

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

NUMBER 24

Editor: Penny Paton



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*New members are welcome. Contact Jennifer Gardner, Manager Waite Conservation Reserve, above*

## President's Page

Let's face it; most of us Friends are not in our first flush of youth. So it has been rather nice to have a fresh 13-year old face at the last couple of working bees. She wields a mattock with steely purpose, digging holes for us oldies to plant into. Every now and then though the mattock is traded for a camera and GPS as she stops to photograph and record some new treasure that has caught her eye.

Robyn is a budding mycologist. Her treasures are the many fungi – toadstools, mushrooms, brackets and earth stars etc – particularly prominent in the reserve during these months of moisture. Not to be outdone by parents who are professional botanists, Robyn is carving out her own niche in the natural history world. She is well on the way to building a photographic reference collection of the fungi found on our patch and, no pressure, she is already on notice to compile a list of species for us. Maybe one day when she is famous she might even come and tell us about our fungi at an Annual General Meeting.

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The last AGM speaker, Andrew Crompton, shared with us his 30 year journey of restoring his grassy woodland block at Mt Barker.

Among a number of interesting observations (see Meg's article later), one that particularly caught my attention was his reference to using '1m<sup>2</sup> quadrats' to regularly monitor vegetation condition over time. Seeing Robyn using her camera and GPS to record when, where and what species of fungi were present in the reserve, again reminded me that she was in essence recording a baseline against which the fungi might be monitored in future.

We too monitor change in the reserve. Our system relies on a taking a longitudinal series of replicated photographs at standardized photo-points. (Someone asked me at the last working bee what a nearby steel post was for – answer, a photo-point marker). Using photo-points is a relatively quick and easy way of monitoring changes in vegetation over time.

It is particularly good for documenting changes in the shrub layer such as the removal of olives. Replicated photographs taken at eye height, and parallel to the ground show clearly the transformation from impenetrable olive thicket to grassy woodland and thence to grassy woodland with a few native shrubs. It provides a wonderful historical record for all the sweat expended by Stephen and the work crew and by the Friends group. But how good is this technique for monitoring the condition of the ground layer?

The reason I ask now is because I am delighted to announce the Friends have won an NRM Community Grant to create a 'revegetation demonstration site' along the high-profile Yurrebilla Trail. The project will involve weed control, seed collection, propagation and intensive planting between Leafhopper Gully and Netherby Spur over the coming year.

Because the project will concentrate on reinstating the ground layer I am mindful that monitoring should adequately record what I hope will be a transformation from weedy to native grassland. I am not sure that our normal photo-point methodology will adequately capture the distinction between a weedy grass and a native one and we may need to think about how we might supplement our photo-point technique. Similarly, it is important that we adequately record the composition of the ground layer elsewhere in the reserve to monitor our progress – albeit not so intensively that we spend all our precious time monitoring and none on restoration work.

Apart from the obvious biodiversity benefits, the main reason for seeking funding for the above revegetation project was to raise the profile of the Friends group by doing good things in a well-trodden part of the reserve. The hope is by engaging with walkers on the Yurrebilla Trail – both by prominent signage and during working bees – we can attract more members and ultimately achieve better outcomes for our patch. See you on the trail.



## **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS 2012 AGM**

The Friends group has had another productive year supporting the University in pursuing ecological rehabilitation of the reserve. Total volunteer time contributed by the Friends amounted to a fairly healthy 1200 hours, although the contribution to actual restoration work through participation in working bees was down on previous years. This is a little disappointing given this is our core business. It also means we have fewer volunteer hours to

leverage funding grants to boost paid hours for the University work crew.

In an attempt to redress this we have recently applied for funding for two projects whose aim is to raise the profile of the Friends group, thereby boosting participation in working bees, and ultimately boosting our overall restoration output.

The first project is for a bushcare demonstration site situated along the high-profile Yurrebilla Trail. The intention is to fast track restoration works on a 2-hectare section at Leafhopper Gully/ Netherby Spur, then to use interpretive signage to inform the passing throng about our work. The second project is to help us upgrade and re-print our out-of-date walking trail brochure and at the same time to add more interpretive signage, again to alert passing walkers to our work.

In terms of outputs, the year has seen the extent of olives further whittled down, mostly by the university work crew. But while the work crew, ably led by Stephen, continues to do the heavy lifting of chain-sawing and poisoning mature olives, the Friends also does its bit by tackling the emergent crop of seedlings, before they simply replace the previous generation. The Friends group also targets outlier populations of particular weeds that have the potential to take over areas of high conservation value. These include Perennial Veldt Grass on Quartz Hill, African Weed Orchid on Pultenaea Hill and False Caper on Urrbrae Ridge.

A highlight for me has been the continued rehabilitation of the 2-hectare site we call Netherby Knoll. Until a couple of years ago this site was a catastrophe, dominated by rampant kikuyu and bereft of a single native groundcover. The site suffered further indignity when several thousand tonnes of excavated dirt was dumped there. Perversely, this was the start of its recovery. The university agreed to fund a comprehensive re-vegetation program and, 12,000 tubestock and considerable direct seeding later, the site has undergone a remarkable transformation. I urge you to take a look.

Each year we try to include a couple of educative and, more importantly, fun activities for the membership. In the past this has included biological surveys, spotlighting, a native grass survey and wildflower walks. This year our focus was on bats, following on from previous AGM guest speaker, Terry Reardon. We started by holding a workshop and building 14 bat roost boxes, one for each of the vegetation communities identified in the reserve. Next we erected them - exactly 4.2 metres above ground - the maximum height I can reach on tip toes with a plumbers' inspection camera to check the contents.

Finally in March, with Terry's help, we conducted a bat survey. After several hours we had only caught a solitary one. Remarkably we ended up confirming the presence of 7 species using ultrasonic recorders. This effectively doubled our known mammal list and demonstrated that our patch is an important remnant for these wonderful little beasts.

We have yet to decide what extra-curricular activities we might pursue in the coming year so I welcome your suggestions. Perhaps we could survey some of the smaller beasts such as ants, butterflies, fungi or mosses.

Part of the Presidential duties, and one I have great pleasure in fulfilling, is to thank the various contributors to our organisation. Starting with the committee, I thank Secretary Helen Pryor who is not only the speediest minute secretary going around but is always looking for new ways to improve our business. Thanks also to Lynda Yates our long-running treasurer; to Peter Lang for botanical expertise; to Penny Paton for editing the newsletter; and to Meg Byrt and Pete Barnes for all manner of contributions. Peter is retiring from the committee but will continue to attend to working bees; I thank him for his several years of dedicated work.

Thanks also to Stephen Wait who supervises the work crew of Dan and Liam but who also supervises the Friends at working bees; and to the wonderful Jennifer Gardner who is at once incredibly efficient and a delight to work with.

I also thank the most important member of the team, Annette Baker who boosts attendances

at working bees by the underhand method of wafting the smell of cooked sausages across the reserve while tending the BBQ. And I reserve a special mention for Andy Baker who assists at BBQ's but has also spent some 700 hours walking the reserve while systematically gathering intelligence on the population of feral deer present.

Finally thank you to all the weed-pullers and tree-planters who give up their mornings on the first Saturday and third Sunday of the month to contribute to working bees. Your help is greatly appreciated.

And just to finish off, my perennial advertisement for the reserve. It is the best and closest patch of scrub to the city, bar none. It has lovely old gum trees, 200 native plant species, lots of birds and lizards; great views; and heart-starting walks. It is an absolute gem so get out there. Life is busy. Weekend time is valuable. I would be lying if I said I didn't sometimes think, as I was heading off to a working bee, that I had something more important to be doing. But I can truly say I never come away from a working bee thinking the same thing. What, after all, is more important than going for a walk in the bush and at the same time saving the world!

***\*Postscript** - following the AGM I was approached by Clinton Garrett, teacher, long-time president of Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park and all-round Whyalla VIP. Clint informed me that he had recently moved to Adelaide, and to cut a long story short, I am delighted to welcome him onto the committee. Doubtless he will bring a range of skills borne of his long experience in the Friends game.*

## **Peter Bird**

## ***Waite Friends Xmas Party***

All members of the Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve are invited to the Joint Waite Friends Christmas party on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 5.30 – 7.30 pm (please note change from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December)

## FWCR AGM – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

Attendees at the last FWCR AGM were privileged to hear Andrew Crompton speak about “30 years in bushcare...and still lots to learn”.

Andrew concluded his presentation with the following advice for rehabilitating a bush site.

1. Eliminate the weeds without losing the natives.
2. Reintroduce the species that have not naturally regenerated.
3. Then manage the native flora for the desired structure and composition in **perpetuity!**

Describing the experience he has gained since the 1970s from his own 14 acre farmland property at Mt Barker, now grassy woodland, and by describing 6 years of a volunteer group project along Waterfall Gully Rd in Burnside Council, Andrew gave the following helpful practical suggestions and kept everyone enthralled with his story.



*Andrew Crompton in his element*

Getting weeds under control is the essential first step, so they do not smother any new plantings, and so future weed control is not too complicated. Andrew used thick plantings of Golden Wattles and Sheoaks to shade out weeds on his trajectory, developing his open grassy woodland property. Prior to spraying surrounding weeds with glyphosate, Andrew goes around cutting perennial native grass thatch and placing it over the growing clump to protect it from the spray.

He also sprays annual weeds early in the growing season when native grasses are not growing as actively and will tolerate some minor spray.

In the last decade, Andrew has learnt to use fire for weed control, and is keen for bushcarers interested in using fire, to get together and share their experiences with each other. He has found late in autumn, burns which slowly meander through the thatch, kill germinating weedy grasses, but not native grass tussocks.

On the very different wetland site, along the steep creek banks of Waterfall Gully Road, his volunteer group used the cut-down woody weed debris from Ash and Willow, to create “terraces”, built as barriers against the neighbouring up-slope weed front moving down onto their site. They also created defined spots for multiple species plantings, which were shallow bowls, easily accessible to work in, water, and spray around, and they used this “bite and hold” technique as a further defence against the neighbouring weed front.

Only when weeds are under control, should you then build up the plant diversity. Andrew recommends planting common species initially, as they are easier to propagate and establish, and later planting rarer and threatened species which should be marked for special care while they get established. And then, for ever after, keep eliminating the weeds!

### Meg Byrt



*Andrew Crompton on his property*

# Committee Profile

## Our Treasurer – Lynda Yates

I was born in Ramsgate, Kent, England. What got me interested in the countryside was Sunday afternoon drives out with a friend of my parents who had a car – not a given in those days - which took us past mostly flat farmland with cabbages and yellow oilseed rape, past the replica of a Viking Ship at Pegwell Bay and the shorebirds gathered there – it's still an important bird breeding site plus the Vikings landed there a couple of thousand or so years ago, past old hedgebanks (I learnt to count the number of species of trees and woody shrubs in a rough 100 yard measure and multiply by 100 to gauge the age of the hedge - 6 species means a 600-year-old hedge which is quite common in Kent), on into the Weald of Kent. There were interesting winding country lanes there, a few hills and remnants of woodland, elm, hazel and elder mostly, which harboured squirrels (grey unfortunately – the red one known from the classic childrens' books is very rare now), foxes, sometimes deer, very rarely a badger. Small lizards and butterflies were the most obvious signs of life.

Intending to be a vet because I loved animals, but not getting the grades, I did a Bachelor of Science at Derby in Zoology and Physiology. This did not lead to any obvious career choice so I continued with a Masters in Environmental Resources at Salford. This was 1975 and Environmental Studies were very new - only a handful of courses were available then, but I was strongly aware of the damage the human population was doing and wanted to learn more about the subject. After two terms studying alternative energy sources, waste treatment, water usage etc. and a final dissertation on a nature reserve in Devon (where I counted woody lobelia and trapped voles in Longworth traps), my course was over but most of the jobs available were for rangers and mostly aimed at the guys so I ended up taking a job as a trainee computer programmer in Cardiff, Wales with the Civil Service which was always training

programmers because they usually left later to get better-paid jobs elsewhere. No degrees in Computing were around then so any graduate was taken, which was a good solution for those who had studied history and geography and didn't want to teach!

I got married to a fellow programmer from work, moved with him to London and worked in the banking sector of the City of London as an analyst/programmer. As I worked in the East End and my husband in the West End, we gradually drifted apart and separated amicably. I kept interested in the environment by helping at my local nature reserve, Horsenden Hill, an oasis of green in the suburbs of London. Perivale Woods, one of the few bluebell woods left near London was also close by and so was a walk alongside the Grand Union Canal. However, after 7 years in London I decided I needed to see the world so I joined a couple of friends going to Greece and on to Asia for an extended trip – eighteen months in the end. It was a great experience and, after India, Nepal, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, we ended up in Perth in 1987 when there was an air traffic controllers' strike. We were meant to fly to New Zealand but funds were low and we didn't fancy the long trip to Melbourne by road and back so we stayed in Fremantle a while, then headed back to Thailand and the beach before returning to London.

After the trip abroad, London didn't seem the best place to live. An hour's commute to work and then back again later left little time to oneself on a workday, the traffic, the large population of the city, the lack of wild spaces, the cold wet weather made me decide to return to Australia, this time permanently. My partner, Malcolm and I, toured Australia's cities for a short holiday so as to decide where to live – Sydney and Melbourne were vetoed as too large and like London for commuting, Perth too distant, Brisbane and Adelaide promising. I applied for some jobs, got one at WorkCover, Adelaide and so our choice was made.

After working at WorkCover for some years I decided to leave but couldn't find any more work on mainframe computers – the new

intelligent PC revolution and Internet was coming in but I didn't want to train for this and wanted a change. In the end I relied on my London house to keep me (the pound was strong then) and spent my time doing the things I like – such as environmental volunteering. I first saw the Waite by accident when passing and, as I love arboretums, I visited and loved the gardens and later the reserve plus the people were very welcoming so I kept coming as a volunteer, especially when I stopped working. I also worked on revegetating the rail corridor near me and at other local reserves. Since coming to Australia I have been fascinated by the plants here and initially learned a lot by growing for Trees for Life and going on their BAT team activities, weeding and revegetating areas of native bush. The environmental enthusiasts are a friendly crowd and love to pass on their knowledge to newcomers.

Since then I have become a local Councillor for Holdfast Bay, where I live, based on my keenness to see the environment respected, am a Friend of the Lower Field River and Glenthorne Farm, Vice President of Friends of Marino Conservation Park, a volunteer and ex-committee member (I served my 10 years!) of Friends of Waite Arboretum (though I have lapsed a bit lately) and Treasurer for Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve. I enjoy the working bees at the reserve but lately have been trying to get fit and lose weight – I was finding the hills too much hard work to go up and down!- so am working hard at my local gym too and not attending the working bees as much as I should. I love Adelaide and the hills and the remnant bush nearby. I also like swimming so enjoy living close to the beach. Adelaide is a great place to live and I hope to continue to do my bit to help preserve our remaining native vegetation and encourage people to value and respect the environment and our wild places.

## FWCR Sandwich Board

Last summer while one of our members Sue Durand was painting a picnic table in Wild Dogs Glen many people walked past and asked her what she was doing. She suggested a

board which could be set up when the Friends are working in the Reserve which would alert the passers-by to our group and the work we do.

The FWCR Committee readily agreed to the suggestion as a way of advertising the group to the increasing number of people using the Reserve. Starting with Peter Lang's design and input from the group a layout was soon decided on. On the recommendation of a manufacturer by Andy we were able to obtain two eye-catching, light-weight, easily portable Sandwich Boards.

The design is bright and colourful with the startling blue of the WCR logo, the Blue Devil. (It has also reinvigorated an earlier suggestion for a tee shirt to be made featuring the Blue Devil.)

Annette our BBQ chef who is usually stationed at the junction of the walking trails has offered to display the Board at Working Bees. The other board can be borrowed for other occasions. Thanks to all who contributed.



## The Blue Devil Logo

The Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve Logo is the Blue Devil (*Eryngium rostratum*) which is a distinctive, metallic blue thistle-like plant which flowers in summer, startling in the sun-dried green-grey bush.

Enid Robertson, who identified this plant in the Reserve in 1992, realized its significance having conservation status and recommended it became the logo of the Reserve when the Friends Group was formed.



The Blue Devil with its thistle-like appearance is a happy coincidence with the Reserve's Scottish benefactor. However Peter Waite as one of the pioneer pastoralists would have been aware of the problem of weeds. In his later years he was often seen with his Scottish terrier and hoe walking around the Urrbrae paddocks. Annette Baker's grandmother who lived nearby, remembered him digging out Salvation Jane.

In 1846, 10 years after the colony began, there was a letter from the Surveyor General to the Governor: (CRG 24/6 1458)  
"I beg to call the attention of His Excellency to the damage that will be done to the Government Domain and indeed to all the Gardens in Adelaide by the spread of the seed of the thistles growing in profusion on the right bank of the river opposite the Government House garden. If this mass of weeds covering 2 or 3 acres of ground was at once exterminated it would be of great benefit and its put off to another season would cost four times what it would at present".

But the seed had spread. In a letter to the South Australian newspaper on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 1850: "The thistles on the Park Lands have been burnt but fear this has been done too late....it will certainly be useless unless followed up by root and branch work for some miles around Adelaide next year before the young plants are in seed."

On 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 1851 in the first year of the Legislative Council, it passed the Act to prevent the further spread of Scotch Thistle by invoking a penalty on private land owners who did not destroy any thistles after 7 days notification. Signed by the Lt Governor on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1852, it was the first of a continuing series of Acts to attempt to control weeds right up to the present day.

Weed control is one of The FWCR's activities in the Reserve and we can easily understand these early requests. We do however use the word "manage" rather than "exterminate" weeds.

## Helen Pryor

## REVISED BAT LIST FOR WCR

Last newsletter I reported that four bat species had been detected during our bat survey on 23 March. Since then calls from three Anabat ultrasonic recorders have been downloaded and analysed. Cool conditions meant that bat activity was low with relatively few calls, yet amazingly the Anabats detected 7 species. These were:

|                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Mormopterus planiceps</i>  | Southern Freetail-bat      |
| <i>Tadarida australis</i>     | White-striped Freetail-bat |
| <i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>   | Gould's Wattled Bat        |
| <i>Chalinolobus morio</i>     | Chocolate Wattled Bat      |
| <i>Nyctophilus geoffroyi</i>  | Lesser Long-eared Bat      |
| <i>Vespadelus darlingtoni</i> | Large Forest Bat           |
| <i>Vespadelus regulus</i>     | Southern Forest Bat        |

## NEW BIRD RECORDS

They say if you stand long enough in the same place, every species of Australian bird will eventually fly past! While this seems a little far-fetched, district bird lists tend to grow over time, bolstered by the occasional vagrant that wanders by. Such has been the case for the Waite Conservation Reserve whose list has grown by 4½ species already this year. Amazingly three of these were recorded on the same red-letter day: 28 April. New species are:

**Stubble Quail** - a single bird flushed from tall Kangaroo Grass in Stone Reserve 28 April. While previously heard calling in Springwood Park and most likely the unidentified 'quail' reported occasionally by university work staff, this was the first confirmed sighting for the reserve. The species was only located after a dedicated search following good seasons and when the reserve provided good cover relative to surrounding grazed farmland. Likely more common than reports suggest.

**Brown Quail** - a single bird flushed from Stone Reserve grassland 28 April. Dark brown barred appearance distinguished it from lighter-coloured and stripy Stubble Quail flushed a few minutes earlier. Normally very rare in SA, the Brown Quail has undergone a population explosion over the past couple of years following good seasons.

**White-throated Treecreeper** - a single bird seen in upper Groundberry Gully 28 April. This species is an obligate stringybark specialist, commonly seen ascending the fibrous and furrowed trunks of messmate and brown stringybarks in nearby Cleland Conservation Park. The bird in question was feeding on the rough flaky trunks of Grey Box trees, the nearest analogue to stringybarks available.

**Striated Thornbill** - two separate sightings of a single individual in Wild Dogs Glen in April and below Quartz Hill in August. On each occasion the bird was consorting with mixed flocks of other little brown insectivores such as Weebills and Buff-rumped Thornbills. As with the treecreeper, these birds are more at home in the Cleland stringybarks.

To these can be added the 'half' record of a **Barn Owl** heard calling in 'Springwood Park' on the night of the bat survey, 23 March, less than 200 m from Stone Reserve. At the time the reserve supported far more grass cover than the surrounding cattle-grazed farmland and doubtless more house mice. I think we can safely surmise the owl ventured into the reserve at least once to avail itself of the opportunity to hunt its favoured prey.

## Peter Bird

## WAITE CONSERVATION RESERVE BOOK LIST – compiled by Helen Pryor

### WCR MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. WCR Revegetation Plan 2006. Grant Joseph (2 copies incl 1 draft).
2. WCR Restoration Plan specific for WDG. Grant Joseph 2006.
3. Waite Hills Land Management Plan Scott Kerdel 1993 (4 copies incl 1 draft).
4. WCR Management Plan Bradley Tee 2007 Dip Cons & Land Management.
5. Integrated Catchment Management WCR Part 1,2,3. Paul Burton, Sean Kildare, Richard Smith 1993. Student Assignment.
6. WCR Walking Trail Maps.

### FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Waite Estate Bushfire Risk Management Plan. Dec 2008 (2 copies).
2. WCR Fire Management Plan. Aug 2005 (3 copies).
3. Emergency Bush Fire Plan (2 copies) (Draws on and compliments 2005 Plan).
4. Waite Hills Fire Management Plan Scott Kerdel 1993.
5. SA Govt. Guidelines for Firebreaks & Fire Access Tracks Approved Sept 2005.

### SURVEYS

1. Hills Face Zone Cultural Heritage Project Field Survey 8: Waite Res and Claremont House LGA Mitcham Hundred of Adelaide Sec 1077, 1078, 1079.
2. Waite Agric Research Institute Property History 1838 to Present. David Mather 1993. Sec 268, 466, 487, 470.
3. Habitat Survey & Evaluation of Remnant Semi-natural Vegetation East of Carrick Hill, Sec 1091 David Wagner 1993.
4. Land Use Change in Adelaide Hills Face Zone 1949 -1975. NCSSA. 1978 D W Moyle & J. Sibly.

### STUDIES

1. Effects of Olives on Blue Gum Populations and their Control. Grad Dip App Sc in Nat Resources. Robert E. Biggs. 1992
2. Micropropagation of *Grevillea lavandulacea*, *Pittosporum angustifolium*, *Goodenia albiflora*, *Pultenaea daphnoides* & *Stackhousia monogyna*. Uni SA various students 2005
3. Olive Removal and Revegetation Secondary Stage 2 Geography Project. Alice Strous 2009
4. Assessment of the Probability of *E. microcarpa* Natural Regeneration at a previously grazed site in MLR Helen Smyth 1992. B App Sc Nat Res.
5. Regeneration of *E. obliqua*: Mediation of Higher Order Interactions and Indirect Effects by the Accumulation of leaf Litter in an Old Field Plant Community. Brenton Ladd 1994 B.Sc. Hons. 1994.



## OTHER MANAGEMENT PLANS

1. Vegetation ecology of the Central Mt Lofty Ranges. Paul Green. Dept of Botany Adel Uni. 1994.
2. Watiparinga Res Management Plan. E.L. Robertson. 2010. Nat Trust.
3. Restoration of Grassy Woodland. E.L. Robertson. 1999. Nat Trust.
4. Watiparinga Reserve Management Plan. E.L. Robertson. 1984. Nat Trust.
5. Brownhill Reserve Management Plan David Deer 1999.
6. Brownhill Creek Recreation Park Weed Management Plan. SKIGIS 2000. (missing pp 17 - 31).
7. Brownhill Creek Recreation Park Management Plan. 2002. DEH (4 copies).
8. Weed Management Temperate Native Grasslands & Box Grassy Woodlands in SA. J.P. Davies 1997. Black Hill Flora Centre. Bot. Gdns.
9. Management Plans for 6 Heritage Agreement areas in SA (Mallee, Mid North, S. East). Paul Green 1991. DEH.

## Ornithologica IV

As our President, Peter has sighted some new birds in WCR and reported on these above, I will restrict myself this time to telling you about a new bird atlas of the Adelaide region, or rather a third bite at the cherry.

The SAOA (now called Birds SA) ran a bird atlas of the Adelaide region in 1974-75 and again in 1984-85. Since 1985 no concerted attempt has been made to re-assess the distributions of birds within this region - a period of nearly 30 years. In that time the distributions of some species are likely to have changed. The "Adelaide" region covers an area of about 27,000 km<sup>2</sup> and runs from north of Pt Wakefield to the other side of Morgan and from Cape Jervis to south-east of Meningie. The third bird atlas commenced on 1 July 2012 and will run for two years until 30 June 2014. Kangaroo Island will be added to the area surveyed this time.

Knowledge of the distributions of species and shifts in their distributions over time are important for managing species in the future. Of particular concern are a number of woodland bird species that are regarded as declining, and further reductions in the distribution of those species will highlight the need for further action if those declines are to be halted. Equally though, some species are likely to be increasing in range and expanding into new areas.

**Repeating the atlas of birds of the Adelaide region will help to identify the species that are contracting, those that are expanding and those that are maintaining their distributions.**

In the previous two sampling periods the majority of the data was collected by members of Birds SA. Collecting the data involves marking off the species that are seen at a location. A data sheet (or card) is provided to make this an easy task to do while in the field. The cards are then submitted and the data processed. Experienced and in-experienced observers can be involved, but for the next two years keen bird watchers are encouraged to go to a wide range of areas within the region and record the birds they see. In the second year (2013-14) we will target areas that are rarely visited, to improve the coverage, and hopefully some Birds SA field trips and campouts will be used to target poorly surveyed areas.

Updates on progress will be provided via Birds SA Newsletter and or on the Birds SA website. To be involved you will need a survey kit (instructions and cards). Kits and additional blank cards will be available at general meetings of Birds SA, where completed cards can also be handed in and replaced with additional blank cards. You can also post completed cards to David Paton, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide, ADELAIDE SA 5005 and seek kits and additional cards by contacting David Paton via email on [david.paton@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:david.paton@adelaide.edu.au) giving a suitable postal address.

**Penny Paton**

