

**Scientific Officer's
Report:** On and off
park management
for conservation

NCSSA Annual Report

Grassy Woodlands
network update

NCS End of year
gathering

NCSSA major concerns include

- Native vegetation, threatened species and habitats
- Protecting all forms of life (biodiversity) on land and in the oceans
- Park dedication, management and legislation
- Education about biodiversity to all sections of the community
- Cooperation with other conservation groups

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Around NCSSA

New Management Committee

A new Management Committee was elected at our recent Annual General Meeting. As a result we welcome four new members to the committee — Michelle Denny, Spencer Burgstad, Caroline Wilson and Rick Davies. We look forward to working with them over the next year.

We also farewell two committee members who did not renominate this year— many thanks to Fraser Vickery and Phil McNamara for their past efforts. Especial appreciation is due to Phil who has worked on our committee for 6 years, 4 as one of our Executive. Phil has been an enormous asset to NCSSA, putting in much work and many long hours as Honorary Secretary and as Management Committee representative on numerous project steering committees. It has been a privilege to work with Phil and we feel very grateful for the valuable contributions he has made to the Society over the years.

Spring Survey at Mt Bold Reservoir

The field work component of this years biological survey has been completed, with the report expected to be completed by March 2006.

Bushland Condition Monitoring Program

The training program for the Bushland Condition Monitoring Manual has been busy over the spring months, with workshops held at numerous locations across the Mount Lofty Ranges and Murray Darling Basin. To help cope with demand, Geoffrey Bishop is providing assistance with the field based training, and Sue Graham assisting in the co-ordination of these training events.

For enquiries about upcoming training events, contact Janet at training@ncssa.asn.au.

The preparation of region based versions of the Bushland Condition Monitoring Manual is continuing. A Mount Lofty Ranges coastal version of the Monitoring Manual is in the final stages of drafting, and workshops will be held in December and through the first half of next year to train coastal workers in its use. Drafting and editing of both the Murray Darling Basin and Northern and Yorke Agricultural Districts versions of the Monitoring Manual is on track, with both expected to be printed by mid 2006. The original print of 200 copies of the Bushland Condition Monitoring Manual for the Mount Lofty Ranges has sold out, and a new print will be available by the time Xanthopus goes to press (available at \$66/copy inc. GST from the NCSSA offices).

For a full review of the Bushland Condition Monitoring Project, see the winter edition of Xanthopus, or for further information, contact Tim Milne at bushcare@ncssa.asn.au.

Bird Survey Project

We have recently taken on the management of the above project, which has been running since 1999. The project involves systematic monitoring of woodland birds in the Mount Lofty Ranges and has been conducted by The University of Adelaide and The University of Queensland with the support of various funding sources. The project uses bird-monitoring experts in a survey of sites that have been selected over the past 5 years. These sites are re-surveyed annually to look for trends in the distribution and abundance of birds in response to a changing environment and broadscale ecosystem management. Tina Bentz has been appointed as this year's survey coordinator to ensure that the surveys are quality controlled and quality assured.

NCSSA people

Management Committee

President Helen Vonow
Vice-President Misch Benito
Secretary Katie Fels
Assistant Secretary Peter Tucker
Treasurer Richard Winkler

General committee

Allan McIlwee, Michelle Denny,
Spencer Burgstad, Caroline
Wilson, Rick Davies, David
Moyle (co-opted)

Staff

Scientific Officer Nicole Lewis
Administrative Manager Elizabeth Lonie
Biodiversity Extension Manager Tim Milne
Temperate Woodland Campaigner Penny Paton
Stop Bushland Weeds/Mokota Project Officer Meg Robertson
Eastern Flanks Grassy Ecosystems Officer vacant
Threatened Plant Action Group Coordinator Tim Jury
Biodiversity Extension Officer Sue Graham
Bushland Condition Monitoring Project Officer Sonia Croft
Bushland Condition Monitoring Manual Trainer Janet Pedler
MLR Woodland Bird Survey Coordinator Tina Bentz

Walks with Nature draws to a close for 2005

The final Walks with Nature session for 2005 was held on 16th October at Deep Creek, in some of the best sunny weather we've seen all season! Run also as part of the Great Australian Bushwalk, and sponsored this year by Paddy Pallins, two fabulous walks were offered to suit a range of hiking abilities. Tina Bentz and Janet Newell organised the day, with over 120 people registering for the Aaron Creek Circuit Hike, or the Aaron Creek Hilltop to Coast Hike.

With the 2005 Walks season now at an end, I must thank many volunteers who make this program possible. The people that help out as either walk organisers or leaders are invaluable, donating their time to bring you guided walks full of interesting information. Of course we always welcome new members who are keen to take on either of these roles, so give me a call or send me an email! As both a regular leader and walks coordinator, I find these roles both rewarding in the people that I meet every session, and in the facts that people share with me at each walk. Let's just say that my knowledge of common plant names is improving with every walk!



The 2006 Walks with Nature season is due to kick off again in June next year, so keep your eyes glued to our website (www.ncssa.asn.au) or the Sunday Mail for further details. I would welcome suggestions for location of walks in the 2006 season, so please feel free to email ideas directly to me (katie.fels@earthtech.com.au). Thanks for your participation and on-going support of the program, and see you next year!



Katie Fels
Walks Coordinator
Sunday Mail Walks with Nature

NCSSA February GENERAL MEETING Thursday 2nd Feb 2006, 7pm

Speaker: Sharn Lucas, Project Officer - Biodiversity Corridors, ForestrySA

“Different shades of green: Biodiversity corridors in a plantation matrix?”

Website: <http://www.forestry.sa.gov.au/corridors.stm>

UPCOMING FREE WORKSHOP:

Going Batty on the Murray



The Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (NCSSA), with support from the Murray Darling Basin NRM Committee, is presenting some free workshops throughout the Murray Darling Basin to introduce you to a little known member of our wildlife, the bats!

Many people may not realise the variety and abundance of bats that are found in the Murray region as obviously they are most active at night and the majority of them make sounds that are beyond the hearing of the human ear.

Our presenter for the workshop, Stan Flavel from the University of Adelaide, has had a fascination with bats that spans many years and loves to share his knowledge and enthusiasm for these wonderful little mammals. Of all the previous workshops we have held, the bats workshop has proved to be the most popular. The presentations are family friendly and people of all ages gain valuable new information about bats and discover ways that they can become involved in managing and conserving their natural environments. The workshops start with an indoor presentation followed by a trip out to discover if any bats have been captured in Stan's "harp" trap and listen for bats flying above our heads with the "Anabat".

Workshops have so far been held in Strathalbyn, Murray Bridge and Mannum with the final workshop to be held from 7pm to 10pm on **Saturday, 3rd December** at the Waikerie Recreation Centre, Lawrie Tce, Waikerie

For further information and bookings please contact Sue at the NCSSA on 8223 6301 or email workshops@ncssa.asn.au

HANDS ON ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS

get a grip

Coming Up:



End of Year Celebration

Our annual end of year celebration will be held at 5.30pm on **Friday 2nd December 2005** at the Botanic Park, opposite the Conservatory Gate. ALL WELCOME! Including children and inner children...!

~ party games including the INAUGURAL NCSSA
SCAVENGER HUNT this year

Krefft's Tiger Snake Surveys

The Krefft's Tiger Snake is a distinct dwarf form of Tiger Snake found in the wetter part of the Southern Flinders Ranges. It is unique for a tiger snake to occur in such a dry environment. This species is currently listed as Vulnerable in the Mid North Region and on Commonwealth legislation (EPBC Act), and due to the lack of information about this species surveys are being conducted in 2005. The next survey is on Sat 26- Mon 28th November, with opportunity for later dates depending on interest. Contact Julie Schofield, Threatened Fauna Ecologist Northern and Yorke Region, SA Department for Environment and Heritage on 8841 3403 or Mob: 042 810 4256. schofield.julie@saugov.sa.gov.au.

Hallett Cove Conservation Park and Yankalilla

Peter Matejcic will be organizing a low key survey of the reptiles of Hallett Cove Conservation Park. Evening of Fri 9th and days of Sat 10th & Sun 11th December, with additional odd visits.

He will be organising a similar survey Fri 2nd & Sat 3rd December at Yankalilla. All welcome.

Contact Peter Matejcic: Mob: 0444292311, Hm 82589875 OR Wk: 82649588 (To leave a message).

Searches for new populations of the endangered Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard

The Biodiversity and Endangered Species Team (BEST) group has been awarded a grant to carry out searches for new populations of this iconic Mid-North (near Burra) species near known PBT populations. This involves "filling in gaps" and "range extension" searches, hopefully increasing the total known population size and the genetic diversity of the species.

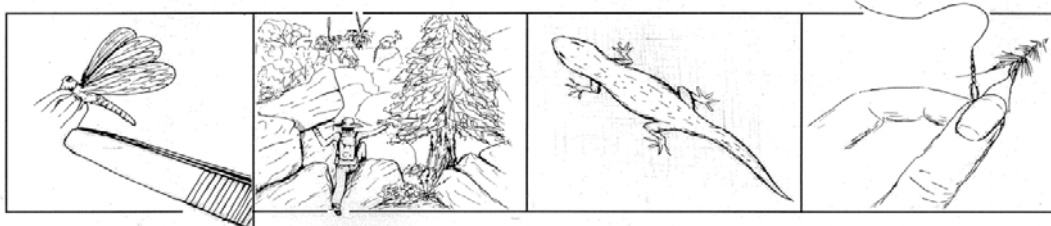
There will be weekend trips, arriving Saturday morning and returning to Adelaide Sunday afternoon, in March and April 2006. Contact Annika Everaardt, Threatened Species Community Liaison Officer Northern and Yorke Region, Department for Environment and Heritage.

Ph: (08) 8841 3402 Mob: 0428 104 261 F: (08) 8841 3411 Email everaardt.annika@saugov.sa.gov.au

Eyre Peninsula Biodiversity

Visit Eyre Peninsula and assist in an ongoing research project addressing the management of mallee biodiversity and the role of fire in the mallee ecosystem of the Conservation Parks. Volunteer for 10 day field surveys running pitfall traps to catch the local inhabitants including amazing creatures such as the Thorny Devil, Bearded Dragon, Knob-tailed Gecko, Dunnart and the odd Hopping Mouse. The work involves walking through mallee, off tracks and several kilometres will be traversed each day in the heat. There will be a 'base' house and overnight camping excursions to the more distant collection sites, so BYO camping gear. All food, transport and accommodation costs will be covered by project funds, in return for your dedicated and professional input.

Dates: Thurs 8th to Sat 17th December; Sat 28th Jan to Mon 6th Feb. Expressions of interest are sought for a trip in early Jan ~ 4-13. For further information contact Dr Don Driscoll: Ph (08) 8201 2165, Email don.driscoll@flinders.edu.au, Coordinator Post Graduate Biodiversity Courses, School of Biological Sciences, Flinders University, or Email Ian Sellar on ian.sellar@flinders.edu.au



Scientific Officer's Report:

On and off park management for conservation

A win-win situation: the Gum Lagoon Conservation Park-Duck Island Cooperative Environmental Management Agreement (CEMA)

On the 2nd of November I made a 600 km plus round trip in order to witness the signing of the *Gum Lagoon Conservation Park-Duck Island Cooperative Environmental Management Agreement (CEMA)* at Duck Island homestead. The recently released *Gum Lagoon Conservation Park Management Plan (2005)* is driving the agreement. With such a hopeful start I thought it timely to take a closer look at some of the key issues.

Background

Gum Lagoon Conservation Park (8,765 ha) is 40 km south-west of Keith in the Upper South East (USE) of South Australia. Duck Island (a 3,661 ha pastoral property owned and managed by Duck Island Partners, of which 2,196 ha is native vegetation) is central to and encircled by Gum Lagoon Conservation Park.

The Park is listed on the Commonwealth Government Register of the National Estate as representative of the vegetation that once covered much of the northern stranded dune/swale terrain of the USE of SA (mallee scrub and *Banksia* heath).

The Naen Naen Swamp area of the Park is jointly proclaimed (i.e. mining access is allowed) under the provisions of Section 43 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

The keynote speaker was Dr Denis Saunders, former CSIRO Chief Scientist, Wildlife and Ecology (also co-author and editor of the 'Nature Conservation' series). This was followed by the formal signing by Alan Holmes (for the Minister for Environment) and Duck Island Partners, James Darling and Lesley Forwood. The Agreement itself has been touted by both Departmental media releases and independent conservation advocates alike as an historic occasion for park management in South Australia - an example of the 'NatureLinks' principles in action.

In his *Foreword* to the *Gum Lagoon Conservation Park Management Plan (2005)*, Minister Hill recognises that "... there can be significant benefits from cooperation and the coordination of management between the park and privately-owned adjoining land... [for example] fencing, fire management, feral animal control, pest plant control and wetland management across common boundaries. The contribution of Mr James Darling, Duck Island Partners, in developing a model for formal cooperation between public and private land managers is acknowledged. This ground-breaking model can be used more widely where significant biodiversity assets [on privately-owned land] adjoin parks."

Davies (2000) identified some of the main threats to the native flora and fauna found in the Park as:

- Both deep and shallow drains adjacent and in the general vicinity of the Park, which may have significantly altered the Park's hydrology ~ built by private landholders since the 1950's, and since the early 1990's, as part of the Upper South East Dryland Salinity and Flood Management Program (USE Program)

Significant flora and fauna of Gum Lagoon Conservation Park:

- Of 375 indigenous plant species recorded in the Park over 1995-1996:
 - four are nationally threatened or rare ~ metallic sun-orchid, large-fruit groundsel, Eichler's raspwort and Wimmera mallee.
 - 42 are threatened, rare or uncommon in SA, and more than 20 other species are threatened, rare or uncommon in the SE.
- Of the 12 native mammal species found in the Park, three (Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Red-necked Wallaby and Common Wombat) are rare in SA and one (Little Pygmy Possum) is rare in the SE.
- Of 19 reptile species, one lizard (Rosenberg's Goanna) is considered rare in SA, and threatened in the SE, and another (Mitchell's Short-tailed Snake) is considered rare in the SE.
- Of 141 native bird species recorded in the Park, three (Malleefowl, Slender-billed Thornbill and Freckled Duck) are listed as nationally threatened or rare, 13 threatened or rare in SA, and 31 threatened, rare or uncommon in the SE.

from Davies 2000.

- Weeds including perennial veldt grass and bridal creeper.
- Lack of a mosaic of successional states in the landscape, and hence recruitment opportunities for plant species that require fire or other disturbance and/or open canopies.
- Feral animals, in particular rabbits, foxes, goats and deer.

Of course, these are issues that are common to most areas of remnant native vegetation in the upper, lower and coastal South East of SA.

One of the primary aims of the *Plan* is to ensure the long-term health and viability of watercourse and wetland habitat found in Gum Lagoon Conservation Park and on Duck Island.

Water

The 'NatureLinks' programme

(the South Australian Government's adaptation of The Wilderness Society's *WildCountry* philosophy). The principles of 'NatureLinks':

- Biodiversity conservation activities should be planned at a landscape scale ~ landscape connectivity is critical.
- Habitat restoration should be undertaken at large spatial scales ~ in order to maximize habitat and connectivity within the landscape.
- Species in fragmented landscapes should be managed as 'metapopulations' (populations linked by the exchange of individuals) ~ resist local extinction due to inbreeding or chance events, such as floods or fire.
- An 'ecological community' (a characteristic group of interacting species that are adapted to particular conditions of soil, topography, water availability and climate) approach to biodiversity conservation should be encouraged ~ targeting ecological communities may yield broad ecological benefits and provide good value for money.
- Ecological restoration should be planned over long time scales ~ ecological objectives may take many decades to achieve.
- Biodiversity conservation activities should be underpinned by sound ecological knowledge ~ an understanding of the ecological systems being managed or restored

The *Plan* makes some very bold statements in regards to water management, for example that "Regionally vulnerable aquatic herblands in Naen Naen Swamp will be protected. The natural regime of infrequent flooding will be restored to the Gum Lagoons in the western section of the park, to the benefit of the wetland community of Red Gums and wildlife. The design and maintenance of an environmentally appropriate hydrological system will be crucial to the sustainability and health of important watercourse habitat, wetland ecosystems and compatible pastoral activities in the Gum Lagoon area." and points out that "Before water was diverted in

the 1950's these lagoons were historically inundated for long periods (2-5 years) with intervening dry periods."

The *Plan* further seeks to "reinstatate inundation of Gum Lagoon by negotiation with relevant landowners", and "implement and maintain an appropriate strategy for surface water management". I look forward to seeing whether, and how, this aim will be achieved, given that "Any drain construction in the park should be preceded by agreements between neighbouring landholders and the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board (SEWCDB) after information and consultation concerning

Scientific Officer's Report

proposed drainage routes, drain depths, estimated flows, and options for drain design, as well as future access and maintenance provisions."

Rather than participate in the general push for radical flood mitigation works in the USE, "Duck Island uses a system of banks and irrigation gates to maintain an environmentally compatible hydrological regime." Perhaps Duck Island Partners would therefore agree that there should be no new drains constructed in the Park for the purposes of the USE Programme. Only drains that will directly restore historical environmental flows to the wetland areas of the Park should be considered.

It is recognised that already "... alterations to historical surface water flow paths have occurred as part of the USE Plan. The recently completed shallow Bunbury Drain captures some of the westward run-off from the Black Range and the proposed Rosemary Down Drain will disrupt north-westward flow into the "Duck Island" area. To mitigate these impacts, wetland off-take drains will divert water from the Bunbury Drain and Rosemary Down Drain to Duck Island."

The *Plan* therefore seeks to:

- promote a surface water regime that would re-instate infrequent flooding of the Gum Lagoon wetland complex with acceptable quality water from the Marcollat / Didicoolum Watercourses of the Central Catchment (considered a "moderate" priority).
- support the management of a minimum impact flood-in / flood-out surface water drainage scheme for the Northern Catchment of the USE (high priority).
- ensure Government and the administrators of the USE Plan understand the hydrological principles in place for Gum Lagoon Conservation Park and adjoining Duck Island area (high priority).
- remove inappropriate levee banks in Naen Naen Swamp, the eastern portion of Gum Lagoon Conservation Park, and Duck Island (moderate priority).

Native fauna and flora

Again, Gum Lagoon Conservation Park and its *Management Plan* are charged with some ambitious undertakings in the areas of native fauna and flora "A number of rare and threatened plant communities and flora and fauna species will be protected including the nationally endangered Metallic Sun-orchid and the vulnerable Malleefowl. The protected and undisturbed habitat of the park, with linking corridors to other remnant vegetation blocks, will make the Gum Lagoon area a stronghold for the long-term viability of native flora and fauna species."

Fencing and feral animal control

Cooperative works are already underway including "A section of the park boundary is bordered by Duck Island's 'high fence', being constructed to define its agricultural zone from its conservation zone. ... along ecologically practical alignments rather than cadastral boundaries."

Insufficient emphasis, however, is placed on the potential adverse impacts of feral deer and goats on native flora as identified in Davies (2000).

Fire management

"...firebreaks, within the park and surrounding area will be determined on the best options for protection of built assets and significant habitats rather than simply maintaining fire breaks and tracks along cadastral boundaries."

Gum Lagoon-Duck Island CEMA

CEMA benefits include:

- Areas of native vegetation managed on ecological rather than cadastral boundaries ~ landscape-scale management is thought to increase the chances of maintaining healthy, productive and viable ecosystems.
- Increased effectiveness and cost-efficiency of threat abatement programmes, eg fencing, fire protection, pest plant and animal control ~ pooled resources can be directed to agreed priorities.
- Parties meet at least annually with ongoing consultation ~ parties benefit from the knowledge and experience of each other.

The Gum Lagoon-Duck Island CEMA also provides for "any other activity, occurrence or condition agreed to by the parties that affects either the Park or Duck Island that will or may have a significant impact on the ecology, biodiversity, productive use or management of the other."

It is encouraging to see that DEH have taken on board recommendations from Davies (2000) – almost verbatim – in relation to fire management (all listed as high priority):

- Explore then implement (if scientifically sound) a limited and strategic program of prescribed burning to preserve and enhance habitat diversity and ecological integrity.
- Monitor areas subject to prescribed burning to determine flora and fauna responses, particularly of threatened species.
- Amend the fire management plan to provide for the protection of *Senecio macrocarpus* on the southern firebreak.

Summary

As a result of this landmark initiative on the part of Duck Island Partners and DEH, the area of native vegetation being managed in a consistent manner has been effectively increased by 25%. In the total area (~12,000 ha), the ratio of native vegetation to pasture is around 2.4:1. But there are limitations.

In accordance with the SA *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, "the provisions of this management plan must be carried out and no actions undertaken unless they are in accordance with this plan. In order to achieve this, each year park managers, taking regional and district priorities into account, draw up work programs to implement some of the strategies proposed in management plans. Implementation of these projects is determined by, and subject to, the **availability of resources** (eg staffing and funding)." The *Plan* seeks to "investigate cooperative management arrangements with other landholders". Unfortunately, other landowners in the region may not be prepared to play quite so nicely. While the initiative's vision is for cooperation between all adjoining landholders, it may be that this excellent initiative will have limited success on the ground.

Personally, I would like to think that the CEMA concept could be successfully translated in other areas of South Australia. However, it must be observed that Duck Island's is a relatively unique situation (central to and encircled by the Park) that lends itself very easily - one could almost say necessarily - to this type of cooperative management arrangement.

References and further reading:

1. Croft, T., Carruthers, S., Possingham, H., Inns, B. (1999) *Biodiversity Plan for the South East of South Australia*. Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, Adelaide, South Australia.
2. Davies, R. J.-P. (2000) *Flora and Fauna Survey of Gum Lagoon Conservation Park 1995-1996, and Implications for Park Management*. Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, Inc.
3. Department for Environment and Heritage (2005) *Gum Lagoon Conservation Park Management Plan*, Adelaide, South Australia.
4. Saunders, D. A. et al. (Eds) (1987) *Nature Conservation 1. The Role of Remnants of Native Vegetation*. Surrey Beatty and Sons. and Saunders, D. A. and Hobbs, R. J. (Eds) (1991) *Nature Conservation 2: The Role of Corridors*. Surrey Beatty and Sons.

Nicole Lewis

Scientific Officer scientific@ncssa.asn.au

Annual Report 2004 - 2005

The Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc. (NCSSA) is a not-for-profit voluntary conservation organisation. It works to retain, protect and manage nature conservation (biodiversity), particularly in South Australia. The Society achieves its aims by fostering the retention of remnant and rare habitats and species, and the ecologically sustainable management of all natural habitats. It has been a significant part of the conservation effort in South Australia for over forty years.

The bases for our work are scientific concepts, principles and research. To achieve our goals for biodiversity, the NCSSA works to provide input into research; scientific work; communication and education; cooperative biodiversity management planning and implementation; the State's conservation reserve system; government policies, programs and legislation and their implementation.

Highlights of this year have been:

Publishing and launching the *Bushland Condition Monitoring Manual: Southern Mount Lofty Ranges*. This is part of our ongoing extension work to build both community understanding of, and capacity to monitor, native vegetation. This tool is built on the three pillars of: a robust and widely applicable technique to detect and understand change; identified vegetation community benchmarks which allow sensible comparison of results (i.e. to compare apples with apples, not apples with oranges), and extensive training in use and interpretation of monitoring results. I encourage members interested in using the manual to take up training opportunities which will be available in near future.

The NCSSA Conservation Biology Grant this year provided funding towards three student projects, assisting with additional field research. This program also benefits the Society, providing general meeting speakers and articles about the completed research to be published in *Xanthopus* for 2005/06. This program will continue to be funded next year from member donations.

Continued success in achieving competitive grants for a wide range of NCSSA programs and projects. The establishment of the *Mount Lofty Ranges Grassy Woodland Network* which aims to increase the technical capacity of groups working in grassy woodlands in the MLR and provides a forum for exchange of ideas.

Hosting the Threatened Plant Action Group (TPAG) program coordinator. Although this position has been with us for just over a year TPAG has been in existence for much longer and this year celebrated ten years of grassy woodland restoration at Millbrook Reservoir.

Continuing strong input into government policies, procedures and legislative changes, particularly Natural Resource Management proposals.

Hard-working and loyal staff, volunteers, and committee members.

Summary

The past year has been a year of both innovation and consolidation for the Society. We continue to be a major contributor towards the protection of biodiversity in South Australia.

Helen Vonow
President, Nature Conservation Society of SA

August 2005



A. NATURE CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

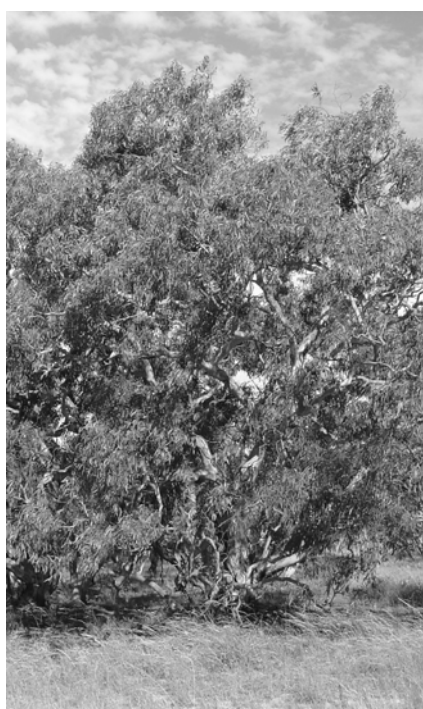
Nature Conservation advocacy

The work of the NCSSA Scientific Officer augments the work of the NCSSA Committee in our biodiversity advocacy role. The Scientific Officer has the essential role of the longer-term follow-up advocacy, education, and input into submissions and legislative reviews based on the work of the more specific grant projects and Committee expertise. This may involve writing reports and making submissions on environmental issues, or briefing the Committee, with further action taken by one of its members. The position provides an important point of contact for the general public, community groups, non-government organisations (NGOs) and government officers.

Major initiatives for the Scientific Officer and the Committee have been in the areas of Threats to biodiversity; On Park biodiversity conservation; Integrated Natural Resource Management; and Community education.

Threats to biodiversity

The ongoing issues of vegetation clearance and destruction of habitat continue to be a major part of the work of the Scientific Officer ~



ranging from the small scale to large ~ proposed subdivision of properties (Glossy Black-Cockatoo habitat on Kangaroo Island, properties with remnant vegetation in the Mount Lofty Ranges), illegal clearance, extension to mining operations (One Steel Development in the southern Middleback Ranges) and drains in the Upper South East. The effect of activities in or adjacent to native habitat is also an ongoing issue eg. windfarms and their associated transmission lines.

An important area of threat is invasive species and we continued to advocate on the appropriate management of feral Koala populations, the stocking of trout in waterways and have made a presentation and submission to the Senate Inquiry into Invasive Species.

On Park biodiversity conservation

Our Society responds specifically to plans and proposals put forward by government conservation agencies ~ including commenting on draft management plans and fire management plans; a translocation proposal (Tamar Wallaby); the Encounter Marine Protected Area; and guidelines on Personal Water Craft in Coorong National Park.

The Scientific Officer also assisted the local community with a proposal for Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park to be listed on the register of the National Estate.

Scientific endeavours and good quality information

Biodiversity Survey

Our spring survey took us to the Clayton – Milang area of the southern Fleurieu to study Pink Gum woodlands which are considered a threatened vegetation association due to the poor health of the gums.

Pink Gum *Eucalyptus fasciculosa* woodland in good condition

Integrated Natural Resource Management

A significant issue this year was the disposal of Crown Lands, both in terms of policy development and specific instances at Tintinara and the Monarto area.

Comments were provided to Amendments to Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act, and the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement.

Matt, our immediate past Scientific Officer, played an important role in the Biodiversity Act Working Group (CCSA) which proposes overarching legislation to protect biodiversity in response to the Natural Resource Management legislation.

Tim Milne, our biodiversity extension officer, has represented the Society and provided advice to regional Natural Resource Management Boards through biodiversity planning groups in both the Murray Darling Basin and Northern and Yorke Agricultural Districts.



Matt Turner ~ former Scientific Officer

The survey examined vegetation, birds and bushland condition, as these remnants provide important habitat for many of the declining bird species in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

A draft property report has been provided to landholders and the complete regional report is in press.

Biodiversity Extension Program

This year has been an exciting and busy time for the Biodiversity Extension Program. One of the key outcomes has been the publication of the *Bushland Condition Monitoring Manual: Southern Mount Lofty Ranges*, by Sonia Croft, Janet Pedler and Tim Milne. It was officially launched at Belair National Park on July 1st by the Honourable Robert Such, Speaker of the Lower House, South Australian Parliament. To date the first print run of 200 manuals has sold out, over 80 people have been trained in its use, and numerous collaborative projects with Natural Resource Management boards and other agencies are underway. New regionally relevant versions of the manual are being developed with the support of Natural Resource Management Boards in the Northern and Yorke Agricultural Districts and the Murray Darling Basin, and will be completed in the 2005-06 year.

We also secured funding to run 20 regional biodiversity workshops in two natural resource management regions – the Northern and Yorke Agricultural Districts and the Murray Darling Basin. Sue Graham was employed part-time to oversee delivery of these workshops.

Specific aims were to increase understanding and knowledge of regional biodiversity by landholders, as well as provide an insight into simple bush management principles. Over 300 people attended these workshops, and feedback from formal evaluation identified that the sessions were both informative and relevant and that the presenters were easy to understand, approachable and concise.

Grassy Ecosystems Extension

Jo Spencer our Mount Lofty Ranges Eastern Flanks Grassy Ecosystems Officer was funded for part of the year to provide technical support and advice to landholders and natural resource managers on the management of grassy ecosystems in the region. She produced Site Reports, Species Information Sheets and Grass ID Keyrings, and attended many field days highlighting the importance of conserving this habitat type.

Jo also worked extensively within the Monarto Crown Lands area and wrote proposals for protected areas at Frahn's Scrub and Rocky Gully.

Jo has now taken up another position and we will recruit a new project officer once further funding is confirmed.

Publications and community education

One of our most popular publications *Stop Bushland Weeds* has been revised and is nearing publication ~ with 20 species added to the range of weeds described. Meg Robertson and others have been working on this project for some time, and we hope to see the publication back in print in the next couple of months.

In addition to the *Bushland Condition Monitoring Manual* NCSSA retails the popular book titles *Pre European Vegetation of Adelaide* and *20 Walks with Nature in the Mt Lofty Ranges*. While these are our most sought-after publications we have steady sales of many of our other project and survey reports.

We published four editions of our newsletter *Xanthopus* and maintained the NCSSA website www.ncssa.asn.au in which member's events and the five *Walks with Nature* were advertised to the wider public.

Working with the community for on-ground outcomes

Temperate Woodlands

Penny Paton has continued working with SA Water and ForestrySA on management and restoration of a range of grassy woodland sites. Activities include weed control following vegetation action plans (both primary and secondary or follow-up weed control) and monitoring activities (vegetation quadrats, photopoints, 2 Bushland Condition Monitoring sites and assessment of eucalypt flowering at one site). In addition searching for colour-banded Brown Treecreepers at Happy Valley Reservoir continues - all four banded birds have been seen recently and we are hopeful that they will breed successfully again there.

A new initiative this year is the *Mt Lofty Ranges Grassy Woodland Network*. This evolved from a workshop attended by Penny in Canberra in 2000 on Conservation Management Networks. The idea crystallized with the recognition of the number of near

metropolitan groups working in grey box woodlands, perhaps not knowing that others were working next door on exactly the same issues. A successful Wildlife Conservation Grant in 2004 has allowed us to trial the concept in the Mt Lofty Ranges. As well as offering a way of getting to know others working in similar vegetation types, the Network aims to provide networkers with:

- newsletters (either by email or post)
- workshops on practical and theoretical issues
- opportunities to visit other sites with similar problems
- opportunities to gain insights into how different animals use grassy woodlands and what effects weeding may have on fauna

This group does not aim to replace invaluable groups like *Bush For Life* or *Friends of* groups, but rather to offer additional help if required.

Threatened Plant Action Group

Our society hosts Tim Jury, the Threatened Plant Action Group (TPAG) program coordinator in conjunction with TPAG and the Threatened Species Network (SA). During the financial year TPAG continued with recovery and management efforts for around 60 nationally and state threatened plant species and eight threatened ecological communities. Over 1600 hours were contributed by more than 50 volunteers at TPAG working bees. Volunteers implemented on-ground actions ranging through: weeding; surveys; tube-stock revegetation; fencing; and population monitoring. Effective working partnerships with government agencies and other community groups were strengthened and two grants were obtained to assist with undertaking on-ground work. These actions have resulted in significant improvements to the condition of critical habitats, thereby enhancing the viability of many threatened plant species throughout the state. TPAG look forward to continuing their work into the coming year.

The NATURE
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY
of SOUTH
AUSTRALIA Inc.

120 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

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B. OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Membership and Volunteers

NCSSA has a current membership of 300 members and welcomed 21 new members during the year.

The Society depends on a strong volunteer base with about 7000 hours of volunteer time dedicated to conservation of biodiversity in this State. This includes those who assist around the office and with projects; the dedicated management Committee; and steering committees to manage each of our funded projects and major activities.

The NCSSA is one of few voluntary organisations in the state with strong biodiversity credentials and great depth in understanding biodiversity issues both scientifically and in appropriate on-ground actions to achieve conservation outcomes. Most NCSSA committee members have at least one degree in the biological sciences and many have extensive field experience.

Committee members were Helen Vonow - President, Fraser Vickery - Vice President, Phil McNamara - Secretary, Richard Winkler - Treasurer, Nicole Lewis - Assistant Secretary, and committee members Misch Benito, Sara Boulton, Katie Fels (Rouse), Allan McIlwee, Jane Corin, Peter Tucker (co-opted), and David Moyle (co-opted). During the year, Jane Corin resigned from the committee when she was elected President of the Conservation Council of SA. Nicole Lewis resigned to take up the Scientific Officer position, and Sara Boulton resigned due to time constraints. Peter and David have filled these vacancies.

Administration and staff

At the Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, the Society and the Conservation Council of SA jointly own the land and building in the proportion of 30:70.



The society is well served by and appreciates the excellent work and commitment of its staff and project officers ~ all part-timers. This is possible due to our continued success in achieving competitive grants for a wide range of NCSSA programs and projects (see list of funding sources below). During this period staff included:

Our Administrative Manager Elizabeth Lonie looks after the office, manages our human resources and handles our finances using the MYOB accounting package. This position is partially funded by a Federal Government Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) grant.

Matt Turner resigned from the position of Scientific Officer after more than three years in a part-time capacity to take up further studies. Nicole Lewis has recently been appointed to fill this position.

The NCSSA acknowledges the support of the South Australian Government through the State Government Community Service Agreement Grants for funding this position.

The Biodiversity Extension Team of Tim Milne, Sue Graham, Sonia Croft and Janet Pedler, who liaised with regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups, organised biodiversity workshops and wrote and tested the Monitoring Manual [NYAD NRM, MDB NRM, TFL and DWLBC].

The NCSSA 2004 Spring survey team ~ survey coordinated by Caroline Wilson, written and edited by Annie Bond, Caroline Wilson and Serena Lattanzio. [BFB, GW LAP, and LOTR]

Tim Jury ~ TPAG program coordinator [MLRGA NRM] and on-ground works [TSN]

Jo Spencer ~ Eastern Flanks Grassy Ecosystems Officer [GW LAP, MDB NRM, MLRGA NRM]

Penny Paton ~ Conservation of Temperate Woodlands [ForestrySA, Env] and MLR Grassy Woodland Network [WCF].

Meg Robertson ~ new revised edition of Stop Bushland Weeds [NHT, NCSSA, Env, APCC]

Thanks to funding bodies:

Animal and Plant Control Commission [APCC]
Australian Government Envirofund [Env]
Birds for Biodiversity [BFB]
Dept for Environment and Heritage (SA) Wildlife Conservation Fund [WCF]
Dept of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation South East [DWLBC]
Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Group [GW LAP]
ForestrySA
Learning on the Run project [LOTR]
Mount Lofty Ranges Greater Adelaide NRM dev. NHT fund [MLRGA NRM]
Murray Darling Basin NRM devolved NHT fund [MDB NRM]
Northern & Yorke Agricultural Districts NRM dev. NHT fund [NYAD NRM]
The Natural Heritage Trust [NHT] Trees For Life [TFL]
Threatened Species Network Community Grants [TSN]

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF JUNE 2005**

Nature Conservation Society of SA

120 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Balance Sheet [Last Year Analysis]

June 2005

| | This Year | Last Year |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Current Assets | | |
| Operating Accounts and Cash | | |
| NCSSA BankSA ...840 | \$36,433 | \$9,055 |
| Bio Ext BankSA...540 | \$45 | \$817 |
| Petty Cash Society | \$200 | \$200 |
| Total Operating Accounts and Cash | <u>\$36,679</u> | <u>\$10,072</u> |
| Investments | | |
| Adelaide Bank T9 | \$83,490 | \$79,211 |
| Adelaide Bank T10 | \$131,263 | \$126,240 |
| BankSA Portfolio | \$12,753 | \$40,263 |
| Commonwealth Cash Man Trust | \$44,433 | \$32,514 |
| Commonwealth CommInvest | \$111,401 | \$109,980 |
| CommInvest Term Deposit 5071 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| Total Investments | <u>\$413,340</u> | <u>\$418,208</u> |
| Accounts Receivable | \$22,057 | \$34,469 |
| Book stock on hand Note 2 | \$26,077 | \$23,814 |
| Total Current Assets | <u>\$498,154</u> | <u>\$486,563</u> |
| Other Assets | | |
| Grants in arrears | \$0 | \$1,223 |
| Loans to associated groups Note 3 | \$80,000 | \$0 |
| Total Other Assets | <u>\$80,000</u> | <u>\$1,223</u> |
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Land (NCSSA 30% share) | \$82,500 | \$82,500 |
| Building (NCSSA 30% share) Note 4 | \$18,750 | \$18,750 |
| Acc'd Dep'n - Building | (\$2,308) | (\$1,839) |
| Furniture, Fittings & Equip | \$45,208 | \$36,351 |
| Acc'd Dep'n - Furn & Equip Note 5 | (\$35,036) | (\$31,178) |
| Total | <u>\$687,268</u> | <u>\$592,370</u> |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Credit Cards | | |
| Visa | \$90 | \$37 |
| Total Credit Cards | <u>\$90</u> | <u>\$37</u> |
| Accounts Payable | \$9,385 | \$2,756 |
| Payroll Liabilities | | |
| Annual Leave Liability | \$15,038 | \$6,842 |
| Long Service Leave Liability | \$11,099 | \$9,276 |
| PAYG Tax Liability | \$4,612 | \$0 |
| Superannuation Liability | (\$136) | \$0 |
| Workcover Liability | (\$79) | \$165 |
| OHS Liability | \$0 | \$1 |
| Total Payroll Liabilities | <u>\$30,534</u> | <u>\$16,284</u> |
| GST Liabilities | | |
| GST collected from sales | \$18,787 | \$3,267 |
| Less GST paid on purchases | (\$4,082) | \$95 |
| Total GST Liabilities | <u>\$14,705</u> | <u>\$3,362</u> |
| Grants in advance Note 6 | \$138,421 | \$99,091 |
| Payments in arrears | | |
| Total Current Liabilities | <u>\$193,135</u> | <u>\$121,530</u> |
| Long-Term Liabilities | | |
| Suspense Account | | |
| Total Long-Term Liabilities | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$0</u> |
| Total Liabilities | <u>\$193,135</u> | <u>\$121,530</u> |
| Net Assets | <u>\$494,133</u> | <u>\$470,840</u> |
| Accmltd. funds-Rtnd earnings | | |
| Acc Funds-Opening Bal | \$470,840 | \$617,513 |
| Current Year Surplus/(Deficit) | \$23,293 | (\$146,674) |
| Total Accmltd. funds-Rtnd earnings | <u>\$494,133</u> | <u>\$470,840</u> |

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2005

Note 1 - Statement of Accounting Policies

(a) Financial Report

These financial statements form a report which has been prepared specifically for distribution to members in accordance with the Constitution of the Society, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1985. The balance sheet has been prepared on an accruals basis, and disclosures therein are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values. The Committee of Management of the Society has determined that it is not a reporting entity and therefore that there is no requirement to apply Australian Accounting Standards or other mandatory professional reporting requirements in the preparation of the financial statements.

(b) Pecuniary Interests

The NCSSA committee is cognisant of the need to be transparent about all pecuniary interests of members of the committee and sub-committees.

There were no financial interactions between NCS committee members and the Society over the past financial year.

During the year no member was involved in discussions or voted where they had a real or potential pecuniary interest in the issue.

Note 2 - Stock

Represents valuation of Society publications. Current stock is, for recent publications, valued at the total of costs incurred in printing. \$3249 of slow-moving book stock (older project reports and publications) has been written off this year in order to more accurately reflect the real value of these assets.

Note 3 – Loans to associated groups

In June 2005 the Society loaned \$80000 to the Conservation Council of South Australia to assist with their operational activities. The loan is based on a principal and interest repayment over a period of five years, at a variable rate based on the Commonwealth 90 day deposit, and is secured by first mortgage over the 120 Wakefield Street, Adelaide property.

Note 4 - Valuation of land and building

The Conservation Council of South Australia (CCSA) and the NCSSA own the land and buildings at 120 Wakefield Street, Adelaide in the ratio 70:30 (CCSA:NCSSA).

| | |
|--|----------|
| Land and building at committee valuation 100% (CCSA & NCSSA) | \$337500 |
| Land at committee valuation 30% NCSSA | \$82500 |
| Building at committee valuation 30% NCSSA | \$18750 |
| Land and building at committee valuation 30% NCSSA | \$101250 |
| less Accumulated depreciation of building @ 2.5% per annum | \$2308 |

Thus final valuation of land and building asset as at 30th June 2005 = \$98,943

Note 5 - Depreciation – furniture and fittings

The carrying amounts of furniture & fittings and the Society's portion of ownership of its office building are reviewed annually and depreciated to reflect the writing off of these assets over their estimated useful life.

Note 6 - Grants in Advance

As at 30th June the NCSSA is liable to fulfil projects listed below as follows;

| Project | \$ | Project | \$ |
|---|------|--|-------|
| Invertebrate component of biodiversity survey of native grasslands at Mokota CP | 1115 | Northern Yorke Agricultural Districts Workshops Program | 6925 |
| Conservation Biology Grant (NCSSA sponsored) | 1475 | Mount Lofty Ranges TFL Workshops Program | 9206 |
| Eastern Flanks Grassy Ecosystems Project | 7252 | Stop Bushland Weeds Revised Edition | 22880 |
| Native Fish Survey (NCSSA sponsored) | 1500 | Murray Darling Basin Workshops program | 13452 |
| Network Grassy Ecosystems Project | 4053 | Northern Yorke Agricultural Districts Monitoring Project | 8113 |
| Threatened Plant Action Group Program Coordinator | 2391 | South East Monitoring Project | 21623 |
| Recovery Actions for Threatened Flora, YP | 8906 | Mount Lofty Ranges Monitoring Project | 3121 |
| Pink Gum Woodland Remnants Survey | 544 | Murray Darling Basin Monitoring Project | 18052 |
| Biodiversity Extension Program | 4940 | Sundry monitoring projects | 2874 |

Total grants in advance as at 30th June 2005 = \$138,42

Nature Conservation Society of SA

120 Wakefield Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2004 through June 2005

29/8/2005
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| | This Year | Last Year | \$ Difference |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Income | | | |
| Membership | \$7,345 | \$8,594 | (\$1,249) |
| Donations | \$3,027 | \$2,508 | \$519 |
| Grants | | | |
| Environment Australia | \$0 | \$14,364 | (\$14,364) |
| Environment Aust(GVEHO) | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$0 |
| DEH-Community Service Grant | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$0 |
| Projects | \$426,272 | \$71,173 | \$355,099 |
| Other grants | \$0 | \$64,098 | (\$64,098) |
| Society sponsorship | \$3,000 | \$7,677 | (\$4,677) |
| Insurance Recovery | \$0 | \$2,000 | (\$2,000) |
| Non Cash Flow Income | | | |
| Profit & Loss on sale of asset | \$0 | \$130 | (\$130) |
| Infrastructure income | \$61,612 | \$18,958 | \$42,655 |
| Project Recn Income | \$0 | \$4,934 | (\$4,934) |
| Sales | | | |
| Book Sales | \$8,109 | \$7,916 | \$193 |
| Book sales postage | \$102 | \$138 | (\$37) |
| Financial | | | |
| Interest cheque accounts | \$170 | \$186 | (\$17) |
| Interest investment accounts | \$20,572 | \$21,516 | (\$944) |
| Miscellaneous income | \$437 | \$20 | \$417 |
| Reimbursements | \$2,785 | \$0 | \$2,785 |
| Total Income | \$563,430 | \$254,212 | \$309,218 |
| Book Sales | | | |
| Freight | \$7 | \$17 | (\$10) |
| Cost of Sales Printing | \$3,613 | \$3,167 | \$447 |
| Book Sales losses | \$3,255 | \$0 | \$3,255 |
| Total Book Sales | \$6,875 | \$3,183 | \$3,691 |
| Gross Profit | \$556,555 | \$251,028 | \$305,527 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Employment Expenses | | | |
| Salaries and on-costs | | | |
| Staff Salary and Wages Expense | \$231,269 | \$155,503 | \$75,767 |
| Leave Provision Expense | \$10,019 | \$16,118 | (\$6,099) |
| Superannuation Expense | \$21,084 | \$13,995 | \$7,089 |
| Workcover Society Expense | \$3,092 | \$1,646 | \$1,446 |
| Workcover Bushcare Expense | \$1,706 | \$1,040 | \$665 |
| OHS Society Exp | \$21 | \$15 | \$5 |
| OHS Bushcare Expense | \$12 | \$8 | \$4 |
| Workcover GST Society | \$0 | \$10 | (\$10) |
| Employee expenses | | | |
| Travel nonpecuniary | \$20,921 | \$10,800 | \$10,121 |
| Conference/seminars | \$939 | \$0 | \$939 |
| other Professional Development | \$876 | \$140 | \$736 |
| Cost of Consultant/Contractor | | | |
| Consultant Nonpecuniary | \$81,130 | \$69,309 | \$11,821 |
| Consultant Pecuniary interest | \$0 | \$1,200 | (\$1,200) |
| consultant accom: pecuniary | \$0 | \$115 | (\$115) |
| consultant accom: nonpecuniary | \$0 | \$212 | (\$212) |
| Other HR and employee expenses | | | |
| Recruitment costs | \$801 | \$2,768 | (\$1,966) |
| Other Employer Expenses | \$242 | \$180 | \$62 |
| Total Employment Expenses | \$372,113 | \$273,059 | \$99,054 |
| Operating Expenses | | | |
| Office accom, fittings & maint | | | |
| Building & servicecontribution | \$6,000 | \$6,000 | \$0 |
| Rent | \$1,781 | \$804 | \$978 |

Nature Conservation Society of SA

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2004 through June 2005

29/8/2005
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| | This Year | Last Year | \$ Difference |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Cleaning | \$240 | \$240 | \$0 |
| minor furniture & fittings | \$221 | \$137 | \$83 |
| minor office maintenance | \$222 | \$326 | (\$104) |
| Major purchases (depreciable) | | | |
| major maintenance & renov | \$1,115 | \$9,258 | (\$8,143) |
| General Office Expenses | | | |
| Stationery | \$1,229 | \$1,063 | \$166 |
| Telephone/fax | \$4,189 | \$5,113 | (\$924) |
| Internet | \$1,135 | \$1,748 | (\$613) |
| Computer consumables, repair | \$1,110 | \$542 | \$568 |
| Photocopying & Printing | \$7,843 | \$4,658 | \$3,185 |
| Postage and shipping (general) | \$795 | \$984 | (\$189) |
| Other resources | | | |
| Library and magazines | \$362 | \$1,278 | (\$916) |
| Other Subscriptions | \$1,096 | \$0 | \$1,096 |
| Project expenses | | | |
| Materials(Projects) | \$4,347 | \$1,888 | \$2,459 |
| Workshop Expenses | \$2,843 | \$2,637 | \$206 |
| Insurance | \$4,058 | \$3,901 | \$157 |
| Xanthopus | | | |
| Xanthopus printing | \$2,515 | \$2,129 | \$387 |
| Xanthopus postage | \$743 | \$799 | (\$56) |
| Sundries | \$905 | \$1,319 | (\$414) |
| Financial expenses | | | |
| Audit | \$1,500 | \$1,800 | (\$300) |
| Bank fees | \$999 | \$770 | \$229 |
| Accounting fees | \$400 | \$180 | \$220 |
| Depreciation | | | |
| Depreciation: Building | \$469 | \$469 | \$0 |
| Depreciation-Furn & Fittings | \$3,857 | \$2,419 | \$1,438 |
| Reimbursement Expenses | \$2,133 | \$0 | \$2,133 |
| Noncash expenses | | | |
| Infrastructure fee | \$60,612 | \$16,868 | \$43,745 |
| Society Sponsorship | \$5,400 | \$7,677 | (\$2,277) |
| Project Recn Expense | \$41,052 | \$47,998 | (\$6,945) |
| Activity Expenses | | | |
| General meeting Expenses | \$636 | \$644 | (\$8) |
| Accommodation | \$1,918 | \$0 | \$1,918 |
| Walks with Nature | \$31 | \$64 | (\$33) |
| Public Relations | \$0 | \$600 | (\$600) |
| Governance Expenses | | | |
| Committee Meeting Expenses | \$435 | \$669 | (\$234) |
| Business registration and fees | \$55 | \$233 | (\$178) |
| Total Governance Expenses | \$490 | \$903 | (\$412) |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$534,359</u> | <u>\$398,271</u> | <u>\$136,088</u> |
| Operating Profit | <u>\$22,196</u> | <u>(\$147,243)</u> | <u>\$169,439</u> |
| Other Income | | | |
| Grasses Identification | | | |
| Grasses ID income | \$3,707 | \$2,393 | \$1,315 |
| Grasses ID expenditure | (\$2,611) | (\$1,824) | (\$787) |
| Total Other Income | <u>\$1,097</u> | <u>\$569</u> | <u>\$528</u> |
| Other Expenses | | | |
| Net Surplus / (Deficit) | <u>\$23,293</u> | <u>(\$146,674)</u> | <u>\$169,967</u> |

Grassy Woodland Network Update

The Network has presented five workshops over the last three months ~ quite an achievement ~ and my thanks go to fellow organisers and presenters: Faye McGoldrick, Tom Bradley, Janet Pedler, Bob Myers, Ellen Bennett, David Paton and Lydia Paton.

Feedback from participants has been mainly positive, although I think that Workshop 4 tried to cover too much ground in the time available and we could expand on these themes next year: plant and bird identification and weed control techniques, with practical demonstrations.

I have notes from workshops 1-4 and am happy to make these available to anyone who is interested in receiving them ~ either email me to receive them this way or ring me/write to me and I will post them. *Xanthopus* Volume 23 Part 3 (August 2005) details what was covered in these workshops.



Workshop participants measuring a tree at Happy Valley Reservoir (photo: Monique Blason)

By the time you read this, Newsletter 3 should be out and this includes articles on 'Native / Weed Lookalikes' (silver grass/wallaby grasses); mapping grey box woodlands and their condition; 'Weed of the Trimester' (bridal veil); and how to collect pieces of plants for identification or preparing your own herbarium. To whet your appetite, here is an excerpt:

Silver grass is another name for a group of introduced grasses also known as fescues, *Vulpia* spp. These plants are native to the Mediterranean and/or central and western Europe and at least one species *V. fasciculata* is a major weed of mallee farming areas in South Australia. Most species are widespread in this state and they spread into bushland and gardens, where they can be confused easily with native wallaby grasses. They are annuals which flower and set seed about the same time as wallaby grasses *Danthonia* spp. (late spring through early summer) and by the time you realise that this is not a wallaby grass, the damage may be done and the seed source for next year is already there. So watch any grasses that look like wallaby grass carefully as they flower and be ready to hand pull silver

grass when you are sure that this is what it is. Below are photos of both to help you with your identification. Many wallaby grasses have a purplish tinge to the flower heads silver grass can have this in a minor way but often lacks it. Remember the golden rule of weeding though, if you are not sure, then don't pull or poison it. If you are unsure, take a piece and get someone to help you identify it.



Wallaby grass *Danthonia* sp. (left) & silver grass *Vulpia* sp. (right) (photo Lydia Paton)



M O U N T L O F T Y R A N G E S
G R A S S Y W O O D L A N D N E T W O R K

Penny Paton
Ph: 8344 8891
paton@chariot.net.au

GENERAL MEETINGS

are usually held on the first Thursday
of each month (not Jan. & Dec.) at the

Conservation Centre Meeting Rooms
120 Wakefield Street
Adelaide

7:00 pm (front door open at 6:45pm)

Upcoming meetings:

End of Year gathering for members

Friday 2nd December 2005, 5.30pm
Botanic Park, opposite the Conservatory gate

January - no general meeting

February - Thursday 3rd

Different shades of green: Biodiversity corridors in a
plantation matrix?

Sharn Lucas, Project Officer Biodiversity Corridors, ForestrySA