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## Workshop on bird identification and bird banding – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at Happy Valley Reservoir

Returning to HVR for our first workshop of 2006 to take a closer look at the reserve when grey box is in flower and to see what birds are attracted to this cornucopia of nectar. You will have the opportunity to see some birds up close as we will be mist netting and banding birds; but we'll also see a range of birds 'in the bush' and talk about aids to bird identification (a somewhat expanded version from what we covered in Workshop 4 in October 2005). An additional activity will be a repeat of something we covered in Workshop 3 at Monarto – a simple technique to score flowering of eucalypts which you can adapt to your sites.

The workshop will run from 9.30 to about 3pm; if it is a fire ban day we will have to cancel as there is no entry into reservoirs on these days. The only other weather event that would force us to cancel is heavy rain the day before or the day of the workshop, but I will keep an eye on this & let you know.

Numbers are limited to 12 people, so send in an expression of interest as soon as possible. Contact Penny on 8344 8891 or email [paton@chariot.net.au](mailto:paton@chariot.net.au).

## Mallee – the new Woodland?

Those of you who know me well will remember that I was fortunate enough to spend 2 months at Gluepot Reserve near Waikerie as a volunteer ranger late in 2004 and I have maintained ties with the reserve. The Management Committee has worked hard to convert the old shearing shed into a workshop venue and this year is running a full complement of workshops. Even though mallee is clearly not woodland, I thought some readers might be interested in these workshops or in finding out more about Gluepot, which is a wonderful example of the conservation outcomes that can flow from a vision and a lot of hard work. Contact details for Gluepot are: 08 8892 8600; [gluepotreserve@bigpond.com](mailto:gluepotreserve@bigpond.com); [www.riverland.net.au/gluepot](http://www.riverland.net.au/gluepot).

Workshops are all of two days duration (Sat & Sund) and where possible attendees should try to arrive on Friday afternoon. Courses will finish about 4.30pm. Contact Duncan MacKenzie at [dmackenzie@iname.com](mailto:dmackenzie@iname.com) or ph 8332 1204 for registration or individual course brochures.

BW6A	15-16 April	Intro to birds and birdwatching
BW6B	7-8 Oct	Intro to birds and birdwatching
NP6A	25-26 March	Intro to nature photography
NP6B	16-17 Sept	Intro to nature photography
MP6A	8-9 April	Macro photography
MP6B	23-24 Sept	Macro photography
BOT6	28-29 Oct	Botanical illustration
PN6	9-10 Sept	Painting nature
DP6	19-20 Aug	Discovering mallee vegetation & habitat
IND6	20-21 May	Indigenous & European history of GR

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## Friends of Cromer Catchment

Do you want to help maintain and restore Cromer Conservation Park and surrounds or perhaps you live in the Birdwood area? A group consisting of DEH, Upper Torrens Land Management Project, ForestrySA and this Network are starting a Friends of Cromer Catchment group to do some on-ground works at Cromer CP initially, with the aim of extending this to surrounding privately-owned land. Gorse and other weeds are threatening the biodiversity values of parts of Cromer CP, which is a small example of a red gum/pink gum/long-leaved box woodland on low-lying land in a high rainfall area of the Mt Lofties. These fragments are rare and even rarer still in the National Parks system.

We will be manning a booth at the Mt Pleasant Show on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March & then organising a “Come and See” morning at Cromer CP on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. All are welcome – contact Penny for details.

## Photo-monitoring Guidelines

Have you ever wondered if you should be taking photo-points but aren't quite sure what they will show or how to go about this? The Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Committee has produced an easy-to-read brochure on what can and can't be monitored using photo-points. It also includes suggestions about what should be included in the photo, how often to take photos, how long it may take to see change and additional information to collect. The final page lists references that give details on how to set up photo-points and shows a pair of photos taken 2 years apart demonstrating regeneration of seedlings and control of oat grass.

## Mistletoe – the good, the bad & the ugly!

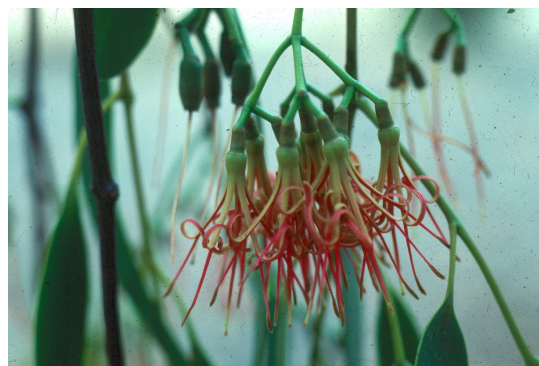
Mistletoes have traditionally received a bad press because they are parasitic plants (and we seem to have a problem with parasites in general) and because they can get out of balance in ecosystems which are themselves out of balance. In these situations the number of mistletoe clumps on a tree can be excessive and often be the last straw for a tree that is suffering from a number of other threats as well.

Mistletoes are native plants and are important components of habitats, providing nectar for birds and butterflies, nest sites for birds, food for possums and larval food for butterflies. The fruits also provide Mistletoebirds with the major part of their diet. The Department for Environment and Heritage (through the Bush Management Advisers) has produced a booklet called “Living with Mistletoe” to give land managers guidance about long-term solutions to keep mistletoe in balance. Its major message is about improving the general environmental conditions near the trees. While the booklet is for the Mount Lofty Ranges, the general principles are a guide for gum and box woodlands in other regions of the state.

Mistletoes are protected by the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and there are Native Vegetation Council policies and regulations about any removals. Advice can be obtained from the NVC Secretariat on (08) 8124 4753.

Copies of this booklet are available from the Natural Resource Centres in the MLR, at Willunga, Normanville, Mount Barker, Mount Pleasant, and Norton Summit. Also Penny has a few copies that she could post to the first five people to ring or email for a copy.

For those of you who don't know about the Bush Management Advisers (BMAs), they provide advice and support to private landholders in most regions of the state. The MLR has two such officers: Ann Prescott (8391 7511) and Amelia Hurren (8336 0954).



Box mistletoe *Amyema miquelii* flowers (Photo: David Paton)

## The New 'Stop Bushland Weeds'

Many Bush For Lifers will know this booklet that TFL used to provide every new bushcarer until stocks ran out. The new edition was launched in February and is a great resource for everyone interested in managing native vegetation. Over 100 weeds are described (with 20 new ones) and there is more emphasis on grassy weeds and native 'invaders' from other states. Advice is given about how best to plan weed control, techniques for removing weeds and new best practice methods of weed control.

'Stop Bushland Weeds' is available from the Nature Conservation Society of SA for \$27.50 GST inclusive. Phone 8223 6301; 120 Wakefield St, Adelaide 5000.

## Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.

One or two questionnaire respondents mentioned that they would like to know more about butterflies and woodlands. Those lucky enough to attend the Mt Pleasant workshop in September 2005 would remember the fabulous illustrated talk by Roger Grund on the butterflies likely to be found in woodlands in the Mt Lofties. Roger's slides of eggs, larvae, pupae & butterflies had us in awe. Unfortunately while I have an interest in butterflies and know the common species, I am not an expert and consequently don't know very much about the larval host plants or where to find pupae. However there is a society in South Australia that concentrates on butterflies and several good field guides that give good information as well as plates (some in colour) of adults, eggs, larvae & pupae.

Butterfly Conservation SA aims to raise the profile of butterflies and their conservation through research, education and publicity. Newsletters come out several times a year, there are field trips and members apply for grants to conduct surveys and/or to protect habitat either through restoration or revegetation. Membership costs \$10/annum and enquiries can be addressed to the Treasurer, 13/4 Randolph Ave, Parkside 5063.

If you have access to the web, there are two websites well worth a look:

<http://www.chariot.net.au/~bcsa/index.htm> (BCSA) or

<http://www.chariot.net.au/~rgrund/index.htm> (SA Butterflies).

Books that I have in my collection are:  
Braby, Michael F. 2004. **The complete field guide to butterflies of Australia**. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic.  
Fisher, Robert. 1995. **A field guide to Australian butterflies**. Surrey Beatty & Sons P.L., Chipping Norton, NSW.  
Fisher, Robert H. **Butterflies of South Australia**. 1978. Government Printer, Adelaide, SA.



Unknown caterpillar on *Amyema miquelii*, Cromer CP  
(Photo: David Paton)

**Can anyone help with the identification of this caterpillar? The photo was taken in February 1991.**

## Eucalyptus Rust

Attached to this Newsletter is a fact/alert sheet called: **Look Out For Eucalyptus (Guava) Rust** put out by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (Australian Government). Some of you will have seen this, in which case you can ignore it. But if you aren't aware of this potential threat to plants in the Myrtaceae family then it would be worth looking at, as it has photos of what the rust looks like and other facts.