



2016-17 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...



With political leadership in Canberra and throughout the world often failing our beautiful planet, there has never been a more important time for civil society leaders to stand up and create the world we want.

**It is clear we can't wait for our politicians to act**, particularly in response to problems like climate disruption and biodiversity loss. Nor can we ignore the politically motivated attacks to the charitable purpose of our sector.

In response, Conservation SA shifted this year into a proactive mode through a revised strategic plan. As the state's peak environment body, we must direct our limited resources to maximise our impact. We increasingly see our role as mobilising nature-loving South Australians, helping create a movement so strong politicians will not be able to ignore us.



There has never been a more important time for civil society leaders to stand up and create the world we want.

**But we don't just want to talk about what we want.** We want to actively create and show it through demonstration projects and alternative approaches. And we want to continue to change the story of our state through smart campaigning and lobbying.

This year we did just that in response to the Nuclear Royal Commission. Over the course of the 18-month push we became a lightning rod for South Australians who reject a future for our state as an indefinite repository for some of the world's most toxic substances.

Through events, research, lobbying and mobilising community we stood strong against a highly orchestrated and well-funded Government PR campaign. We are incredibly proud of what we achieved, and have been overwhelmed by the goodwill that was generated by our stance, particularly from Traditional Owner communities in the firing line of the Government's dump push.

**Promoting a better alternative was essential.** Early on in the campaign we commissioned a report that said our state could reach 100% clean energy in 15 years. Many dismissed it then — but none do now. What was regarded as an unrealistic dream has quickly become accepted as a genuine option for SA.

However, a true and just energy transition will require continual vigilance, with fossil fuel expansion still planned throughout the state, and oil and gas exploration in the Great Australian Bight.

And the nuclear dump fight is far from over, with various proposals for dumping waste from Lucas Heights still targeting South Australia.

**Of course, none of this work is done on our own.** Conservation SA is blessed to have 60 member groups, thousands of supporters and incredible partner organisations to work alongside.

We have worked with the Australian Conservation Foundation to train and inspire community members along the length of the Murray Darling to stand up for a healthy river.

Recognising that we need a different approach to nature protection, management and storytelling, we created Nature of SA, a joint project with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and nature-based community groups to co-design better approaches.

We've put on energy transition events with the Don Dunstan Foundation, worked with others on bringing more federal funding for the environment into our state and played a leading role in the 11-group strong SA Nature Alliance.

This focus on working together has also flowed through to our approach to the 2018 state election, with a huge effort to raise a united voice for nature and climate change action.

**Partnership is at the heart of the success of our home The Joinery,** which continues to be a useful, practical and inspiring space for our community. And it's the reason many of our nature and marine projects continue to thrive, including our Reef Watch program, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

**Looking ahead, there's much to be excited about.** After nearly 50 years, we've decided to change our name to better capture the work we do and the groups we represent. Over the coming year, you will see us transitioning to a new identity: Environment SA. We think it's a powerful and appropriate name for the peak body for the environment sector in South Australia. While our name is changing, our values and purpose aren't.

As always, there are a huge number of people to thank. We couldn't continue the work we do without the many volunteers, funding agencies, Council delegates, donors, partner organisations, Executive Committee members and, of course, our devoted staff, who give so much on behalf of this organisation and the planet we call home.

Thank you.

**Craig Wilkins and Nadia McLaren** *September 2017*



### A SPECIAL THANKS AND FAREWELL FROM NADIA

The past three and a half years as your President has been rich and challenging. My term has been very much focused internally on organisational repair and stabilisation, sound governance, rejuvenation and future building.

That spells a lot of change. We have a new home and social purpose, a new enterprise agreement with staff, a new strategic plan, a new brand and a renewed constitution.

I believe the role of President now demands a different mode of outgoing leadership and needs a new personality to embody that impulse. For this reason, I have initiated an open process of 'calling in' our next President.

I look forward to working with them in this exciting next phase of evolution of our organisation.



## THE JOINERY

It's been an incredibly busy year at our home in the heart of the city. As a community venue, The Joinery has been officially booked 726 times this year for meetings, events and workshops, plus many additional ad hoc meetings by our tenant organisations, member groups and partners.

Our thousands of visitors this year have included student and community groups touring The Joinery, where they have learned about sustainability, community gardening, energy systems and nature.

New to The Joinery is the raingarden located outside in our community garden. We are grateful to Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management for installing this fascinating working demonstration of what happens to our rainwater once it reaches the earth.

Our Common Ground community garden is going from strength to strength. The lush urban oasis now includes a beautiful outdoor dining area with reclaimed wood furniture by Recycled Creations, and a new shade structure built from the original Moonta Bay jetty planks.

The Joinery plays host to a range of inspiring tenant organisations, including Pure SA and TEAR. In 2017, we said goodbye to Conservation Volunteers Australia who moved on to a new, purpose-fitted space offsite. We're excited though about welcoming new tenants to our home and hub in 2017-18.

## THE DEPOT COLLECTIVE CAFE

The Depot Collective Cafe is well and truly settled into The Joinery, having celebrated its first birthday in June.

It's been a busy year for the cafe, between serving delicious food and coffee, catering for events at The Joinery, as well as growing a customer base for off-site catering.

This spring will see the official opening of the outdoor dining space in the community garden off Franklin Street.

## Sustainable Living

### ADELAIDE SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE


Located on the ground floor at The Joinery, the Adelaide Sustainability Centre is committed to finding practical ways to inspire change. We aim to connect and empower communities to create a sustainable future and to protect our natural environment.

Events ranging from children's school holiday activities, film nights and guest speakers, to workshops on urban biodiversity, food waste reduction, composting, native foods and natural dyes were offered throughout the year.

Highlights included a three-day Zero Waste Life Hacks workshop series at Womadelaide 2017; the creation of the sustainability-orientated parenting group Eco Families Adelaide; and supporting the community-building storytelling program Campfire Stories Adelaide.

The Centre provides a range of community and environmental services including reference material and referrals, volunteer programs, workshops, events, training and field days, information, recycling, resources and equipment.

A team of eight regular project-based volunteers supports the ASC's work. The Adelaide Sustainability Centre opened in August 2015 in partnership with the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and Conservation SA.



Our thousands of visitors this year have included student and community groups touring The Joinery

The Adelaide Sustainability  
Centre received



**1,612**  
**VISITORS**

and delivered

**50 EVENTS\***

to

**1,481 PEOPLE**



\*More than half of the events presented were sold out.

### **SPORTS CLUB SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT**

Sport and active recreation clubs across Adelaide have been reaping the benefits of our free Environment and Sustainability Champions Training.

Representatives from a wide variety of clubs — from tennis to dog obedience — have learned how to reduce energy and water use to lower their club's impact on the environment. The training also helps clubs to incorporate sustainability in their governance documents and management structures.

Attendees receive a certificate of attendance and a copy of our Environmental Sustainability Guide for Sport and Recreation Clubs. The Guide is full of sustainability tools including fact sheets, DIY audit tutorials and action plan templates. Further sessions are planned for 2017-18 in Adelaide, Port Augusta and Port Pirie.



## Nature

### NATURE OF SA

South Australians value nature in its many forms, as part of our heritage, our culture, and ourselves. The conservation work we have been doing, while invaluable, is not keeping up with the pace of change.

The Nature of SA project is a sector-wide partnership between a range of environmental groups and the Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources (DEWNR).

Over the past 12 months the Nature of SA strategy group has been working with the conservation sector to challenge our current approaches.

This has involved:

- exploring models to test and learn from experience and make our love of nature more visible;
- identifying suitable governance, policy, and legislative settings; and
- improving the capacity and resilience of the environment.

In February 2017, a special forum was held involving more than 180 people from across the state. Participants debated potential changes to our approach, what principles would work and how to put those principles into practice.

Work is now focused on developing a series of guiding statements that will form the basis for further discussions beyond the conservation sector, to test alignment and seek new ideas and collaborations, and ultimately guide the collaborative development of future State Government policy.



Photo courtesy of DEWNR

### FIRE MANAGEMENT

This year saw the creation of a new Fire Management and Policy Officer position in February 2017.

The role was formed in partnership with Department for Environment and Water, Natural Resources (DEWNR) to help bring together all parties interested and involved in fire management and policy in South Australia.

The focus for the first six months has been to support the Conservation SA nominees on the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) and the regional Bushfire Management Committees (BMCs).

A workshop for the current nominees was held in April that addressed current issues and looked at ways of making the roles of a Conservation SA nominee more effective.

Working with DEWNR Fire and Flood staff, Conservation SA has helped develop a process to enable community members to nominate environmental assets at risk from bushfire for inclusion into the regional Bushfire Management Area Plans.

The next six months will see a continuation of our work and the development of a possible collaboration between Conservation SA, DEWNR and the CFS.

We offer our thanks to the efforts of the Conservation SA nominees who have served with passion and dedication in their voluntary roles.

## Healthy Ecosystems

### REEF WATCH

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2017, 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.

This year, 51 divers were provided with training in dive surveys and coastal reef surveys. In total more than 200 volunteers were involved in monitoring eight reefs in the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Region, including Lady Bay, Aldinga, Hallett Cove and Noarlunga.

Reef Watch also reached more than 46,500 people by participating in 11 community events, including Science Alive, the inaugural World Environment Day Fair, the World Oceans Day launch of a new sculpture about the Noarlunga reef and some more of the ever popular Reef Rambles.

To celebrate two decades of operation, Reef Watch held a joint celebration with the Marine Discovery Centre, which also entered its 20th year in 2017. We also created a series of infographics about the achievements of our volunteers since the project's inception.

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### 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 can 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 57 volunteers participating in 47 marine pest surveys.

This year one of our dedicated intertidal volunteers recorded a new invasive species. A sea slug, which has previously been recorded in QLD and NSW, is now regularly being seen at Lady Bay and Aldinga intertidal rocky shores. This new information has been passed on to Biosecurity SA, the AMLR NRM Board and marine pest scientists, and has been published in the *South Australian Naturalist* journal.

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



## SWAMPS AND EMU-WRENS

2016-17 has been another rewarding year for the Swamps and Emu-wren team. We've worked with research students to grow our knowledge, collaborated with other NGOs, partnered with a range of stakeholders to better manage habitat for conservation outcomes and worked together with a dedicated Green Army team that provided much needed people-power.

### Emu-wren update

Surveys to monitor Emu-wren populations in Deep Creek and Stipiturus Conservation Parks have continued following the ecological burns undertaken in 2010 and 2012 to improve habitat.

The Emu-wrens seem to be favouring the regenerating vegetation, with many more observed in the burnt habitat. There has also been continued monitoring of Emu-wren populations throughout the Fleurieu, with current numbers estimated to be between 145 and 290 mature birds.

Our ornithologist Marcus Pickett has recently left the project after 22 years, and it goes without saying that he will be deeply missed. Marcus' knowledge and expertise has always been supported by a genuine commitment to threatened species, and we wish him all the best for the future.

Our project will continue to work with all our partners to implement recovery strategies.

### Fauna Surveys

This year we undertook surveys to detect predators in Emu-wren habitat. We were particularly looking for Black Rats, which have been associated with the decline of other songbird species. This was the first comprehensive fauna survey of this kind undertaken since 1998.

Our team set up motion detector cameras at 31 sites across nine properties. Rats were detected at only five sites, and at very low numbers. However, during the surveys we also detected other potential predators, including cats, foxes and tiger snakes. We also recorded spotless crakes, buff banded rails and yellow-footed antechinus.



Photo courtesy of Martin Stokes

## Green Army Swamp Team and Stipiturus Conservation Park

An enthusiastic Green Army team, led by Doreen Marchesan, has been integral to moving forward some of the priorities that were identified by landholders and conservation experts.

Over 15 hectares of native vegetation was improved through targeted weed control and the locations of weeds mapped to prioritise future work. The team were involved in surveying for mammals and reptiles, under the guidance of Peter Matejcic (Field Naturalists Society of SA) and our project Fauna Ecologist.

The Green Army also provided manual labour to complete tasks run by other projects including those at Stipiturus Conservation Park. This included swamp plantings (germinated from swamp soil cores) and constructing hydrological restoration structures made out of geo-fabric sandbags to reinstate natural creek flows (a Nature Glenelg Trust project).

Another successful Swamp Fest in May resulted in 2,500 plants in the ground to reinstate some dry heath habitat.

### Research projects

Over the past year, our Swamps team has worked with and supported University of Adelaide's James Trezise (PhD candidate), Masters student Diego Guevara and Dane Wilden (Honours) in their important research into the flora and fauna of the Fleurieu Swamps.

# Community Connecting to Nature

## NATURE FOR YOU

This year we've seen the continuation of our successful Nature for You project, providing free, safe nature-based experiences for disadvantaged South Australians.

The activities we provide are designed to enhance general wellbeing, and focus on relaxation, mindfulness, gentle exercise, and peace through connection with nature. By providing transport, guiding participants through the experience and covering costs such as park admission fees we have been able to remove significant barriers to access to nature.

More than 170 participants from 16 different 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.

*'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*

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.

We 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

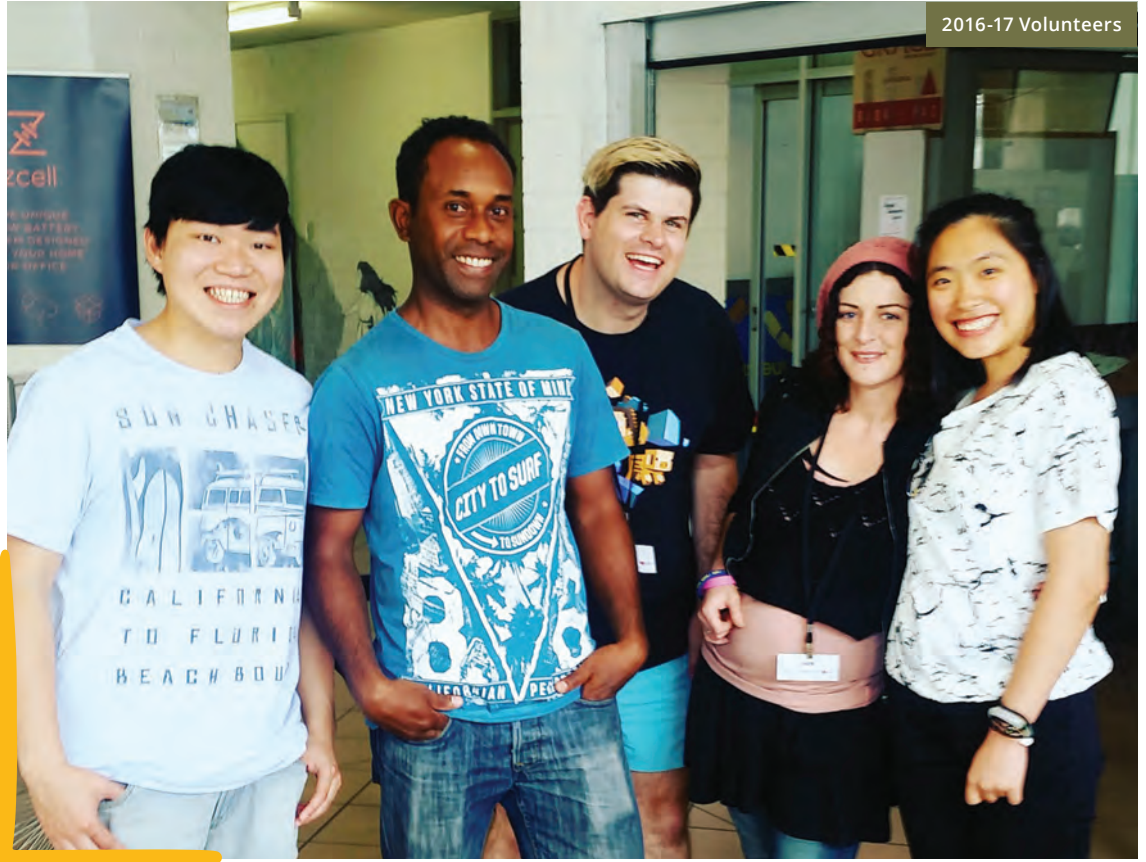
Alex Gaut, Program Manager, Nature Connection has become South Australia's very first certified Forest Bathing Guide with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy Guides and Programs.

Guided public walks began in January 2017, and so far 12 sessions have taken place in Belair National Park and Para Wirra Conservation Park, with approximately 80 people being amongst the first in Australia to experience this practice.

Forest bathing is a new concept in Australia. The practice 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.

The Forest Bathing program continues in 2017-18.





## 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.

In 2016-17 our social media increased significantly, with Facebook page followers reaching more than 5,000 in late 2016. In addition, our Say No To Nuclear campaign page attracted more than 1,000 subscribers and the Conservation SA Twitter account reached 2,700 followers in 2016-17.

## Volunteers

Conservation SA has been fortunate to host a dedicated team of wonderful volunteers in 2016-17.

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, Joinery reception, 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.



## Awards

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

The 2017 Jill Hudson Award for outstanding contribution to protecting SA's environment was awarded to Mark Bachmann from Nature Glenelg Trust for his tireless work as a campaigner for the South East wetlands.

Also honoured were Unsung Hero Award recipient Ken Jones and Mark Neville Franklin and Ida Moore, co-winners of the Young Achiever Award.

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.



Winners receive their awards from Nadia Top: Mark Franklin (L), Ken Jones (R), Bottom: Ida Moore (L), Mark Bachmann (R)



## Nuclear-Free SA

### A BIG WIN FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In June 2017 SA Premier Jay Weatherill announced that after two years his Government's plans to pursue a high-level international nuclear waste dump were 'dead.'

In concert with other organisations, local groups and individuals, Conservation SA played an active role in contesting the plan and working with community to say no to nuclear waste in SA. We congratulate and thank all our friends and supporters who stood strong on this issue, visited their MP, signed postcards and rallied with their communities.

Following the Royal Commission into SA's role in the nuclear fuel cycle (2015-2016), the final report recommended we seek to establish an international nuclear waste dump. Soon after, the State Government's Know Nuclear community consultation saw millions of dollars spent on a pro-nuclear roadshow at 100 sites in SA.

During this time, we launched our Say No to Nuclear campaign, featuring information sheets, support materials and a major social media presence, culminating in a public billboard at one of Adelaide's busiest intersections.

As part of the No Dump Alliance, Conservation SA helped to organise Exposure 2016, a two-day community expo on nuclear waste issues held in Port Augusta in September. This event explored both national and international nuclear waste proposals. Communities and individuals shared stories, got up to date on the current waste proposals and made plans for the future.

With confusion around the two proposed waste dumps, Exposure 2016 offered a clear explanation of the two separate proposals, exposing major inconsistencies in Government information and offering fact-based evidence from medical, cultural and economic experts. Interstate speakers included Mark Ogge from the Australia Institute and Dr Margaret Beavis from the Medical Association for the Prevention of War.



15 October 2016 marked 63 years since the atomic bomb test at Emu Junction in the state's north. On this day Conservation SA and other groups organised a national day of action that saw thousands of South Australians and groups take to the street to protest both waste dump proposals.

Conservation SA sat on an advisory board for the State Government's Citizens' Jury, which asked 350 South Australians the question: "Under what circumstance, if any, should SA pursue the opportunity to store and dispose of nuclear waste for other countries?"

Over many weeks jurors heard from and questioned a variety of witnesses. The jury delivered its verdict in November 2016, with 70% of jurors saying that under no circumstances should SA consider a future in international nuclear waste management.

In December, Conservation SA and a delegation of Traditional Owners and community members handed over 35,000 signatures to Premier Jay Weatherill, calling on him to scrap plans for a nuclear waste dump in any form.

While the end of the international waste dump plan was a huge win for our state, Conservation SA continues to work on the national nuclear waste issue, calling for our sensible and strong state legislation that prohibits nuclear waste dumps to be upheld.

Photo courtesy of Bill Doyle



## FIGHTING NATIONAL NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP PLANS

2016–2017 saw the Federal Government pursuing sites in South Australia for a national waste dump. The plan includes low-level waste and large volumes of intermediate-level waste that would be stored above ground as an interim measure before eventual under-ground disposal.

Measured by radioactivity, long-lived intermediate waste accounts for the majority of waste in Australia. The Federal Government is currently making no plans to establish a disposal site for long-lived intermediate-level waste, so 'interim storage' in SA could extend to 100 years or far longer.

We offer enduring support to the targeted communities in Kimba on the Eyre Peninsula and in the Flinders Ranges.

We offer enduring support to the targeted communities in Kimba on the Eyre Peninsula and in the Flinders Ranges. Our team has taken regular trips to the Hawker and Kimba regions to offer support and share information. In Adelaide we have organised information nights at the Governor Hindmarsh Hotel and meetings at The Joinery.

Conservation SA is continuing efforts in 2017-2018 to uphold state legislation that bans nuclear waste dumps in SA and supporting communities on the front line to say no to nuclear waste.



will  
you  
say  
no  
way?

## Energy

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

Conservation SA has maintained our loud and proud advocacy for SA's renewable energy journey in the face of resistance from the Federal Government, State Opposition and some media outlets following the state-wide blackout in September 2016.

Since the blackout, SA has become the crucible for renewable energy in Australia. The eyes of the nation are on us, and, since the involvement of billionaire tech guru Elon Musk, we are also becoming a significant player on the global stage.



Giles Parkinson (L) with CE Craig Wilkins

Our CE Craig Wilkins has been on the front foot in the media, appearing across a range of outlets to debunk some of the common misinformation about renewable energy.

Conservation SA also hosted a sell-out public forum in March with trusted energy analyst Giles Parkinson of RenewEconomy to separate the facts from the rhetoric and explore the next chapter of our energy evolution.

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### COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECTS

One of the key elements in the next chapter, especially in the face of ongoing energy price hikes, is to allow citizens to have direct ownership of some of our energy generation.

In February, through the support of the State Government, we were able to help 10 community delegates attend the Congress for Community Energy in Melbourne. A new SA network of individuals and organisations interested in community energy was born at the congress, and we look forward to this bearing fruit down the track.

As part of our community energy work, we hosted Søren Hermansen, one of the world experts on community-owned renewable energy, to share the story of 100% renewably-powered Samsø island in Denmark.

### FIGHTING UNCONVENTIONAL GAS EXPLORATION

While supporting solutions such as community energy and the wonderful Repower Port Augusta campaign, we have also been highlighting the dead ends that our state should not be pursuing in its energy transition.

Unfortunately, our State Government is pursuing its Roadmap for Unconventional Gas, with areas across the state under threat of exploration, including our beautiful and productive lands in the South East.

Conservation SA has been supporting the community in the South East and raising awareness in metropolitan Adelaide. In May 2017, our CE Craig Wilkins spoke at the Transitions Film Festival screening of the inspirational film *The Bentley Effect*, which documents the years of hard-fought battle and subsequent victory of a NSW community against a gas fracking project.

We are now supporting new Adelaide-based group, Gasfield Free SA, which is working hand-in-hand with South East landholders to stop invasive gasfields before they take a foothold.

## Oceans and rivers

### HEALTHY SEAS

South Australia is home to some of the most spectacular ocean waters and coastal spaces in the world, and Conservation SA is a leading advocate for their protection.

We represent our sector in forums such as the Long Nosed Fur Seal and Cuttlefish Working Groups, the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary Collective, and act in response to changes to fishery and aquaculture activity.

We hold regular Fish Forums on emerging issues, such as by-catch of dolphins and seals in trawler fisheries. And as a member of the Save our Marine Life, Clean Bight and Stop the Trawler Alliances we work together with others around the country to stop threats such as oil drilling, overfishing or the rollback of marine parks.

### AMBASSADORS FOR HEALTHY RIVERS

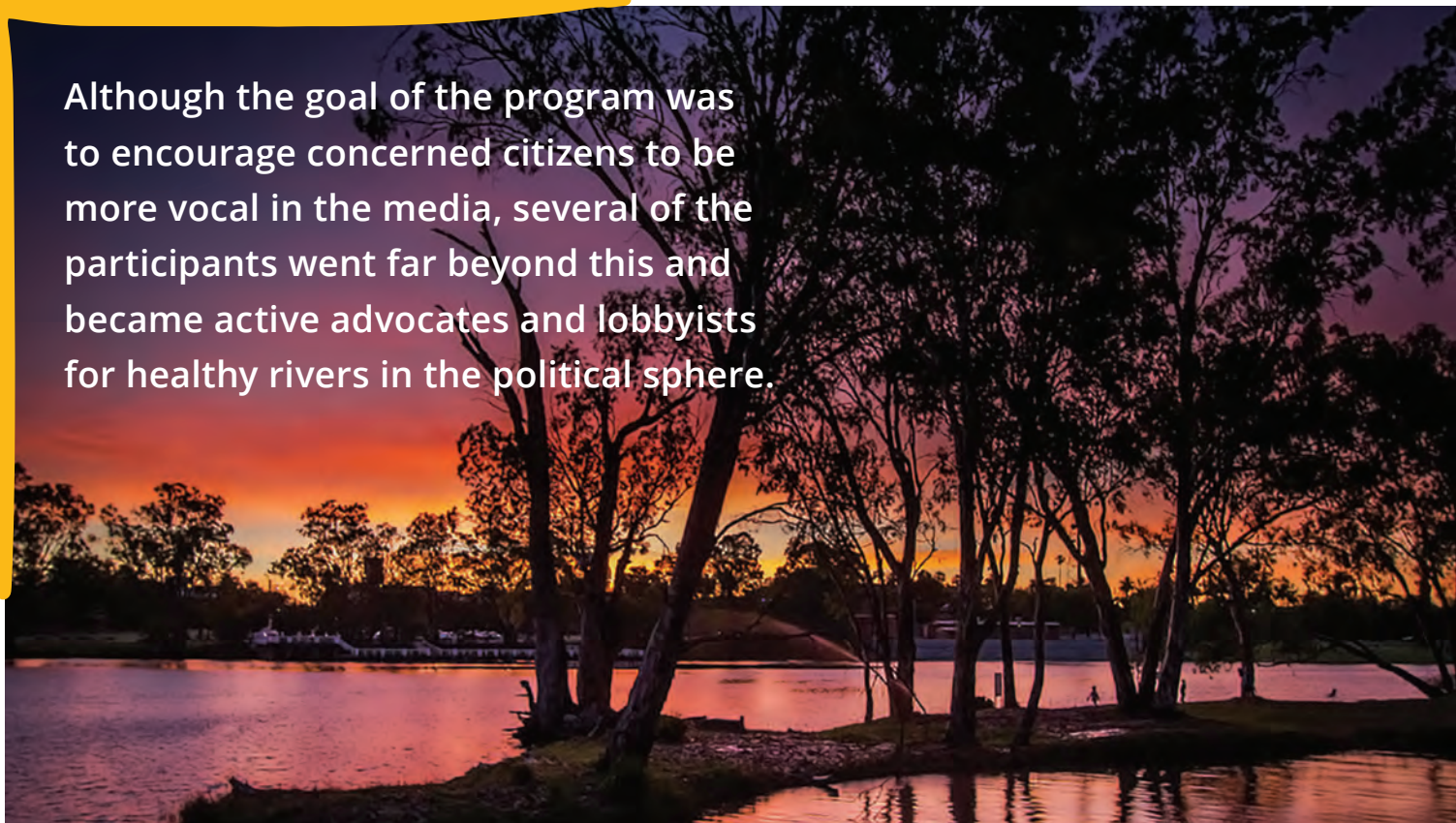
This year, Conservation SA partnered with the Australian Conservation Foundation to deliver this pilot program to train and empower a group of people who care about the health of the Murray Darling Basin.

The 11 participants from NSW, Victoria and South Australia represented a diverse range of communities and interests including Traditional Owners, agriculture, irrigation, science, fishing, art and local communities.

The program saw 40 instances of media coverage, 30 advocacy activities including meetings with politicians, and the creation of a self-organising group with its own identity and purpose.

Three of the participants have now enrolled in a subsequent Rivers Fellowship training program to build their skills and networks even further.

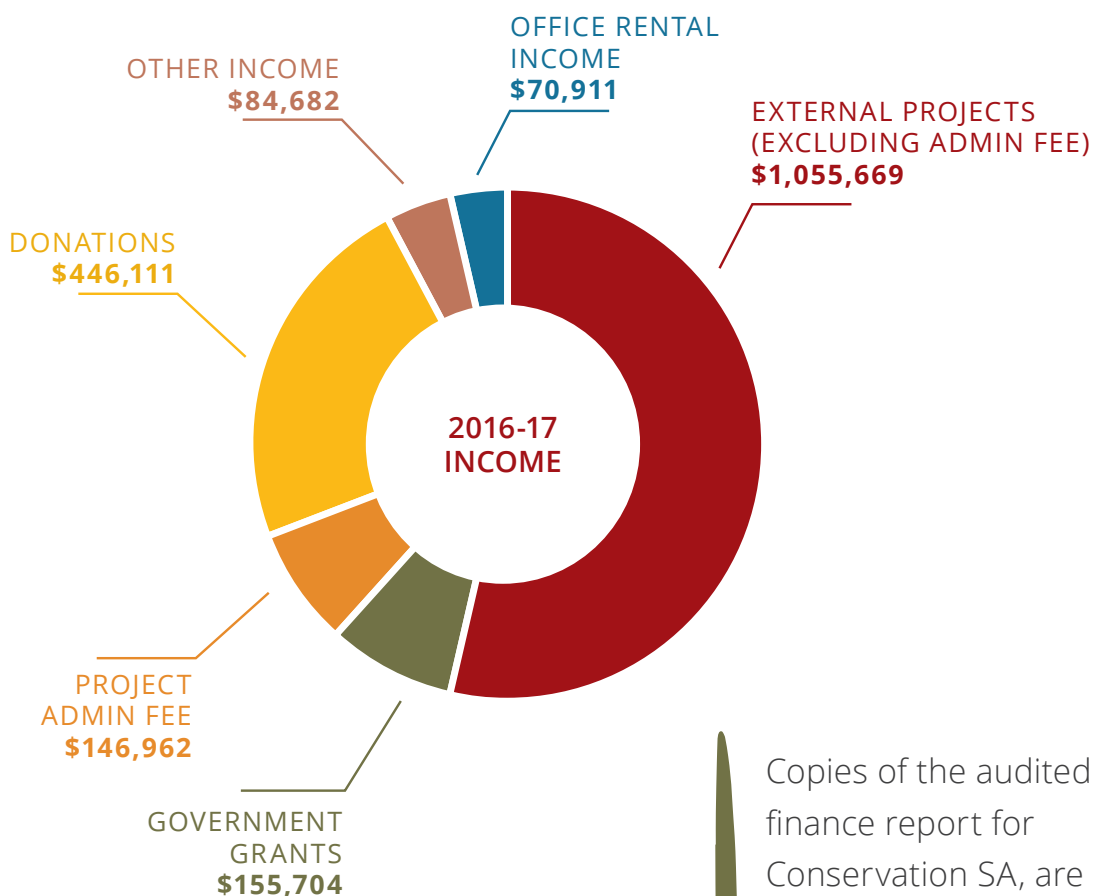
Although the goal of the program was to encourage concerned citizens to be more vocal in the media, several of the participants went far beyond this and became active advocates and lobbyists for healthy rivers in the political sphere.



## Our Finances

The overall financial result for the 2016-17 financial year was an operating profit of \$34,928. Total expenditure for 2016-17 was \$1.93m as compared to \$1.95m in 2015-16. At year-end, organisational reserves were at \$380,255.

Conservation SA works hard to minimise administration costs and ensure donations are effective in expanding our advocacy and community action programs. Administration expenditure includes support to funded projects and Conservation SA advocacy and community actions.



Copies of the audited finance report for Conservation SA, are available on our website at [conservationsa.org.au](http://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 developed close relationships with our inspiring, mission-aligned partners. Conservation SA would like to thank Diamond Energy, GoGet and Sustainable Works 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.



Photo courtesy of Matthew Turner

## 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.



## People in Focus

### MARCUS PICKETT

*In May 2017 Conservation SA's longest serving employee, Marcus Pickett, retired as Ornithologist for the Mt Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren and Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps Recovery Program.*

This project has been running since 1993 and Marcus has been at its heart, initially as a volunteer then a paid employee, since 1995.

Over the past 22 years, Marcus has extensively mapped and surveyed Emu-wren populations across the Fleurieu. This is difficult and time-consuming work; the bird is very shy and favours dense vegetation that is often in permanently boggy areas.

Marcus' knowledge of the natural world is formidable, and his work for Conservation SA has been central to the success and longevity of the Swamps Recovery Program.

Marcus: as elusive to photograph as an Emu-wren!  
Photo courtesy of Nature Glenelg Trust



Among his countless other achievements, Marcus is directly responsible for the purchase and gazetting of three conservation parks on the Fleurieu, primarily for the preservation of habitat and populations of Emu-wrens. Stipiturus Conservation Park, Gum Tree Gully Conservation Park and Hesperilla Conservation Park are now in the reserve system as a direct result of his influence.

Marcus' knowledge of the natural world is formidable, and his work for Conservation SA has been central to the success and longevity of the Swamps Recovery Program.

The whole Conservation SA team, and especially the Recovery Program staff, wish Marcus all the best in his future endeavours and hope that in his private work he will continue his quest for 'elegant solutions.'

## Our Staff

**Cat Beaton** *Community Organiser\**

**James Brook** *Marine/Aquaculture  
Technical Adviser\*\**

**Gabrielle Bond** *Membership and Volunteer  
Coordinator\* (July to December 2016)*

**Carl Charter** *Reef Watch Project Officer\*\**

**Rebecca Duffield** *Ecological Research Officer\**

**Alex Gaut** *Program Manager Nature Connection*

**Hadyn Hanna** *Finance and HR\*\**

**Georgina Hone** *Volunteer Coordinator  
(February to June 2017)\**

**Lee Jeffery** *Fleurieu Swamps Field  
Assessment Officer\*\**

**Kylie Krueger** *Joinery and Relations\**

**Steve Leske** *Reef Watch Project Officer\*\**

**Hilary Miller** *IT\**

**Marcus Pickett** *Ornithologist (to May 2017)\**

**Tessa Roberts** *Fleurieu Swamps Project Officer  
(from March 2017)\**

**Diane Salvi** *Coordinator of the Adelaide  
Sustainability Centre\**

**Julie Schofield** *Fauna Officer\**

**Kate Sutcliffe** *Communications\**

**Virginia Swan** *Office Manager\**

**Tim Vale** *Fire Management Policy and  
Habitat Protection*

**Kathryn Warhurst** *Enterprise and Partnerships\**

**Kathy Whitta** *Sustainable Communities  
Coordinator\**

**Craig Wilkins** *Chief Executive*

**Julia Winefield** *Research and Strategy\**

**Jill Woodlands** *eNGO Nature Facilitator\**

\*Part time

\*\*Contractor

## Our Executive Committee

**Nadia McLaren** *President*

**Philippa Rowland** *Vice President*

**Faith Coleman** *Vice President (to  
November 2016)*

**Graham Davies** *Member (to November 2016)  
and Vice President (from November 2016)*

**Philip Riquier** *Treasurer (from November 2016)*

**Sean Habgood** *Treasurer (to November 2016)  
and Member (from November 2016)*

**Holly Niner** *Secretary (to November 2016)*

**Celia Struthers** *Secretary (from March 2017)*

**Julia Winefield** *Staff Representative*

**Jan Chorley** *Member (to November 2016)*

**Mary-Anne Healy** *Member (to November 2016)*

**Josie Mclean** *Member (to November 2016)*

**Leanne Muffet** *Member (to November 2016)*

**Sam Wells** *Member (to November 2016)*

**Matthew Wright-Simon** *Member (to  
November 2016)*



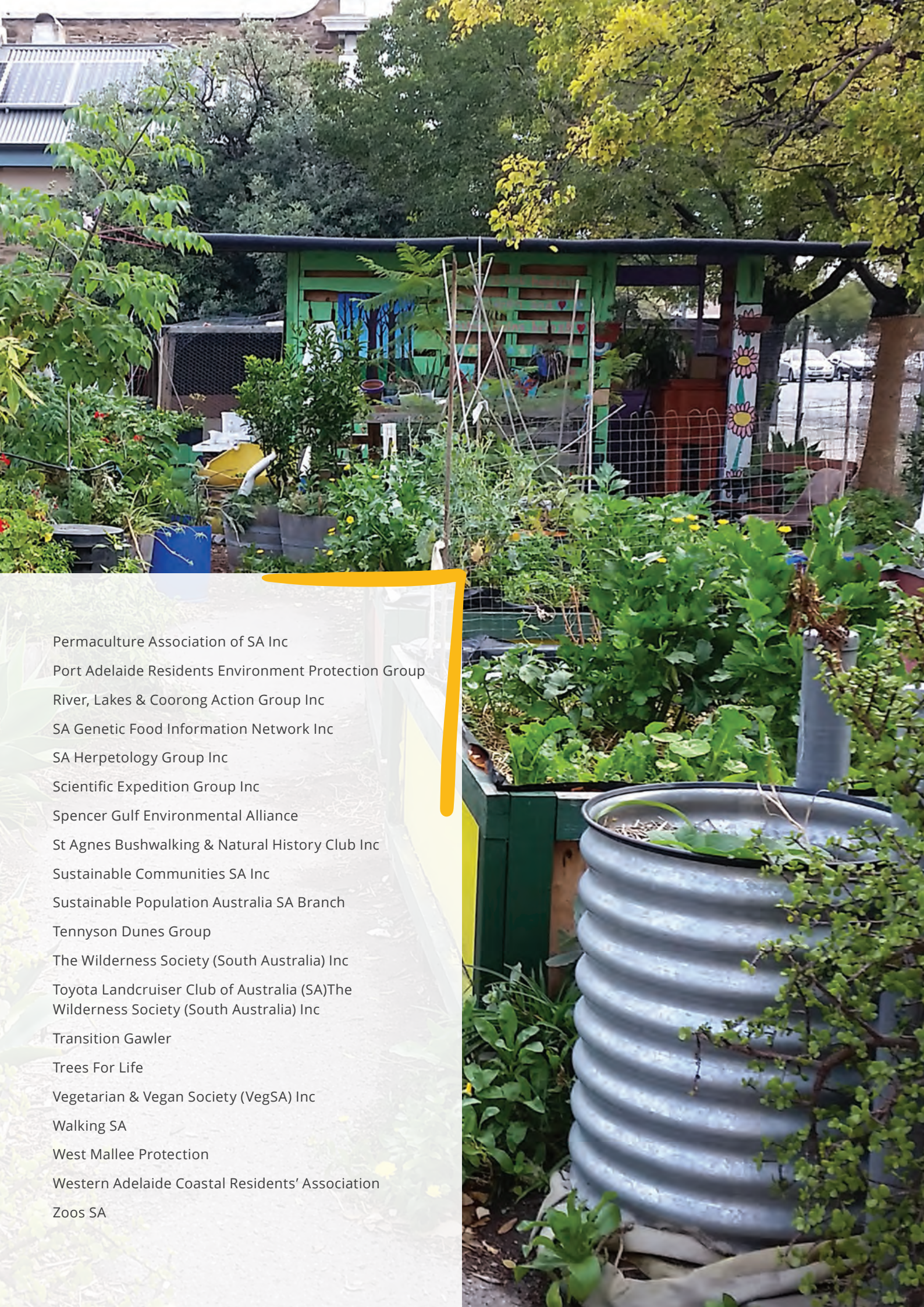
L-R Staff members: Jill, Virginia, and Julia.  
Photo courtesy of Aussie Kanck





## 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 Incorporated
- 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 Incorporated
- 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
- Nature Conservation Society of SA
- 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  
Zoos SA



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