

theconservationcconnection

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Conservation Council of South Australia

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MARINE SANCTUARIES



**TOGETHER, WE SAVED
OUR SANCTUARIES**

On October 1 South Australia's new marine sanctuaries came into effect, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect our state's valuable marine areas and marine life.

This year we helped make history. We helped create the biggest increase in nature protection in our state in a generation.

These new sanctuaries are essential to ensure a healthy ocean environment for future generations to enjoy.

We'd like to say an enormous thank you to each of you for your support on this journey. We simply couldn't have achieved this without the many people who so generously assist our work.

We proved we can be powerful – because of all the people like you standing with us and financially backing us to keep us fit and fighting.

If our community working together can achieve this great success, imagine what could be next for us as a movement!

OUR NEW HOME



WE ARE CREATING A NEW HOME AND HUB IN THE HEART OF ADELAIDE IN 2015 – AND WE NEED YOU TO BE A PART OF IT!

As you read this we are making our preparations for the move down the road to the old bus station on 111 Franklin Street.

We want to create an open place for the all South Australians to be inspired, empowered and activated to connect with nature and live sustainably.

To do this we are welcoming the community to be involved in its creation.

Importantly, we need **you**. Contact us to find out how you can get involved and volunteer to be a part of all of the fun!

Our latest appeal is calling for financial help to build and grow the rundown site

into a bright and lush oasis both inside and out.

It would also be great if you could help us with donations or direct us to any in-kind support of skills or equipment, especially sustainable building materials. If you can think of any sponsorship opportunities, or any eco-business or organisation that would like to take advantage of our display, demonstration, advertising or venue hire, please send them our way.

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(08) 8223 5155

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE PRESIDENT

2014 has has been an eventful twelve months for Conservation SA, and a time of transition.

It has been the first year for both of us in our roles of Chief Executive and President, and it has been exciting and challenging journey.

From the start of the year the organisation entered into period of reflection of our role, and began to shift into a more active, community engaging and organising model.

In the midst of the increasing attacks on our environment across the country, in July the Conservation SA lost the significant federal funding, a harsh financial blow. However the support from the community, our members and our partners was incredibly heartening, and with the generosity of many we were able to get back up and keep going.

Within a few months we had one of our most significant and highest-profile achievements in recent history. Saving our marine sanctuaries is something we and all our supporters can hold our heads high.

Now we have a exciting move to our new home and hub, where we will be able to grow our organisation and the South Australian environment sector and movement even further.

We thank you all for supporting us now, in the past, and into the future.

We wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to welcoming you into our new place in 2015!

Craig Wilkins, Chief Executive
Nadia McLaren, President

CLIMATE DAY OF ACTION

On September 20 Conservation SA joined thousands of South Australians in the People's Climate March - calling on our Government to act on dangerous climate change. Many people engaged with our stall by either punching out their frustration on climate inaction (with boxing mits!) or staying positive by giving the Polar Bear 'Frosty' a hug.



2014 ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

EVERY YEAR THESE AWARDS CELEBRATE THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS AND DEDICATION OF NATURE LOVERS IN OUR COMMUNITY CARING FOR THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT.

Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection: Jochen Koempf

This major award recognises an outstanding contribution to environmental protection over the past 12 months.

Jochen is a scientific activist for the protection of our precious marine environment. An expert in the oceanography of South Australian gulfs, he has contributed research and campaigned against major current development plans for South Australia's waters including mining export ports in Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf, and oil drilling in the Great Australian Bight.

Finalists:

Lisa Lumsden
Margaret Hender

Unsung Hero Award: Tony Flaherty

Honouring sustained contribution to protecting South Australia's environment.

Tony has shown long-term passion and commitment to marine and coastal conservation over the last 30 years, right up to his current position as Coast and Marine Manager for the Adelaide region.



Image: Matthew Turner

Tony played a critical role in advocating for the establishment of Marine Protected Areas in South Australia, and was also key in the Leafy Sea Dragon becoming South Australia's state marine emblem.

Finalists:

Brian Matthews
Sue Gilbey

Young Achievers Award: Rose Cullen

Awarded for commitment to inspiring young people to be champions for the environment.

16 year old Rose, from the small country town of Kanmantoo, has volunteered to care for the environment since she was nine. She is now the chairperson of the River Murray Youth Council, as well as a member of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition.

Finalists:

Maddi Hegarty
Rachel Mundy and Robin Parkin

Conservation SA congratulates all winners, finalists and nominees, and every South Australian who work to care for our environment.



GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION

Special guests recently enjoyed the company of His Excellency the Governor, The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO and Mrs Lan Le at a reception to honor and appreciate long term supporters of Conservation Council SA for their ongoing generosity.

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KEEP UPDATED ON THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

The Conservation Connection newsletter shares what has been he, distributed quarterly to our Friends of Conservation SA.

Join Friends of Conservation SA by becoming a regular monthly donor or making a contribution to Conservation Council SA today.

DONATE

Online:

www.conservation.sa.org.au

By Phone:

08 8223 5155

Or Post with Reply Paid 83672



Image: Carl Charter

Conservation SA's citizen science projects Reef Watch and Feral or In Peril have both continued to successfully engage volunteers to contribute to improved management of our marine environment.



During 2013-14 more than 1100 volunteers have helped monitor reef health and marine pests. This year also saw our second set of western blue groper surveys, with 95 volunteers involved.

For the first time in many years, ReefWatch ran a marine species identification workshop with the assistance of the Australian Marine Science Association SA branch, Flinders University, and a number of marine scientists contributing their expertise to make a fascinating day for the 50 participants.

CONSERVATION ON LAND AND AT SEA



MT Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren & Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps Recovery Program

The Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps & Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren Recovery Program has had another great twelve months working to ensure better land management for the protection of native vegetation and wildlife.

The collaborative approach between landholders, land management agencies and Conservation SA continues to bring together the values and aspirations

for the conservation of the swamps on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

The Conservation SA team has been busy with swamp monitoring and evaluation, and has developed opportunities for external research with Adelaide University. The annual Swamp Fest community planting day was a great success with 3500 plantings.



Image: John Gitsham



Our Green Hubs Energy Efficiency program is creating a community of not for profit organisations across the state that are embedding sustainability in their day to day practices.

This year has seen a major expansion of the program's sphere. Our fantastic volunteer presenters have delivered energy efficiency presentations to 37 organisations across urban and regional areas, including community clubs, surf lifesaving clubs, churches and environment and social services organisations. Our Green Hubs Energy Efficiency Guide has been distributed to 700+ community organisations across the state. Energy audits have been delivered to 25 South Australian community organisations, now our 'Green Hubs'.

Conservation SA's Green Hubs Energy Efficiency Program will wind up at the end of March 2015

To book in please contact Kathy Whitta on (08) 8223 5155 or kathy.whitta@conservationsa.org.au

