



MOUNT LOFTY RANGES GRASSY WOODLAND NETWORK



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NEWSLETTER 7

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GWN Workshops for 2007

The first two workshops for 2007 are half day and field component only on weed control techniques (eg cut and swab, drill & fill). One is south and the other north of Adelaide. As we will be using chemicals, there are back-up days given in case of inclement weather.

Tuesday 8 May (back-up 15 May) Sturt Gorge CP 9-12

Wed 9 May (back-up Tues 29 May) Mt Pleasant NRC 9-1.

Please contact Penny by email or phone if you are interested in the Sturt Gorge workshop, but for Mt Pleasant, contact **Faye Mc Goldrick** (Coordinator, Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre, 132 Melrose St, Mt Pleasant SA 5235; Ph: 08 8568 1907 Fax: 08 8568 2699; email: mpnrc@bigpond.com)

Australian Government Envirofund Round 9 now open

The Australian Government Envirofund is now open and **closes Friday, 27th April 2007**. This year it will include special arrangements for projects in drought-affected and coastal areas. For more information visit the Natural Heritage Trust at: www.nht.gov.au/envirofund/index.html or contact Penny if you do not have access to internet.

Weed News

Boneseed Handbook

A glossy publication on boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *monilifera*) is now available. It's glossy but also an excellent compendium of information on boneseed's ecology and distribution, as well as control methods, monitoring of progress and case studies – possibly more than you wanted to know about it!

Published by DEC (NSW) and supported by the Weeds of National Significance Program, participating authors include several from SA and case studies include Chambers Gully, Burnside (Our Patch) and South Para (SP Biodiversity Project). Penny has three copies to give away to the first-in;

you can also request copies from Hillary Cherry (Ph 02 9585 6587 or email hillary.cherry@environment.nsw.gov.au). Manual is available on web if you want to look at it, but its size and colour would make it expensive to print. www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bitoubush/



Boneseed in grey box woodland, Happy Valley Reservoir (Photo: P Paton)

Gorse Handbook

In addition there is a companion volume on gorse, for which I also have 3 spare copies, so get in early! Contents include biology, distribution, impacts and control of gorse (appropriate to different situations) and there are case studies, including one from Deep Creek CP and a riparian section of the Inman River. Hard copies are available if you miss out by ringing the Tasmanian Dept of Primary Industries and Water on 1300 368 550. Alternatively it is available on the web at www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/gorse/

Fires at Gluepot

You may have heard of the summer 2006 fires at Gluepot that burnt about 10,000 ha of the Birdseye Block – a restricted access conservation area in the eastern part of the reserve. For this reason visitors will not see any of the burnt areas except possibly a small area of the Malleefowl Walk. The last major fire on Gluepot was December 1950 and some areas of old-growth mallee that were not burnt in either fire still persist. Activities at Gluepot are unchanged following the fires.

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Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board

The AMLRNRM Board is in the process of writing its first plan for the region, with a draft for consultation to be ready by October 2007. There will be various ways of being involved in this process, including targeted workshops, public meetings and opportunities for written comment. **Watch this space!**

In the meantime, the Board is actively working with its communities to promote sound land management practices and to encourage biodiversity conservation through grants, research, on-ground works and community education and engagement. The Land Management Program has a full program for 2007 – too large to fit here, but they range from property and dam management to bush foods, creating habitat for wildlife and organic farming. For more information contact Melissa Allery (8568 2948;

melissa.allery@adelaide.nrm.sa.gov.au) or any of the Natural Resource Centres listed below:

Mt Barker 8391 7500

Normanville 8558 3644

Mt Pleasant 8568 1907

Strathalbyn 8536 3388

Willunga 8556 4188

Norton Summit 8390 1891

Draft Pest Management Strategy

An AMLR NRM Board draft Pest Management Strategy is out for comment until 23rd May 2007. For a copy of the Strategy or more information please contact David Hughes at the Board's Salisbury Office on 8285 2033.

The Urban Forest

Have you heard of the Urban Forest and Million Trees Programs but wondered what they are? The Urban Forest Biodiversity Program has been running for over 10 years – a partnership for biodiversity conservation in the greater Adelaide region between federal, state and local governments. With the advent five years ago of the One Million Trees (now Million Trees) Program, the two programs have been meshed and now receive greater state government support. MT aims to plant 3M local native trees and associated understorey across metropolitan Adelaide by 2014, while UF restores remnant native vegetation, particularly those of high conservation value.

One of the biggest MT sites is the Gawler Buffer East & West site, clearly visible from the Main North Road at the corner of Dalkeith Road. Over 200 ha will be restored as a mallee box *Eucalyptus porosa* open woodland.

Weed/Native Lookalikes

Oxalis spp

Oxalis perennans or Native Oxalis is a small creeping native plant that is often thought to be a weed due to its superficial resemblance to its nasty relative, the Soursob *O. pes-caprae*, that we all know and hate. Black's Flora of South Australia (4th edition, 1986, Vol. 2, pp 709-716) documents 14 *Oxalis* species found in this state and, of these, only two are native, including *O. perennans*. The rest are native to South Africa,

South America and possibly Europe, and most are believed to be garden escapees. Ann Prescott's book (It's Blue with Five Petals, 1988) covers five species, four in the yellow flower section (including *O. perennans*) and the other, One o'clock or Wood-sorrel *O. purpurea*, in the pink section.

Native Oxalis is a widespread plant and is one of the species most commonly found in temperate grassy ecosystems in SA (see Davies 1997, Appendix 1). The yellow flowers can occur in any month of the year, followed by the long slim seed capsules that turn golden with age. In my garden the plant self seeds quite prolifically and is drought resistant. It is quite hard to tell from an exotic species – Creeping Oxalis *O. corniculata*, but there are a few clues that will aid in identification. Note though that different authorities give differing (and often contradictory!) information.

The obvious difference is that Creeping Oxalis seed capsules have a right angle bend which prevents the fruits from being taller than the leaves. The native one lacks the bend so that the capsules stand above the leaves. Native Oxalis has a woody taproot which the Creeping Oxalis lacks (but the cosmopolitan species *O. radicata* also has a tap root). All three species have creeping stems as well. There is a subtle difference too in the shape of the leaves, with *O. perennans* having more indented leaves, with each leaf being made up of three heart-shaped leaflets. The hairs on the stems of Native Oxalis tend to point upwards, those of Creeping Oxalis mainly spread out from the stem and *O. radicata* has hairs that point outwards and downwards. *Oxalis perennans* may prefer heavy grassland soils, while the records of *O. radicata* seem to be on sandy soils around the flanks of the Mt Lofty Ranges.

With thanks to Ann Prescott for advice on a difficult group!



Native Oxalis *Oxalis perennans*

Black, J.M., 1986. 'Flora of South Australia' Part II. 4th edition (eds J.P. Jessop & H.R. Toelken). South Australian Government Printing Division, Adelaide.

Davies, R. J.-P., 1987. 'Weed Management in Temperate Native Grasslands and Box Grassy Woodlands in South Australia'. Black Hill Flora Centre, Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, SA.

Prescott, A., 1988. 'It's Blue with Five Petals'. Ann Prescott, Prospect, SA.

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/floraonline.htm> (a really great website if you don't know it)

NatureMaps - Biological Database Public Access


DEH now has a public mapping site with all the reserves and various layers plus DEH flora and fauna survey sites. You can get maps and plant lists to print off. It is called NatureMaps and if you have access to the web, check it out at <http://www.naturemaps.sa.gov.au>

Viv Muller has kindly written out an easy guide to cruising around NatureMaps, as I had trouble negotiating it. I followed her excellent instructions and was successful on my second attempt. So I have appended these as it may make this site more accessible. Thanks Viv!

"The intention of this brief introduction to a great tool, is to provide a basic approach for finding a map of a particular area, modify it for your own purposes and/or extract the data for various available parameters such as grid references, flora or fauna surveys, vegetation associations, land use etc. To do this I'll work through an example, namely to find species lists and a map for the Cromer conservation park




You will probably find different or better approaches to achieve similar results, and I should point out that these examples will use only a fraction of the resources available in NatureMaps.

When you open NatureMaps (by clicking on the "Start using NatureMaps" button), a map of South Australia is displayed, showing Nature Links (Corridor Regions with names), Protected Areas (NPWSA Reserves), Management Boundaries (NRM Regions) and other data 'Layers', which have been pre-selected on the 'Layers' panel on the right of the screen. At this stage the 'Zoom' tool is active, (one of the ways you can tell this is because the icon, in the row of icons

above the map, is in a red square ). There are also 6 labelled black tabs above the row of icons. Clicking on these tabs changes the display on the right of the screen, and allows access to different features of the program. Take note also that there is a 'Help' menu available (top right of the screen). Other help will also be available, for example when you scroll to the bottom of the 'Map Layers' window, currently on the right of the screen.

Example : Finding species lists and a map for the Cromer conservation park

Find Cromer Conservation Park


Click on the 'Find Location' black tab, then click on 'NPWSA Reserve' in the new window. From the drop-down menu, select Cromer. The map should zoom in to show Cromer. Click on the black 'Legend' tab to confirm the map markings. If required, you can zoom out to a different scale, by clicking on the 'zoom out' icon () , then clicking on the map. You can also bookmark the map at this stage, using the 'bookmark' icon towards the right of the icon row () , or save the session using the 'Save' icon (). I recommend doing this regularly so you can return to a well-defined back-up point if things get a bit too muddled while you are fiddling with your map.




Find Species lists

Click on the black 'Layers' tab, then turn on the Fauna and Flora Biological surveys, as in the diagram below. Do this by clicking on the folder 'Flora and Fauna', then clicking in the check boxes next to 'Fauna-Biol Survey SA' and 'Flora-Biol Survey SA'





appearance, but in fact there are three flora survey sites and a fauna survey site within the Cromer park. If you check the 'Legend' however, the colour for the park and the survey markers is unfortunately the same. To get around this, click on


the 'polygon markup tool' icon () and then click on each change of angle on the park boundary (I did it clockwise and it took 12 points..don't worry if it looks funny, it will be OK once you get all the way around.) Click OK, then a formatting window will appear. I used a diagonal stripe, 10 pixels wide, blue, 70% transparency, then OK. The revised map should now reveal the flora and fauna survey sites. Bookmark the map as described above.

To access the information from the surveys, click on the  icon, then click on the squares or triangle representing the surveys. A result summary appears on the right. Site summary, species list and site description details can then be accessed by clicking on the relevant text in this window. Other layers can be added to this map as well. For example, click on the black 'Layers' tab again. In the 'Map Layers' window click on the 'MapBase and Imagery' folder, then on 'Topographic'. 'Roads' are already selected. To have the roads labelled, click on the greyed out tag to the right of 'Roads'. Then, to obtain a photographic image, with the 'MapBase and Imagery' folder open, click on 'Photograph and Imagery' followed by 'Rural 2000-2004'. Don't forget to click 'Refresh Map'. You might like to add topographical contours too, as well as turning 'NPWSA Reserve' off, to remove the green infill. Save and/or bookmark the map. Co-ordinates for any point can be obtained by clicking on the map using the  icon. The map can be converted to a .pdf file by clicking the printer icon (). This can also then be saved and/or printed.

Other icons, or tools, to be used include:

the 'Hand' (): this shifts the map on the page. Move the map so that the location you want to be central is in the middle of the screen. The map will re-set itself

the 'Measure Area' tool (): this allow you to draw a polygon, the area of which is then calculated.

The 'Measure Distance' tool ():this allows you to draw a route (or series of lines), and the distance of each leg is given. The bearing is also given, in the direction in which the line was drawn."

'What's On' About the Region

A new section of the newsletter devoted to courses, talks, workshops etc that different groups run that may be of interest to Networkers.

Bush For Life Workshops

Have you always meant to become a Bush For Life volunteer but somehow never quite got round to it. Perhaps 2007 is the year – if so, ring 8406 0500 to book your place.

Sat	21 April	Salisbury
Wed	2 May	Noarlunga
Sat	5 May	Cherry Gardens
Wed	16 May	Goolwa
Sat	19 May	Kersbrook
Sat	26 May	Mt Barker
Wed	13 June	Balhannah
Thurs	21 June	Norton Summit
Sat	30 June	Kapunda
Wed	4 July	Gawler
Sat	14 July	Mt Barker
Sat	21 July	Minlaton
Sat	4 Aug	Strathalbyn
Sat	11 Aug	Belair
Wed	29 Aug	Elizabeth
Sat	1 Sept	Willunga
Thurs	13 Sept	Stirling
Thurs	20 Sept	Mt Pleasant
Wed	10 Oct	Belair

National Trust Reserves

The National Trust not only has cultural heritage properties but an important collection of nature reserves too. Working bees occur regularly at these sites in the Mt Lofty Ranges as well as on Yorke Peninsula and in the Riverland. Vegetation types include stringybark forest and grassy woodland, eg Watiparinga and parts of Roachdale. Contact Phil McNamara [8212 1133 (W); pmcnamara@nationaltrustsa.org.au] if you are interested in helping maintain these areas. See Grassy News 3 (Dec 2005) for a review of the Watiparinga Management Plan.

Phil, the Natural Heritage Manager with NTSA, puts out a Newsletter 'Scrub and Grub' and I am indebted to him for the next item of information.

23rd Annual Forum of Friends of Parks

Friends are warmly invited to register your interest, now, for the trip to the 23rd Annual Forum at Port Lincoln, 3rd-5th August 2007 to be hosted by the Friends of Southern Eyre Parks. After registering, you will receive direct mail with forum kits at a later date. Please contact Phil (see above) if you are interested and he will send out registration details.

Barossa Bushgardens

Barossa Bushgardens is having an Open Day Plant Sale on Sunday 22 April – to find this wonderful resource for indigenous natives go to Coulthard Reserve off Penrice Rd,

Nuriootpa. Contact the Manager, Greg Donovan, to arrange a visit at other times – 0448 676 348.

2007 Courses at Gluepot

Gluepot Reserve is a 54,000 ha mallee reserve – home to many nationally endangered bird species – 64km N of Waikerie and managed by Birds Australia via a locally-based Management Committee. Varied courses run throughout 2007 and participants are encouraged to camp on the reserve. Cost is \$99 for 2-day course (includes camping fee, morning & afternoon teas and course materials). For more information check website (www.riverland.net.au/gluepot) or contact Mr Clive Hope, PO Box 1177 Waikerie 5330; Ph 08 8541 2004.

Date	Course
14/15 April	The Art of the Ant
19/20 May	History and Archaeology of Gluepot
26/27 May & 8/9 Sept	Introduction to Nature Photography
2/3 June & 15/16 Sept	Introduction to Macro Photography
14/15 July	Introduction to Scientific Botanical Illustration
11/12 Aug	Discovering the Vegetation & Habitats Mallee Provides
25/26 Aug	Introduction to Bird Banding
1/2 Sept	Painting Nature
6/7 Oct	Introduction to Birds & Birdwatching

Our Patch Workshop on Propagation and Seed Collection

Our Patch is a program of the AMLR Natural Resources Management Board designed to help groups or individuals look after a patch, often a section of creek or river near their home, school or business. Groups aim to improve the environmental health of their patch, whether that be water quality or biodiversity, and some sites help to educate the community about the environment and local environmental issues.

Our Patch (OP) is running a workshop on plant propagation and seed collecting for Our Patch members on 2 consecutive Thursdays – 12 April and 19 April. The workshops are held at the City of West Torrens Depot (112 Marion Rd, Brooklyn Park) at 5.30 for a 6.00pm start. Contact the OP officers to book or for more information about the program: Caroline Wilson (8416 6352; cwilson@wtcc.sa.gov.au) Marty Krieg (8366 4282; mkrieg@burnside.sa.gov.au)

Echidna Information Session, Willunga

The Land Management Program and Willunga Environment Centre will be presenting "Echidnas" on **Tuesday 8 May 2007** from 7.30p-9.30pm. Peggy Rismiller will outline her research work with one of the world's oldest living group of mammals and explain the biggest threats to echidnas, as well as advising what you should do if you find an echidna and how to encourage echidnas with habitat restoration. Registration is essential as numbers will be strictly limited; for further details and to register, phone Mary Crawford on 0418 848 702 (Mob) or email macrawford@westnet.com.au.

