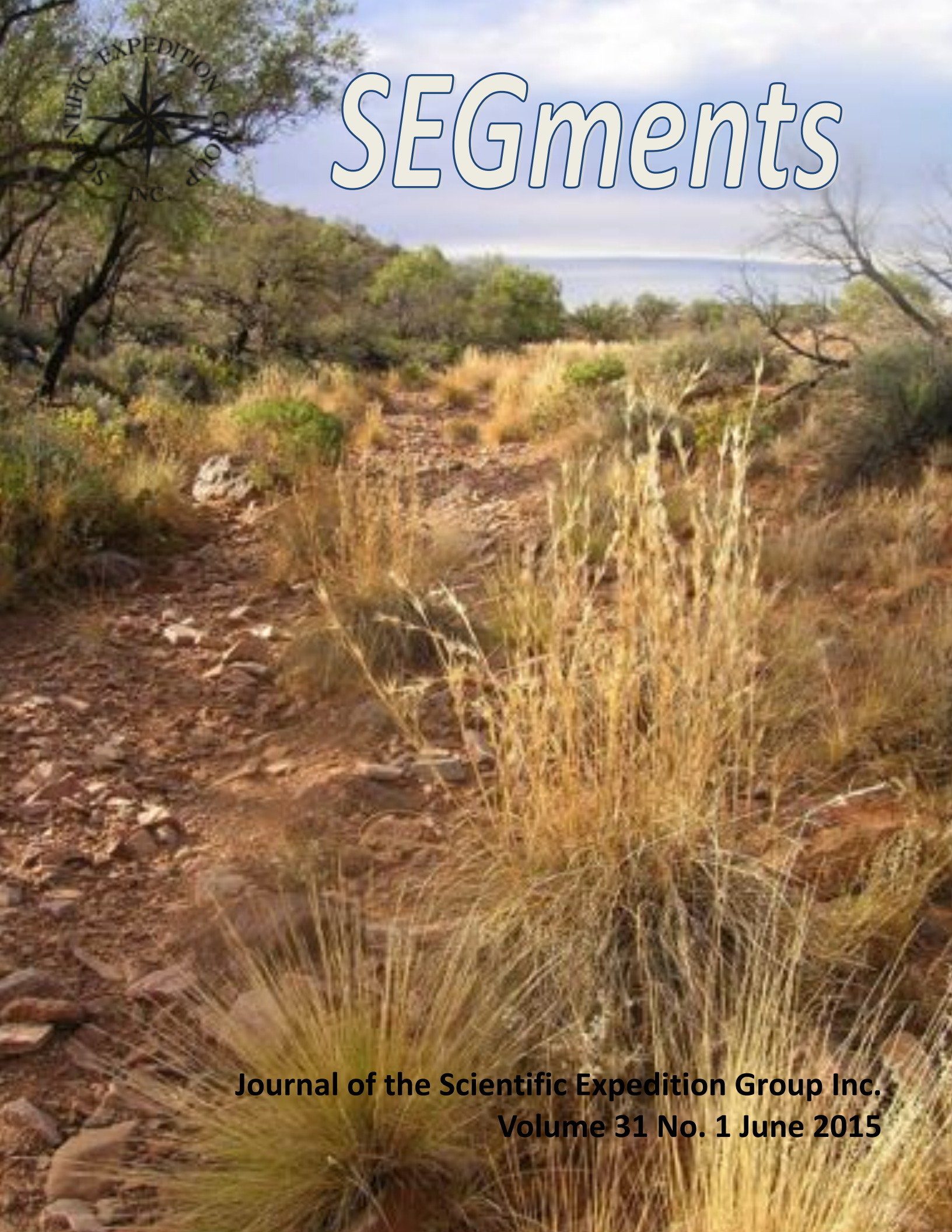

SEGments

Journal of the Scientific Expedition Group Inc.
Volume 31 No. 1 June 2015

Scientific Expedition Group Inc.

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Cover photograph:
Lemon-scented grass in creekline on Nature Foundation's Witchelina property
Photo: Greg Johnston

The Scientific Expedition Group is a not-for profit organisation which began in 1984. SEG undertakes several expeditions each year to record scientific information on wildlife and the environment in many parts of South Australia.

A major expedition to conduct a biodiversity survey occurs each year over two weeks. Scientific experts lead volunteers in surveying mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, vegetation, birds and physical geography. The data collected on each survey are archived with the relevant State scientific institutions to ensure they are available to anyone interested in our State's environment.

In addition to the major expedition, a number of trips for the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges Scientific Project are organised annually. A long term study of rainfall on the ranges and of water flow in arid-zone creeks is undertaken. All data are supplied to the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources and to the Bureau of Meteorology and are available for analysis.

SEG conducts four-day biodiversity surveys at eight different sites each autumn and spring in the Heritage Area of scrub on "Minnawarra" farm near Myponga. Data collected are entered into the Biological Data Base of SA. SEG also conducts annual mallee-fowl monitoring over a weekend in the Murraylands.

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Contacts:
SEG Secretary: Sarah Telfer
PO. Box 501, Unley SA 5061
Email: sarahtelfer@internode.on.net

SEG email: scientificexpeditiongroup@gmail.com

SEG website Http://www.communitywebs.org/ScientificExpeditionGroup

SEGments

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EDITORIAL

Like many community organisations, the average age of SEG members has increased over the past 30 years. Like other groups, SEG looks for ways to encourage younger people to be involved in its activities in the face of other distractions. There are several options:

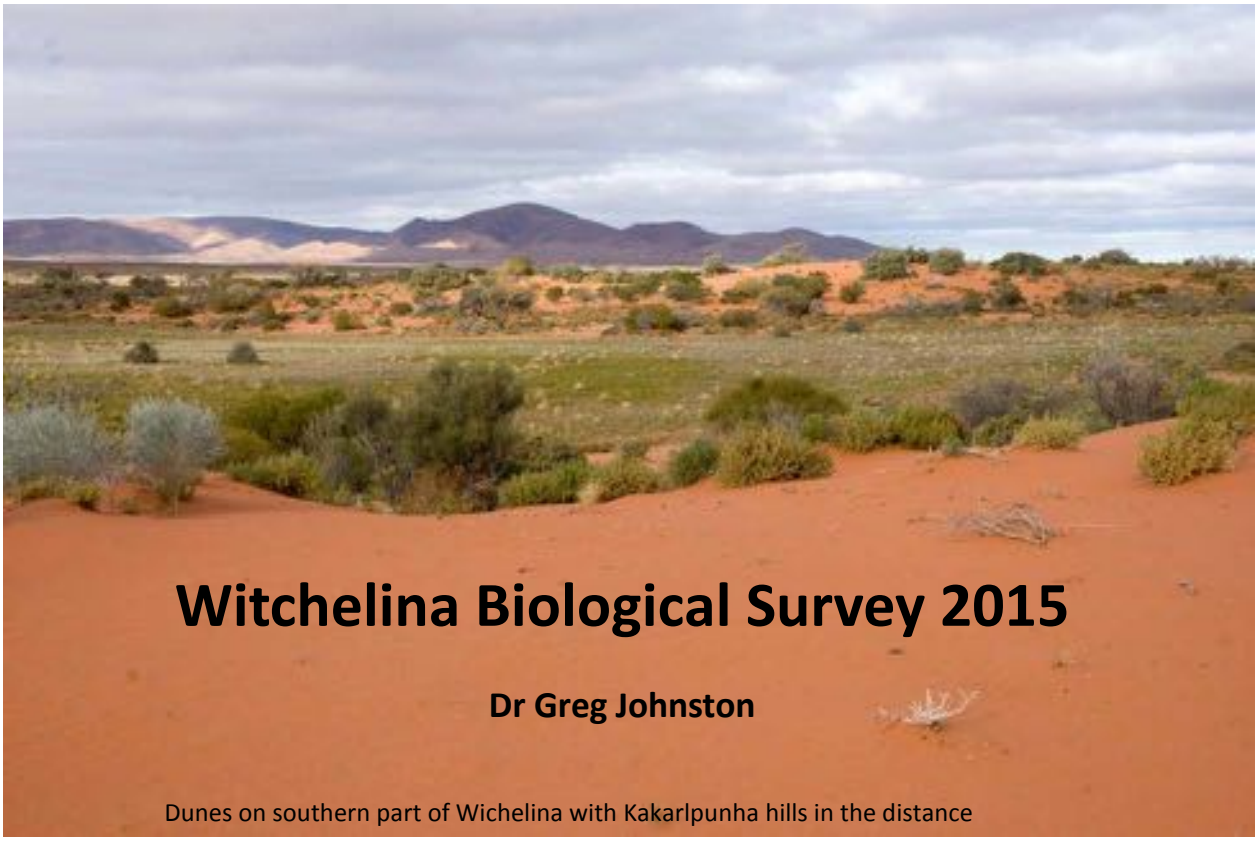
SEG's 2015 major expedition is to Witchelina, NFSA property south of Marree, from 20th September to 3rd October, dates which overlap university and school holidays. A biological survey will be conducted in the southern region of the property. Students participating in previous SEG expeditions have written interesting and inspiring reports about their experiences (see SEGments December 2013, June 2013, March 2012.) Student concessions are available to offset expedition costs, but places are limited (see notice on back cover).

Besides the annual expedition SEG offers a range of field experiences. The Minnawarra Biodiversity Project runs surveys close to Adelaide and caters for all age groups and fitness levels. The four day surveys provide a unique experience for all, from young children to adult volunteers. Between 100 and 300 animals are captured, identified, measured, micro-chipped and released. Volunteers may come for one to four days, and camping facilities are available. Tom Hastie has written an account of his experiences at the autumn survey as part of work towards his Queen's Scout Award (see p 12). Other participants have used SEG projects towards Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and university and school environmental studies. The spring Minnawarra survey runs from Wednesday 30th September to Sunday 4th October. On page 15 there is a collage of photos from past Minnawarra surveys.

The Vulkhathunha-Gammon Ranges, home of SEG's V-Grasp monitoring program for the past 26 years (see SEG website), is a wonderful, rugged wilderness. Ray Sinclair-Wood has written an important historical account of a rescue in 1946, when intrepid bush-men rallied to evacuate an injured explorer who was in a party attempting to cross the Gammon Ranges led by SEG's inaugural President Warren Bonython. These tough bush-men who undertook the rescue, and their families, are our forebears, and long may we be inspired by what they took in their stride, living and working in harsh bush country. Ray has opened up this world to us in his gripping account of the rescue.

Helen Johnson

kdolphin@internode.on.net



Witchelina Biological Survey 2015

Dr Greg Johnston

Dunes on southern part of Wichelina with Kakarlpunha hills in the distance

Background

The Scientific Expedition Group's (SEG) 2015 survey will take place on Witchelina, a private reserve owned by the Nature Foundation SA (NFSA). Witchelina Pastoral Station was bought by NFSA in February 2010, and is now managed for nature conservation. Witchelina Reserve covers an area of 4,219 km^2. The reserve is located between the north-eastern shore of Lake Torrens and the township of Marree.

The varied landscape of Witchelina includes salt lake coast, extensive dune fields, undulating gibber country, old man saltbush and red gum along normally dry creeks, and rocky hills. Witchelina includes a significant proportion of the Willouran Ranges, an important refuge for arid zone plants and animals. The reserve protects ecosystems that are widespread in arid Australia, but were previously under-represented in Australia's Reserve System. Witchelina also contributes to the Trans-Australia EcoLink and the Flinders-Olary Nature Links corridor.

Overgrazing and predation by domestic and feral animals have caused declines and extinctions of animals and plants across southern Australia. Management of Witchelina Reserve has focused on reduction of grazing pressure from cattle, sheep and goats, and control of feral predators (cat and fox) (Nankivell & Johnston 2013).

Previous surveys of Witchelina Reserve

Witchelina had not been the subject of any systematic biological surveys prior to 2010, although the South Australian Biological Survey and Royal Geographical Society of South Australia had undertaken work in the stony deserts and salt lakes to the north (Brandle 1998a; Slaytor 1999), and the Flinders Ranges to the south of Witchelina (Brandle 1998b, 2001). The birds of the Willouran Ranges have been described by Badman (1981).

Since the NFSA took ownership of Witchelina there have been two biological surveys on the reserve. Visits to Witchelina by Birds SA, the South Australian Herpetology Group and the Mammal Group of the Field Naturalist's Society of South Australia have provided additional information on birds, mammals and reptiles.

The first biological survey was a 'Bushblitz' in October, 2010 (Bush Blitz Species Discovery Program 2013). This survey focused on exploration, rather than systematic sampling, and provided an important initial inventory of species on the Reserve. However the extent of field work was severely limited by adverse weather.

The second survey was carried out in September 2011 (EBS Ecology, 2012). This survey was commissioned by Nature Foundation SA to systematically survey the reserve, and set-up sites for future environmental monitoring.

Coverage of the Reserve by both the Bushblitz and EBS surveys and other visiting natural history groups was constrained by time available, limited access and the large size of Witchelina. In particular, access to the dune fields and Lake Torrens coast was limited by lack of access tracks and difficult terrain in the remote south of the Reserve.

View along ridges with intervening gibber towards Kakarlpunha, Witchelina Reserve

Lake Torrens shore on Witchelina Reserve

The need & aims of the current survey

Knowledge of the fauna and flora of Witchelina is limited, despite previous surveys. There is a need to increase knowledge of what species live on Witchelina, and also to monitor changes in their distribution and abundance in response to management actions on the reserve.

The EBS Ecology survey quantified plants and/or animals present at each of 25 sites. These sites were established in five of the ten IBRA landsystems (major habitat types) on the reserve (EBS Ecology 2012). Thus five of the landsystems that occur there remain unsurveyed on Witchelina.

The proposed survey will: (1) establish new survey sites so that each landsystem on Witchelina is sampled, and (2) revisit the 25 established survey sites so that changes in animal and plant distribution and abundance can be documented.

Approach and methods

SEG will be engaged by the NFSA to undertake a two week long biological survey in the springs of 2015, 2016 and 2017. During each survey up to 16 sites will be surveyed. These sites will include at least the 25 sites established during the 2011 EBS survey, and an additional 5 sites to ensure all landsystems on Witchelina are surveyed (ie. a minimum of 30 sites). Additional sites may be established to expand coverage of the Reserve, subject to access, time and budget constraints.

Aerial view of the Willouran Ranges on Witchelina

Standard methods developed for the South Australian Biological Survey will be used to assess vascular plants (Heard & Channon 1997) and animals (Owens 2000). These methods will be supplemented by additional approaches outlined by EBS Ecology (2012) to ensure comparability of data over time. Briefly each site will include a 100mx100m vegetation plot, 12 vertebrate pitfall traps, 12 invertebrate pitfall traps, 30 Elliot traps, 4 cage traps and up to 8 funnel traps.

The 2015 survey will be based at Pug Hut and cover the south-eastern part of the Reserve (Map). Future surveys are planned to cover the western and north-eastern parts of the reserve. Pug hut has three small rooms, which will be used for science labs, communications and food storage. Expeditioners will need to camp nearby. Long-drop toilets, water and fuel will be provided at the hut. The survey will be held during Spring, between Sunday 20th September and Saturday 3rd October 2015.

Gibber country on Witchelina Reserve

The Witchelina survey builds on the previous successful collaboration between the NFSA and SEG to survey Hiltaba Reserve on Eyre Peninsula in 2013. The survey will involve expert scientists from NFSA staff, SEG, the South Australian Museum, State Herbarium, Universities and other Institutions who will lead volunteer members of the expedition. Results from the survey will be incorporated into the Nature Foundation's Conservation Action Plan for Witchelina Reserve.

The survey will give you a chance to see a part of the country that is not easily accessible to members of the general public, and to see the special fauna, flora and geography of arid northern South Australia. Expedition members will have an opportunity to learn from expert scientists and play a hands-on role in conservation.

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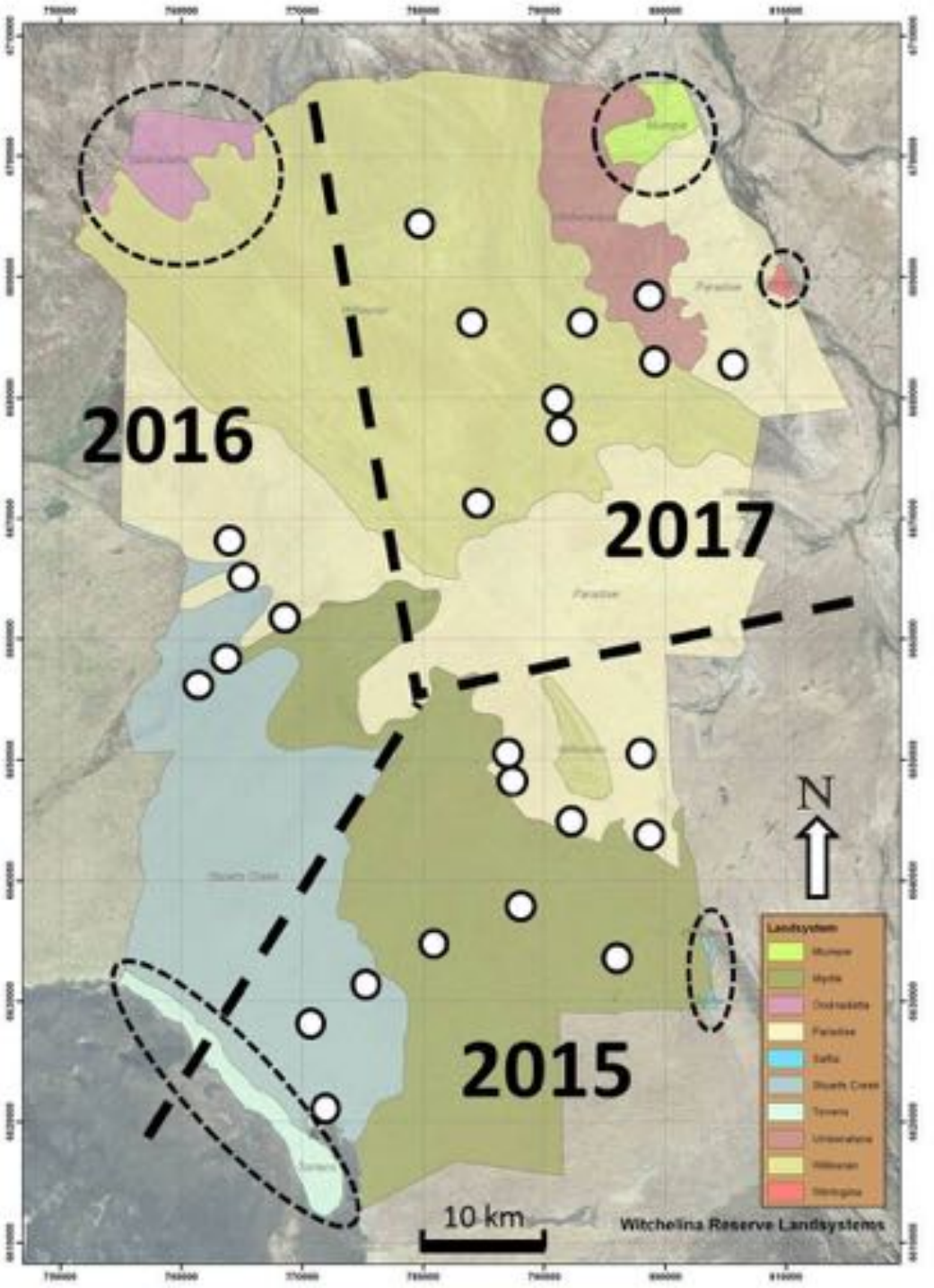

Map of Witchelina Reserve showing IBRA landsystems and survey sites to be covered by the 2015, 2016 and 2017 biological surveys. Dots represent sites established in 2011. Dashed circles identify approximate locations of new survey sites that need to be established.

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Dr Greg Johnston
Conservation Ecologist
Nature Foundation SA
greg.johnston@nfsa.com.au

The Bob Crocker Rescue

Ray Sinclair-Wood

Two events in particular in the later 1940s made the Gammon Ranges seem dangerous hiking country to city hikers, who'd been exploring the Flinders Ranges for hiking since the 1930s. In Adelaide's *The Advertiser*, 6th February, 1946, there was an air photo of deep gorges in the Gammon Ranges on page 8. It was taken by no less than Ben [Samuel Benson] Dickinson, the SA Director of Mines from 1944 to 1956, and was headed, 'Unexplored Section of South Australia'. The caption reads:

> No white man has ever succeeded in penetrating this rugged area of the Gammon Range at the northern end of Flinders Range, and natives will not enter the ranges, which they regard as sacred ground. This group of steep hills is south-west of Mt. Painter, where mining operations for uranium for atomic bomb research were made during the war.

Yet at the same time that it made the Gammons sound forbidding, it intrigued hikers in the city. The Gammons appeared to be one of those lost worlds that so fascinated 19th and early 20th century people as the remotest corners of the planet became known, and it seemed that there'd soon be nowhere mysterious left anywhere on Earth.[1] Even as late as 1964, Hans Mincham described the Gammon Ranges as 'this lost world of the North Flinders'.[2] It was a kind of Shangri La in our own South Australian backyard.

It fascinated Warren Bonython enough for him to go into the Gammons only five months later, leaving from Adelaide in a utility truck on Wednesday 24th July 1946 with Bob Crocker and Fred Steadman. The subsequent accident to Crocker was the second event that added to the reputation of the Gammons as dangerous country to hike in.

The Gammons were mostly on the brothers Byron and Ian McLachlan's Balcanoona station, and the north-western part was on Keith Lillecrapp's Yankaninna station.

So with the McLachlans' support and Sir Douglas Mawson's advice,[3] they planned to spend around a fortnight in the Gammons, which would include a three-day hike.[4] Bonython believed from what he'd read and heard—falsely as it turned out—that the deep gorges of the Gammons were as impenetrable as Dickinson had said, all blocked by sheer waterfalls. For example, four months after Dickinson's photo and caption appeared, Ronald Stewart said in an article, 'Arkaroo, Great Snake Of The Gammons':

> For practical purposes, the Gammons are impenetrable. Various parties have entered the range from all but one side, but they have always been held up by the great gorges hundreds of feet deep and with sheer sides. Each of these gorges ends in a tremendous waterfall.[5]

Therefore Bonython and his companions decided that they should emulate Blaxland, Lawson, & Wentworth, who'd successfully crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813 by going up the ridges instead of into the gorges that had defeated previous attempts.

The three-day hike he'd planned using air photos, was to climb from Loch Ness Well up the western side of Mt John Roberts[6] and traverse what he named Steadman's Ridge, on to what was at that time known as the Main Range[7] (now the Blue Range). Then they'd follow the top of this Range west to where the South-East Range connects the Blue Range (at what he later named Prow Point, the Blue Range's southmost point) to the McKinlay Massif. They'd then hike south along this Range and, he says, 'return to base through the Cleft Peak Basin', without saying exactly how they'd get through the Basin.

In preparation they hiked up Steadman Ridge and established a first depot of water, rations, and 'other gear, too—including a theodolite, tripod and a photogrammetric camera', on top of the Blue Range near what is now Crocker Saddle. He names it Crocker's Gap in his book, and Crocker's Ridge may have been another early name he gave to the length of the Blue Range in that area, presumably to include where the accident happened.[8] They also established a second depot at the junction of the Italowie Creek's North and South Branches. Photo 1 shows Ralph Beckwith's May–June 1947 hike party examining this second unused depot that they came across in June 1947.[9]

After a fierce west wind flattened their tent the night before, the party set out on their hike on Wednesday 31st July,

1. The 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. Doug Stalley taking the photo. You can see the water and rations containers, and the groundsheet that covered them. They also found the remains of the first depot on the Blue Range. Photo courtesy John S. Keeves Collection.

and got as far as their first depot. Bonython says, 'Reaching the dump [depot] we loaded ourselves with impossible weights and started west along the Blue Range. After less than half a mile and at about 2 p.m. […] all in a moment the overloaded Bob let his foot slip off one of the "steps",' and he broke his left leg. Steadman stayed with him while Bonython retraced their path to Loch Ness, and then headed back towards Balcanoona to get help.

It's easy to be clever after the event, but 'impossible weights' and 'overloaded Bob' do suggest they might have been better to have made a lightly-loaded reconnaissance hike this trip, rather than trying to carry all that heavy gear like a theodolite and tripod. However, you have to remember that their purpose in being in the Gammons in the first place was rather more scientific than to go on a hike only for pleasure.

But you do wonder why they didn't first check whether the gorges were truly blocked impassably. For example, there's nothing impassable all the way up the Balcanoona Creek from their camp at Loch Ness Well to the top of the Blue Range. A casual look from a distance at the big waterfall in the Balcanoona Creek just above the side creek into Bunyip Cranny (then called Fern Gorge[10]) might have you think that's impassable. But there's an easy narrow ramp up its eastern

side to get above it. And they did have the time to check the gorges: after all, they planned to 'be away for about a fortnight'.[11]

Bob Crocker was Robert Langdon Crocker (1914–63). He died of a heart attack at only 49. He was born in Peterborough, educated at Scotch College in Adelaide where he was a leading athlete, and at the University of Adelaide where he was also awarded his D.Sc the year after the accident. At the time he broke his leg he was in the Agronomy Department of the Waite Institute. He then spent two years at the Cambridge University in the UK. He became an Associate Professor and then Professor of Soil Morphology at the University of California at Berkeley, and finally Professor at the University of Sydney in the Chair of Botany in 1954.[12]

He was also a member of Dr Cecil Madigan's 1939 Simpson Desert Expedition, though he'd already accompanied Madigan on his 1937 expedition, also in Central Australia. In his description of the latter, Madigan says about Crocker, 'I have never enjoyed a happier association on any trip'.[13] And he says about the 1939 Expedition:

> To my great satisfaction my old friend and former student, R.L. Crocker, was able to get leave from his duties as a soil surveyor for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research at the Waite Institute to come with me as botanist. We had been round the northern end of the desert together before and he already had some experience of the desert flora.[14]

Madigan's Simpson Desert crossing was on camelback, and has been described as the last of Australia's old-style journeys of exploration. Crocker was only 23 the first time he went with him. And he was 32 in July 1946 when he broke his leg.

Bonython reached the old Worturpa/Grindell Hut by 6 pm (the new one in front of it wasn't built until the 1950s), telephoned the Balcanoona homestead from there, and explained to the Manager, Bill Thomas, what had happened. Thomas told him to follow the telephone line all the way through Weetootla Gorge, and meet him and his wife Margaret there. But he lost his way in the dark, heading for Yadnina instead (pronounced 'Eedaninna', and today spelled Idninha), and didn't get to the anxious Thomas until the next morning.[15] When they got to the homestead, Thomas phoned the surrounding stations. He'd been a Captain in the Light Horse before the 2nd World War, and rapidly and effectively organised the rescue.

Of course, outback people would drop everything without a moment's hesitation in an emergency like this, and did. Wertaloona was even shearing at the time, but their people came, though the shearers probably continued during their absence.

Thomas organised a three-pronged approach: from Yankaninna in the north-west; from the western end of the Blue Range at Arcoona Bluff; and from Loch Ness Well in the south. Men from seven stations were involved: Yankaninna, Arkaroola, Wooltana, Wertaloona, Frome Downs (not listed by Bonython), Balcanoona, and Mt Serle. Bill Wilson was from Frome Downs, his brother Bob Wilson from Wertaloona, Bentley Greenwood and Pat Pycroft from Arkaroola, and Joe Ford from Wooltana. The four Aboriginal men from Nepabunna were working on Wertaloona.[16]

Gordon 'Smiler' Greenwood from Mt Serle with others probably from there,[17] tried to get to Crocker by climbing up from the west near Arcoona Bluff, and then walking east along the top of the Blue Range. But their progress was so slow through the dense scrub, that they turned back after a five-hour battle with it, presumably because it would then have been too late for them to reach Crocker in time.[18]

Photo 2 is of the main party of eleven, including Bentley Greenwood who took the photo. It was probably taken before they moved off—their clothes look neat and clean. They set out from Loch Ness Well near midday to follow Bonython's route.

Keith Lillecrapp and his 17-year-old son Gordon on horseback—Gordon on the black Betsy and Keith the brown Daisy, both chosen at random in a hurry—left Yankaninna homestead late in the morning. They rode over their Yankaninna Horse Pad from Snake Gully Bore[19] across the Yankaninna Range into Mainwater Pound, down the Pound a way, and then up to the top of the Blue Range, and along it to the east. I imagine they'd have left the Pound floor north of Prow Point, where the slope up to the Blue Range is the gentlest. The Loch Ness party took four hours to reach the

2. The main Rescue Party from Loch Ness Well. From left, Malcolm McKenzie, Bill Thomas, Bill Wilson, Joe Ford (squatting), Warren Bonython, Bob Wilson, Fred McKenzie, Pat Pycroft (squatting), 'Whistler' Smith, and Percy Paterson. Possibly at Loch Ness. Photo taken by Bentley Greenwood, also one of the Rescue Party. Photo courtesy the Greenwood Family. Names provided by Gordon Lillecrapp.

Steadman–Crocker camp around sunset and, shortly after, their fire led the Lillecrapps to the camp too.

Bonython writes of the Lillecrapps' 'remarkable feat of leading a pair of horses up on to the Blue Range' but Gordon says they *rode* them up, and scarcely needed to dismount and lead them at any time at all. However, those were the days when people on stations still did most of their work on horseback, and wouldn't have thought a feat like this to be 'remarkable'. Bonython may have thought that they were led up, because Gordon did lead the horses down on foot the following day accompanying the rescuers.

3. The stretcher party coming off the Blue Range into Mainwater Pound. Bonython on the left, and Fred Steadman like Crocker wearing a peaked cap—Crocker's looking at him. Bob Wilson at the front of the stretcher and Malcolm McKenzie at the rear. Photo taken by Bentley Greenwood, courtesy the Greenwood Family collection. Bonython has a different photo of the stretcher party facing p 136 of his *Walking the Flinders Ranges*. His shows the Lillecrapps' horses as well.

Two of the Aboriginal men peeled semi-circular sections of bark from a pine tree, and Bentley Greenwood used them as splints, bandaging them to Crocker's leg.

It was now sunset, Thursday 1st August, the day after the accident. And there were the eleven from Loch Ness, two from Yankaninna, and Steadman and Crocker, all together on the Blue Range. And so fifteen men camped there overnight. Of course none of the rescuers had swags with them, so they sat up around the fire all night. Gordon Lillecrapp remembers wrapping himself in his horse blanket. After all, it *was* mid-winter and they were exposed on all sides on a mountain ridge 960 metres high. It was only a couple of days after the new moon, so there was no moonlight for the rescue.

The obvious way to take Crocker out was down into Mainwater Pound on the steepish northern side of the Blue Range. The floor of the Pound is more open, flatter country except at its eastern end where it becomes a gorge. And cars could be driven to near the Pound's eastern entrance to pick everyone up. Keith's wife, Laura Lillecrapp, had once been the Matron of the Burra Hospital, so the Yankaninna homestead was the obvious place to take Crocker for this reason, too.

The morning of the third day, Friday 2nd August, was foggy and cold. The rescue party set out between 8 and 8.30 am, stretchering Crocker down into the Pound. Bill Wilson's younger brother Bob from Wertaloona was a big, strong, solidly-built man, who played a large part in carrying the stretcher.

At first they followed a creek down. There's a band of upthrust rock running horizontally along the Blue Range half-way up its Mainwater Pound side, and most of the creeks coming off the top run into narrow rocky gorges through this band—usually a good place to look for water. When the stretcher party reached this, they had a break for lunch at a small waterhole. One of the rescuers grilled some sheep's meat that was so tough it could hardly be chewed. After lunch the party was forced to abandon the creek, and head up onto the spur on one side and down through the scrub along it.

Gordon Lillecrapp on foot led the two horses down. Perhaps Thomas already planned to put Crocker on one of them when they reached the bottom. There were eleven men to take turns carrying the stretcher, but it took them seven hours to reach the Pound floor by mid-afternoon, only 3½ km as the crow flies. Bonython says the men were 'exhausted' by the time they got to the floor. Joe Ford said later that Crocker 'made the journey down over what was often almost impassable country without "grizzling".'[20] But it must have been a terrible trial for him.

My guess is that they came down Dogleg Creek, which branches from Mainwater Creek at GR 206 351 on the 1:50,000 *Illinawortina* Topographic Map. At 206 321 it divides into two final short branches that reach the Blue Range's top, half a km each side of Crocker Saddle. Bonython does say their camp was *less* than half a mile west of the depot, which makes Dogleg Creek the likeliest way they first descended. You've a perhaps 50–50 chance of finding water in the dogleg itself, as the party did.

Once on the Pound floor, Crocker was placed on the smaller horse, Daisy, for the rest of the way to the Pound entrance and the waiting vehicles: 'more than once the splinted leg was caught in the bushes, giving Bob moments of excruciating pain, but he took these trials well'. It took them five hours

4. Stopping for lunch on the descent from the Blue Range, perhaps on Dogleg Creek. Top left Gordon Lillecrapp with the horses, from left Betsy and Daisy—the theodolite tripod is on Daisy. Bentley Greenwood fourth from left with wrist watch. Bob Crocker smoking a pipe. Front left Keith Lillecrapp, front right Joe Ford. Photo courtesy the Gordon Lillecrapp collection.

more to get there at 8 pm, the last part through the eastern gorge using 'torches and lanterns'.

The vehicles were waiting at the dog fence a little outside the Pound, apparently by prior arrangement. There was a truck from Wertaloona that may have been the one that took the rescue party from Balcanoona into Loch Ness via McTaggart's Well at the start, and may have been at the dog fence waiting too. Gordon says that it was certainly at Yankaninna the next morning, and returned to Balcanoona and Wertaloona via Angepena. The horses were released to find their own way home, the boundary gate to Yankaninna left open for them to get through.

Before then, around midday Laura Lillecrapp had come up to Yadnina—at that time a Balcanoona outstation near the Mainwater Pound entrance, but today in ruins—to render any first aid still needed. And Crocker was taken by car to the Yankaninna homestead (then seven km NNE from Gammon Hill), where he was kept for the night.

On the fourth day, Saturday 3rd August, he was driven as far as the Greenwoods' Mt Serle homestead, where he slept again for a while—probably still exhausted,—cared for by Mrs Madge Greenwood, 'Smiler's' wife and cousin. 'At Mount Serle his tired comment on the Gammons was that they provided a very interesting holiday the hard way'.[21] He was then driven as far as the Australian Inland Mission Hostel that was in Leigh Creek from 1945 to 1952, where he stayed overnight. Though the Hostel was in the doctor's house, there was no doctor in Leigh Creek until 1952.[22]

Leigh Creek dated from only three years previously, from 1943 when open-cut mining first began. It's not the present Leigh Creek, which was built just south-west of Copley in 1980, and was known as Leigh Creek South until the old town had been dismantled.[23] The original town was ten km north of Copley instead, but had to give way to the advancing open-cut mine.

Finally, on the fifth day, Sunday 4th August, an ambulance took Crocker south to the nearest major hospital, then named the War Memorial Hospital, in Hawker. There was no bitumen north of Port Augusta in those days. Sealing began from Port Augusta only in 1960, reached Quorn in 1967, Hawker 1970, Parachilna 1981, and Leigh Creek 1984. So there were no sealed roads for the entire journey, which was probably very rough.

There's scarcely any information available about the 'Smiler' Greenwood party's attempt to reach Crocker from the western end of the Blue Range, except that they spent five hours at it, and were 'stopped by thick scrub'.[24] And though people from every other station surrounding the Gammons took part, Angepena didn't—Angepena's and Serle's homesteads are only three to four km apart. However, William 'Young Bill' Snell, then of Angepena, tells me that he was away at the time. So perhaps the 'small party' was made up of men only from Mt Serle.

The obvious place for them to walk in from was the Owieandana Hut (where the present Yankaninna homestead now is), or near there. It's close to the western end of the Blue Range, and they could have driven closer still up the station track to Arcoona Well. As the crow flies, the map distance measured from main point to main point from Owieandana along that Range to Crocker Saddle is roughly 20 km. If you throw in all the zig-zagging necessary, that would probably be as much as 30 km. In those days without any accurate maps of that country, distances could be only rough guesses too.

I imagine that Bill Thomas told 'Smiler' to turn back if he didn't get far along the top, because he knew from Bonython's experience of the route from Loch Ness, that his own party would get to Crocker fairly smartly the same day, which they did. And he wouldn't want to wait through even a part of the next day for anyone else before taking Crocker down, he

would have wanted every hour of daylight for it that he could get.

'Smiler' was a tough bushman, still only 56 years old at the time. He would never be turned back by the scrub as the reports say he was. But if Thomas didn't give him such an instruction, perhaps after his five hour attempt which would

5. The photo reproduced in *The Advertiser*, Tuesday 6th August, 1946. Top left, Fred Steadman. Bottom right, from right Joe Ford, Keith Lillecrapp holding stretcher, and Fred McKenzie. Photo courtesy the Gordon Lillecrapp collection

have ended at full darkness, he camped his party for the night. And he would know by then that he'd never reach Crocker until too late the following day, that the other two parties were likely to be there already, and that they couldn't afford to wait for him. So he would have taken the sensible decision to turn back the following morning.

You also have to remember that these rescue parties weren't carrying much with them in the way of camping gear, especially not for sleeping out. They had some food, but being experienced bushmen, little water. They depended on finding it. You can see how lightly loaded the Loch Ness party was in most of the photos of the rescue. The loaded horses in photo 4 might suggest otherwise, but remember that that's for fifteen men. And did that also include much of the Bonython party's gear?—for example, you can see the theodolite's tripod on top of Daisy's load.

So if Thomas had waited at the Crocker camp too long on the Friday for the 'Smiler' party to arrive, those fifteen men including the injured Crocker might have had to camp out another night, perhaps even before reaching the Mainwater Pound floor.

Of course the accident was a serious one, but the rescue was quite an adventure for those station people who took part, and a most dramatic change from their everyday lives. Only one of them is alive today, Gordon Lillecrapp, who turned 17 on the very day that Crocker broke his leg. It's no wonder that his memories of the rescue are so vivid, even though 69 years have passed since the event.

The entire rescue had taken 4½ days from the accident, to the Hawker Hospital. It makes you reflect how today such a rescue might be carried out in only *hours* instead of *days*, from the accident scene to hospital via helicopter.

The accident and the rescue made newspaper headlines around Australia, some of them quite sensational, and it was reported on many radio stations too. (There was no television in Australia then, not until it began in Sydney in November 1956.) For example, *The Advertiser* for Friday 2nd August 1946 had a rather fanciful article about it on p 10, 'Curse Of Arkaroo The Snake: Explorer Injured', which said:

> Arkaroo, the big black snake of the Gammons, turned over and wrought swift vengeance on the white men who tried to enter his domain.
>
> That is what the natives said uneasily today when news reached Copley that a member of the Bonython expedition was injured and unable to move. […]
>
> Rescue parties were organised, and these are now driving into the ranges from three directions. They hope to reach Messrs. Crocker and Steadman before dark. Altogether 17 men from six stations are moving up the slope of the range. […]
>
> The natives say that Arkaroo will never allow anyone to learn the secret of the Gammons. […]
>
> He is supposed to have a favourite trick of making people swoon and fall off ledges by sending jets of sulphur into their faces.

Then on Saturday 3rd *The Advertiser* had a long and more factual report on its front page, 'Rescue of Explorer: Night Climb In Gammons'. And on Monday 5th August there was another long factual front-page report—dated 4th August however—'Explorer's Injuries: Party Now At Hawker'. It says that 'an X-ray examination showed a chipped ankle and a broken bone in his left leg'. On that same Sunday Bonython and Steadman drove to Hawker, planning to wait there until they could take Crocker back to Adelaide on the Tuesday or Wednesday. This same article begins:

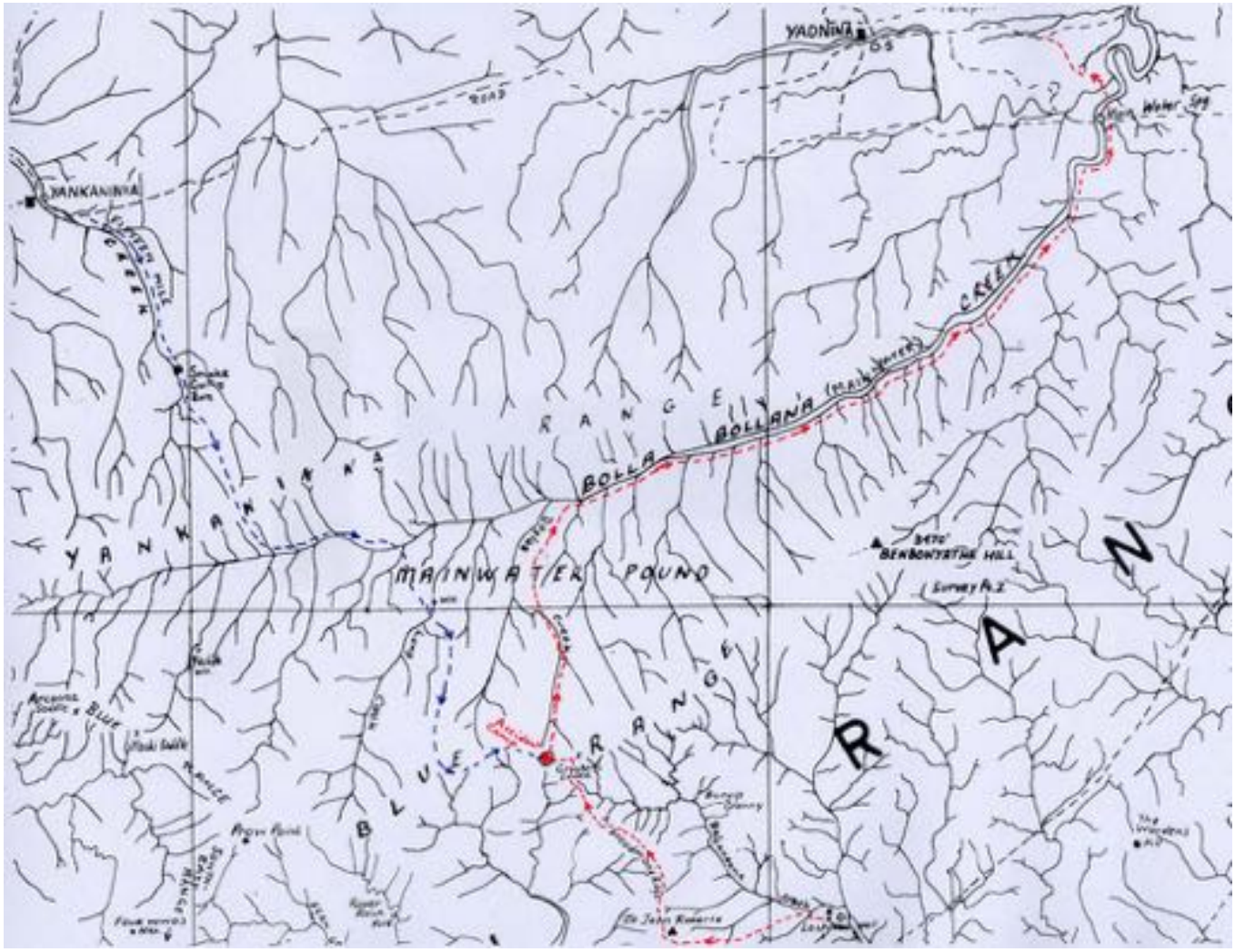
> The young explorers who planned to be the first to drive into the heart of the Gammon Ranges regard the mishap which brought their attempt to a premature conclusion last week as only a temporary setback.
>
> Now at Hawker, they are discussing another assault on the ranges which Mr. Warren Bonython, the 29-year-old leader of the expedition says, will probably be undertaken in a year or two. […] although an expedition large enough to handle its own stretcher cases would be necessary. He added that six months of careful planning and days of detailed reconnaissance preceded the assault on the main range last week.

Finally, on Tuesday 6th August *The Advertiser* had a front page photo headed, 'Rescue Of Injured Man From Gammon Ranges' (Photo 5). Its caption reads:

> Mr. R.L. Crocker, chief soil ecologist of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, who broke a leg on a high ledge while attempting to penetrate into the unexplored portions of the Gammon Ranges, being carried out through rugged country by a rescue party, comprising volunteers from stations surrounding the ranges.

It's certainly a striking photo, with the stretcher at a near-45° angle. It was clearly selected for its dramatic power. None of the other photos is as spectacular.

As it happened, neither Crocker nor Steadman went back to the Gammons. However, Bonython did go in August the following year. He found three new companions, but was anxious to take a big enough party to carry an injured person out of the Ranges without outside help. So he asked the three Rover Scouts and their Rover Leader of the 1st Kensington Gardens Rover Crew, who'd been planning a 130 km Gammons hike since June, to join him. Two of them joined for his crossing, and two joined his four-man Support Party, for the first three days of their own much longer hike. This gave him a party of eight—nine in the end since Bill Thomas, who'd organised Crocker's rescue the year before, also came with him just for the crossing. Then in 1948 it seems he was now



Watercourse sketch map. Rescue routes approximate only. Lillecrapp's ascent, blue; Loch Ness party's ascent, and the combined descent with Crocker, red. Vertical grid lines point north. Portion of Peter Wyld's 1 inch : 1 mile (1 inch = 2.54 cm) August 1967 *Mount McKinlay* Gammons sketch map, 3rd edition May 1971, © *'Us' Hikers*. Slightly larger than the original scale.

confident enough to make his third hike with only three companions—different men yet again.

However, the result of anything like Ben Dickinson's photo caption, and the accident to Crocker, was that the Gammon Ranges acquired an unwarranted fearsome reputation among city hikers for many years. Perth's *The West Australian* of 28th August 1948 had an article on p 19 headed 'Grim Gammon Ranges', which says that, 'Only the outer fringe of these inscrutable, densely scrub-covered quartzite ridges, with practically unscalable cliff faces, has been penetrated by white men'. And a photo with it shows a climber scaling a steep cliff, and captioned 'Climbing Scree Hill [Mt McKinlay Bluff] on the fringe of the Gammon Ranges in the northern part of the Flinders Range', as if to illustrate that they truly were 'practically unscalable' for average hikers. And I remember reading in a brochure as late as the 1960s that 'only the toughest and most experienced bushwalkers' should hike in the Gammons.

Thus ended the second *hike* in the Gammon Ranges that's *recorded*, the first being 'Smiler' and Bentley Greenwood's hike to Fern Gorge/Bunyip Cranny around 1925. And it led unintentionally to all of thirteen men making a south–north Gammons crossing as well.[25]

Ray Sinclair-Wood
PO Box 188, Quorn SA 5433

[1] George Eliot in her 1871–72 novel, *Middlemarch*, has Casaubon say to Mr Brooke about Ladislaw, 'But so far is he from having any desire for a more accurate knowledge of the earth's surface, that he said he should prefer not to know the sources of the Nile, and that there should be some unknown regions preserved as hunting-grounds for the poetic imagination', Chapter 9. But this is hardly the attitude of most humans to 'the earth's surface'.

[2] Hans Mincham, *The Story of the Flinders Ranges* (Adelaide: Rigby, 1964), 299.

[3] Mawson knew the Gammons well. 'Mawson walked his students including me fully into it [the Gammon Ranges] from several directions in the late 1930's', Reg C. Sprigg, *Arkaroola–Mount Painter in the Northern Flinders Ranges, S.A.: The Last Billion Years* (Arkaroola: Arkaroola, 1984), 42.

[4] This hike is described in C[harles]. Warren Bonython, *Walking the Flinders Ranges* (Adelaide: Rigby, 1971), in his chapter 8, 'The Gammon Ranges', in particular pp 127–131. Unattributed quotes in my article come from these five pages. His article, 'Crossing the Gammon Ranges', in *Walkabout*, 1st December, 1948, 29–33, covers his three 1946–48 hikes, though there's little in it about this 1946 hike.

[5] *The Advertiser*, 15th June, 1946, 5. A previous *Advertiser* article, 'Mineral Deposits in the Far North', 16th September, 1944, had also said that 'Smiler' Greenwood 'has penetrated some distance into the mountains, but found himself faced with unscalable cliffs and abrupt waterfalls.' One of the puzzles about the Gammons back then, is where this idea that all the gorges were blocked came from. Scarcely any of them are blocked at all. I suspect when 'Smiler' and Bentley

Greenwood hiked up to Bunyip Cranny/Fern Gorge in c 1925, they followed Bunyip Creek up to where it *is* blocked; and also hiked a little further up the Balcanoona Creek from the Cranny and assumed the big waterfall there was also practically impassable too, though it isn't. And perhaps someone generalised from this to all Gammons' gorges, leading to this wrong belief being widely accepted for decades.

[6] Mt John Roberts was named after the grandfather of one of Balcanoona's Managers.

[7] The Blue Range has had a surprising number of names. In the 19th century it was the Benbonyatha Range. It became the Benbonyathe Divide, the Gammon Divide, the Black Range, the western half from Prow Point the North-West Range, the Main Range, and finally Sir Douglas Mawson's the Blue Range.

[8] 'Crocker's Gap' in *Walking the Flinders Ranges*, op cit, 131, 152 (not 151 as the index says). A Gammons sketch map said to be based on Bonython's maps was put out by the Adelaide Scout Shop in 1963, naming it 'Crocker's Ridge'. This map was not on display, and was sold only to experienced hikers along with a warning about how dangerous the Gammons were.

[9] Eight distinctly different photos of the rescue exist that I know of. Two identical or nearly identical copies of four of them exist as well. The twelve including copies are: Gordon Lillecrapp five, Warren Bonython four, and Ben Greenwood (Bentley's son) three. Among the rescuers only Bentley Greenwood had a camera, and so Gordon's, Ben's, and perhaps one or two of Bonython's were taken by him.

[10] An explanation of the names 'Fern Gorge', 'Fern Chasm', and 'Bunyip Cranny' is in my article, 'The Fern Gorge Puzzle' in *SEGments*, March 2015, 10–13.

[11] 'Exploration of Gammon Ranges: Party To Attempt To Reach Heart', op cit.

[12] Details are from his obituary in *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* at <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/crocker-robert-langdon-18278>.

[13] C[ecil]. T[homas]. Madigan, *Central Australia* (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, revised edn 1944), 270. The work he and Crocker did is described in chapters 22 and 23. There's one photo with Crocker facing p 291.

[14] C.T. Madigan, *Crossing the Dead Heart: The Story of the 1939 Simpson Desert Expedition* (Melbourne: Georgian House, 1946), 14–15. In the book's photos Crocker is second left facing p 4; second right facing p 50 top; full length facing p 83; and third left facing p 147 bottom.

[15] Bonython describes his dash to Balcanoona in more detail in *Walking the Flinders Ranges*, op cit, 129. The old wagon track through Weetootla Gorge to Grindell Hut was too rough, and the rescuers from Balcanoona had to drive to Loch Ness via McTaggart's Well. The original name of Grindell Hut was Worturpa Hut.

[16] 'Whistler' Smith was the son of Michael George Smith (1879–1969), known as 'Dollar' Mick Smith. R.M. Williams met Mick at Italowie Well, which Williams had sunk in Italowie Gap. 'RM' learned his leatherworking skills from him, and how to make bridles, pack saddles, and riding boots. Before decimal currency was adopted in 1966, the word 'dollar' in Australia meant five shillings (50 cents).

[17] The number involved in the rescue is confusing. *The Advertiser* first reported '17 men from six stations', then 'more than 20 men from six stations'. There were ten plus Bonython from Loch Ness, the two Lillecrapps, and 'Smiler' Greenwood with whomever he took up by Arcoona Bluff onto the Blue Range. Bonython says there were 16 camped on the Blue Range, but a careful count makes that 15, including 12 from the stations. There's no record of how many were in the Arcoona Bluff party, however, which Bonython describes as 'a small party'. If the first *Advertiser* report of 17 was correct, that would mean 'Smiler's' party was as many as five. I imagine the 'more than 20 men' included some who drove vehicles, and perhaps the women involved, Margaret Thomas, Laura Lillecrapp, and Madge Greenwood. Gordon Lillecrapp is fairly sure that there was one man come to help from Leigh Creek, waiting outside the Mainwater Pound entrance, for example.

[18] It's possible for Gammons hikers to be confused about this, depending on when they hiked there. In 1946 the scrub *was* dense, but as the number of goats increased hugely later on, they thinned it out and made hiking through it much easier. But since the goats have been removed it's becoming dense again.

[19] This Horse Pad across the Yankaninna Range to Yackie Waterhole was constructed with axes in 1940 or 1941 by Gordon Lillecrapp (1929–), his sisters Alison (1926–2014) and Barbara (1927–), and brother Dean (1931–) from Snake Gully Bore, which was sunk in 1941. Its purpose was to take visitors into the Pound. Yankaninna never ran stock in the Pound.

[20] *The Advertiser*, Monday 5th August, 1946, 'Explorer's Injuries: Party Now At Hawker', 1.

[21] Ibid.

[22] P. Griffiths, & G. Hamlyn (Co-ordinators), *Leigh Creek—A Town on the Move* (Leigh Creek: Leigh Creek Area School, undated but c 1980), 41.

[23] The name 'Leigh Creek' is historically confusing. The Leigh Creek itself was named after Harry Leigh, a stockman. The town of Copley was originally named Leigh's Creek, as was the post office; and the railway station was also named Leigh's Creek in 1881. But when the town was officially surveyed in 1891 it was renamed Copley, after William Copley, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, though the townspeople indignantly stuck to the town's old name for many years. The railway station's and post office's names changed to Copley in 1916. This explains why the hotel was also named Leigh's Creek Hotel, and today is still the Leigh Creek Hotel.

[24] Gordon Lillecrapp wonders whether he even set out at all. However, *The Advertiser*, Friday 2nd August, 1946, 'Curse Of Arkaroo The Snake: Explorer Injured', says 'Rescue parties […] are now driving into the ranges from three directions', 10. And on Saturday 3rd August, 'Rescue Of Explorer: Night Climb in Gammons', by-lined 'From a Staff Representative Copley, August 2', says, 'One party, headed by Mr. G.A. Greenwood, of Mount Serle Station, struggled through dense undergrowth on the eastern side of the range for five hours last night', 1. And Bonython says in *Walking the Flinders Ranges*, op cit, 'a small party under Smiler would start along the Blue Range from the west end at Arcoona Bluff', 129; and 'Smiler Greenwood's party never reached us—stopped by thick scrub we later learned', 130. Apart from the confusion over which end of the Blue Range 'Smiler' may have climbed, these three accounts do seem fairly specific. I've said it was the west end since that was far closer to Mt Serle station than the east end, and the matter was urgent.

[25] I want to thank for their various help especially Gordon Lillecrapp, who provided so much information from his remarkable memory, and two of the six photos he has of the rescue; William 'Young Bill' Snell, Bob Buckerfield, Ben Greenwood—Ben also for his father Bentley's two photos,—and John S. Keeves for his father's photo.

Correction

In the previous issue, in page 11 of the article 'The Fern Gorge Puzzle', though the editor took care to reproduce an upside-down 'Y' correctly, the passage it was in became confused in the printing. It should have read: 'Not only did 'W.B.' discover it, he says, but he placed his '1 ⅄1' brand (with an upside-down 'Y') on the cliff below the first waterfall leading up into Bunyip Cranny'.

Minnawarra Biodiversity Project

Autumn 2015 Survey Janet Furler

Our autumn survey, over the ANZAC long weekend was a success, despite the weather. Due to the very wet and cold weather part way through we closed our traps one day early, out of concern for the animals. The participants were also pleased to avoid more walking up hills, due to the vehicles being challenged by the wet. The tractor was needed at both ends of the property at one stage.

We also provided an opportunity for one of our recurring volunteers to get a step closer to a very big goal. Tom Hastie has been before as a scout, with Jill Tugwell. He is now well on his way to achieving his Queen's Scout Award, which is the scouting pinnacle, and is a fantastic milestone. One of the requirements is an environmental task, for which Tom helped on 3 days and wrote a report, published in this edition. I think the ability of SEG to provide opportunities for these learning experiences is one of our main objectives, and the Minnawarra Biodiversity Project is a great way to do it.

So, the numbers – we caught 81 Antechinus flavipes, 40 Rattus fuscipes, 23 Rattus lutreolus, 4 Rattus rattus, 3 house mice; in total 151 mammals, 25 from previous surveys, 261 times counting all the multiple visits. These numbers are amongst our highest despite finishing early. We also caught four frogs – 2 of our very common Crinea signifera, 2 less frequent Littoria ewingii (Southern Brown Tree Frog) and only one skink – Pseudomoia entrecasteauxii (Southern Grass Skink). These numbers, however, are on the low side.

The numbers caught per site ranged from 15 to 28, with our previously most populous site (#1) falling even further behind with 17 catches, second lowest.

12 children and 18 adults provided 450 hours of work during the 5 days, an outstanding effort from all involved. We wish Tom the best for his Queen's Scout Award.

The dates for the spring survey are Wednesday 30th September until Sunday 4th October 2015

Minnawarra Biodiversity Project

Tom Hastie

Introduction

The Minnawarra Biodiversity Project was started in 2001, its aim was to investigate and record the changing biodiversity of scrub areas once livestock were removed from them. It is located about 25 minutes from Victor Harbor next to the Springmount Conservation Park.

Minnawarra is a farm near Myponga which has a series of environmental heritage areas located within it. These areas are fenced off from the rest of the farm and livestock are removed from the area. This ensures that sufficient natural habitats exist to support native species.

Phytophthora cinnamomi is a root rot plant disease that kills off native plants as well as important horticultural products. The fungus is able to spread through water-ways as well as through contaminated soil. At Minnawarra the spread of *Phytophthora* is managed by cleaning your boots with methylated spirits as you enter and leave each site. Sites which are known to have *Phytophthora* in them have limited numbers of people enter them as this reduces the risk of the spores spreading. Controlling the spread of *Phytophthora* minimises the risk to the environment.

The land at Minnawarra is divided into farming and environmental sanctuaries which have been selected by the grade of the land's biodiversity. Because the environmental reserves are placed in the most ecologically important areas most of the survey sites are near creeks or water-ways. When the survey is carried out it is a catch and release program

Cleaning boots before entering

Elliott trap used for small mammals

which causes minimal harm to the species being surveyed. These methods ensure that the most suitable environmental practices are carried out.

Report

To assist the Scientific Expedition Group at Minnawarra I assisted with the autumn survey of small marsupials, reptiles and animals. The animals are captured in traps and then they are sexed, weighed and microchipped for identification, this data is recorded, the creature is then released. There are pitfall traps set up at the sites also which capture small reptiles, insects and arachnids, these are only noted, not microchipped.

Bush Rat left, Swamp Rat right

Microchipping

The small mammals and marsupials are captured using Elliott traps which are small metal boxes which have a door that close when the animal triggers a spring activated switch. The traps are baited and then left for several hours during the day or overnight. The traps are emptied into cotton bags which are weighed. The creatures are then held by the neck, sexed and scanned. If a microchip is detected they are recorded as a recapture. If they do not have a microchip they are held down at the tail and neck and then a microchip is injected into their back. They are then released and the bag is reweighed to calculate the actual weight of the specimen. All

Antechinus, small marsupial mouse

Scorpion in pit-fall trap

of this information is recorded into a table. Pitfall traps are long fences made from fine mesh with six pits placed along them. The animals run along the fence until they fall into a pit and are trapped. The species of the animals are recorded.

The survey is carried out to keep track of the population of small mammals and marsupials in the area. It is a microchip project to assess populations in fauna since the scrub was fenced off as heritage area. The information from the survey is uploaded onto the Biodiversity Database of South Australia where it can be accessed by government departments, universities, museums and private researchers.

At the survey I gained skills in animal handling and scientific recording methods. I learnt how to distinguish between the common creatures that were captured for example Swamp Rats and Bush Rats; swamp rats are generally larger, have larger teeth and black tails and feet while bush rats are typically smaller and have pink feet. An antechinus is a marsupial mouse that has small teeth and brown/orange fur with a pointed nose. Although I did not inject a microchip into a creature I had the opportunity to watch it and to scan for the microchips in the pre-chipped animals.

Minnawarra was great opportunity to assist in a local environmental project. It improved my skills of animal handling and scientific methods. It was a good experience working with different teams to achieve a like goal which was a rewarding experience. I would like to thank my Venturer Leader Jill for introducing me to the project way back in scouts and to Janet and Richard who have provided their knowledge and skill so that I could help out at this project.

HILTABA MYSTERY John Love

During the second Hiltaba expedition, August 2013, Graham Hill and I took a lot of photos of what is sometimes called built heritage. I am still working on them but when the job is finished I will be happy to send a DVD to anyone interested. Among the buildings is a hut close to the eastern boundary of the Hiltaba property.

An intriguing artefact was found in the hut. It consists of three steel pans, about 30 cm in diameter and 5 cm deep, and below them, a circular steel band of slightly larger diameter, all joined by three steel bars which continued down to form a tripod. Each pan is perforated by small holes in a neat pattern. It appears that one of the legs broke off and the other two were bent up, leaving the structure to sit on the circular band.

My guess is that it was a water cooler. You would pour water into the top pan and wait for it to trickle down. There would have been a removable pan at the bottom. This device, if it was a water cooler, would have worked best in a gentle breeze. In sultry weather it would not work at all.

I have not seen anything like it anywhere else. Does anyone know what it was, or does anyone have any other possible explanation of it?

I would be grateful for any comments!

Reply to jhlove@internode.on.net

Water cooler (?). 30 cm scale.

CHILDREN ENJOYING THE MINNAWARRA BIODIVERSITY SURVEY

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Scientific Expedition Group Inc. Annual General Meeting and Talk will be held as follows:

Date: Friday 9th October 2015

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Cumberland Park Community Centre, 388 Goodwood Rd, Cumberland Park.

Full details will be sent out to members as soon as arrangements are finalized. Keep the date free.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2015 - 2016 COMMITTEE

The present Committee members will retire and are eligible for re-election. Nominations forms can be obtained from the SEG Secretary. Nominators and Nominees must be financial members. Nominations are due by 9 September 2015.

SEG Secretary: Sarah Telfer
PO. Box 501, Unley SA 5061
Email: sarahtelfer@internode.on.net

KANGAROO ISLAND PLANTING FESTIVAL

3 to 4 July 2015

You can help to restore the habitat of some of the island's rarest plant species at the 2015 Kangaroo Island Planting Festival.

Meet new people, enjoy the outdoors and have a lot of fun while you help restore five hectares of Kangaroo Island narrow leaved Mallee Woodland. With your help more than 10,000 seedlings, comprising 70 species (including rare and endemic* plants) will be planted.

Lunch and morning tea will be provided.

Help out on one or both days. Each day will start at 9:00 am and finishes approximately 5:00 pm.

Dig in and get your hands dirty for a good cause!

For more information and to register your interest please email Heiri Klein heinrich.klein@sa.gov.au or contact the natural resources centre.

* only found on Kangaroo Island

Location

15 minutes from Kingscote, Kangaroo Island

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION GROUP INC.

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.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for 2015

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Adult member - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - $30.00
Concession cards/ student - - - - - - - - -$15.00
Family membership - - - - - - - - - - - - - $35.00
Corporate membership - - - - - - - - - - - $35.00

Name. . . . . .

Address . . . . . .

. . . .

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

E-mail . . . . . .

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
Scientific Expedition Group Inc.
P.O. Box 501
Unley S.A. 5061

EXPEDITION WITCHELINA

You are invited to join SEG's next Expedition, in conjunction with Nature Foundation SA, to conduct a biodiversity survey on Nature Foundation 's property at Witchelina near Lyndhurst in the north of the State. This property is widely varied in its landscape with areas of gibber plain, sand hills, rocky outcrops and salt lake shoreline.

In this survey, it is proposed that SEG will work mainly in the dune areas and will conduct a comprehensive study of vegetation, reptiles, mammals, birds and invertebrates. This a great opportunity for people of all ages and expertise to observe and participate in professionally conducted field survey work with experienced biologists and natural historians.

You won't need any special scientific skills, just a love of exploring the bush and learning about it's many inhabitants in an area not usually open to the public.

DATES:- The Expedition departs early on the morning of Sunday 20th September 2015 and returns on Saturday 3rd October 2015.

ACCOMMODATION:- On this survey we will be quite a long way from the homestead and will therefore need to camp near an old building known as Pug Hut toward the southern end of Witchelina.

COST: At present, the total cost, including food, transport and all activities is estimated at $500.

To register your interest, please phone Trent Porter on 82789078 A/H or Email *trentasaurus@bigpond.com*. Student concessions will be available – please enquire ASAP as they will be limited.