



Bandicoot Tails

Newsletter of the Friends of Scott Creek
Conservation Park

No. 176

September – November 2019

Website: www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofscottcreekcp

Welcome to your spring edition of *Bandicoot Tails*, enjoy the read but, more importantly, get out and enjoy this wonderful time of the year in the Park.

Unless otherwise indicated, all articles and photos by Peter Watton. Please send any contributions for the summer edition to president@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au by mid-November.



The President's words:

It has been a pretty hectic time during the winter months, ensuring contractor work is completed before the end of the financial year, and then planning the next year's work.

There is also the Almanda Report 2019, which will report on all project activities that have been undertaken during the 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019 year. This is well underway, but had to be put on hold so that this edition of *Bandicoot Tails* could be sent out before spring. I hope to have the report on our website

within the next couple of weeks.

We are well into planning for the next Almanda Open Day, which will be held on Sunday 13th October this year, so pencil the date in your diaries and calendars now.

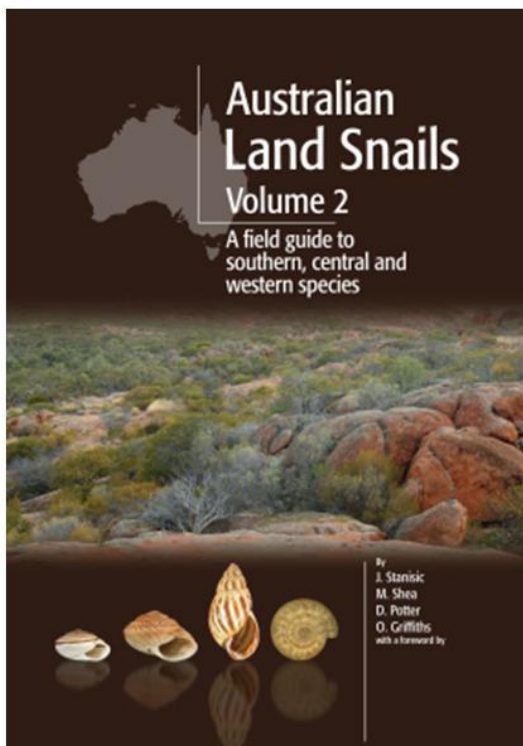
The open day is used to showcase our Almanda Project, and the move to October this year is so that we can make the most of the beautiful spring flowering. Once again there will be a walk along Almanda Creek, which will show what can be achieved with consistent and intensive bush gardening. See the article on page 10 'The Miracle of Almanda' by Steve Davey about the work the small team of volunteers has accomplished in this area with regular weekly visits.

The walk continues around Almanda Valley and its swamp but, as this will be considerably wetter than in autumn, there may be some diversions needed.

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John Wamsley reports that the Almanda Spring, which is usually located near the end of the walk, has moved, so we are not sure whether we will be able to re-locate it before then.

We also have our Annual General Meeting coming up soon, scheduled to take place on Tuesday 12th November at the usual venue, the Cherry Gardens CFS Station at 294 Cherry Gardens Road. After the brief formalities, Peter Hunt will be asking us the question, can you tell which of the below two snails is native to South Australia and which is an introduced pest?



Thanks to the recently published field guide “Australian Land Snails Volume 2”, we now have the means to help identify our native South Australian land snails. While much work is done to combat the invasive species, little has been known about our native fauna; find out how and where they live, discover the main groups and where they occur. Do they pose issues for our agriculture and how endangered are they?

Come along and discover more about their stories and the people who study them.

Peter is a long term member of the historic Malacological Society of South Australia, interested in marine ecology and the recent temperate shell reef restoration projects. Now retired from his forty year career in scientific imaging with Olympus Optical, Peter has been working alongside Dr Tony Robinson as a volunteer at the SA Museum, reviewing the collections of terrestrial snails and slugs. Their findings and their many images have helped produce Dr John Stanisic’s second volume on this topic

September first is National Wattle Day, so get outside and enjoy the sight and smell of this iconic Australian Genus, and remember that the research tells us they are very unlikely to be the cause of your hay fever, they just happen to be flowering at the same time as those that are really responsible for your sore eyes, sniffles and sneezes!

Peter Watton



Working Bees:

As winter progressed, volunteer numbers dropped a bit as the seasonal migration to warmer climates took place. The weather didn't prevent any of the scheduled activities taking place, though less came out to brave a couple of the damper days.

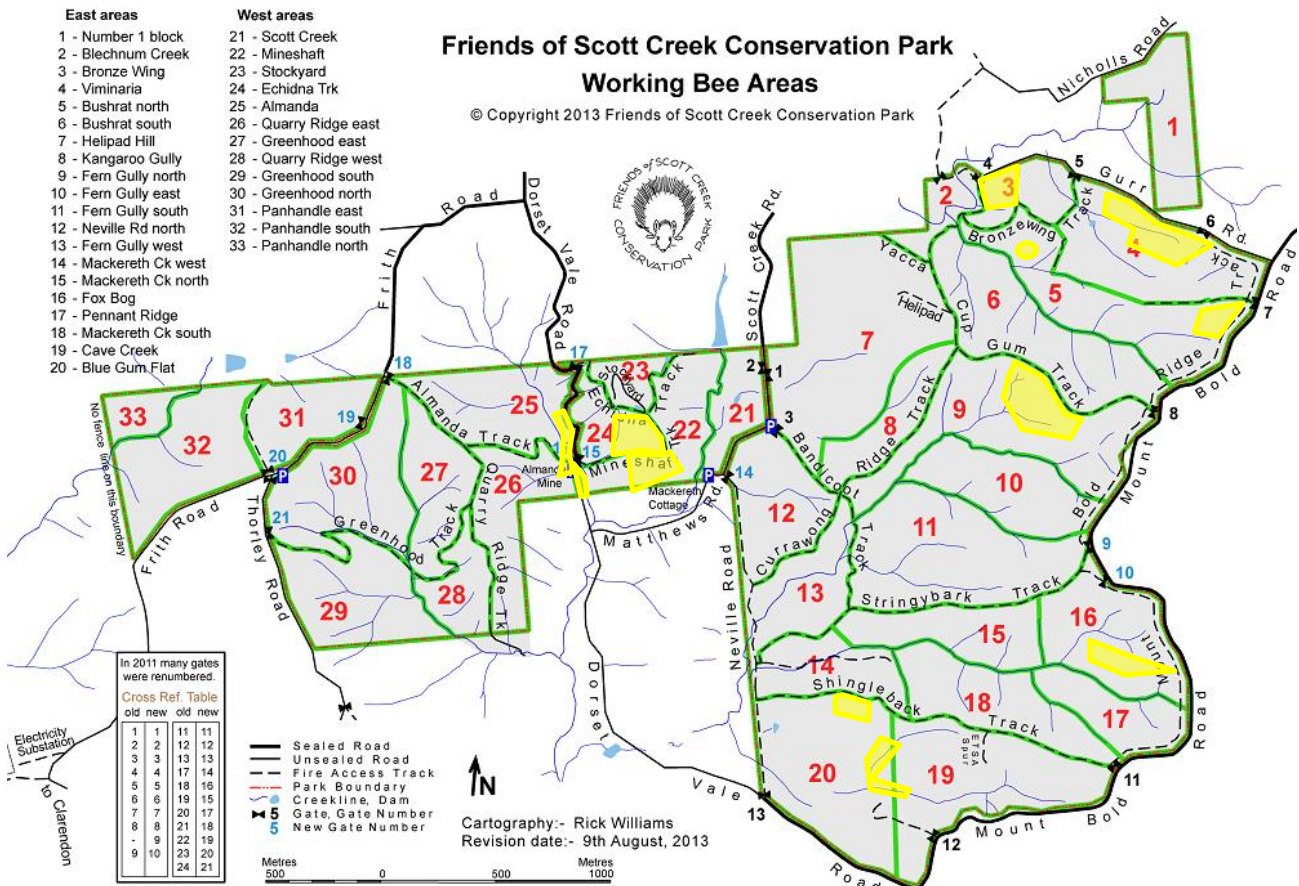
There was some *Watsonia* dealt with at a couple of working bees in the north-east part of the Park and *Sparaxis* off Shingleback Track, but mostly it was woody weeds that were tackled. These included the ever popular Boneseed and Erica, with some Broom, Olive, Broadleaf Cotton-bush and Sallow Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* ssp. *longifolia*) thrown in.

We got back to the Pink Erica (*Erica baccans*) patch south of Fox Bog in the last working bee of the season. Unfortunately numbers were low on this one, and we will need to go back to finish off the patch. This didn't get visited last year, so there were plenty of young plants to deal with, plus a few larger ones.

Peter sprayed the Bridal Creeper in the woodland area along the east side of Almada Valley for the third year in a row, and was pleased with the reduced amount growing there this year.



Above: Pink Erica (*Erica baccans*).





Left: This photo highlights the importance of breaking off the Erica *below* its lignotuber (the swollen part between the stem and the root system) – these looked like seedlings, but were actually regrowth from stems broken *above* the lignotuber.



Above left: A fine display of wet weather gear in Blue Gum Flat.
Below left: An Olive that was drilled and filled in Cave Creek.



Above right: Ian and Jenny removing Erica behind Eys Tunnel.
Below right: This Erica seems to have a few hang-ups.



Contractor work being undertaken in the park:

As we headed for the end of the financial year, some contractor work had to be completed in the Panhandle, working on Erica, Sollya and Montpellier Broom, with Watsonia and Bridal Creeper sprayed. This was the last of the second year's work under the three year work plan funded from the Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (NR AMLR) Land Management Program.

We also had some Bridal Creeper sprayed in another section of the Panhandle, near Frith Road, and Cape Tulip in Almanda Valley. The latter was funded from part of the NR AMLR Community Environment Grant 2018-19 we received. The Bridal Creeper and some new woody weed treatment in Brown Frog Gully and Bushrat Creek (part of the Erica forest south of Bronzewing Track), was funded from the second very generous \$10,000 donation we received earlier this year. The woody weeds included Boneseed, Erica and Broom, and there are still some more funds to be utilised from this donation.

Part of the Cape Tulip treatment was done by Andrew Fairney, of Seeding Natives Inc.¹, a Not For Profit business specialising in direct seeding and the ecological restoration of native grasslands and associated ecological communities.

I attended an NR AMLR field day at Inman Valley in June, where information was provided about the control of Cape Tulip. At the field day, Andrew demonstrated the use of a machine he uses to wipe herbicide onto the leaves of weeds in grassland-type areas. This seemed to fit very nicely with the Cape Tulip problem we have in Almanda Valley. The herbicide is applied using a Rotowiper®, a tow-behind applicator from New Zealand that wipes the Cape Tulip leaves with a carpeted drum that rotates in the opposite direction of travel. Common with most bulb weeds, not all Cape Tulip emerges every year, so there will definitely be more to follow-up next year. We will try to get this arranged a little earlier in the season, as some of the weeds were frost damaged and may not take the herbicide in as well.



Above: The Seeding Natives Rotowiper and quad bike at the Inman Valley field day.

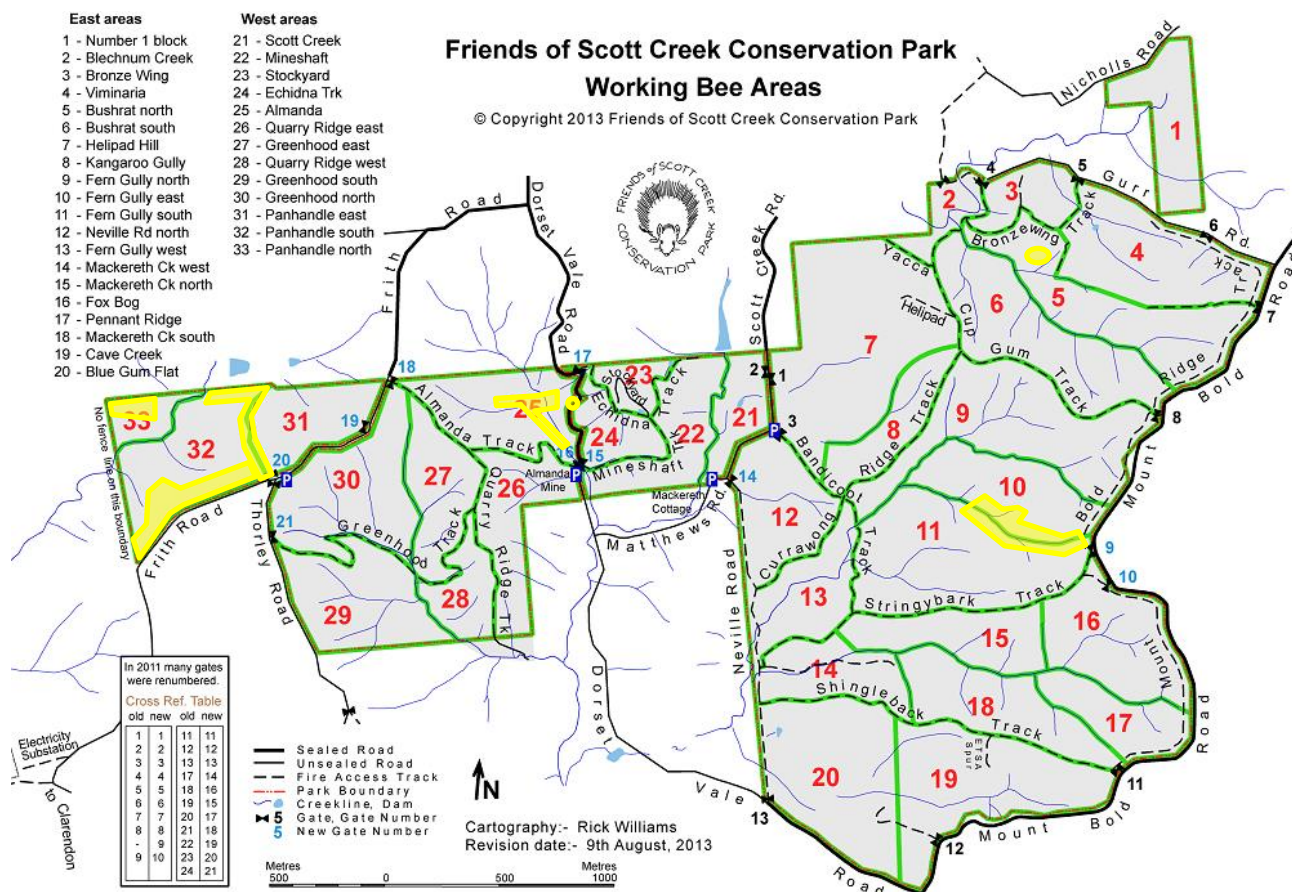
¹ <https://www.seedingnatives.org.au>

Areas that were not able to be accessed with the quad bike were sprayed using knapsack spray units, some amongst rushes and sedges surrounding the open area were done by Andrew, while an area on the east side of the valley and under the powerlines to the west were sprayed by Trees For Life Works.



Above left: Andrew using the Rotowiper during the Inman Valley field day demonstration.

Above right: The Cape Tulip in Almanda Valley yellowing off 11 days after treatment.



Bird Banding Notes:

In general our banding operations were quite productive this quarter, though somewhat interrupted by weather. This is winter so we should expect some lost time.

1 June Gate 20 22 birds 3 recaptures 8 species

We had a good morning with a steady stream of birds, all comprising species which we expect to catch at this site. Silveryeyes and Superb Fairy-wrens made up the majority of the captures. None of the recaptures was more than 3+ years, as this is a recently established site. The Sunday programme was cancelled due to forecast bad weather.

6 July Gate 3 Crossroads 37 birds 5 recaptures 11 species

This was a most productive morning, with two 'rushes' giving us two large groups to work on. Significant recaptures were a 5+ Superb Fairy-wren, a 4+ White-throated Treecreeper, and a 9+ male Superb Fairy-wren in full plumage. This bird was first banded at the nearby Kangaroo Gully site, on 4/12/2011, and had been recaptured twice before. We last saw him three years ago at this Crossroads site, having moved his domicile up the hill from the gully. He is the second oldest Wren in our records, being eclipsed by another male who reached 10+ in 2017

20-21 July Gate 4 17 birds 3 recapture 8 species

This weekend was not very productive, with only 4 birds caught on the Saturday, at what is a usually productive site. However, the number of species was quite representative of this area, and Sunday yielded better numbers, including a bird we seldom catch – a Kookaburra.

3-4 August Gate 9 32 birds 13 recaptures 12 species

A steady flow of birds over the two days, with a couple of nice surprises. First bird of the Saturday was a Bassian Thrush, a bird we don't often see and of Vulnerable status. This was a 4+ recapture, our first for this species. Another Bassian was also seen in another net, but flew out when it saw the approaching bander.

The next significant recovery, however, was a White-browed Scrubwren, aged 17+. This bird was first banded in March 2003, at this site and recaptured 7 times since. Checking the national banding database shows that this little bird is the second oldest Scrubwren recorded, being beaten by a New South Wales bird, aged about 4 months older, but last recorded several years ago. Our bird still looks hale and hearty and we look forward to seeing him again.

We also caught two 5+ Superb Fairy-wrens and a 5+ Yellow-faced Honeyeater. Altogether, a good weekend.

17 August Gate 20 22 birds 2 recaptures 6 species

Another productive morning, dominated by the local flock of Red-browed Finches, which supplied a total of 15 birds out of the total of 22. A pair of Scarlet Robins gave some of our newer banders a good look at the plumage differences between the sexes. The Sunday was cancelled due to the weather forecast, it turned out to be fine in the morning but too late for us to remobilise.

Don Reid

Right: The banding team above Fox Bog in August – from left is Don, Jim, Peter, Jenny, Petra, Chris and Karl-Heinz, who was visiting from Germany.





Above left: The 17+ year old male White-browed Scrubwren at gate 9 Fox Bog (photo by Karl-Heinz).



Above right: The 4+ year old Vulnerable Bassian Thrush at gate 9 Fox Bog.



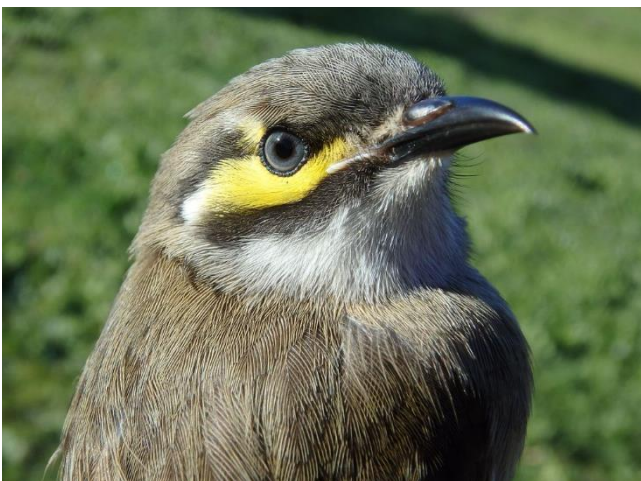
Above left: Jim showing off the Laughing Kookaburra banded in July at gate 4 Gurr Road.

Below left: Yellow-faced Honeyeater banded in August at the gate 20 site (photo by Petra).



Above right: A busy day at the desk on the first day of winter, with a visit from our NPWS staff.

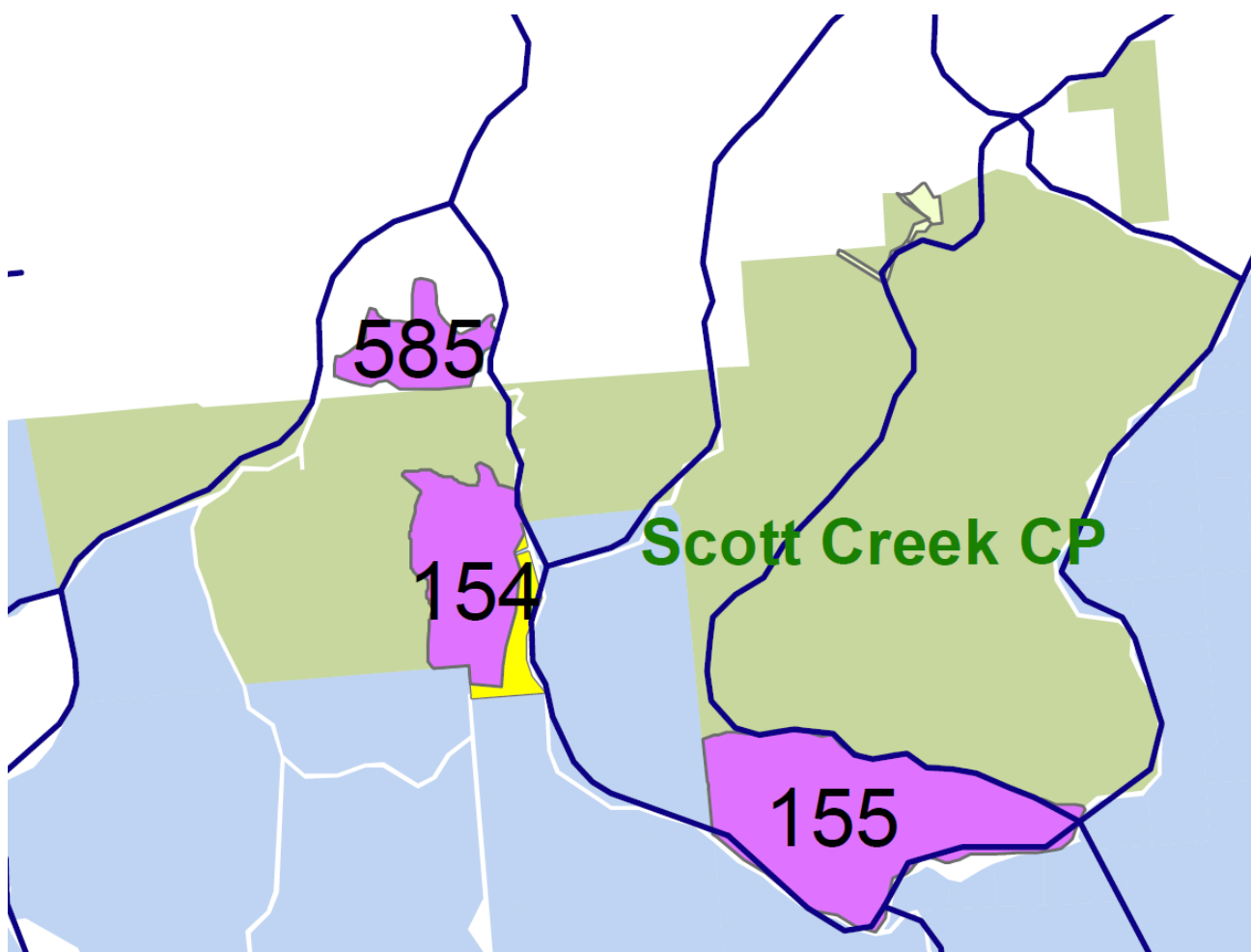
Below right: getting the evil eye from a Red-browed Finch at the gate 20 site.



DEW Prescribed Burn Program²:



The two prescribed burns mentioned in the last Bandicoot Tails, in the area of the Park south of Almanda Track from gate 15 and east of Quarry Ridge Track, extending into SA Water land (#154 in the map below), and the three privately owned properties to the north of Almanda Valley (#585), have been postponed due to weather conditions. These have now been scheduled to take place in autumn 2020, along with another in the Blue Gum Flat and Cave Creek area of the Park (#155).



- Proposed Burns Spring 2019
- Proposed Burns Autumn 2020



² <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/fire-management/upcoming-prescribed-burns>

The Miracle of Almanda:

Such are the changes which have occurred along the Almanda Creek on Dorset Vale Road, I find it impossible to picture the scene as it was just a few years ago.

The regenerative powers built into the fabric of the natural world have stunned us with their elegance.

Blackberry, which once blanketed the entire length of the creek, has been reduced to occasional seedlings or small shoots from the few tough rhizomes remaining.

On the elevated banks above the creek, fast growing colonisers like native Geranium and Groundsel (*Senecio* spp.) have taken advantage of the light and space. For the first time this season we see the leaves of greenhood and helmet orchids, even in places where the mat of introduced grasses would seem to make it impossible for them to grow.

Many indigenous grasses have also managed to survive in spite of incursions by *Phalaris* and other vigorous, unwanted species. Every couple of weeks reveals a new arrival as the rains bring life back to the soil. Sundew (*Drosera* spp.), Bulbine-lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*), Buttercup (*Ranunculus* spp.) en masse, Ivy-leaf Violet (*Viola hederacea*), Wattle (*Acacia* spp.) seedlings, young Mount Lofty Ground-berry (*Acrotriche fasciculiflora*), Common Maiden-hair (*Adiantum aethiopicum*), Kidney Weed (*Dichondra repens*), Austral Bear's-ear (*Cymbonotus preissianus*) and the delicate Australian Carraway (*Oreomyrrhis eriopoda*) among many other species jostle for room with the beautiful grasses.

In lower places, alongside the permanent, flowing waters, riparian species have all but pushed out the usually ubiquitous, invasive plants. A wealth of sedges, rushes and ferns line the pools where Galaxias (native fish) are thriving. At its best, in spring, the creek is obscured by Australian Gypsywort (*Lycopus australis*) and the so-called Indian Weed or Oriental Sigesbeckia (*Sigesbeckia orientalis*), along with the tiny-flowered Angled Lobelia (*Lobelia anceps*) and the more obvious blue flowers of Matted Pratia (*Lobelia pedunculata*) or Swamp Mazus (*Mazus pumilio*).

The creek is a hot spot for uncommon or rare species, and the Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) Silky Tea-tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) Woodland community is itself rarely found intact, given the way creeklines are degraded by agriculture.



Above: Native Buttercup have proliferated.



Above: Orchids have appeared amongst what was previously dense weedy grasses.

As our work has progressed, over a period of years, attention to detail has become more critical. Now that the gross infestations of Blackberry are under control, the work becomes more painstaking and plants previously hidden come to light. Some of what appears is unwanted, like the thousands of Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) seedlings we picked out one at a time or worse, One-leaf Cape Tulip (*Moraea flaccida*) whose bulbs were carefully freed from the soil and disposed of.

The various sections we have worked on represent an interesting progression from a 'battle zone', immediately after slashing and poisoning of Blackberry, to a recovering community where the indigenous species can help repress the exotics.

The rewards of this work are great. Sometimes it feels like looking for gold, as we work our way through an area and come upon species which only the most careful scrutiny can uncover.

The lesson to be taken from this work is that a very small number of people (in this case never more than three individuals) can facilitate the processes of the natural world so that the earth itself does most of the work.

We have been guided and inspired in all of this by John Wamsley, who is never daunted by the scale of the task. He likes to tell us we must keep our heads down, because to look up at what lies ahead is dispiriting! At least, in looking down, there is plenty to see.

I like to think we are showing what is possible, and other people may one day carry on the work, for what is unquestionable is that the bush will need wise management for all time.

John calls it 'gardening' rather than bushcare and one day 'gardening' may be synonymous with this kind of work, rather than being an activity in pursuit of maintaining an exotic ecosystem.

Lastly, John believes we need to be clear about what we are doing. It is not enough to simply remove weeds. That is not an end in itself. We are motivated by our values and the value we espouse is the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity. It has never been possible to argue the practical worth of such a pursuit, but it is lately becoming clear the earth may be at a tipping point as we lose species whose interrelationships we have not even begun to understand.

Almanda Creek is one tiny example of how we may have hope in the future.

Steve Davey (photos by Chris Thomson)



Above: The two Steves gardening in Almanda Creek.

Beyond Measure:

The drive west, across Eyre Peninsula and on to the Nullarbor, is characterised by space and limitless though mostly un-dramatic horizons.

Cereal farms, pushed far to the west, constitute only a narrow strip between the ocean to the south and the edge of the Great Victoria Desert to the north. The remoteness is palpable, at once vaguely terrifying and immensely liberating.

Circumstances dictated that I made the drive alone and this reinforced the sense of pilgrimage, for I had not been to the Nullarbor for a very long time. Over fifty years had elapsed since a two week school expedition for which I kept the official log. I still have that little green log book. The Eyre Highway had yet to be sealed and the places we visited were truly off the radar.

Now a steady stream of well-rigged grey nomads and assorted tourists use the highway, but once off the main drag I had some of the scenery all to myself. Isolation is sometimes preserved by lack of awareness.

The common worry with revisiting places is whether the memories live up to reality, but I wasn't disappointed. After Ceduna I made sure to visit Point Sinclair, with its approach road through wide, mirror-calm coastal lagoons reflecting huge whipped-cream sand dunes fringed by vegetation. The short jetty looks improbable, there at the end of the earth, sheltered by an undercut headland beyond which are visible the huge waves forever crashing onto Cactus Beach, internationally famous with the surfing fraternity. There are still no buildings at Point Sinclair. Nothing had changed.



Fowlers Bay, by comparison, has acquired some new dwellings and the old stone buildings are nicely renovated. It was, quite literally, a ghost town when previously I visited, for I remember going to investigate the deserted buildings at night and running back to camp, terrified, when things 'went bump in the night'. Like Point Sinclair, it showed off clean blue water and a remote peacefulness, unlikely to be disturbed by major development. It's all just too far away.

The Nullarbor Plain is what its name claims it to be, although the highway only passes through a very limited section of the 'true' Nullarbor, for most of the road is located outside the limestone bedrock which gives the plain its characteristic treelessness. A sign at each end announces when you are entering the genuine article and driving this stretch is a strange and special experience, unless you are averse to nothingness.

On the eastern side of the plain, once the cleared farmland ends, lies the Yalata Woodland, which contains the most extensive old-growth mallee I have seen. Loving the mallee as I do, it seemed a mysterious place, beckoning me to leave the car and simply begin walking north to the edge of the so-called desert, as if I could go on forever. Such notions are fanciful, but maybe one day, in another life . . .

The Head of the Bight represented my prime destination. It used to be approached only with permission from the aboriginal people of Yalata and via a rough, winding, sandy track through thick coastal vegetation. Now the realigned highway is close to the coast and access is easy, although cars are kept well back from the viewing area and visitors must pass through a building and pay a fee. This is the sensible way to manage numbers so that the fragile coastal environment isn't despoiled.



There remained a little mystery for me to clear up, for I remembered the Head of the Bight as a wide, sandy bay, broken in the middle by a solitary stack of rock. Yet tourist pictures of the area showed a lookout on high cliffs. Both images are correct, for the eastern side of the 'Head' is the sandy bay and the western side marks the beginning of the Bunda Cliffs, which extend for hundreds of kilometres. The lookout is located on these cliffs.

Here I must begin to get carried away, for as I walked from the visitor centre, out towards the lookout, I got my first glimpse of the place I hadn't set eyes on for fifty years, and which, in my mind, had always epitomised the wild earth, solitary and safe.

The pure white dunes framing a vivid blue sea were so striking I thought I looked upon a painting. Other white lines, slowly moving into the bay, were the ranks of ocean surf where the energy of the Southern Ocean came to rest in the great curved underbelly of the continent. And there, just as I remembered, stood the stack of rocks, being the only solid thing in a canvas of sand and water. No photo can do it justice.

There was more to come, for several whales still graced the breeding ground and I felt the familiar choking in my throat at first sight of them, lazing in the impossibly blue water below the cliffs. Two of them had calves. Some people were reduced to tears. I remained a long time and then came back again the next day for a second look. Privilege is the overriding feeling and a desperate hope we will have the wisdom to let them thrive.

Words are rarely adequate for some kinds of experience. Being in that place I hadn't seen for half a century naturally caused me to reflect upon the intervening years, wondering what it all meant, if anything. The poet T. S. Eliot said something about returning to the place where we started and 'knowing that place for the first time'. This is what it felt like. Nothing in the physical landscape had changed, though I had changed and needed to ask myself what I could take from all those years. The answer came within the contemplation itself, for the perception and love I felt for the natural world as a sixteen year old hadn't dimmed. The same sense of wonder and awe remained. Perhaps this is enough to take from a life.



Herein lies the inestimable value of wild places, for they give us a means of measuring our own lives against the immense span of geological time. If we lose this we lose perspective on ourselves.



I drove further west to the two lookouts on the Bunda Cliffs, there to see how the Nullarbor appears to fall abruptly into the ocean in a series of mysterious, scalloped cliffs. Another piece of past experience revisited. The earth presents its intimate face of ancient rock to be slowly worn away and the contrast of bi-coloured limestone with a milky blue sea is unlike the colours you will find anywhere else. Buttresses of rock disappear into a moisture-hazed distance, dwarfing everyone who comes to see it.

Another world awaited exploration on my homeward journey as I visited places I had never seen along the spectacular west coast, often having entire bays and beaches to myself. I took more than five hundred photographs on the trip.

There are many sad stories of environmental degradation in Australia, but on the Nullarbor we seem to have got it right.

Steve Davey

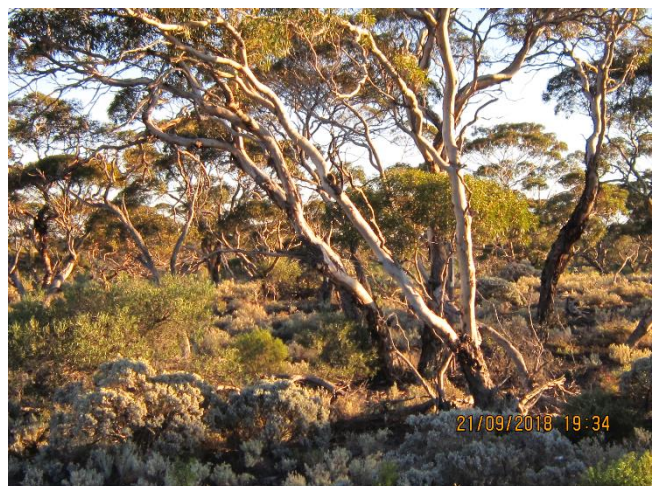


Photo Gallery:



Above left: Yellow Navel (*Lichenomphalia chromacea*), actually a lichen that looks like a fungi.

Below left: The intricate flowers of Scrambling Beard-heath (*Leucopogon concurvus*).



Below left: A seedling Holly Flat-pea (*Platylobium obtusangulum*) growing in Matted Bog-rush (*Schoenus breviculmis*).

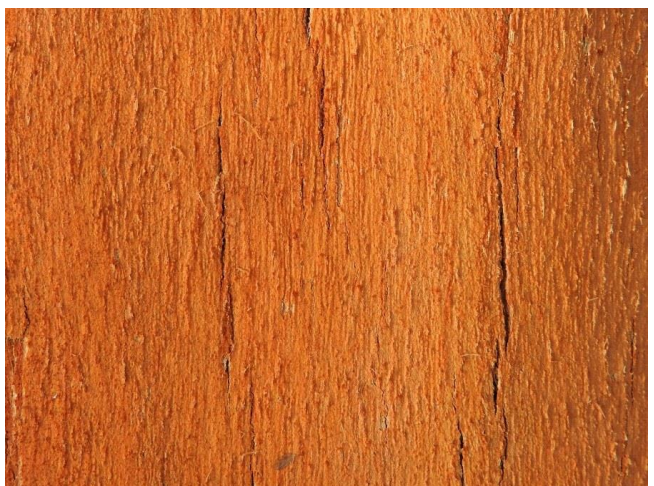


Above right: Ants have been constructing tall mounds at the entrance of their homes in a number of spots in the park.

Below right: Ant heading for the flower of Stalked Oak-bush (*Allocasuarina striata*).



Below right: The underside surface of bark that had fallen off a eucalypt.





Above left: Hare Orchid (*Leptoceras menziesii*) leaf growing in moss.

Below left: This Koala seems to be wondering where the tree has gone.



Below left: Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).



Above right: New Holland Honeyeater with a snack.

Below right: A patch of Dwarf Greenhood or Shell orchids (*Pterostylis nana* or *Linguella* un-named sp.).



Below right: Bluebeard Orchid (*Pheladenia deformis*).



Environmental laws and having a say:

South Australia

Keep an eye on the SA government consultation webpage where the community can have their say at [Current YourSAy consultations](#).

K.I. wilderness trail accommodation – Supreme Court action launched

<https://www.theislanderonline.com.au/story/6340260/ki-eco-action-lodges-proceedings-in-supreme-court-over-awc-approval/>

The K.I. Eco-Action have launched proceedings in the Supreme Court seeking judicial review of the State Commission Assessment Panel and the Native Vegetation Council's approval of three tourist accommodation developments along the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail in Flinders Chase National Park. An article in The Islander, the KI local newspaper, reported that K.I. Eco Action believe that the approvals are unlawful or invalid for several reasons relating to the Development Act, the Native Vegetation Act and the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Commonwealth

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

Regular consultations can be found at [EPBC Act Public Notices and Invitations to Comment](#)

Environmental Defenders Offices of Australia³

What We Do – we provide the people of Australia with the assistance they need to protect the places they love. The law can be a powerful tool in a community's efforts to protect the environment and ensure development is sustainable. But environmental laws can be complex and bewildering. Legal advice from an EDO can ensure that people are better equipped to use the law appropriately. Initial telephone advice is free or provided at low cost. Expert advice provided by EDOs has helped thousands of clients achieve positive environmental outcomes right across Australia.



Environmental Defenders Office (SA) Inc.⁴

Protecting the Public Interest – Evening the Odds. Our environment is under threat from big business, mining and hostile governments. Around the country, hard-won legal protections that safeguard our clean air, soil, oceans, rivers and native vegetation are being wound back and torn up.



At the EDO, we use our legal expertise to protect our environment. We give you legal advice, we go to court to protect habitat, and defend your rights to a clean environment. We fight to improve the law when it isn't working to protect our communities and our environment. We help you to understand the laws in South Australia and how you can use them to protect our environment.

Compiled by Anna Dutkiewicz

³ <https://www.edo.org.au/>

⁴ <https://www.edosa.org.au/>

Calendar of Environmental Events coming up:

September is National Biodiversity Month

Biodiversity Month is held in September each year and aims to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world.⁵



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Biodiversity has been described as the ‘web of life’, ‘the variety of living things’ or ‘the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and ecosystems of which they are a part’.

Australia is home to between 600,000 and 700,000 species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. About 84 per cent of our plants, 83 per cent of our mammals, and 45 per cent of our birds are endemic — that is, they are only found in Australia.

Why is biodiversity important?

Human beings depend for their sustenance, health, well-being and enjoyment of life on biodiversity. We derive all of our food and many medicines and industrial products from the wild and domesticated components of biological diversity. Biodiversity is the basis for much of our recreation and tourism, and includes the ecosystems which provide us with many services such as clean water.

How can I help protect biodiversity?

There are a number of ways individuals and communities can help protect biodiversity in their local area.

- *Create a natural habitat in your backyard.* Look at plants that are native to your region and help create a backyard sanctuary for local birds and wildlife.
- *Get rid of weeds.* What seems like a perfectly harmless plant can turn into a noxious weed if it jumps your back fence and heads into bushland.
- *Be a responsible pet owner.* If you can no longer keep your pet do not release it into the wild. This includes pet fish — do not flush them down the toilet or put them into local streams. Make sure your cat is de-sexed and either keep it indoors or invest in an outdoor cat run — domestic cats can have a devastating effect on local wildlife.
- *Reduce, reuse and recycle.* Look at ways to reduce the amount of rubbish that ends up in landfill and the waterways. Many things can now be recycled. For more information on what you can recycle in your local area go to [Recycling Near You](#) or [Waste and recycling](#)
- *Start your own compost bin.* Organic matter like vegetable peelings which usually ends up landfill is great for your garden. Start composting and you can reduce the need for chemicals and fertilizers in the garden and improve the health of your soil.
- *Only put water down the drains.* Things like oils and chemicals may start at the kitchen sink but end up in our waterways and seas and can affect animals and plants living in streams and rivers. Instead of using commercial cleaning chemicals try using white vinegar and bicarbonate of soda.
- *Be an informed seafood eater.* Don’t eat threatened fish species. To find out what species you should avoid at the fish market go to [Find a Fish — FishNames.com.au](#)
- *Understand what you can and can’t take with you when you travel.* Some tourist souvenirs and items you buy over the internet are made from or contain derivatives of plants and animals. If you are bringing plants or animals into or out of Australia, go to [information for travellers and online shoppers](#) beforehand.
- *When you’re sailing, don’t get too close to whales and dolphins.* Worldwide, whales, dolphins and porpoises face many threats, from being directly hunted to being caught in fishing nets. Ship strike, pollution, climate change, ocean noise, tourism, discarded fishing gear or other rubbish may also affect the population. They can also be loved to death by overenthusiastic whale watchers.

⁵ <https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-month>

Saturday 7th September is Threatened Species Day

National Threatened Species Day is commemorated across the country on 7 September to raise awareness of plants and animals at risk of extinction.⁶

Australia is home to more than 500,000 animal and plant species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. Over the last 200 years, more than 100 animal and plant species have become extinct.

In NSW alone there are close to 1000 animal and plant species at risk of extinction.

Threatened Species Day is when we turn the spotlight on native plants, animals, and ecosystems that are under threat and reflect on how we can protect them into the future.

The day also celebrates the amazing work that is being done to save them by passionate conservationists, researchers, volunteers, and community experts.

About Threatened Species Day

Threatened Species Day was declared in 1996 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of the last remaining Tasmanian tiger (also known as the thylacine) at Hobart Zoo in 1936.

Threatened Species Day is a time to reflect on what happened in the past and how similar fates to the thylacine could await other native plants and animals unless appropriate action is taken.

Why are threatened species important?

Saving threatened species is important for a healthy and diverse environment. Once plants and animals become extinct they are gone forever.

Today most species become threatened because of habitat destruction and the invasion of non-native species. With effective management almost all threatened species can be protected.

Why promote threatened species?

Helping people understand the problems that cause plants and animals to become extinct can help us to effectively manage threatened species in NSW. Being aware of how our actions can increase the risk of species loss and curbing these activities will support conservation efforts to prevent species becoming extinct in the wild.

We encourage everyone, whether you are a scientist, an artist, a business person, a sportsperson, an educator, work for local government or just love plants and animals, to do something to celebrate National Threatened Species Day and our unique threatened wildlife.



Sunday 15th September is Bushcare's Big Day Out

Held annually in spring, Bushcare's Big Day Out (BBDO) is a national day of community participation to restore remnant bushland. BBDO is a day designed to give every one of us the opportunity to find out more about our bushland. What is being done? What can be done in the bush where we live, so that it thrives?



⁶ <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/saving-our-species-news/threatened-species-day>

Monday 21 October to Sunday 27 October is National Bird Week

The celebration of National Bird Week has its origins back in the early 1900s when 28 October was first designated by our predecessor, the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, as the first ‘Bird Day’. BirdLife Australia organises and promotes Bird Week with the goal of inspiring Australians to take action and get involved in bird conservation efforts.



Aussie Backyard Bird Count⁷

BirdLife Australia brings you the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, one of Australia's biggest citizen science events!

Celebrate National Bird Week by taking part in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count — you will be joining thousands of people from across the country who will be heading out into their backyards, local parks or favourite outdoor spaces to take part.

To get involved all you need is 20 minutes, your favourite outdoor space (this doesn’t have to be your actual backyard), and some keen eyesight. And it doesn’t matter if you’re a novice or an expert — we will be there to help you out. Simply record the birds you know and look up those you don’t on our ‘Aussie Bird Count’ app or our [website](#). You’ll instantly see live statistics and information on how many people are taking part near you and the number of birds and species counted in your neighbourhood and the whole of Australia!

Not only will you get to know your feathered neighbours, but you’ll be contributing to a vital pool of information from across the nation that will help us see how Australian birds are faring.

So get your friends and family together during National Bird Week, head into the great outdoors and start counting!

Sunday 10th to Sunday 17th November is Australian Pollinator Week

What is pollination?⁸

Unlike animals, plants can’t move around in search of a mate, to reproduce. Therefore, plants need pollinators to transfer the male sex cells (pollen) to the female reproductive parts of flowers. This is called pollination, which leads to fertilisation. Good fertilisation helps plants develop seeds and fruit. The seeds and fruits that feed the countless animals in the world, including us.

Pollinators drive biodiversity, and over 75% of the world’s flowering plants rely on insect pollinators to reproduce. Pollinators provide these important ecosystem services in the natural landscapes as well as within agricultural/horticultural and urban environments. The world is suffering from major pollinator declines, but through education and events such as Pollinator Week we can bring these usually-unnoticed insects to the forefront of peoples’ thoughts, with the goal of supporting and protecting their populations.

Why is Australian Pollinator Week important?

Communities in the northern hemisphere have been celebrating the importance of pollinators since June 2007, however, the seasonal differences in the south has restricted bilateral celebrations.



⁷ <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

⁸ <https://beesbusiness.com.au/pollweekmain.html>

Australian Pollinator Week acknowledges our important and unique insect pollinators during our southern spring (November). It is a designated week when community, business and organisations can come together to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and support their needs.

Through group activities, community members can learn and laugh together as they help to support our pollinators. By engaging communities in schools, gardening clubs, community gardens, local council areas, Landcare groups and neighbourhoods we can increase awareness and act on our increased knowledge.

Pollinator Week activities may include:

- Creating a pollinator habitat garden
- Making insect hotels
- Creating environmental art pieces to educate about pollinators
- Conduct children's educational activities
- Conduct 'catch a bug' sessions to help identify and better understand insects
- Conduct a 'wild pollinator count' <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/>

Australian Pollinator Week website

With the support of the [Wheen Bee Foundation](#), a nationally and internationally recognised charity for bees and food security, resources are being allocated to allow Australian Pollinator Week to expand its reach and impact. This brings a new, independent, professional website for Australian Pollinator Week which can be found at www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au.

The new website will go 'live' in early to mid-September.



Spring Program of Activities September – November 2019

The Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park welcome visitors to any of our activities, but it is best to contact us beforehand to confirm details. For enquiries or information see contact details at the end of this program or on our website www.friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au.

NOTE: Activities in the park and social events in the Adelaide Hills will be cancelled if a fire ban or severe weather warning/thunderstorms are announced for the Mount Lofty Ranges. Bird banding will also be cancelled in conditions that may adversely affect the birds. See links to BOM & CFS websites next page.

Working bees: during spring meet at 9.00am at Almanda Mine Car Park, Dorset Vale Road

This enables everyone to sign in and be brought up-to-date with last minute changes. BYO morning tea and a small back pack to carry it, in case we are working further from the cars.

There are also some regular mid-week bush gardening activities at Almanda Creek and bird banding in a couple of special project sites in the park, contact our Administration Assistant for details.

Month	Date	Activity	Location
SEPTEMBER			
Saturday, Sunday	31, 1	Bird banding	Gate 7 upper Bushrat Creek, 7.30am
Tuesday	3	Working bee	Gate 18 Areas 30 & 27 south of Almanda Track
Sunday	8	Working bee	Gate 9 Area 11 central area north of Gracilis Creek
Tuesday	17	General meeting All Welcome!	5.00pm until 6.00pm at the Butler's residence, 5 Trevelyan Court, Coromandel Valley – <i>come along at 4.45pm for a cuppa and a chat before the meeting.</i> Brought forward three weeks to finish planning open day
Saturday, Sunday	21, 22	Bird banding	Gate 11 Pennant Ridge, 7.00am
Tuesday	24	Social Lunch All welcome!	Fred's – Aldgate at noon (220 Mt Barker Rd)
Saturday	28	Working bee	Almanda Creek and Valley preparation for open day
OCTOBER			
Tuesday	1	Working bee	Gate 3 Areas 7 & 8 Kangaroo Gully turn-off Broom patch
Saturday, Sunday	5, 6	Bird banding	Gate 16 Mineshaft Track, 6.30am
Sunday	13	Almanda Open Day	Open day and guided walks at Almanda Creek and Almanda Valley – 10am to 3pm
Saturday, Sunday	19, 20	Bird banding	Gate 4 end Gurr Road, 6.30am
Wednesday	23	Social Lunch All welcome!	Joan's Pantry – Hawthorndene at noon (Watahuna Ave opposite the oval)
Saturday	26	Working bee	Gate 11 Area 17 upper Mackereth Creek finish Pink Erica
Sunday	27	Social outing All welcome!	SA Museum: Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of 2019 exhibition, meet 10.30am in its coffee shop
NOVEMBER			
Saturday, Sunday	2, 3	Bird banding	Gate 20 Frith Road opposite Thorley Road, 6.30am
Tuesday	5	Working bee	Gate 20 Area 32 Panhandle upper creeklines area
Sunday	10	Working bee	Gate 16 Area 22 south-east corner above Mackereth Cottage
Saturday, Sunday	16, 17	Bird banding	Gate 21 Thorley Road Derwentia Valley, 6.30am
Tuesday	12	FoSCCP AGM All welcome!	Cherry Gardens CFS, 294 Cherry Gardens Rd, 7.30pm – followed by a presentation by Peter Hunt – <i>Would you recognise a native South Australian land snail if you saw one? See page 2 for more information</i>
Thursday	21	Social Lunch All welcome!	Blackwood Golf Club – Cherry Gardens at noon (611 Cherry Gardens Road upstairs on 1st floor)
Saturday	23	Working bee	Gate 13 Areas 17 & 18 Twisted Chimney bulbs
Saturday, Sunday	30, 1	Bird banding	Scott Creek, Mackereth Cottage car park, 6.00am

BOM website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/dorset-vale>

CFS website: https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans_and_ratings

Office bearers: Any queries on Friends activities, please contact your office bearers, general queries to info@friendsofscottcreekcp.org.au

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Working Bees: Peter Watton (contact details above), Jenny Dawes (contact details above), Glenn Giles (M) 0413 615 514, Email: gilesgd81@gmail.com & John Wamsley - *Almanda Creek mid-week activities* - (M) 0407 716 074, Email: john@johnwamsley.com

