SEGments

Journal of the Scientific Expedition Group Inc.
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Scientific Expedition Group Inc.

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Cover Photo: Danggali Conservation Park at dawn. Photo: Sarah Telfer

Rear Cover Photo: .Dickinsonia sp fossil. Nilpena. Photo: Alun Thomas

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 for Environment and Water 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 mallee-fowl monitoring in the Murraylands.

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SEGments

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EDITORIAL

As I ponder the subject matter of this editorial I am reminded of the recipe which has sustained this journal over a number of years. We aim for a main story which is of strong natural science interest and perhaps a second similar story and finally and most importantly articles about the various SEG activities or the like. The other items which we hope enhance the reading enjoyment of our journal are good quality photographs and other illustrations where possible. Generally the photograph on the front cover illustrates our main story and that on the back cover relates generally to natural science.

I think this issue fulfils this aim: Our main story is the second part of our story on re-nesting of ospreys in South Australia. It describes how some chicks raised on the types of nesting platforms described in our previous issue grow up and where they fly, not always with good results. The next two articles relate to SEG's malleefowl and pluviometer projects. Finally there are short articles on SEG being awarded a Citizen Science Award; meeting our Patron; and an obituary to long-time SEG friend Brian Blaylock.

In the last three months SEG has participated in Science Alive. SEG's display was very well received and popular throughout the weekend. In particular the ant display by Annette Vincent was very popular. Annette always attracts a very interested crowd. I was impressed by the numbers of families with children that attended.

The Citizen Science Award was presented at a National Science Week event organised by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board at Tailem Bend. The event was called *Funky Fungi and Groovy Grasslands*. It was a field trip followed by talks Again what I was most impressed with was the number of families with lots of children that attended. The children were very enthusiastic looking for fungi.

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board also presented SEG with a book entitled "*From One Small Seed a Forest is Born*" by Neville Bonney. It is a voluminous book with lots of detail on growing Australian plants and specific instructions for over seven hundred plants. I invite a SEG member to review this book for the December issue of SEGments. You can be the first to read it. Contact me and I will get it to you.

If any SEG member hears of interesting nature stories for later editions of SEGments please contact me. As I indicated earlier, nature articles are the lifeblood of this journal.

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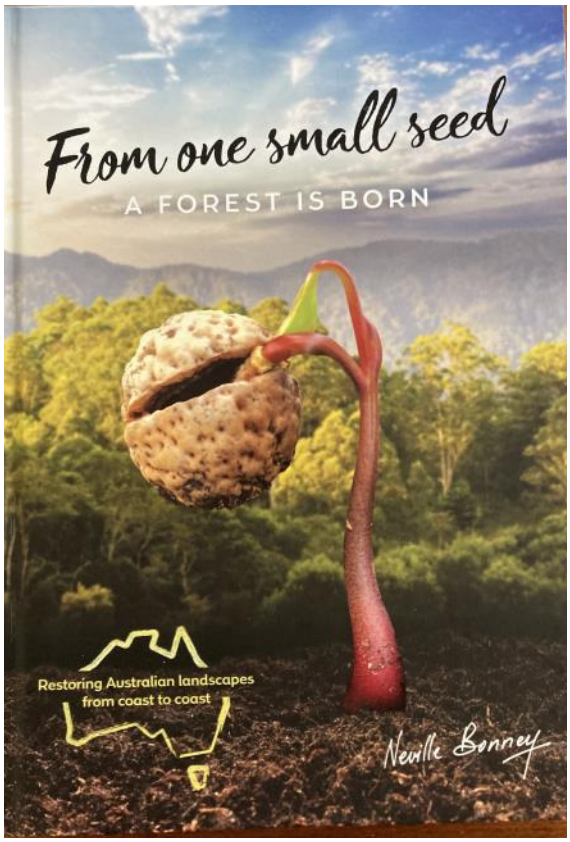


RECOVERY OF THE ENDANGERED EASTERN OSPREY ACROSS YORKE PENINSULA AND EYRE PENINSULA. PART 2

Ian Falkenberg

In Part 1 of this article in the June 2022 issue of SEGments the construction and installation of Osprey nesting towers was discussed and following this work observations have been made on the movement of Ospreys.

Satellite Tracking of Ospreys

An important element of this project is to improve community awareness and appreciation of Ospreys and facilitate and foster community involvement. Due to unprecedented community interest in Osprey conservation, this will be achieved in part through direct involvement in monitoring activities.

This satellite tracking pilot study, whilst relatively small, should provide adequate data and information to make an assessment of the value of Satellite Tracking and whether it should be broadened.

The pilot study involves color banding and the fitting of Ornitrack Solar Powered GPS GSM/GPRS 4G Trackers to young prior to fledging to determine;

- Nestling survival.
- Juvenile movements post fledging.
- Temporal and spatial patterns of habitat use.

A total of six Ospreys (1 adult and 5 young) have been fitted with satellite trackers so far. Young are fitted with a tracking device about 7 to 10 days prior to fledging. By this stage young raptors have reached their full body size which is important when fitting a Teflon tubular harness. When young leave the nest they are not of full weight, maximum weight is achieved over the coming months as they improve flight capabilities and hone their hunting skills. Muscle development will account for up to 10% more weight than an unfledged Osprey.

The fitting of satellite trackers and color banding of young is undertaken in strict accordance with Animal Ethics requirements and the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme.

Closer monitoring of selected nest sites has been undertaken by mounting SMS cameras near the nests to monitor breeding activity and to identify threats and predation of eggs and young. The camera setup operates by Wi-Fi coverage close to the nest site so that the images can be sent from camera via Wi-Fi to mobile phone. This eliminates the requirement for persons to go near nest sites and cameras during the breeding season to change SD cards and down load data and thus cause unnecessary disturbance to breeding birds. Solar panels complete the setup with continuous charge for camera batteries. These cameras have already proven their worth by clearly identifying fox predation of Osprey eggs at the Tumby Island Conservation Park nest in September 2021. As a result, an artificial nest platform was installed on Tumby Island in early June 2022.

Some additional data from satellite tracking include; fledging to independence period for Ospreys tracked in 2020-22 was 68, 77 & 105 days. However one Osprey young fledged in 2021 has remain with its parents for over 192 days so far. Whilst accurate information of fledging to independence is poor, the literature suggests 56 to 70 days. The extended time at the nest may simply be parents investing in the strongest young.

Osprey at Coffin Bay. Photo: Take 2 Photography

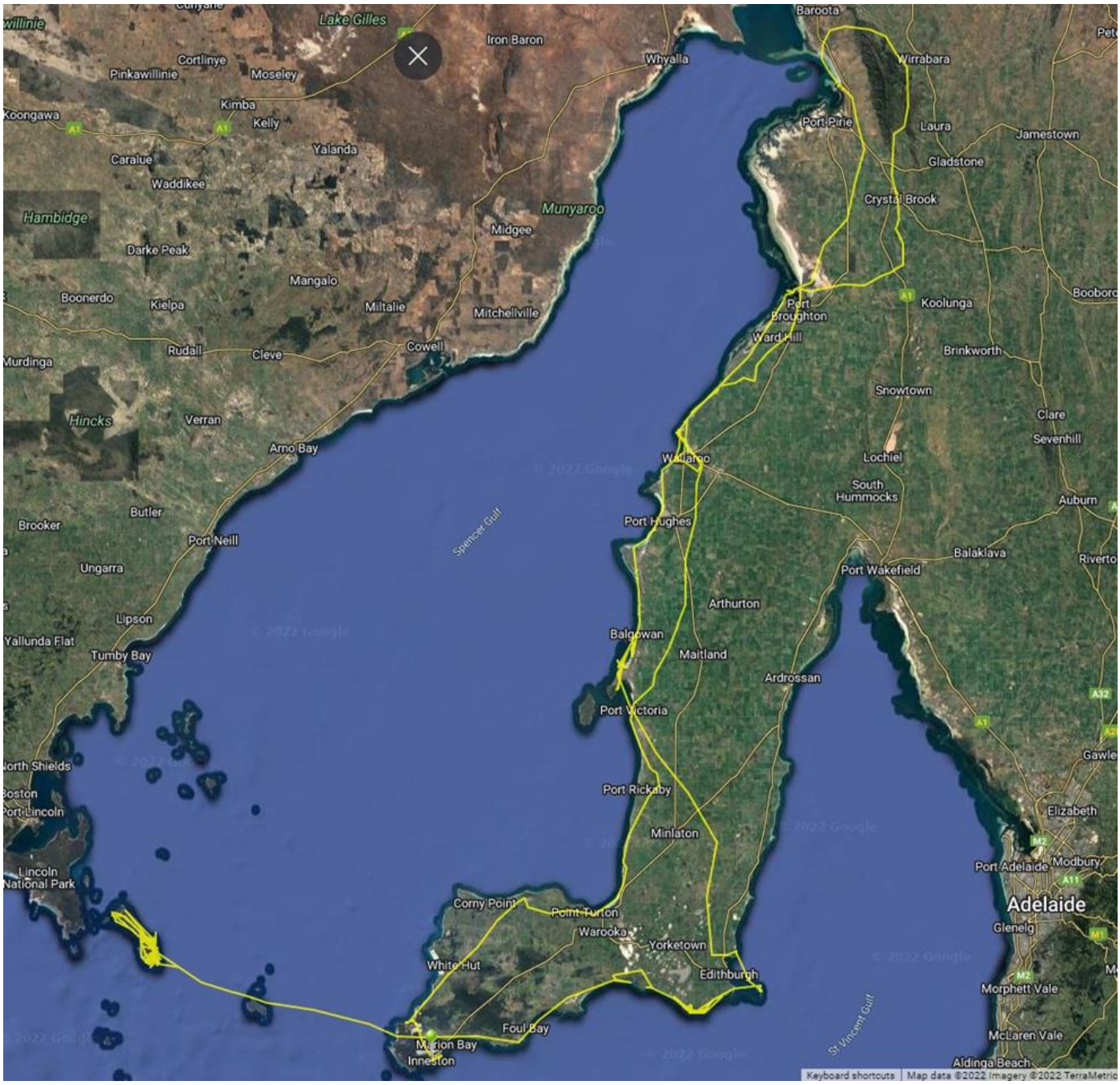
What we have learned from Satellite Tracking Ospreys so far

Satellite Tracking **Image 1** shows the Osprey flight path from the Port Lincoln nest site during first week of independence (departed Port Lincoln 2nd February & arrived Streaky Bay 7th February 2021), flew to Coffin Bay and then inland to Lock and then back to the coast near Venus Bay and north to Streaky Bay and Smokey Bay. Following a flight of more 520 km in 5 days this Osprey settled into the Streaky Bay / Eba Anchorage area for over 9 months. This area is a particularly productive area (fish) and provides sheltered waters for foraging and fishing during poor weather conditions. Sadly this Osprey was found dead beneath a power pole on the 6th November 2021. An autopsy confirmed electrocution as the most likely cause of death.

Satellite Tracking **Image 2** shows the Osprey flight path from Thistle Island to York Peninsula and Troughbridge Island

Osprey returning to an artificial nest with a fish for dinner.
Photo: Take 2 Photography

Satellite Tracking **Image 1** showing the Osprey flight path from the Port Lincoln nest site during first week of independence.



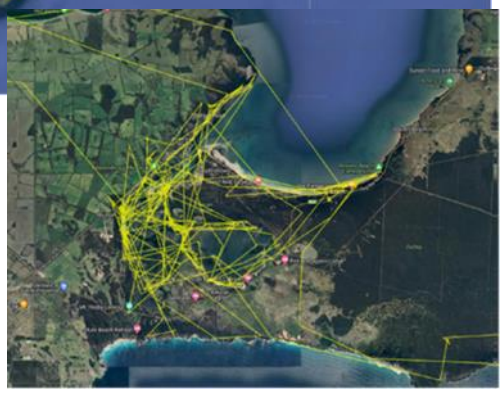
Satellite Tracking **Image 2** showing an Osprey flight path from Thistle Island

then north to the Southern Flinders Ranges and inland before heading south along western York Peninsula to Innes National Park where the Osprey was found dead on the 8th March 2022. This Osprey did not settle into an area for any extended period of time and basically did not feed during much of the 19 days of independence. An autopsy confirmed starvation as the cause of death. The weight of the dead Osprey was 1,100 grams, the Osprey weight when the tracker was fitted on the 8th November was 1,630 grams, a decline in weight of 530 grams.

Satellite Tracking **Image 3** shows the Osprey flight path from the nest site at Wills Creek Conservation Park (Price) south and across Yorke Peninsula to Innes National Park and then across Backstairs Passage to Kangaroo Island, along the north coast to American River / Pelican Lagoon. Following a flight of more 380 km in 3 days, this Osprey has settled into the American River / Pelican Lagoon area for 3 months so far (Image 3A inset). This female Osprey appears to have settled into the American River / Pelican Lagoon / estuary and illustrates her movements and hunting and foraging preferences in this very productive marine environment. This Osprey appears to be following a similar pattern of habitat use to the Osprey which settled into the Kiffin Island / Eba Anchorage area near Streaky Bay in 2021 where she remaining for about 9 months. If this trend and pattern of habitat use continues for the Price Osprey, survival may be significantly improved.

Conclusion

Good quality coastal mallee vegetation is important for roosting and resting. The sheltered shallow bays appear to be very important feeding and foraging habitats for juvenile Ospreys. Osprey pairs that breed in close proximity to towns



Satellite Tracking **Image 3** shows the Osprey flight path from the nest site at Wills Creek Conservation Park (Price) south and across Yorke Peninsula to Innes National Park and the across Backstairs Passage to Kangaroo Island, along the north coast to American River / Pelican Lagoon. Following a flight of more 380 km in 3 days, this Osprey has settled into the American River / Pelican Lagoon area for 3 months so far (Image 3A inset).

and built up areas (semi urban) may have become habituated to human developments and may be more successful than those in remote and isolated areas.

The Osprey being at the top of the food chain, can tell us a great deal about the quality of the coastal habitats in which it lives. Ospreys may serve as a useful indicator of the undesirable effects certain activities are having on the natural environment as it is relatively tolerant of humans and will often nest near towns and in areas close to recreational pressures. Generally Ospreys which feed exclusively on fish are highly regarded by the general public as a symbol of a healthy and productive environment.

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One of the mounds identified by LiDAR and confirmed by ground-truthing in Danggali. Photo Alun Thomas

DANGGALI CONSERVATION PARK AND WILDERNESS PROTECTION AREA MALLEEFOWL MOUND LIDAR GROUND-TRUTHING PROJECT – MAY 2022

Sarah Telfer

SEG undertook a field survey in Danggali Conservation Park and the adjacent Danggali Wilderness Protection Area from 27th to 31st May 2022. The purpose of this trip was to undertake ground-truthing of Malleefowl nest mound sites which had been previously identified using aerial LiDAR scans.

BACKGROUND

Malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata) have declined substantially throughout Australia since European settlement. Within the past century the range of malleefowl has contracted, in arid areas and particularly at the periphery of its former range. Population declines have occurred, particularly in southern agricultural areas due to the clearing of remnant mallee vegetation, resulting in on-going biodiversity losses as a result of salinity, stock grazing, cropping and the introduction of feral animals (notably foxes, cats, goats, rabbits). The fate of malleefowl within the remaining habitat is uncertain. Declines have been described in most areas in which trends in malleefowl numbers have been documented.

There is a growing concern that malleefowl populations may be declining even within conservation reserves. The species is regarded as threatened across all remaining areas of its range in every State in which it occurs and is listed as Vulnerable Nationally. The malleefowl monitoring program provides fundamental information on trends in malleefowl abundance. This information is needed in order to assess the conservation status of the species across its range and to identify areas in which the species is declining. Monitoring is undertaken to track changes in the number of birds over time. It also provides a means of measuring the effectiveness of management actions (i.e. feral animal control) on malleefowl numbers.

Monitoring populations involves obtaining reliable information using repeatable parameters in order to measure changes in population size over time. Malleefowl are shy and

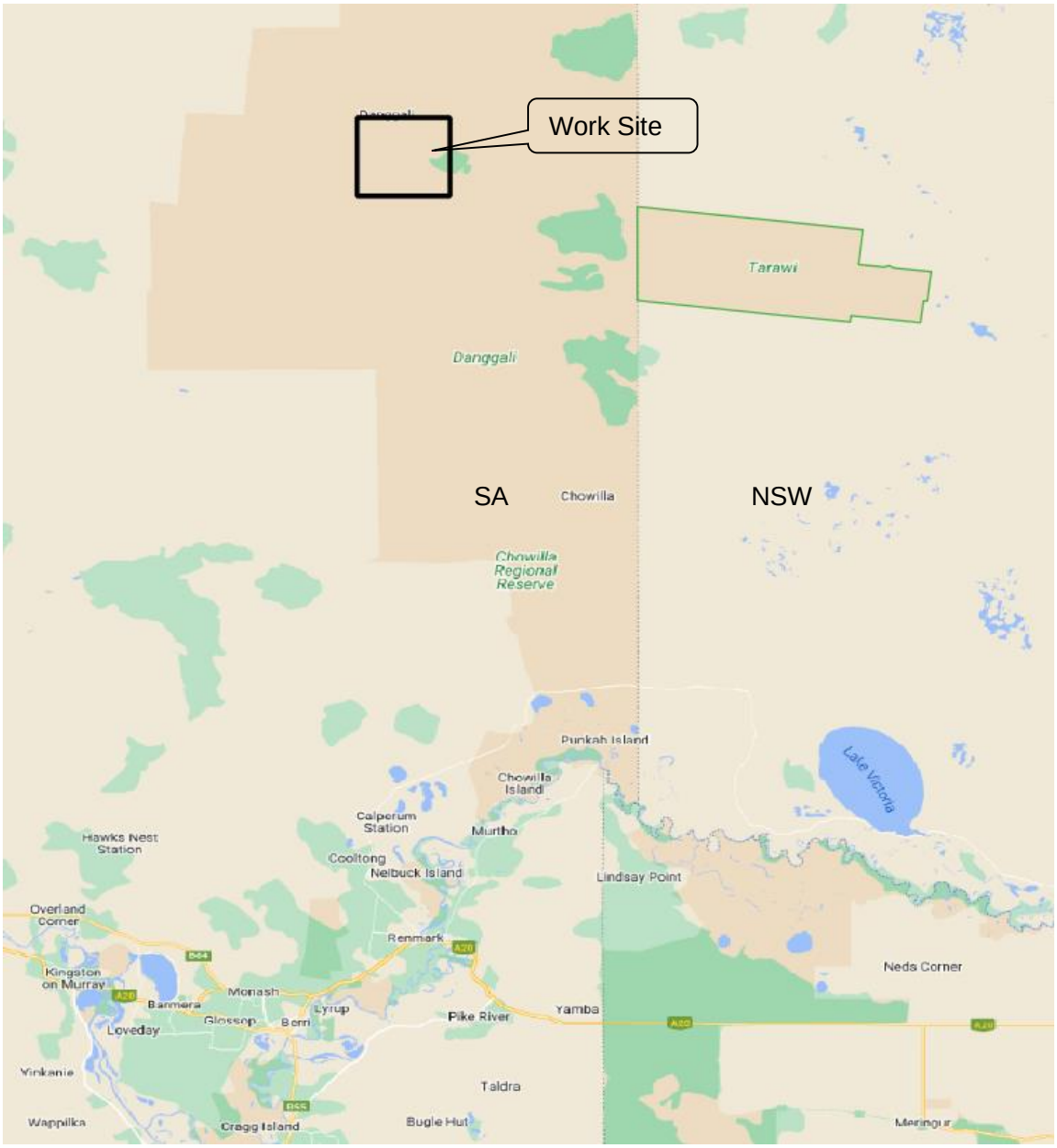

Figure 1. Map of the work site in Danggali Wilderness Protection Area about 100 km north of Renmark.

elusive birds, making counts of the birds themselves very difficult. In contrast, their nesting mounds are conspicuous and provide a reliable means of measuring the abundance of breeding birds in an area.

An opportunity in 2019 to capture LiDAR in Danggali Conservation Park and the adjacent Danggali Wilderness Protection Area allowed for the establishment of a malleefowl monitoring site and, in partnership with South Australia's Department of Environment and Water (DEW), an area covering approximately 10,000 hectares was selected, and data captured. Results from a semi-automated process identified 113 mound-like structures which were prioritised for ground-truthing and potential ongoing monitoring.

FIELD SURVEY

A total of 13 SEG members and an additional 5 staff/ volunteers from various agencies (the National Malleefowl Recovery Team, Australian Landscape Trust and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board) travelled to Danggali on Friday 27th May 2022 to undertake the ground-truthing and monitoring. The group was accommodated at the Canopus Homestead shearers' quarters in Danggali Conservation Park over the next 4 days. The area of field survey is shown on Figure 1.

SEG is very grateful to our corporate sponsor Microchips Australia for its support to the Minnawarra Project.

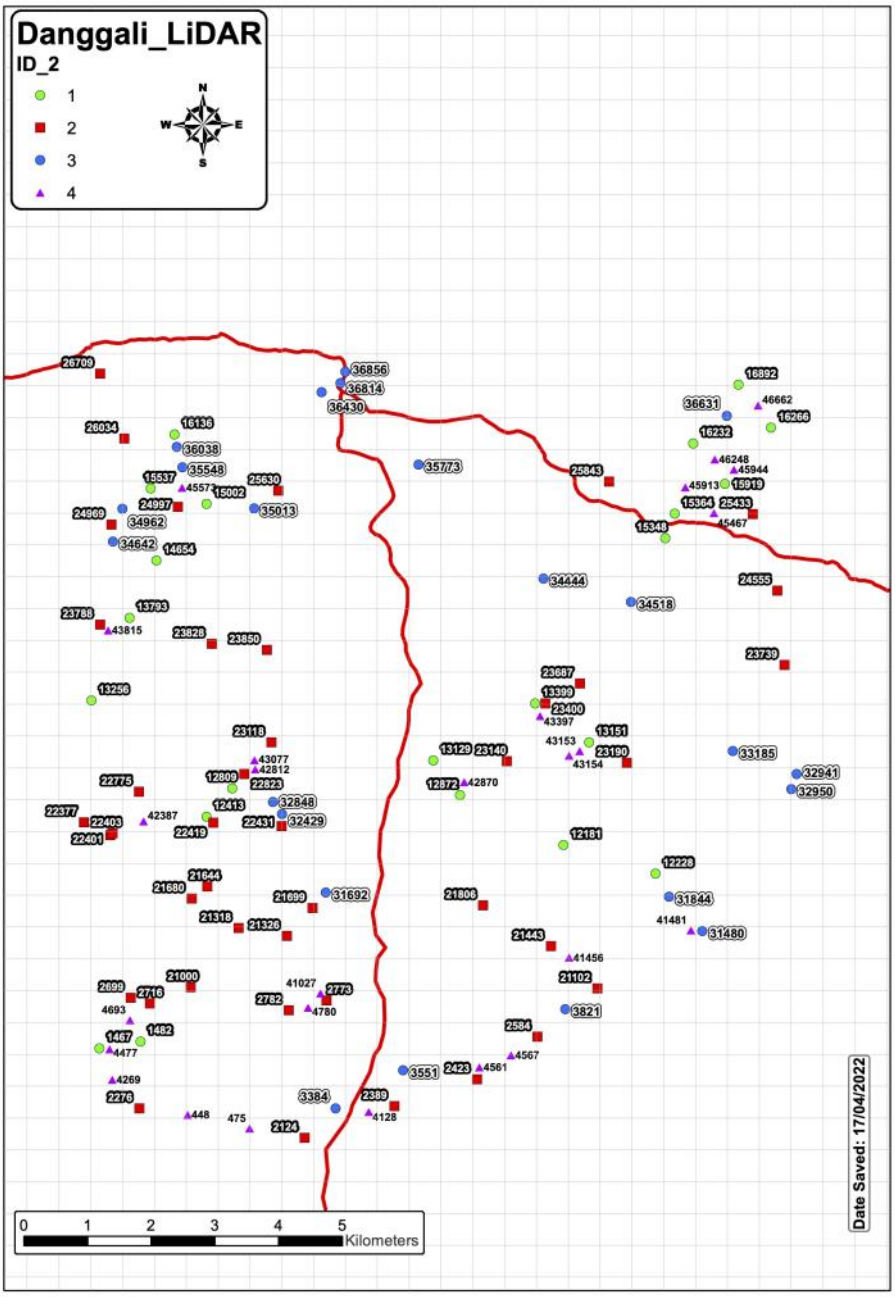

Figure 2. Potential Malleefowl mound locations across the 10,000 hectare site in Danggali. Note that Class 1 (green circles) indicates a LiDAR point which is most likely to be a Malleefowl mound through to Class 4 (purple triangles) indicating a LiDAR point which is unlikely to be a Malleefowl mound.

The weather was almost ideal over the course of the two very busy assessment days on which mound monitoring was undertaken (Saturday 29th and Sunday 20th May) . The nights were cool, but day time temperatures were in the mid to high teens and quite pleasant. However, about 10mm of rain fell over night on Sunday as a cold front came through and we awoke to a cold, blustery and showery Monday. Luckily we had completed the malleefowl mound truthing by this time and so we were able to do some checking of previously established game cameras, as well as inspect three of the 36 dams which have recently been closed in Danggali in a bid to reduce goat numbers (and grazing pressure) in the Park.

METHODOLOGY

Figure 2. shows the potential malleefowl mound locations across the 10,000 hectare site in Danggali which were identified using LIDAR.

The Danggali Malleefowl monitoring team at the beginning of our first day of monitoring – still looking very fresh and enthusiastic!

Field assessment referred to as ground truthing involved walking off-track for up to 10-15km per day in small groups (4-5 people) and collecting field data at pre-determined locations (where potential mounds had been identified using the LiDAR data). These sites, which are individually numbered, were located using GPS and data was collected on GPS enabled smart phone devices as well as on hard-copy field data sheets.

Attributes which were collected included noting whether the 'mound' which was remotely identified actually was a malleefowl nest. If it was indeed a mound the following information was collected:

· Is the mound currently active/inactive.

· The profile (or shape) of the nest.

· Whether the mound is 'Freshly scraped' or 'Not freshly scraped'.

· Whether or not there is eggshell present on the mound.

· Any prints or scats noted around the nest (i.e. malleefowl, fox, kangaroo, other).

· Outer and inner nest surface (amount of crust, moss, herb).

· Dimensions of the nest (outer perimeter, rim, depth, height of south and north side of rim).

· Whether 'cross sticks' were placed on the mound at the time of monitoring.

In addition, a photograph is taken of the mound with a photoboard in view which identifies the mound number and provides the date of monitoring.

RESULTS

A total of 113 LiDAR points were checked over the 2 days of field survey and the results showed that:

· 22 Class 1 points (green) – 100% were malleefowl mounds

· 42 Class 2 points (red) – 95% (40 points) were malleefowl mounds

· 23 Class 3 points (blue) - 43% (10 points) were malleefowl mounds

· 26 'Class 4' points (purple) - 0% (no points) were malleefowl mounds

In addition, a further three malleefowl mounds were identified during the course of the survey that were not detected by LiDAR.

Most of the Class 4 points were identified as mounds of earth raised around a tree stump, particularly mallee tree stumps. It was apparent that the software used to analyse the LIDAR data could ignore tree trunks. Whereas all Cases 1 to 3

Graeme Tonkin (National Malleefowl Recovery Team) at a recently worked nest located during the ground truthing with Andrew Telfer, Helen Owens, Sarah Telfer and Kathleen Cunningham recording monitoring data.

mounds which has been identified were checked, only about 10 of the over 3000 Class 4 sites were checked. This was to confirm that Class 4 sites could be safely ignored.

About six malleefowl mounds were recorded as being active, although it is not likely that any eggs were present at the time of survey (too early in the season). These active mounds had been very recently 'worked', with litter trails leading to the mound, extensive soil and litter disturbance and, at one particular nest, a bird was seen leaving the mound as we approached!

Data collected as part of SEG's field survey in May 2022 has been provided to the National Malleefowl Recovery Project and will be analysed to determine, amongst other things, the effectiveness of threat control for malleefowl in Danggali.

HIGHLIGHTS

SEG was very fortunate to have an array of very knowledgeable experts accompany us on our field trip. These included:

· Rowena Danks (Malleefowl Monitoring Coordinator, National Malleefowl Recovery Team) who gave us a summary of the monitoring project.

· Graeme Tonkin (Training Coordinator, National Malleefowl Recovery Team) provided valuable background information about the LiDAR project and the monitoring methodology.

· Graham Frahn and Peter Hains (malleefowl volunteers in the Murraylands) – highly experienced volunteers with a wealth of knowledge about not only malleefowl but a whole host of other fauna species who inhabit the mallee landscape.

· Craig Gillespie (Senior Ecologist, Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board) who was able to provide us with very interesting and useful information about current management at Danggali, including the dam closure project, feral animal control programs and Aboriginal heritage.

Special recognition must also be given to Helen Owens for organising the trip (which went without a hitch) and to Trent Porter for planning and organising the food.

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Witchelina Expedition 2022

SEG will be carrying out a biological survey on Nature Foundation's Witchelina Reserve from Saturday 29th October to Monday 7th November this year. 29th October and 7th November are the travel days. Witchelina received a record 176 mm of rain in January this year and while this did significant damage to infrastructure on the property it has resulted in a strong flush of vegetation growth which is expected to have also resulted in a growth in animal numbers.

Details are still being finalised but we know that we will be accommodated in the shearers' quarters near the homestead. Those of us who participated in the 2016 expedition will recall that this is very good accommodation with good showers, toilets etc. We estimate that the cost for members will be $300 and for non-members $350. Accommodation within rooms in the Shearers Quarters will be available or alternatively expeditioners may prefer to camp.

Twelve sites have been selected to be surveyed to the west and north of the homestead. We will not be doing vegetation surveys.

If you are interested please send an email as soon as possible with your details to the SEG email scientificexpeditiongroup@gmail.com and we can sent forms out to you.

BAKARA IN WINTER

John Love

Why do people subject themselves to the biting cold of a clear winter night and in the morning leave their tents to walk through mallee scrub in the rain? The thirteen walkers, in groups of three or four as organised by Helen Owens, were doing a 'walk through' off the existing malleefowl grid in Bakara Conservation Park, east of Swan Reach. The purpose was to look for new mounds. This was achieved by navigating along straight, parallel, evenly spaced lines 40 metres apart, plotted electronically. Known mounds were also plotted on the electronic devices so that it was obvious when a new one was encountered. Despite the rain interruptions 70% of the Park was covered in the week-end of 25 - 26 June. The eight remote cameras were also serviced.

The score: three new active mounds!! Two groups were rewarded by actually observing malleefowl – a fairly unusual experience as they are well camouflaged. Our herpetologists Dave and Helen were delighted to see a pretty little Burton's legless lizard. One group saw a clutch of ten emu eggs. Their father fled when he sensed danger, but would have returned to his duty when the coast was clear. Two other emu nests were also recorded. Helen and some keen helpers cooked a delicious barbecue dinner on Saturday night.

The Scientific Expedition Group has accepted responsibility for monitoring malleefowl activity in Bakara Conservation Park. This involves four visits to the Park each year to monitor the mounds, maintain the remote cameras and do periodic 'walk throughs'. Future activities will be advertised in SEGments. No previous experience is necessary but participants need to be fit and healthy and self-sufficient: there are no facilities in the Park.

For a weekend in the open air doing useful things in company with like-minded people, contact Helen Owens at <owensniejalke@iinet.net.au>

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The Bakara campsite with a rainbow

Emu nest located by one of the grid search parties

VGRASP PLUVIO MANAGEMENT TRIP JULY 2022

Graham Blair

A VGRaSP Expedition was carried out in July 2022 with two main tasks. The first was to carry out the first 4G modem upgrade at the Maynards Well pluviometer and a second was to complete the rain-gauge calibration and data collection visits of sites in the Vulkathunha Gammon Ranges National Park that were not visited during the curtailed May 2022 "Covid" trip.

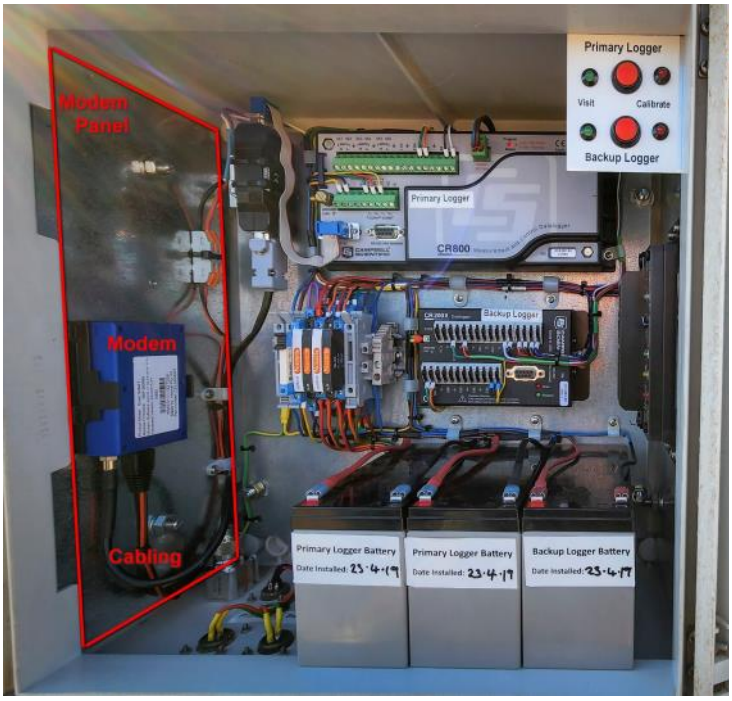
The participants were: Chris Wright, Phil Davill, Janet Davill, Graham Blair, John Love and Peter Love. Garry Trethewey joined the group on the second day.

The installation of the first 4G modem at the Maynards Well pluviometer was successful. The plan for the 4G modem roll-out was to visit a first site with a range of tools and establish the best fit installation. Using that first site as a template, modem panels for the remaining sites will then be pre-assembled so that the installations at the remaining sites will require a minimum of tools. This will reduce the weight of what needs to be carried for remote installations such as on The Plateau.

During the visit to Maynards Well, the rain gauge calibration was checked, the data uploaded, and the logger reprogrammed.

On the next day, the group drove to the Vulkathunha Gammon Ranges National Park. Work was carried out on the track at various locations beyond Owiendana Outstation to minimise the damage to vehicles traversing various deep gutters etc.

The group then walked along Arcoona Creek to a campsite about 5kms beyond the vehicles. An outstanding



Installation of the 4G modem in its weather proof housing at Maynards Well. Photo: Graham Blair

The installation party. From left: John Love, Chris Wright, Janet Davill, Phil Davill and Graham Blair.

effort was made by John Love who is distinguished as being one of the very few nonagenarians to make the walk to the remote campsite despite the rough terrain and zero-degree nightly temperatures.

The Sambot rain gauge was visited where a calibration check and data download were carried out. The storage container was full.

Garry Trethewey recorded the progress of specific vegetation regrowth along Arcoona Creek resulting from the extensive rainfall during the first half of the year.

The considerable rainfall over the first half of the year has generated a radical transformation of the landscape compared with the severe drought conditions experienced over recent years. Lush green vegetation and vigorous regrowth were abundantly evident along Arcoona Creek. Many of the waterholes along the creek were full of water. Subsurface flow through the gravel beds was observed at many points along Arcoona Creek, sustaining water levels in each waterhole.

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Two views of Arcoona Creek after good rains

FUNGI FUN

Alun Thomas

On 14th August 2022 Jill Tugwell, Kathleen Cunningham and I attended a Funky Fungi and Groovy Grasslands Walk and Talk. This was organised by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board as a Citizen Science Project during National Science Week.

We met at Mowantiji- Willauwar Conservation Park a few kilometres south of Tailem Bend. The event was attended by more than 40 people and it was particularly satisfying to see so many children interested in fungi. After an engaging welcome to country and an introduction to fungi we were split into groups and let loose on the park. In no time at all we were finding a range of fungi some of which are shown in the photographs.

Following the fungi searches attendants were rewarded with refreshments. Later in the afternoon there were talks at the Tailem Bend Town Hall Function Room. These included detailed presentations by Sophie Hoffman, Adelaide University and Nicola Barnes, Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board delving deeper into the fascinating worlds of fungi and grasslands and the connections between the two.

At these talks there was also a 2022 Citizen Science Award for Outstanding Achievement presentation made to SEG. This was for the work SEG has been doing at Bakara and the recent work at Danggali on malleefowl.

Alun being presented with a Citizen Science Award from Nicola Barnes and Greg Cock of the Murraylands and Riverlands Landscape Board. Photo Jill Tugwell

The Award

Fungi spotted on the Fungi walk. Top: *Morchella sp.* Bottom: Ghost fungus and Yellow coral fungus. Photos Jill Tugwell

VALE BRIAN BLAYLOCK

Helen Owens

It is with heavy hearts that we advise of the passing of a long term friend of SEG, Brian Blaylock (13/07/1947 - 08/08/2022).

His death is a huge loss to all who shared his love of birds and the environment.

Brian was a quiet man, a quiet achiever. Not one for idle chat, he primarily spoke to share his knowledge when anyone asked or showed an interest.

Brian and his wife Jo were long term friends of SEG and we were very fortunate to have them along on a number of SEG expeditions where Brian offered his time enthusiastically to document the birdlife and teach anyone eager to learn. These expeditions included Bimbowrie 2010, Arkaroola 2011, Nullarbor 2012, Hiltaba 2013, Nangwarry 2014, Witchelina, both at Pug Hut 2015 and at the homestead 2016, Ikara Flinders Ranges 2017 and Innes 2019. Brian also participated in biological surveys for DEH for over a number of years.

Brian's expertise also extended to vegetation. For SEG expeditioners walking on sites with Brian would be among the highlights of the day. So much knowledge was shared.

Brian had a very keen eye for records management and computers and put these skills to great use compiling, vetting and mapping the State's bird data over many years for SEG, the SA Museum, Birds SA and his own personal projects. He worked tirelessly, even up to his last few weeks, advising on taxonomy and managing datasets for the Biological Databases of SA.

Brian's skills and dedication will be greatly missed but he has left a legacy of information that will contribute to environmental management for many years to come.

Vale Brian - may you Rest In Peace.

Expeditioners and scientists at Hiltiba Expedition April 2013. Brian on the far left of the photo. Photo Alun Thomas

WE MEET OUR PATRON

Alun Thomas

On Wednesday 29th June Richard Willing and I met with our Patron, Mr Rod Bunten at Government House. Mr Bunten was keen to find out about SEG and SEG's different activities and also how he, as Patron, would be able to assist SEG.

Mr Bunten has a keen interest in science and our talks ranged wide on a number of topics.

We invited Mr Bunten to our AGM but his attendance has not been confirmed. He was interested in attending the next Minnawarra Biodiversity Survey if it fits in with his other engagements. We have supplied his office with the necessary details and a date has been set.

We look forward to our Patron attending some of our activities.

VICE-REGAL

ON Wednesday morning at Marleston, Her Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Mr Bunten, toured Warriappendi School and addressed staff and students.

In the afternoon at Adelaide Oval, the Governor, as honorary member of the Rotary Club of Adelaide, accompanied by Mr Bunten, addressed the guests at the annual Changeover Lunch. Later at Government House, the Governor and Mr Bunten, as joint patrons of the Royal Caledonian Society of South Australia, received chief Ms Jeannette Macdonald, and secretary Ms Christina Cockerill. Afterwards the Governor and Mr Bunten, as joint patrons of Autism SA, received chief executive Ms Helen Graham.

In the late afternoon, Mr Bunten, as patron of the Scientific Expedition Group, received president Mr Alun Thomas, and President Emeritus Dr Richard Willing, OAM.

In the evening the Governor and Mr Bunten received Flinders University vice-chancellor and president Professor Colin Stirling, and University of Adelaide senior manager of technical services Dr Mailys Stirling, followed by a dinner.

SEG TALK AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Date: Friday 14th October 2022

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Fullarton Centre,

Corner of Fullarton Road and Fisher Street, Fullarton

After a short business meeting the talk will be presented by Professor Rod Wells on:

Caves, Deserts and Playa Lakes

Professor Wells gave up a career in engineering to return to university in the 1960s to pursue an interest in exploration and natural history. His studies of the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat led to the establishment of the Brookfield Conservation Park in the Murraylands in 1973 His discovery of the rich fossil deposits in the Naracoorte Caves in 1969 led ultimately to their World Heritage listing in 1994. Rod has spent the last fifty years researching the fossil history of the ancient lake and stream deposits of the Lake Eyre and Lake Frome Basins.

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION GROUP INC.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for 2022 — 23

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Adult member - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - $40.00
Concession cards/ student - - - - - - - - - $20.00
Family or Corporate membership - - - - $50.00

HARD COPY SEGments:- If you would like to receive a hard copy through Australia Post of our quarterly journal SEGments, please include in your payment an additional $30.00 for a SEGments subscription. All members will receive an electronic copy by email.

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:

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ELECTRONIC PAYMENT

If you have access to the internet, payment can be made using SEG's bank account at Bank of South Australia, details as follows:
Acc Name: Scientific Expedition Group Inc.
BSB: 105-086 Acc No.: 330629440

Please use your last name if possible to identify your payment **AND** also advise us by email that you have made a payment to our bank account via email to – scientificexpeditiongroup@gmail.com
Or send a cheque payable to Scientific Expedition Group Inc. with a photocopy of this page to:

The Secretary
Scientific Expedition Group Inc.
111 Franklin St,
Adelaide, SA 5000.