



2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT



Conservation
Council SA

Who is Conservation SA?

Conservation SA is the state's peak non-government environment body. This is central to our structure as an organisation, but it's not why we exist.

For nearly 50 years we've been committed to protecting, restoring and conserving South Australia's unique and beautiful natural spaces and promoting a truly sustainable future for our state.

As a community-powered organisation we stand for South Australia's environment when it's under threat, help our member groups and other nature champions, and create and tell stories about better ways for people and nature to thrive.

OUR UNIQUE ROLE

We are blessed here in South Australia to have so many passionate and active groups working to protect the places, plants and animals we love.

But at Conservation SA we play a unique and essential role.

While others can focus their efforts on a particular issue or area, as the state's peak body we have a broad gaze. We act as a sentinel on behalf of our member groups and all South Australians. We help create the conditions for long-term nature protection, and when threats emerge we step in and protect.

At Conservation SA
we play a unique
and essential role.

Conservation SA acknowledges that our offices and The Joinery sit on Kurna land. We offer our respect to Kurna elders past and present, and to the Traditional Owners whose lands and waters we engage with across South Australia.

We represent
90,000+
PEOPLE



and **60+**
environmental
**MEMBER
GROUPS**



WHAT WE DO

We change the story so our state can aim higher

- We run campaigns to transform contemporary and 'ripe' issues.
- We develop effective relationships to influence decision makers.
- We build a stronger public profile for nature.

We energise the movement

- We provide a home for our members and like-minded community.
- We develop systems and approaches that engage and support people to become more active, resilient and effective change agents.
- We activate and support community leaders and nature champions.

We lead projects that show a way forward

- We actively choose and shape demonstration projects that make an alternative future more visible and accessible.
- We work with organisations who share our values and vision.
- We communicate and share our learnings with others.

HOW WE WORK

In all we do, we aim to:

- Start with positive framing (heart, nature, common cause).
- Work in partnership.
- Increase public visibility (events, storytelling, The Joinery).
- Direct community to participate in political conversation.
- Seek independent sources of income.

Together we can create a better future for South Australia.

Join us...



Message from the President and Chief Executive

Once again we can look back in pride at what we have achieved over the past 12 months.

As the leading advocacy voice for the environment in SA, our overwhelming focus has been the 2018 State Election.

State Elections are key opportunities to secure key protections and commitments.

In March 2018, Conservation SA coordinated and facilitated the largest and most comprehensive State Election campaign ever run by our sector, pulling together a coalition of 33 groups under the banner of *Our Future SA*.

Since then we have worked hard to establish strong relationships with the new government — the first in 16 years — and refresh connections with opposition parties to ensure the commitments we secured during the campaign are delivered.

We have remained vigilant throughout the raft of reviews underway, whilst using the window that comes with a reforming Environment Minister to set good things in place.

So, in many ways our work remains the same despite the change in government: convincing those in power that there is far more value in preserving than in destroying our beautiful environment.

When it comes to the latter, there are certainly no shortage of challenges on the horizon.

It's hard to believe, but a highly controversial technology that is illegal in Queensland called Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) is being trialed here in SA. This dirty industrial process went horribly wrong in Queensland, contaminating hundreds of square kilometres of the Darling Downs. We've been pushing hard to make sure it never establishes a foothold here.

And we have significant unfinished business on nuclear waste dumps. After our wonderful win stopping the international dump in its tracks, we've continued to support the communities of the Flinders Ranges and Kimba as they face the prospect of having Australia's highest level nuclear waste (dangerous for 10,000 years) imposed on them.

We continue to stand up for the Murray, and against inappropriate development in Kangaroo Island, the Great Australian Bight and other places.

In the meantime, we tell positive stories about South Australia's wonderful progress shifting to renewable energy, and constantly remind the community, our leaders and the media of the need to act on climate change.

Conservation SA continues to successfully run a range of demonstration and citizen science projects that help protect and bring people closer to nature. We reach out to those who don't see necessarily themselves as environmentalists through the range of wonderful events and activities at The Joinery, including the inspiring work of the Adelaide Sustainability Centre.



Craig Wilkins, photo by Matthew Turner

All this is taking place in the face of a concerted push by Federal and State Governments to not only question the role of advocacy by civil society groups but also impose a greater level of reporting and auditing of our activity and spending. This 'green tape' is very frustrating and distracting.

One of the genuine highlights of the year was our annual SA Environment Awards. For the first time in 2018 we awarded Lifetime Achiever Awards to five very deserving nature champions, and we look forward to honouring further recipients on an annual basis to create a wonderful record of their legacy.

With a new President comes a chance to reflect on our long-term direction as a peak body. Organisations such as ours play a critical role in shaping the kind of society we want.

We have recently seen in politics (from all sides) what happens when internal dissent trumps purpose and leadership.

Presenting a united front is our greatest strength. We still have work to do to harness the power inherent in all of the memberships of our member groups.

We strive to find smarter and more flexible ways to collect the opinion of all of our networks and supporters and focus it into a clear and coherent message that achieves impact and creates change.

Our challenge is to create a positive influence by mobilising the voice of our constituency on a much greater array of issues.

There is a genuine battle for ideas underway, and we need to have the capacity and confidence to fight. As always, it's up to each of us to stand up for the places we love and blaze a more sustainable path for our state. But by acting together we can achieve so much more.

Despite all our great work, it's been a tough year financially and we've had to make some hard decisions to ensure our long term sustainability.

Like many advocacy organisations, most of our spending is on our people, so we've had to undertake a major restructure and a reduction in our overall staffing costs.

The focus of the restructure has been on aligning strengths, experience and skill sets with our strategic plan, but the loss of good people who have been integral to our Conservation SA family for many years has been very hard.



Mark Anderson, photo by NASAA

Finally, as always, we need to acknowledge and say a huge thank you to the many volunteers, funding agencies, Council delegates, donors, partner organisations, Executive Committee members and, of course, our dedicated staff who continue to do such great work on behalf of all of us.

We couldn't do it without you.

Craig Wilkins and Mark Anderson September 2018



Sustainable Living

ADELAIDE SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE

Located on the ground floor at The Joinery, the Adelaide Sustainability Centre continues to inform, inspire and connect communities to create a sustainable future and to protect our natural environment.

The centre provides a range of community and environmental services, including reference material and referrals, volunteer programs, workshops, events, information and advice, recycling services, resources and equipment.

Events included children's school holiday workshops, film nights and guest speakers focussing on local environment, urban biodiversity workshops, food waste reduction, local food production, composting, native foods and natural dyes. Highlights have included a sold-out clothes swap that raised \$300 in donations to Common Ground's Women's Group, the expansion of the Eco Families Adelaide program into the Adelaide Hills with the support of a local council, and the Plastic Free July programming which brought many new faces into the ASC.

30 regular project-based volunteers work at the ASC in the demonstration gardens, delivery of the Adelaide Repair Café, administration roles, event planning and support. A community 'brains trust' of 25 members contributes to the centre's vision, providing connections and insight into the broader sustainability and environmental issues and community networks.

The Adelaide Sustainability Centre opened in August 2015 in partnership with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and Conservation SA.



ADELAIDE REPAIR CAFE

In 2017-18 the Adelaide Sustainability Centre received funding from the State Government's Fund My Neighbourhood program to deliver a year-long series of Repair Cafés.

Adelaide Repair Café creates a space where community members can meet to repair items such as furniture, clothing, electrical items and bicycles. By promoting repairs, our aim is to reduce the amount of items going into landfill each year.

Our experts take the time to explain the repair process with participants in order for individuals to learn these repair skills. Repairs offered vary each session, depending on the skill set of the available volunteers.

THE JOINERY

It's been another busy year at our home in the heart of the city. The Joinery has welcomed thousands of visitors for sustainability workshops, community events, meetings, and tours of our demonstration energy project and the Common Ground Community Garden.

Our versatile office spaces play host to a range of inspiring tenant organisations, including PureSA, GetUp, Minimal Disturbance Bushcare, UNHCR and TEAR. The Adelaide Community Bicycle Workshop in our western outdoor space continues to donate hundreds of bikes each year to members of the community through their Bikes for Refugees program.

And in June 2018 the Foodprint Experience Café opened its doors on our ground floor, offering sustainable, locally-sourced and delicious food and coffee.

We're excited about what 2018-19 holds for our home and hub!

The Adelaide Sustainability
Centre received



569
VISITORS

and delivered

62 EVENTS*

to

1,439 PEOPLE



*45% of those events sold out.

SPORTS CLUB SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

2017-2018 has seen the culmination of the three-year Sports Club Sustainability Project.

The project has assisted sport and recreation clubs to reduce their energy and water costs by providing them with comprehensive, targeted information on energy, water efficiency, and a framework for sustainability in the club environment. Over the past year, six workshops/webinars were held with 55 participants from across SA.

The workshops provided practical learnings on energy and water efficiency and embedding sustainability into club governance structures, plus a comprehensive guide containing fact sheets, a DIY audit and templates for procedures and policies.

The guide and the webinar can be viewed on the Office for Recreation and Sport website.



Nature

NATURE OF SA

The conversation regarding future directions for nature conservation in South Australia, known as The Nature of SA, is continuing. This sector-wide partnership between a range of environmental groups and the Department of Environment and Water is now in its second year.

Since a statewide conservation sector forum last year, this partnership work is gaining momentum as we continue to explore a strategic policy position for the conservation of nature in South Australia. A directions paper will provide a report back to the stakeholders engaged in the process as well as guide our conversations across all sectors and the community.

Developing a project to change South Australia's nature narrative was a clear priority that emerged from the forum. The *Amongst It* campaign was launched to promote and showcase the value of connecting individuals to everyday nature and celebrating how important nature is to the identity of South Australia. Nature celebration projects were piloted in 2018 as part of a small grant round. The lessons learned from this will inform future iterations and a platform upon which to build a successful program into the future.

One of the projects, *City Unearthed: Celebrating Adelaide's nature within* (supported by a grant from the Adelaide City Council) enabled Conservation SA to run a 'nature in the city' photo competition and exhibition.

Other work included influencing strategies such as the State Natural Resources Management Plan and State of the Environment reporting as well as a focus on how agencies can be influenced by the Nature of SA thinking to increase support for nature as a priority.



Photo courtesy of Carmel Daher Sutcliffe

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The past year has seen the Conservation SA Bushfire Project strengthen relationships with the state fire agencies that deal with bushfire: Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and the Country Fire Service (CFS). In 2017-18 the Fire Management and Policy Officer established a cross-sector Fire Collaboration Group and had a deeper involvement in the Bushfire Management Area Plan (BMAP) process.

This Fire Collaboration Group's main task is to robustly discuss and aim to resolve long-standing issues, mainly of an ecological nature, that occur in the bushfire management area. Prescribed burning in conservation zones, long-term prescribed burn planning on private and public lands in the Mount Lofty Ranges and standardising operations and procedures have been the primary focus of the group this year.

Conservation SA nominees on the regional Bushfire Management Committees have been instrumental in ensuring that environmental considerations are raised in discussions and contained in planning and policy documents.

Conservation SA and its BMC nominees have been invited to participate in assisting DEW to review and develop new procedures in the prescribed burning space. We welcome the opportunity to participate in this review implementation and looks forward to continuing working in this area.

Healthy Ecosystems

REEF WATCH

Reef Watch is a multi-award winning citizen science program that trains volunteers to undertake health checks of both underwater and coastal rocky reefs in SA. The collected data contributes to improved environmental management of our beautiful reefs.

Volunteer divers were involved in seven subtidal training sessions and monitoring reefs in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Region, including 32 surveys at Second Valley, Broken Bottom, Hallett Cove and Port Noarlunga.

A report titled *Reef Watch Surveys from 1998-2018 – a summary of 20 years* was completed by Grant Westphalen and Tim Kildea and presented to audiences including Coastal Ambassadors, Seascapes Team and the Australian Citizen Science Conference.

Reef Watch also reached more than 25,500 people by participating in Science Alive with 5,500 students from 80 different schools on Careers Day and over 20,000 visitors over the weekend. Reef Rambles were also popular, with three events booked out, while a screening on the movie *Blue* attracted over 200 participants.

Intertidal surveys were put on hold over the summer with a focus on training new staff, entering data, refining methodology and developing data entry website. Five volunteers spent a combined 50 hours entering data that has now been analysed. The development of a new intertidal data entry interface is in progress.



FERAL OR IN PERIL

The Feral or in Peril program works with the coastal community to develop and support an early warning network of ocean users who can identify and report invasive marine species.

The ability to act on potential invasions as early as possible is critical to keeping fish habitats healthy, so our volunteers report in real time via an internet-based reporting system. Marine pest reports are sent to Biosecurity SA and, depending on the species, to university researchers and other government agencies.

Our dive volunteers undertake regular marine pest surveys at five underwater reefs in the Adelaide and Fleurieu region, with volunteers participating in 51 marine pest surveys.

Our important marine work would not be possible without the support of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and the Department for Environment and Water.



SWAMPS AND EMU-WRENS

2017-18 has been another rewarding year for the Swamps and Emu-wren team. We've worked to grow our knowledge, collaborated with other NGOs and partnered with a range of stakeholders to better manage habitat for conservation outcomes.

Fleurieu Swamp Assessments

A major focus this year was developing and implementing methods to efficiently assess the health and condition of Fleurieu Swamps. In collaboration with Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board the project trialled techniques for using goal-based assessments of swamps to determine what actions to take, when to take them and potential short-, medium- and long-term changes in the swamp if the actions are taken or not.

This work evaluates the merits of traditional conservation work (such as fencing, stock removal and weed control), capturing land use history through informal conversations with landholders, ecological site assessments and predictive adaptive management based on current knowledge to manage a diversity of swamps across their range. The approach and systems developed have evolved over the past year and the work of 2018-2019 will be dedicated to its implementation.

Stipiturus Conservation Park fire

The Fleurieu Swamps project team has been monitoring post-fire recovery of vegetation after prescribed ecological burns (Autumn 2012 and Spring 2014) and a more recent overachieving prescribed burn in Spring 2017. The 2017 burn presented another opportunity to monitor the response of different types of swamp vegetation communities to fire. There were also opportunities for understanding swamp recovery after repeat burns as some of the 2017 burn impacts occurred in the 2012 and 2014 burn patches.



Sphagnum

In 2006 Stipiturus Conservation Park was identified as one of only three Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps supporting *Sphagnum novo-zelandicum* (*Sphagnum*). Currently, the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (NPW Act) does not include non-vascular plants (such as mosses), however it has been recommended *Sphagnum novo-zelandicum* is listed as threatened in South Australia.

Analyses of patches affected by the 2017 fire suggest there is a high risk of uncovered *Sphagnum* not recovering over the summer months due to exposure and evapotranspiration. However, the Swamps and Emu-wren team discovered covering burnt moss with shade-cloth appears to be effective in protecting the population and increasing post-fire recovery during summer months compared to the uncovered *Sphagnum*.

Farewell to Rebecca Duffield

Rebecca Duffield first worked for the Swamp Recovery Team from 1997-2005 before rejoining the team in 2013. Rebecca has been an inspiration within the team and our organisation.

Though she has decided to move on to other challenges, her dedication to her colleagues and the pursuit of knowledge will be missed. We wish her all the best for the future.

Community Connecting to Nature

NATURE FOR YOU

2017-18 saw the culmination of our successful Nature for You project that provided free, safe nature-based experiences for disadvantaged South Australians.

By providing transport, guiding participants through the experience and covering costs such as park admission fees we were able to remove significant barriers to access to nature.

Hundreds of participants from more than 20 countries took part in activities at Belair National Park, Para Wirra Conservation Park, Morialta Conservation Park, Deep Creek Conservation Park, and Onkaparinga River National Park. Participants came from a wide variety of backgrounds and included migrants, refugees and new arrivals, pensioners, people on low incomes, people impacted by mental health issues, people impacted by domestic violence, members of the deaf community and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

'The mind is more calm, away from city life and their constructs.'

'I have a greater sense of freedom.'

'It makes me come alive.'

*Feedback from
Nature for You
participants*

Our Nature for You team worked with 10 different social services organisations, including Uniting Communities, Relationships Australia, DeafCanDo and Mental Illness Fellowship SA, to tailor activities to their needs and to inspire participants to return to nature on a regular basis.

FOREST BATHING

In 2016 Alex Gaut (Program Manager, Nature Connection) became South Australia's very first certified Forest Bathing Guide with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy Guides and Programs.

Throughout 2016-17 Alex guided public walks in Belair National Park and Para Wirra Conservation Park.

Forest Bathing has a focus on slowing down, immersing and awakening the senses, relaxing, becoming present and making contact with nature from the heart. The experience invites room for listening, healing and reflection, for quiet and accepting presence in a non-judgmental setting.

Alex has since moved on from our organisation, but continues to run Forest Bathing sessions through Nature Wellness Australia with support from Conservation SA.





Media and Communications

As the voice for the environment, national and local media regularly approach Conservation SA as the go-to source for expert commentary on environment and sustainability in our state.

Throughout the year, Conservation SA was featured in national TV, radio and print media, with multi-channel coverage of our events and campaigns. Chief Executive Craig Wilkins appeared on every major news outlet, hosted events around SA and interstate, published numerous op ed articles in The Advertiser and appeared monthly as environment expert on Radio Adelaide.

In 2017-18 our social media impact increased significantly, with Facebook page followers reaching more than 6,000 in 2018.

Volunteers

Conservation SA has been fortunate to host a dedicated team of wonderful volunteers in 2017-18.

Reef Watch remains Conservation SA's biggest volunteer program, with hundreds of active volunteers working with our team on coastal and marine conservation. Volunteers also gave their time and expertise to our events, administration, finance, The Joinery building and garden, field projects and communications.

We could not continue our work without their generous support.

We could not continue our work without the generous support of our volunteers.

Lifetime Achiever Award winners and families with Minister Ian Hunter and Conservation SA's Craig Wilkins



Awards

Each year, the annual SA Environment Awards celebrate our community's outstanding achievements in the field of environment and conservation in our state.

The 2018 Jill Hudson Award for outstanding contribution to protecting SA's environment was awarded to Lisa Lumsden, Gary Rowbottom and Maddie Sarre (AYCC) for the Repower Port Augusta campaign.

Also honoured were Unsung Hero Award recipient Bruce Wilson from Friends of Warriparinga and Young Achiever Award winners Mount Compass Area School Swamp Ambassador Program.

2018 marked the inaugural Lifetime Achiever Awards, celebrating the incredible achievements of South Australia's conservation legends Dr Barbara Hardy AO, Dr David Sherman, Margaret Oliphant AO, Yami Lester OAM* and Margaret Bolster AM*.

Conservation SA acknowledges all those who were nominated and the many others working in their own way to support conservation and sustainability in South Australia.

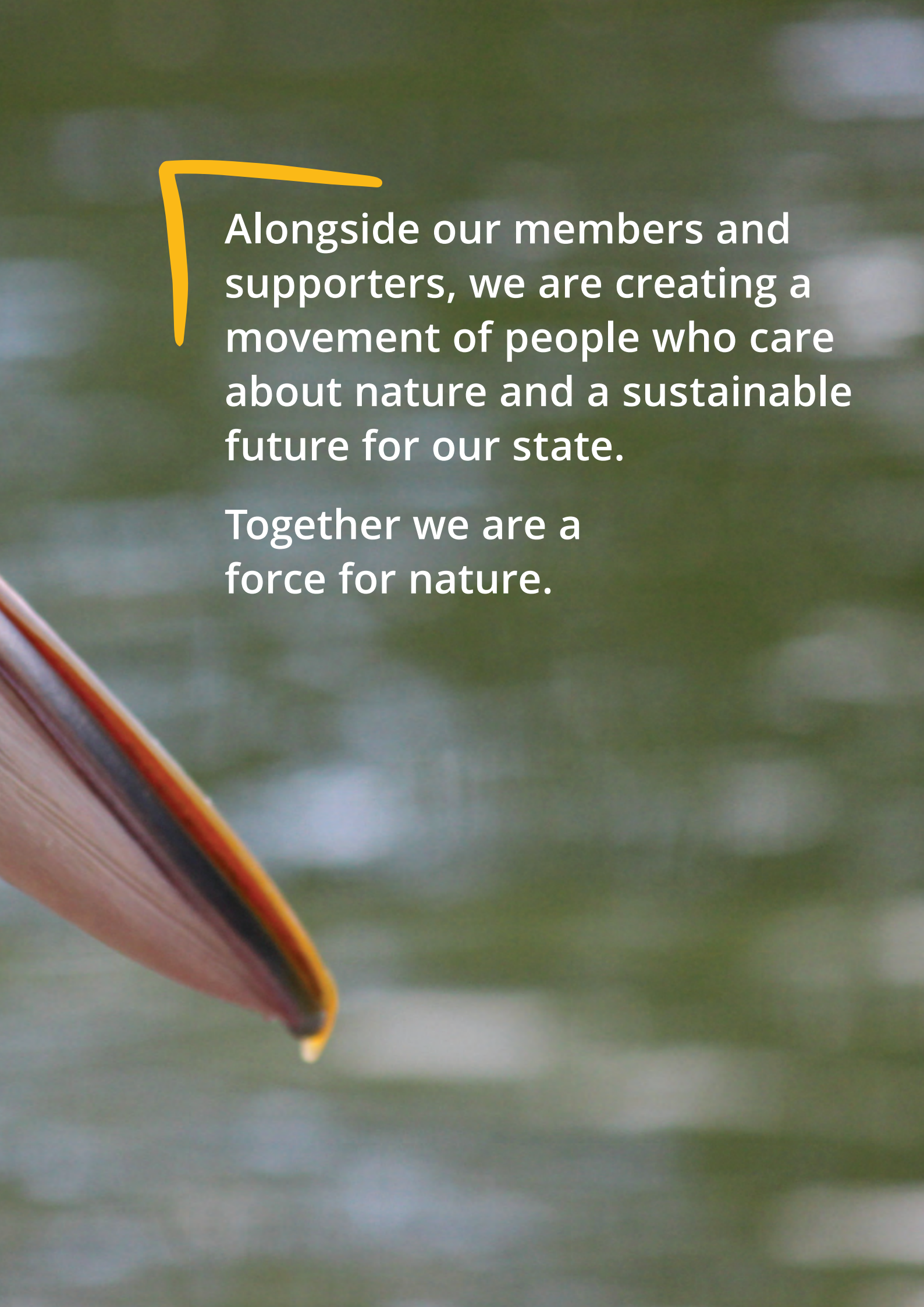
*Awarded posthumously



Top (L): Uncle Fred Agius welcome to country
Top (R): Jill Hudson Award winners from the Repower Port Augusta campaign
Bottom (L): Unsung Hero Award winner Bruce Wilson
Bottom (R): Young Achiever Award winners Mount Compass Area School
Photo credit (all): Aussie Kanck







Alongside our members and supporters, we are creating a movement of people who care about nature and a sustainable future for our state.

Together we are a force for nature.

Nuclear-free SA

In June 2017 Conservation SA's nuclear-free team were thrilled with the news that then-SA Premier Jay Weatherill's plans to pursue a high-level international nuclear waste dump were 'dead.' Soon after, a book celebrating this landmark decision was released called *Standing Strong - How South Australians won the campaign against a high-level international waste dump*. We have since worked to ensure this welcome news did not obscure the Federal Government's plan to site a low- and intermediate-level waste facility in South Australia.

The Federal Government has been trying to find a site for a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF) for decades. Despite the failure of a previous plan (resulting in the Nuclear Waste Storage Facility (Prohibition) Act (2000), which makes such facilities illegal in our state) there are three sites currently under consideration — all in SA.

The proposal is for the permanent disposal of low level waste (LLW) and long-term storage of intermediate level waste (ILW), which is Australia's most dangerous radioactive waste.

Communities on the front line continue to oppose the proposal and in August 2017 a short film called *We Say No* was released, attracting tens of thousands of views.



Conservation SA has engaged in this issue through political lobbying and supporting communities on the frontline in the Flinders Ranges and Kimba on the Eyre Peninsula. We have created information materials and signage, attended forums and meetings, and built relationships and networks. We have written submissions, collected postcard petitions, assisted collectives and undertaken multiple trips to the regions.

In late 2017 speakers and residents travelled hundreds of kilometres from Kimba on the Eyre Peninsula and the iconic Flinders Ranges to attend the Don't Dump on SA rally. They were joined by 1,500 other South Australians at Parliament House to highlight concerns over Federal Government radioactive waste dump plans.

In January 2018, Conservation SA partnered with Peace Boat during its visit to Adelaide for Making Waves. The meeting provided a unique platform for survivors from atomic testing in Japan and the Fukushima disaster to meet with communities impacted by the nuclear industry here in Australia. The forum was followed by a packed-out public meeting in Port Adelaide before the Peace Boat sailed on to Melbourne.

The following month, Senator Rex Patrick initiated a Senate Inquiry into the site selection process for the NRWMF. Conservation SA wrote submissions and created an online submission system, encouraging more people to have their say. We kept the nuclear campaign in the spotlight during festival season in March, handing out thousands of information cards at WOMAD in the lead up to the State Election.

On 29 April, the second anniversary of the Barndioota site's nomination, we worked with the Flinders Local Action Group to run stalls at Wilpena Pound and Hawker, inflating a giant radioactive waste barrel.

In May, Conservation SA — as a proud member of the No Dump Alliance — organised a meeting of affected communities in Port Augusta.

Throughout the year, Conservation SA has also supported Adelaide-based collective Don't Dump on SA to undertake creative actions to ensure people are aware that the nuclear issue affects all South Australians — not just members of two regional and remote communities.

In the coming year, we continue to work for a nuclear-free future and to fight for responsible management of Australia's most hazardous waste.



Adnyamathanha woman Vivienne McKenzie at Making Waves



State Election

State elections are critical times to secure policy gains and demonstrate public support. For the March 2018 State Election, Conservation SA coordinated and facilitated the largest and most comprehensive campaign ever run by our sector. We pulled together a coalition of 33 groups under the banner of *Our Future SA* to ensure a strong and consistent lobbying voice.

A comprehensive election platform and scorecard was produced, and with core lobbying partners we locked in a series of strong policy commitments, including:

- protecting the iconic Kalakoopah Creek wilderness in the Simpson Desert,
- review of native vegetation and significant trees protection,
- a moratorium on fracking in the South East,
- new ranger positions and community funding,
- reform of Natural Resource Management to ensure greater community involvement,
- commitment to landscape scale projects as an approach to nature protection, and
- significant additional commitments from SA Best.

With our campaign partners, we co-hosted a high profile forum at the Science Exchange featuring Jay Weatherill, Steven Marshall, Nick Xenophon and Mark Parnell, which attracted national coverage. And, alongside media and events, we disseminated the results of our work in the lead up to the day through innovative means such as bike posters.

With your help, we now need to turn those commitments into action.



State Election Environment Forum at RiAus



State Election organising crew

Action on Climate

Climate change is central to every part of our work, from energy to landscape protection and everything in between.

BILL MCKIBBEN IN ADELAIDE

In May 2018 Conservation SA was honoured to host the wonderful Bill McKibben when he visited Adelaide as part of his world tour. As founder of 350.org, Bill is one of the world's most prominent climate change communicators and activists, and has been extremely influential in the global divestment movement.

Bill gave a stirring public lecture (facilitated by our CE Craig Wilkins) and met with a range of business, community and political leaders. We were delighted to be able to show off some of SA's great work on renewable energy.

COMMUNITY ENERGY

At Conservation SA, we don't just want to talk about how great renewable energy is. We want to help drive a faster switch from dirty to clean energy.

This financial year, we partnered with solar energy company ShineHub on a community energy project to fast-track the installation of solar and batteries in SA households and small businesses through a bulk-buy campaign. All up, over 2,500 solar panels and 250 battery systems were installed. That's a lot of solar power!

DIVESTMENT

One of the single most powerful climate actions any of us can do is direct our money to places and businesses that don't invest in or support fossil fuels. We continue to lobby for councils and governments to divest, and partner with providers like Bank Australia and Diamond Energy who offer cleaner options for banking and energy supply.

FIGHTING GAS AND OIL

It's not enough for South Australia to embrace renewable energy. We also have to quickly put an end to fossil fuel extraction throughout our state.

Conservation SA has continued to support a range of community campaigns against drilling in the waters of the Great Australian Bight, and fracking in our beautiful and productive lands in the South East. We lobbied the new government to enshrine their moratorium on fracking in the South East into law, and were when they agreed to do it.

Unfortunately, a new threat has emerged. A highly controversial technology illegal in Queensland called Underground Coal Gasification — or UCG — has come to our state. This dirty industrial process involves setting fire to buried coal to extract gas. It went horribly wrong in Queensland, contaminating hundreds of square kilometres of the Darling Downs with harmful gases in an event the then Queensland Environment Minister Steven Miles described as "the biggest pollution event probably in Queensland's history."

With the local community and the Adnyamatha Traditional Owners we've been pushing hard to make sure it never gains a foothold here.



Oceans and Rivers

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN

It has been a whirlwind 12 months for South Australian communities engaging on Murray-Darling Basin issues and Conservation SA has been there supporting them every step of the way.

We assisted with recruitment and training of the ACF Rivers Fellowship cohorts for 2017 and 2018, providing leadership and community organising training for emerging community leaders from across the Basin. We also helped them to deliver training for local action groups in their communities.

Conservations SA supported the 2017 cohort of Rivers Fellows to organise Healthy Rivers Roadshow events in their communities, with five SA events taking place in Renmark, Murray Bridge, Meningie, Goolwa and Adelaide. Attendees heard passionate stories from the river, learned about the latest science and the current state of play in policy and politics.

As the culmination of their nine-month leadership program the 2017 River Fellows attended the inaugural Water Summit in Canberra from 14-16 October. Conservation SA provided organisational support for the SA Rivers Fellows to attend the summit and engage in advocacy meetings with federal elected members.

In 2018 Conservation SA has assisted both cohorts of SA Rivers Fellows to engage in advocacy for the river ahead of crucial votes in the Federal Parliament on how much water will be delivered downriver for the environment and downstream communities.

In May we helped member group River Lakes and Coorong Action Group organise an action at the Murray Mouth ahead of the vote on water for the Southern Basin, receiving statewide and national media coverage. Although the vote didn't go our way community input strengthened commitments from elected members and has set the scene for continued community involvement in the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Save Our Murray action May 2018



HEALTHY SEAS

Conservation SA has a long history of engagement in fisheries issues and working to keep our beautiful marine environment and oceans as healthy as possible. Much of our activity relates to formal consultation processes, including:

- risk assessment workshops (Rock Lobster Fishery, release of hatchery raised abalone),
- consultative committees (long-nosed fur seal, Windara Reef, giant cuttlefish, Sardine Fishery wildlife interaction, Spencer Gulf Prawn Fishery research),
- management plan reviews (Blue Crab Fishery), feedback on applications for export approval for fisheries under the EPBC Act (dive fisheries, beach-cast macroalgae), and
- aquaculture licence applications (particularly in relation to expansion of finfish aquaculture near Whyalla).

Conservation SA was also proactive in supporting community concern about inappropriate and cruel treatment of rays and sharks, and worked with the State Government and other groups to promote community awareness.

PROTECTING KANGAROO ISLAND

In the lead up to the State Election we worked closely with member group EcoAction KI to help save an important stretch of KI coastal reserve from being bulldozed and turned into a golf course.

However, our victory was short-lived, with plans resurrected by Minister David Speirs to lease the land to the developers. Lease or sale: it makes no difference. Either way, the coastal reserve bushland will be turned into golf fairways. We continue to lobby and fight against this short-sighted decision.



Our Finances

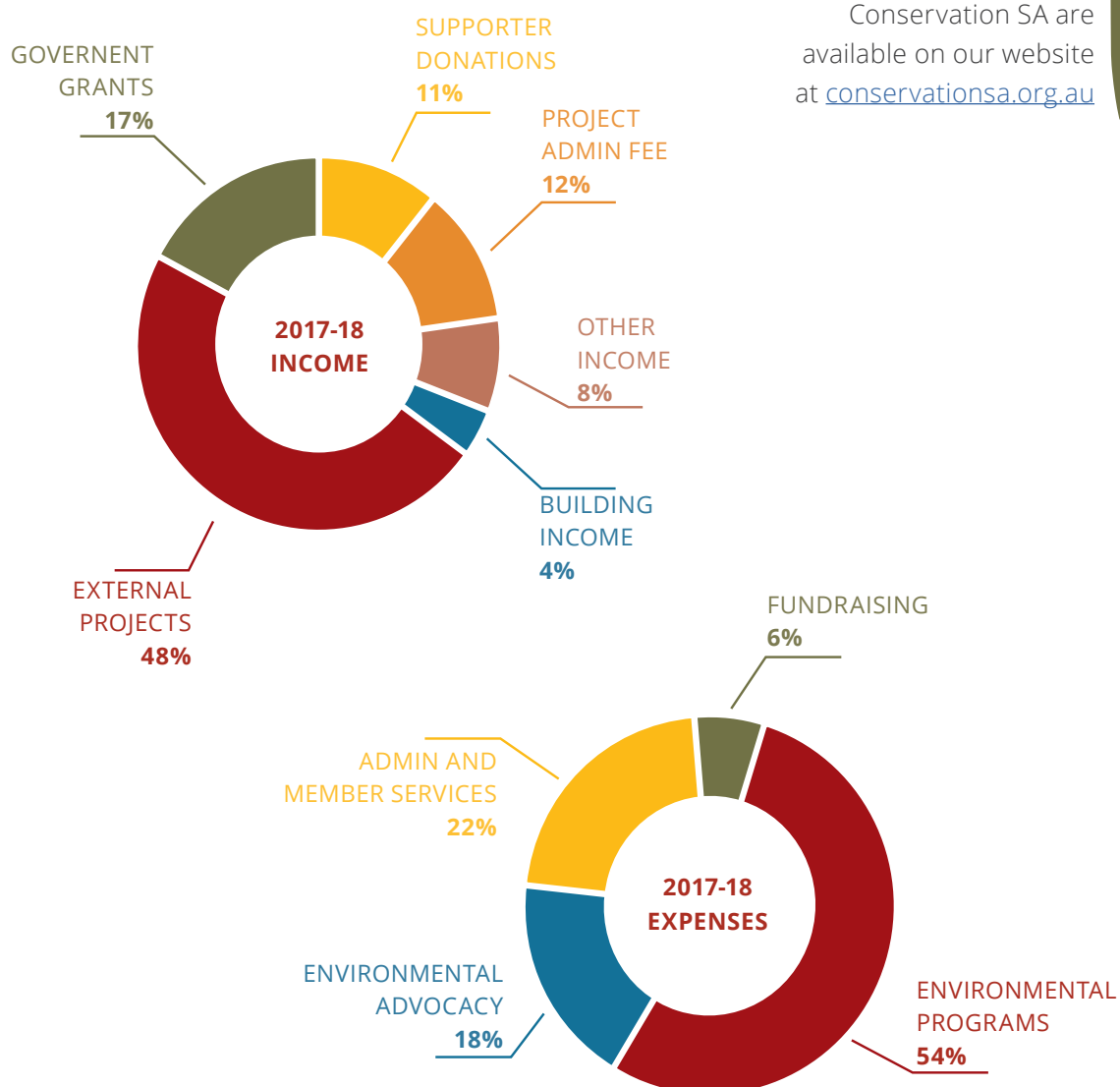
In 2017/18, Conservation SA's consolidated income was \$1,570,729. A large proportion of this (65%) was from grants and foundations for the delivery of environmental programs.

Conservation SA works hard to minimise our administration costs to ensure as much as possible is directed towards expanding our advocacy and community action programs.

Consolidated expenditure for the year was \$1,707,974, consisting of 54% spent on environmental program delivery, 18% on advocacy and campaigns, and 22% on administration and member services.

At year end, our organisational reserves stand at \$243,011.

Copies of the audited finance report for Conservation SA are available on our website at conservationsa.org.au



Donors and supporters

Our donors, supporters, volunteers and partners are the backbone of Conservation SA, and we could not continue our important work without their support.

We would like to extend our thanks to all who have helped us achieve another successful year resulting in key outcomes for the environment.

Our donors, supporters, volunteers and partners are the backbone of Conservation SA

Underpinning this amazing support from our community are the generous contributions we receive from philanthropic organisations, trusts and the Government of South Australia.

This year we continued to foster close relationships with our inspiring, mission-aligned partners. Conservation SA would like to thank Diamond Energy, Bank Australia GoGet and ShineHub for their generosity.

Significant thanks are also extended to Adelaide City Council for their continued support of Conservation SA and The Joinery. Through our partnership, they help us engage with the wider community through our home and hub.

Financial contributions, in-kind donations, volunteers and grants have allowed us to create projects that ensure nature is enjoyed by all, to pursue our aspirations for The Joinery, and to deliver on-the-ground work to help protect our environment for future generations. To all our supporters, we extend our appreciative thanks.



Representations on Government Committees

Conservation SA's role as the peak environment body in South Australia is to provide leadership and a strong voice on environmental issues.

We are often asked to nominate policy and community experts to join government and industry led working groups and committees.

We are very grateful to the generous individuals who volunteer hundred of hours on behalf of nature and their community.





Our Staff

Cat Beaton *Community Organiser**

Mara Bonacci *Nuclear Waste Campaigner
(from September 2017)*

James Brook *Marine/Aquaculture Technical
Adviser***

Carl Charter *Reef Watch Project Officer***

Rebecca Duffield *Ecological Research
Officer**

Alex Gaut *Program Manager Nature
Connection (until November 2017)*

Hadyn Hanna *Finance and HR** (until
March 2018)*

Lee Jeffery *Fleurieu Swamps Field
Assessment Officer***

Kylie Krueger *The Joinery and Relations**

Steve Leske *Reef Watch Project Officer***

Hilary Miller *IT**

Tessa Roberts *Fleurieu Swamps Project
Officer**

Diane Salvi *Coordinator of the Adelaide
Sustainability Centre**

Julie Schofield *Ecologist**

Kate Sutcliffe *Communications**

Virginia Swan *Office Manager*

James Tresize *Fleurieu Swamps Field
Assessment Officer***

Tim Vale *Fire Management Policy and
Habitat Protection*

Kathryn Warhurst *State Election and
Partnerships* (until May 2018)*

Kathy Whitta *Healthy Rivers Organiser/
Sustainable Communities Coordinator*
(until June 2018)*

Craig Wilkins *Chief Executive*

Julia Winefield *Research and Strategy**

Jill Woodlands *eNGO Nature Facilitator**

*Part time

**Contractor



Our Executive Committee

Mark Anderson *President (from November 2017)*

Nadia McLaren *Vice President (from November 2017), President from June to November 2017*

Philippa Rowland *Vice President*

Graham Davies *Vice President (until November 2017)*

Mark Clayton *Treasurer (from November 2017)*

Celia Struthers *Secretary (to May 2018)*

Sean Habgood *Member*

Veronica Maughan *Member (from November 2017)*

Julie Holloway *Member (from August 2018)*

Julia Winefield *Staff Representative (to June 2018)*

Hilary Miller *Staff Representative (from June 2018)*

Our Member Groups

Adelaide Hills Climate Action Group
Aldgate Valley Landcare Group Inc
Aldinga Bay Coastcare Inc
Association of South East Field Naturalists Societies
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Electric Vehicle Association
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (SA Group)
Australian Nuclear Free Alliance
Australian Plants Society (SA Region) Inc
Bicycle Institute of South Australia Inc
Bird Care & Conservation Society Inc
Birds SA
Brownhill Creek Association Inc
Cheltenham Park Residents Association Inc
Citizens Own Renewable Energy Network Australia
Clean Bight Alliance Australia
Coastal Ecology Protection Group
Community Alliance SA Inc
Echidna Care
Eco-Action KI
Economic Reform Australia Inc
Experiencing Marine Sanctuaries
Field Naturalists Society of SA
Fishers for Conservation Inc
Friends of Parks
Friends of the Earth Adelaide Inc
Friends of Willunga Basin
Gawler Environment & Heritage Association Inc
Greening Australia (SA)
Landcare Association of SA Inc
Landscape Partnerships Inc
Limestone Coast Protection Alliance
Marine Life Society of SA Inc
National Trust of South Australia
Natural History Society of South Australia Inc
North East Hills Environmental Conservation Association
Nuclear Operations Watch Port Adelaide
Orienteering SA Inc
People for Public Transport SA
Permaculture Association of SA Inc



Port Adelaide Residents Environment Protection Group
River, Lakes & Coorong Action Group Inc
SA Genetic Food Information Network Inc
SA Herpetology Group Inc
Scientific Expedition Group Inc
Spencer Gulf Environmental Alliance
St Agnes Bushwalking & Natural History Club Inc
Sustainable Communities SA Inc
Sustainable Population Australia SA Branch
Tennyson Dunes Group
The Wilderness Society (South Australia) Inc
Toyota Landcruiser Club of Australia (SA)
The Wilderness Society (South Australia) Inc
Transition Gawler
Trees For Life
Vegetarian & Vegan Society (VegSA) Inc
Walking SA
West Mallee Protection
Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association
Wombats SA
Zoos SA

Correa on Kangaroo Island, photo credit to Tessa Roberts

Cover photo courtesy of Sandy Horne, winner of the 2018 NatureClick photo competition



Conservation Council SA
The Joinery / 111 Franklin Street, Adelaide SA 5000
(08) 8223 5155
www.conservation.sa.org.au