 (6)	5 (2)	0	0	
Site 3	0	7 (5)	1 (0)	0	0	
Site 4	1 (1)	14 (5)	0	0	0	
Site 5	0	17 (5)	2 (1)	0	0	
Site 7	4 (3)	10 (6)	3 (2)	0	1	
Site 8	2 (1)	2 (1)	3 (0)	0	1	
Site 9	5 (5)	4 (0)	0	0	0	
Total	14 (11)	73 (33)	40 (19)		2	129 (63)
	Total individuals caught (Recapture from previous survey)					

Figure 1: Table of species captured during the October survey



Figure 2; Grey Shrike Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*)

she was trying to grab the mammal and wondering what was the stick-like growth on its back. A peek revealed a baby Thrush, with wings on its back, as it should have.

Vegetation: Vegetation surveys are undertaken less frequently because of the slow rate of change. During this survey, though, a wide variety of orchids was seen in the scrub at different sites. These were different to the usual ones as the survey was two weeks later than usual. We found Rabbit, Bulldog, Purple Cockatoo, Common Beard, as well as a range of Greenhoods.

Developments: We mark our mammals with coded holes in their ears so we can identify individuals as we recapture them during each survey, and from year to year. This allows us to know which animals come back for multiple feeds during the survey, thus not artificially inflating our catch numbers. Also we are getting an indication of longevity for



Figure 3: Rabbit Orchid (*Leptoceras mensiesii*)

each species. Due to the large numbers of animals caught, we are beginning to run out of ear code options at some sites and have been looking for alternatives.

Microchipping is the best option and we are in the process of establishing our methodology. The theory is great, as the animals get one invasive procedure, lasting a lifetime, and future identification is less stressful as they can be scanned in the bag, rather than being held and having ears played with. It will also overcome other problems - deciding between our punch holes and fight damage; inaccurate punching due to wriggling animals. One exciting benefit will be definite recording of animals travelling between sites, because each microchip is unique, whereas we have had to duplicate ear codes between sites. The practical aspect of inserting microchips in the field is still to be refined, and may lead to several human fingers being sacrificed for the good of science!



Figure 4: Bulldog Orchid (*Diuris longifolia*)



Figure 5: The Harp Trap (Photo: A Ruler)

Email Contact: thefurlers@gmail.com

Early Hikes in the Gammon Ranges

Ray Sinclair - Wood

Bob Buckerfield, Graham Hill, and I are collecting contemporary records of the earliest hikes in the Gammon Ranges, so that they can be archived. Where contemporary records don't exist, we're trying to locate those hikers still alive to reconstruct their hikes. The following is a brief account of the earliest hikes that we know of up to 1950. We distinguish hiking from regular incursions into the Gammons by the local station people, prospectors, fossickers, and such, going through them for work and recreation.

There was apparently a Scout hike in the Gammons in 1936 after the Scout Corroboree in the Belair National Park. We've yet to find written records of it.

Reg Sprigg writes that, '*Mawson walked his students including me fully into it from several directions in the late 1930s*'.

Adelaide University students including John P. Keeves planned a Gammons hike for May 1945, but when they applied for a grant to Sir Douglas Mawson, a trustee for a South Australian Exploration Fund, Keeves says that he urged them to hike around Paralana Hot Springs with Geiger counters instead. So they didn't go to the Gammons after all. Ralph [Bill] Beckwith, Roger Irving, Geoff Jones, and Don Lancaster were on the fringe, climbing Mt Serle on their 5½ day hike from Copley to Blinman via Angepena homestead in November 1945.

In July 1946 Warren Bonython planned a three-day hike with Fred Steadman and Bob Crocker from a base camp at Loch Ness Well. It was to be up on to the Blue Range via Steadman Ridge, down the South-East Range, and it seems through Western Gorge and the Italowie South Branch back to Loch Ness. But Crocker broke a leg a short distance along the Blue Range, was stretchered down into Mainwater Pound to its entrance, and the rest of the hike was aborted.

In May 1947 Beckwith with four University students, Col Hutchesson and Alvin Williams (Adelaide Bushwalkers Club members), Andy Keeves and Doug Stalley (ex-PAC and Kings College Scouts), hiked for 3½ days. They went from the Yankaninna homestead into Mainwater Pound, down the Pound to below Benbonyathe Hill, up on to the Blue Range, along it to west of Crocker Saddle, and climbed down into the

Italowie North Branch over Sheet Rock Falls. They exited via the Italowie Creek to Italowie Gap.

Three hikes took place simultaneously in August–September 1947, two of them combined for their first parts.



Figure 1: Beckwith May 1947 Hike: From left: Col Hutchesson, Andy Keeves, Alvin Williams, Doug Stalley; Frank Betharas (?), Dean Simes (both SA Mines Department, on their way to the Mt Painter Mining Camp—Dean and Doug are mates). In Copley at the end of the hike. *Taking photo:* Ralph [Bill] Beckwith. Courtesy John S. Keeves Collection.



Figure 2: Beckwith May 1947 Hike. From left: Alvin Williams, Colin Hutchesson, Andy Keeves, Ralph [Bill] Beckwith, examining Bonython's July 1946 second depot at the junction of the Italowie North and South Branches. *Taking photo:* Doug Stalley. Courtesy John S. Keeves Collection.

For the combined hike Bonython, Dean Harvey, Bob Lewis, and Murray Nicholson were one party. Frank Oakeshott (Rover Leader), Dick Wayte, David Oakeshott, and Bruce Thomson of the 1st Kensington Gardens Rover Crew were the other. From a base camp on Little John Creek they checked the approaches to Mt McKinlay, and did an overnight hike to its summit, and as far east as The Breaking Wave.



Figure 3: Bonython–KG Rovers’ 1947 Hike. From left: Warren Bonython, Bruce Thomson, Dean Harvey, Bill Thomas, Bob Lewis, David Oakeshott. Front: Frank Oakeshott, Murray Nicholson. Taking photo: Dick Wayte. Sunday 24th August, below Yackie Waterhole. Series 0100/1, Dick Wayte Collection. Courtesy of the Scout Archives.

Then Bonython, Harvey, Lewis, David Oakeshott, and Thomson, hiked in two days along the South-East Range via Mt Changeweather, and Prow Point, and across Mainwater Pound to Snake Gully Bore, from where they drove to the Yankaninna homestead. They were joined for this part by Bill Thomas, the Manager of Balcanoona Station. Frank Oakeshott, Wayte, and Nicholson formed a support party, who waited for the others from it seems a base camp below Yackie Waterhole.

Bonython’s party then drove to Loch Ness Well, hiked up to Bunyip Cranny, and into Fern Chasm a little above the Cranny beside Nightmare Falls. (It’s puzzled hikers ever since that Fern Chasm shortly afterwards somehow ‘moved’ five km to the west to where it is today. An explanation of this ‘move’ would be welcome.) They also attempted to climb Cleft Peak, but turned back from just short of the summit.

The Kensington Gardens Rovers returned to Yackie, and from there climbed Centre Hill. Then they hiked down the floor of Mainwater Pound to its entrance, climbed up at the eastern end of the Blue Range, and along it to Crocker Saddle. They hiked to Mt John Roberts at the

southern end of Steadman Ridge, down to Loch Ness Well, and along the Balcanoona Creek via Weetootla Gorge to the Balcanoona homestead.

The third hike was by University students Peter Bateman, Keith Fizelle, Jack Melbourne, and Peter Shaw, who were members of the 1st Linden Park Rover Crew. They hiked for four days from the Yankaninna homestead over the station’s bridle path to Yackie Waterhole, up on to the Blue Range and along it to the Cleft Peak Spur. They went down the Spur, dropped into the Italowie South Branch, and along it to its junction with Western Gorge. From a base camp there they climbed Mt McKinlay past Octopus Hill and across Pine Saddle, and returned down Amphitheatre Creek. They exited to Italowie Gap down the Italowie Creek. Then from the Old Paralana homestead they climbed Freeling Heights and Mt Painter, and visited the Mt Painter Mining Camp.

In May 1948 Bonython, Paul and Peter Stops, and Ted White hiked for 2½ days from south of Cleft Peak up Western and Streak Gorges, and across the Gammon Plateau and Arcoona Pound to the Mt Serle homestead.

In August 1948 Beckwith and John Loutit, with University students Colin Hocking and Brian Skinner hiked from Italowie Gap via the Italowie South Branch, Western and Streak Gorges, across the Blue Range, and ‘fairly directly’ to the Yankaninna homestead.

In May 1949 the Crisp brothers Colin, John, and Lionel, with Adelaide Bushwalkers member Lin Richardson hiked in the Gammons, but we don’t yet know their route.

We would like details of other Gammons hikes, up to as late as 1955, and already know of several in the early 1950s. Recording them is now urgent, as those who hiked then and are still alive are quite old, and their memories are fading rapidly. Two have died this year. In addition, original records are being destroyed—we know of some thrown out only last year.

We’re also collecting copies of all the sketch maps of the Gammons made up until the 1:50,000 Topographic *Nepabunna* and *Illinawortina* sheets appeared in 1976 and 1977. We have or know of fourteen so far, and would like to get hold of any others. They include sketch maps by Bonython (various), Wayte, Shaw, Richardson, Colin Crisp, the Linden Park Scout Group, Dick Brown (various), Graeme Holt, and Peter Wyld (various). There’s also a Scout Shop one of around 1963 without any provenance. We hope to make a complete dated collection to be archived too.

Many features in the Gammon Ranges have several names. In particular over the years hikers have replaced earlier names with their own. For example, the Blue Range as it's named today has had these names in the past: Benbonyatha Range (note the 'a'), Black Range (complementing the White Range against which Grindell's Hut is nestled), Main Range, Benbonyathe Divide, Gammon Divide, and between Prow Point and Arcoona Bluff the North-West Range—all of seven names so far.

We're also trying to put together an *Historical Dictionary of Gammon Ranges Place Names*, and would especially like to hear of any early names such as Scree Hill for Mt McKinlay Bluff, Owieandana Basin for Arcoona Pound, and Tillite Range for the Balcanoona Range—and variations such as McKinlay Pound for McKinlay Basin, and The Gorge of Ferns for Fern Gorge. Different spellings such as Angipena for Angepena, and Binbenbonyathe and Ben Bonyathe for Benbonyathe are also welcome. The purpose of this *Dictionary* is to simply list all known names and spellings, together with their provenance where known, nothing more.

Any contributions to these projects would be welcome.

Note: Western Gorge runs from the Italowie South Branch at GR 183266 to 145284; Streak Gorge joins it at Junction Waterhole. Sheet Rock Falls are in the western part of the Italowie North Branch, at GR 196306. You climb Nightmare Falls into Bunyip Chasm from just above Bunyip Cranny—some hikers wrongly think that the Chasm is merely another name for the Cranny. The Cleft Peak Spur joins the Blue Range at the 991 metre hill at GR184308. Grid references are to the 1:50,000 *Illinawortina* Topographic Sheet.

Note: The hotel in Copley is the Leigh Creek Hotel because Copley's original name was Leigh's Creek. The name for what's today the East Painter Camp was Mt Painter Camp in 1947.

Reference:

Sprigg, R.C. (1948) *Arkaroola–Mount Painter in the Northern Flinders Ranges, S.A.: The Last Billion Years*, Arkaroola: Arkaroola Pty Ltd, p. 42.

Contact: Ray Sinclair-Wood
Phone 08 8648 6278
PO Box 188
Quorn SA 5433



Figure 4: Beckwith August 1948 Hike. John Loutit at Junction Waterhole (at the junction of Western and Streak Gorges). Courtesy Ralph [Bill] Beckwith Collection.



Figure 5: Beckwith May 1947 Hike: From left: Andy Keeves, Mail Truck Driver, Alvin Williams, Col Hutchesson, Ralph [Bill] Beckwith. *Taking Photo:* Doug Stalley. About to depart, outside the Leigh's Creek Hotel in Copley. Courtesy John S. Keeves Collection.



Figure 6: Linden Park Rovers August 1947 Hike: Three of the four hikers (Peter Bateman, Keith Fizelle, Jack Melbourne, Peter Shaw) on the summit of Mt McKinlay, Tuesday 26th August, 1947. Courtesy Peter Bateman

Arkaroola Expedition 2011:

A Non Scientist's Experience Jeannette Roulston



Feeling a bit apprehensive I met as advised in front of the old tram barns on Hackney Rd just before 6.00 a.m. on Sunday 18th September.

I was excited about a trip to Arkaroola but what if I'd tricked SEG into allowing me to go because they assumed that by knowing Bob and Annette Vincent, I was also a scientist!

My anxiety was soon replaced by my new role of keeping Nick Birks awake on the long drive north. I loved the journey through Burra, Quorn and alongside the Flinders Ranges as Nick reminisced about his time working as a jackaroo on properties we passed, his athletic highlights during the Commonwealth games, recent trip to Venice and love of photography; pointing to birds of prey every so often in the clear sky.

We were supposed to bring up the rear of the vehicles but overtook the recently purchased truck with its 2 flat tyres early into the drive. We then took a side trip to visit a farm with Bernie and Loene for my first insect forage, in cow pats! A few dung beetles later we were back on the road,

once again at the rear of the convoy, when Nick reversed back to a snake on the side of the road, jumped out to retrieve it and stuffed it into a carton (sans lid) in the back of the truck. Assuming the snake was dead I stayed in my seat but was curious as Nick searched around for a substitute cover for the carton – why I asked – just in case, he says! Ugh, it may not be dead! A few kilometres on we spied Bernie's car again, pulled over to the side of the road with Bernie underneath. Another complex tyre change with dubious assistance from locals we now followed Bernie's dust along the road at dusk into Arkaroola Homestead.

And so began 2 amazing weeks of my life – physically tiring, visually overwhelming and mentally a huge learning curve.

Next day, an early start in Bruce's 4WD saw my team negotiate the way up the Ridge top track (not knowing what to expect I was exceptionally lucky to have Bruce as driver – as a very experienced, sensible driver it allowed me to relax and enjoy the extravagancy of sights.) 2 hours of sightseeing passed in a blink and we arrived to do some

hard yakka at a rocky site covered in sida plants swaying in the hot northerly wind that also brought the dust. We sneezed our day away digging trenches, setting small fences, traps for mammals, traps for reptiles, traps for ants..., and then headed back to camp stopping enroute to check for anything caught in traps laid by others. The afternoon setting sun provided another vista to oogle. Arriving back dusty and tired, I had a quick cold shower that revived me enough for tea. A disaster in the kitchen, when Woody, on cooking duty, scalded herself badly, saw dinner delayed. I declined dessert and headed for bed before I fell asleep in my chair. I was out like a light oblivious to the generator and scientists' hum outside my door.

And so began a similar daily routine, breakfast, lunch making, off to a day with people passionate in their fields - botanists, biologists, geologists, bird watchers; teaching me to dig pits, set traps, watch for birds, identify plants, tag reptiles, learn that all ants aren't the same and see bats up close for the first time. Then back each dusk to our welcoming accommodation, hot meal and an evening of enjoyable company. The weather was glorious (perfect for cold showers but hot meals), the drivers skilled, the

food varied and filling, the company diverse and my days off filled with other fun activities such as bush walking, sightseeing by helicopter, frog catching and quandong picking.

As a novice volunteer I thank everyone for a fantastic experience, for my gaining a great respect for SEG members and for introducing a new vocabulary of fauna and flora of the Australian bush. Biggest thanks to Henry for reinforcing that age is irrelevant. And to Helen for pretending my snoring didn't keep her awake.

PS: (I learnt later that prior to our arrival the place was a shamble of cluttered rooms, littered with mouse faeces. The hard efforts of the forward crew meant that we lucky later arrivals could eat and sleep in clean environs from the day of our arrival without any further cleaning required unless assigned to cleaning duty that day.)

Apologies for events and individuals I haven't mentioned.

Photography D. Mckenzie

Contact Email: jeanette.roulston@adelaide.edu.au



SEG Expeditioners checking the pit fall traps

The new SEG website

home committee projects expeditions publications links contact us
alert membership SEG foundation

Items of Interest

Our Next Expedition to the Nullarbor

SEG has a great future with strong activities planned. The most interesting of which at this stage is the expedition to re-survey the Nullarbor nearly 30 years after a previous survey using the same sites.

The survey is being done in conjunction with the Alinytjara Wilurata Natural Resource Management Board and will require four separate teams. The teams are presently oversubscribed for participants. In the likelihood that there are some dropouts, if you are interested please give your name and details to [Trent Parke](#).

A Bit of a Writer?

If you have been on any SEG activity lately or have been a past member thinking about returning to the fold, perhaps you would like to write about your experience. This might have been taking part in an Expedition or one of our on going projects. [Andrew Barr](#), our SEGments Editor would love to hear from you.

Spot any Problems

if you find any problems with our website please contact [Michelle Trothway](#) or [Gary Trothway](#) and we will endeavor to fix it as soon as possible or

Contact

Scientific Expedition Group Inc.
PO Box 501
Unley S.A. 5061
email: Scientific Expedition Group

About

The Scientific Expedition Group Inc. is a non profit organisation which aims to promote and run expeditions of a scientific, cultural and adventurous nature, to encourage knowledge and appreciation of the natural environment, and to develop interpersonal skills by living and working towards a common goal!

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The current SEG website was created by UniSA Media Arts student, Ross Novak, as part of his course work in *Electronic Publishing on the Internet*. Each year, students in various web major courses create websites for volunteer based organisations through the *Sustainable Online Community Engagement (SOCE)* program. *SOCE* is a partnership between the Office for Volunteers and the UniSA School of Communication, International Studies and Languages, in which students build websites and create brochures and other print or e-publications for non-profit organisations. The aims of this program are

- to provide richer learning experiences in which students work with real clients;
- to enhance the ICT capacity the non-profit sector;
- and to build relationships between younger people and organisations in an ageing volunteer sector.

There is an emphasis on sustainability and enabling organisations to manage their websites independently, whilst providing support and guidance. The websites are put into a content management system so that people can update them without special software or knowledge of coding. Free training in editing the website is provided at the university and hosting is provided for free on a university server. Alternatively, the organisation may take the XHTML website for hosting elsewhere. Students also provide advice and assistance to organisations in using social media to enhance their web based communication. If you are interested in applying to be part of this, or learning more about the program, please visit <http://www.communitywebs.org> or contact *SOCE* at soce@unisa.edu.au

Alice Dodd; Project coordinator and PhD Candidate
Sustainable Online Community Engagement
School of Communication, UNISA



SEGments



SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION GROUP

The Scientific Expedition Group (SEG) came into being at a public meeting on 21st August 1984. Members receive regular information on SEG activities and expeditions. 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.

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

.....

Send a cheque (Scientific Expedition Group Inc.) with a Photocopy of this page to
 The Secretary
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Visit the NEW Scientific Expedition Group Website



The screenshot shows the top navigation menu of the Scientific Expedition Group website. The menu items are: home, committee, projects, expeditions, publications, files, contact us, and a second row with a link, membership, and SEG foundation. Below the menu is a grid of four photographs showing people engaged in fieldwork and planning.

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