

## Drought breaks on Gluepot

During February 2003, 37mm of rain fell at Gluepot, breaking one of the worst droughts yet experienced in the mallee regions. Although the fall was not enough to run water in the drains to the two house dams, rainwater tanks filled to overflowing and new plant growth was generated across the Reserve.

As a result of the drought and the closure of all other dams on the Reserve, herbivore numbers have been dramatically reduced (goats are now only occasionally seen in groups of 1-3) and this has had a remarkable effect on the vegetation. Even during the harshest period of the drought, new plants were shooting and the under-storey looked little different from that in a good rainfall year.

The low rainfall also meant that flowering in the mallee was reduced and the usual influx of nectar eating birds, such as honeyeaters, was diminished. The dry season also affected the breeding cycles of some birds. However other species, notably many of the ground dwellers, seemed not to notice and carried on as usual.

One plus to the dry season was the regular appearance of Scarlet-chested Parrots at the Homestead dams during March 2002. Their presence created a 'stampede' of birdwatchers from all over Australia and Assistant Ranger Olivier Fontaine was kept busy conducting early morning tours for the more than 60 birdos who visited Gluepot for 'the event'.

Dam closures have meant that the five bird watering troughs installed in 2001 are visited daily by large numbers of birds, and the elevated bird hides that have been built overlooking these troughs have been well patronised and appreciated by visitors.

Ongoing biodiversity surveys by our Rangers continue to be productive and Western Pygmy Possums have now been recorded in all vegetation associations across a wide area of the Reserve.

During 2002, the Reserve received advanced accreditation under the national 'Nature and Ecotourism Accreditation Program' (NEAP), one of only two attractions in the Riverland to receive the top accreditation. The Reserve was also awarded full accreditation under the National Tourism Accreditation Program.

Following on from past successes, Gluepot, at a glittering ceremony attended by over 800 people, was announced as the South Australian winner of the 'Ecotourism' category at the Yellow Pages South Australian Tourism Awards 2002.



The Reserve was also the winner of a 2002 Civic Trust of South Australia award for 'An Outstanding Contribution to Civic Awareness'.

During 2002, The Management Committee welcomed two new members to its ranks, Kate Preiss and Jody Gates - both are profiled on page seven of the Newsletter.

As in past years, our volunteers continue to be the mainstay of the Reserve and during 2002, they donated 25,283 hours to Gluepot - 4,693 hours more than in 2001.



**Volunteers Don and Chris Lill downloading data from the Reserve's automatic weather station to a laptop computer.**

**The collected data are then transferred to the Reserve's main computer system ready for analysis and use by research personnel.**

At the February 2003 Reserve Management meeting, it was unanimously agreed that the new Information Centre would be known as the 'Michael K. Hyde Visitor Information Centre'.

Michael is a member of the Management Committee and has been involved with Gluepot for a number of years. He is responsible for much of the botanical work carried out at Gluepot, including the floristic mapping of the Reserve and a major publication on the vegetation of Gluepot. He is also responsible for the extensive herbarium collection maintained at the Reserve and has been working closely with Flinders University on the development of long-term archaeological survey work on Gluepot.

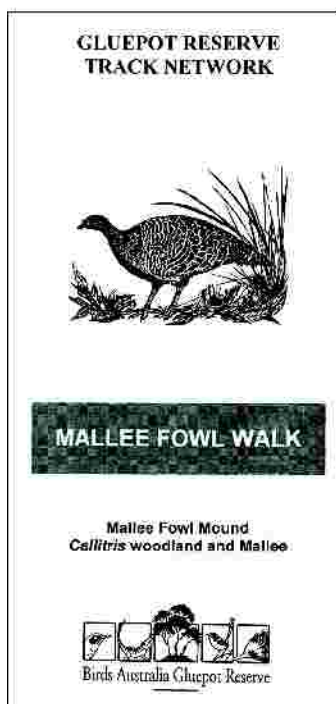
## 14 Walking tracks developed

Following the result of a great deal of survey work by Rangers and Assistant Rangers, orienteering volunteers and Management Committee members, 14 walking tracks have been developed on the Reserve. The tracks cover a diverse range of vegetation and bird habitats and range in length from a 12 km circuit to 600m.

Each track is clearly signed and walkers follow track markers along the length of the route.

A brochure has been produced for each walk that details the vegetation, birds likely to be seen, features of interest, and a map of the track, with distances and safety guidelines.

Funding for the signage and track markers was made available by the South Australian Tourism Commission.



Malleefowl Track brochure

Included in the track system is an 'Old Gluepot Self-guided Heritage Walk' which has been designed by Reserve historian, Don Gobbett. Funding for the relevant materials for this track was supplied by the History Trust of South Australia.

An 'Aboriginal Heritage Walk' is also being developed in conjunction with local Indigenous communities.

## Visitor Information and Interpretive Centre

The building of the new centre was completed in 2002, and planning has now commenced on design of the interior.



The building soon after completion. Landscaping has commenced and tree planting will be undertaken this year.

Janine Mackintosh, a professional graphic designer, has commenced community consultation and development of a concept for the displays and this will be followed by a second stage which will entail the production and installation of all materials and furniture. A completion date of the end of October has been set for the official opening of the Centre in early November 2003.



Janine Mackintosh, Graphic Designer.

Janine (who designed the Gluepot colour brochure) is the daughter of Gluepot Committee members, Wendy and Michael Mackintosh.

Well known Riverland artists Garry Duncan and Adrian Webb - as a donation to the Reserve - are assisting in design work and preparing major artworks for the centre.

Work will be funded by grants from Country Arts SA and the South Australian Tourism Commission.

## Bird hides prove a winner with visiting birdwatchers

As happens with most projects on the Reserve, the design, pre-fabrication and erection of five elevated bird hides overlooking bird watering troughs has been a real team effort.

The project team was headed by Don Lill, Bill Santos (Gluepot) and Murray Harris (builder/carpenter). Groups of volunteers assisted with the final erection.

All hides were pre-fabricated off-site and delivered to Gluepot ready for erection. Exterior cladding for the hides utilised the Reserve's store of reclaimed corrugated iron.



The team erecting pre-fabricated hide sections at Whistler Tank.

The hides are very spacious and stand 1.2m off the ground. Two bench seats are provided, along with a sturdy bench for resting arms, cameras and binoculars. Each hide is set at a distance from the watering trough that suits all binoculars.

Combined with an excellent airflow through each hide, a new type of roof insulation has been used to ensure the hides remain as cool as possible.

To assist with research, visitors will be asked to record (on forms provided in the hides), observations of birds using the troughs.



Picture shows the front of the hide with the bird watering trough at the right (arrow).



# SS Great Britain and Gluepot

By ? Don Gobbett

A clay pipe found on 22/4/02 under a mallee tree near the Old Gluepot dams, almost certainly has links with the *SS Great Britain*.

The pipe has an imprint of a four masted clipper on one side and a globe on the other. Originally it had a long stem but being quite fragile, the bowl of the pipe is all that remains.



Adelaide antiquarian, Barry Heaven, is sure it came from the *SS Great Britain*. They were made in England and sold at nine pence a dozen to passengers to commemorate their voyage.

The *SS Great Britain* was built in Bristol and launched in 1845 to travel between Liverpool and New York. It has been described as "the Concorde of the 1840s". Between 1852 and 1876 it made 27 or more round trips to Australia. The first trip arrived in Melbourne on 12<sup>th</sup> November, and in Sydney on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1852 - just over 150 years ago. It brought more than 14,000 immigrant passengers, mainly to Melbourne.

But how did the clay pipe find its way to Gluepot? Did someone bring their treasured souvenir with them? Did they go to the Victorian gold fields? Did they then try their luck in the copper mines of Burra before they closed in 1877?

The land east of Burra was being opened

up at this time. In 1868 a telegraph line had reached Burra and the railway was under construction. The first Gluepot lease was made in 1877 to James White of Kapunda.

Did the original owner visit or work at Gluepot? Or did the pipe pass from father to son or mother to daughter?

The clay pipe shown here will be displayed in the Visitors' Information Centre along with an 1880's threepence and a 1942 halfpenny - tangible reminders, along with evidence of Aboriginal connections, of Gluepot's long history.

Dams were the only practicable source of stock water on Gluepot. Obviously, in

## Ingenious fences

By ? John Love

terrain with no creeks, a dam had to be in a natural depression. To make the most of the scant rain, long channels were dug from various directions, converging on the dam. Some of these channels can still be seen. With a limited number of suitable depressions, one dam could be made to serve two paddocks by running the fence into it. However, wire will not last very long in water. The alternative on Gluepot was the local sheoak, strong and durable.

Building a conventional post and rail fence is very labour intensive. So, in



stead of stout posts with rails fitted into mortices, smaller posts were placed in pairs with a gap of 10 ? 15cm between them, and logs were stacked in the gap. Between any two such posts, the ends of the logs going in one direction supported the ends of those going the other way. From the side you would see four or five horizontal logs, each separated by a space equivalent to one log. This used quite a lot of timber but it could all be done with an axe and a shovel. The wire fence ran to the edge of the mound round the dam, or to the top of the mound, and the log fence went into the water far enough to prevent sheep from

getting round it into the next paddock. In the fence at Swamp Dam, some of the posts splayed and had to be tied with wire at the top. Some splayed so far it was necessary to ram chocks, about 40cm long, into the gap to hold the logs in position.

This method of fencing was used at Swamp, Froggy, Picnic and Homestead



dams, and possibly at some of the others, which have now been bulldozed flat. There is also a short section of it in what was presumably the horse yard at Old Gluepot homestead. Joe Mack and Murray Bishop, who both have long experience in the mallee, have not seen this kind of fence elsewhere. My son tells me he has seen a cattle yard built on the same principle on the Bogong High Plains.

I would suggest that the surviving post and log fences on Gluepot are worth preserving as examples of bushmen's ingenuity.

At an Awards Dinner, held by the Rotary Club of Glen Osmond, Gluepot Reserve

## South Australian 2002 National Park Ranger of the Year named

Management Committee member, Ian Falconberg, was named as the SA National Parks Ranger of the Year?

Ian is the District Ranger, Burra and in his position on the Gluepot Committee provides advice on land management, conservation and feral animal control.



Ian receiving his award from the President of the Rotary Club of Glen Osmond.

# Our love affair with the robins of Gluepot



By ? Richard Donaghey

My partner Carol and I first went to Gluepot in 2001. For three months from mid-August to mid-November 2001 we studied parental care in four species of robins (Hooded, Red-capped, Southern Scrub-robin and Jacky Winter) and the Chestnut Quail-thrush.

With the help of volunteer Rangers Susan and Alan Robertson, Jenny Rolfe and Bianca Weir, we spent hundreds of hours sitting in hides and recording the behaviour of five bird species at nests during the incubation and nestling periods.

At nests of Hooded Robin and Jacky Winter, Carol was in the hide at the right time and was very excited to see three adults together at a nest and feed the young. Cooperative breeding has been recorded many times in Hooded Robin but not for the Jacky Winter.

In 2001 I spent many hours watching Southern Scrub-robins at six nests and was captivated by this charming bird. By the end of our stay at Gluepot the robins had worked their charm on me and I knew I would have to return. The idea of spending another field season in the mallee next year didn't greatly excite Carol.

Early in 2002 I broke two vertebrae in a fall from a ladder so Carol agreed to come with me to Gluepot to help catch and colour band robins in August-September.

Before we went to Gluepot for our second season, I selected study sites for an intensive study of the habitat and space use of two species, the Southern Scrub-robin and Red-capped Robin, during all phases of the nesting cycle.

Wally Klau instructed us in the art of catching scrub-robins and by mid-September we had captured and colour banded 14 southern scrub-robins and 18 red-capped robins. Wally helped us catch our second pair of scrub-robins in mid-August. When I took the male out of the holding bag it had no tail: it had shed all its tail feathers in the bag in a shock moult. How would a male with no tail at the onset of the breeding season manage to hold its mate and territory and breed?

No-tail was a strong singer and within weeks not only had he completely grown a new tail but he retained his mate and territory and almost raised a chick. When I left Gluepot his mate had renested and was incubating an egg.

In addition to studying parental care and nest success we plotted the GPS locations of colour banded robins and recorded their space and habitat use and foraging behaviour. We tracked marked robins foraging away from the nest and got some good data of both scrub-robins and red-caps ?trapline foraging? during different phases of the nesting cycle.

When we first went to Gluepot in 2001, the mallee vegetation all looked very similar and we navigated through the landscape by drawing lines in the sand. By the second year I was very familiar with the mallee and could navigate by recognising individual trees and shrubs.

Unlike the previous year, 2002 was very dry and I was anxious to see if the robins would breed, but I need not have worried. By the end of September I had found nine scrub-robin nests in the Froggy Dam area and with the help of the Baker-Gabb clan and Duncan MacKenzie we found nine red-cap nests, mainly in Casuarina woodland around Bellbird campsite.

I was ecstatic to find all the first scrub-robin nests in 11 territories. This joy soon turned to disappointment when five nests were destroyed in three days. I began to think scrub-robins were living on the edge and that predators, like the stealthy Australian Raven, were pushing them over the edge. But then I found all six renests of the scrub-robins whose first nests failed. Five of these six nests each fledged one young.

So the overall success of these 17 nests was a respectable 59% and at least 10 of the 11 scrub-robin pairs fledged young in a dry year. In the last week of my study I suspected that the two early nesting females that fledged young might be nesting again since the male scrub-robin mostly attended the fledgling and the female was scarcely seen. I was thrilled to discover the second nests of both these females. The day before I left Gluepot I found the second reneest of the female that had lost two nests.

So it appears that reneesting, following loss of an egg or young, is a normal event even in a drought year and that some females attempt to raise a second young in a season. I'm grateful to the Gluepot scrub-robins for sharing their life-history secrets with me.

The low reproductive rate is the least of scrub-robin concerns. Alone in the mallee with 37 degree days and strong winds I was constantly reminded of wildfires.

The biggest threat facing the mallee birds of Gluepot, such as scrub-robins and Malleefowl, are awesome bushfires like the ones that ravaged much of the mallee in northwest Victoria and adjacent South Australia last season.

Our research on robins in our ?retirement? was extremely rewarding and we thoroughly enjoyed meeting new friends and discovering more about the Gluepot robins and their mallee habitat.

## Grants received during 2002

The Reserve would like to thank the following funding bodies who have provided grants totalling \$ 87,325 during 2002.

Without their valued support the Reserve could not have undertaken many of its environmental protection and restoration programs:

**?Purchase of a Photocopier for Gluepot Reserve?** - \$3,300 from the South Australian Premier's Community Fund.

**?Control of Weeds on Gluepot Reserve?** - \$2,000 under the South Australian Heritage Agreement Grant Scheme.

**?Community Volunteers Monitoring Threats to Black-eared Miners?** - \$13,100 from WWF/Threatened Species Network for five bird hides.

**?Re-vegetation of Degraded Dam Sites on Gluepot Reserve?** - \$7,500 from the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association Inc.

**?Re-fencing, Dam Closures and Tank Capping?** - \$42,000 from the Rangelands Action Project.

**?Fire Control Work to Protect Old-growth Woodland and Threatened Birds?** - \$10,125 from the Envirofund (Natural Heritage Trust).

**?Signage and Track Markers for 14 Walking Trails?** - \$8,600 from the South Australian Tourism Commission.

**?Development of a Self-guided Heritage Walk?** - \$700 from the History Trust of South Australia.



# Aboriginal Artifacts at Gluepot

By ? Michael Hyde

There are Aboriginal artefacts from two eras near the yards and working camp at old Gluepot Homestead. Stone flakes and cores from pre-European times are scattered profusely around the seasonal lake edge and probably represent Aboriginal habitation and use over a long period of time. Higher up on the slope amongst the old fence posts and huts are glass artefacts which have been made from brown beer-bottle glass pieces. These have been retouched with fine pressure flaking along the broken edges to make them more useful as tools. The glass artefacts are probably made from post-1915 glass, and are likely to have been left by Aborigines working on the station. Single deposits with both pre- and post-contact artefacts are of particular cultural and archaeological interest.

The preliminary survey by Flinders University Archaeology Department also recorded the basic plan details of the original homestead buildings and the underground room, or ?cellar?, which was used as a retreat during the hottest weather. This structure is in exceptional condition and is of immense historical archaeological value.

Pre-European artefact scatters were also recorded along the seasonal watercourses, at the dam sites (originally natural water pans), and around the gypsum lakes in the Birdseye block. These consisted mainly of stone flakes and cores, but some tools, hammer stones and grindstones were also present on the surface.

The Heritage Committee of First People of the River Murray and Mallee Region is being consulted at present with a view to further archaeological research of Aboriginal culture on Gluepot.



Michael Hyde

Michael is the Reserve botanist and was responsible for the floristic mapping of Gluepot and the 110 page publication ?The Vegetation of Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve?.

# Bull? .., excuse the French !

By ? Oli(vier) Fontaine

*(Oli came from France in November 2001 to spend nine months at Gluepot as an Assistant Ranger. A keen birdo, Oli conducted tours for visitors keen to sight the Scarlet-chested Parrots and was responsible (among many other things) for building the seats that are along most of the walking tracks).*

Dust, heat and isolation, these are the first thoughts that came to me when I first arrived at Gluepot. The reserve is unique, for its wildlife, its landscape and its atmosphere. As a birdwatcher, I couldn't imagine that so many birds could live in such a dry and hostile place. The confrontation with the summer's sun had been my biggest fear. I wasn't sure I could bear more than 40 degrees in the shade. It was pleasing staying in the cool homestead between 11 am and 3 pm.

What I did appreciate were the evenings spent under the breezeway (that I built with Martin, Roland and Duncan) with a glass of Australian wine (not too bad after a cask...), chatting with the other rangers and listening to the night sounds.

Gluepot is where I worked with the nicest people I have met. "Bull...." was the first Aussie word they taught me (thank you Betty), and it became a part of my natural speaking. Then, you guessed what followed on.

Anyway, I would like to thank my mates, the ones who supported me during nearly 9 months, especially Wally and Betty, Duncan, Rod and Karen, Jenny, Wendy and Michael and the list goes on. It has been great to experience such a thing and I highly recommend it to anyone who is keen on volunteering. The mallee will be in my heart forever and I hope people won't forget me either. Keep in touch ! No Risk, No Fun !



Olivier Fontaine, Assistant Ranger 2001-2002.

# Neophema splendida sightings continue

By ? Oli Fontaine & Rod and Karen Davis

On the morning of Saturday, the 23rd of March 2002, a significant birding event occurred at Gluepot Reserve. One of Australia's most elusive, and beautiful threatened birds came in to drink at the Homestead Dam: the Scarlet-chested Parrot.

Sightings continued into May of males, females and immatures at nearby Quinn's Dam. On the 1st May, 11 Scarlet-chested Parrots came in to the dam. This remarkable event was witnessed by four people. The following day, seven Parrots came to drink, including four males. It suggests that Gluepot currently has a resident population of Scarlet-chested Parrots. Gluepot had a resident breeding population until the 1970s when they were severely depleted by bird trappers.

The summer of 2001/2002 had been the coolest and driest on record. Surface water, aside from man-made dams, was not available. This is the local theory to explain the ongoing presence of these birds. Following the first sightings, there were three heavy dews. No Parrots appeared on these mornings, nor on the two mornings that there were traces of rain in the gauge. On these occasions water was available elsewhere.

The continued presence of the Parrots provided opportunities to study their behaviour, including flight paths, flight patterns, drinking and feeding. One of the Rangers at the time, Olivier Fontaine, built up a considerable body of local knowledge. This assisted him in guiding more than 60 people to sightings of the Scarlet-chested Parrot. Visitors from Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, have seen the birds.

Other birds noted their presence too. One morning the Scarlet-chested Parrots had drunk at the dam and were perched in a tree, basking in the bright sunlight before feeding on the ground. A Brown Goshawk flew rapidly towards them. The Parrots were gone in a flash, before the Goshawk struck.

As the dry spell continued, these stunningly beautiful birds continued to be seen at the dam each morning. For most observers it was a unique opportunity to see a new species of bird. The reward is even greater when that new species is as elusive as the Scarlet-chested Parrot.

# Gluepot Reserve Foundation now a reality

By ? Duncan MacKenzie

By successfully combining the elements of biodiversity conservation, and land management; scientific research and monitoring and sustainable ecotourism, Gluepot Reserve has taken conservation management into a new era. The Reserve is providing an international ?model? to show that sustainable use of the landscape is both feasible and desirable. A highly successful program of this size and complexity is unique in Australian land management.

Much of Gluepot's success can be directly related to the financial support of Founders, donors and supporters. Without your help, and the \$1.8 million both of time and mileage donated by volunteers over the past five years, the Reserve could not have achieved the goals that have earned it an international reputation.

However, ?crunch time? is now upon us.

In 2004, income from the pledge system will drop dramatically and conclude in that year. The ?Gluepot Reserve Foundation? has been formed to fill the gap left by the pledge system and thus ensure the long-term financial viability of the Reserve.

Our goal is to raise \$1 million for the Foundation which will provide an annual interest of \$50,000, the sum required for the yearly operating budget. Excess interest will be ?ploughed? back into the capital sum to cover inflation.

By continuing your support of Gluepot Reserve and donating to the Foundation, you will be helping to ensure the conservation of the Gluepot environment for future generations.

A letter with further details and a donation form has been included with this Newsletter for your convenience.

Although fundraising has not yet ?officially? commenced, the small, but hard working Fund-raising Committee has managed to raise \$181,000 to start off the appeal. This came from donations, two bequests, a grant from a trust and a transfer of Reserve funds.

The Foundation Fund-raising Committee would very much appreciate receiving the contact details of individuals, trusts, foundations, businesses and corporations you think might consider providing financial assistance to the Foundation. If you would like to be a part of the Fund-raising Committee, please contact Duncan MacKenzie.

## Research Projects during 2002

Regardless of drought conditions, 2002 was a particularly busy year in regard to research projects undertaken at Gluepot.

**David Baker-Gabb** studied *Threatened Mallee Birds on Malleefowl Grids?* under a South Australian Wildlife Conservation Fund grant. He was assisted in field work by Penny Drake-Brockman who spent four months collecting transect count data.

David's resulting paper makes interesting reading and one of his conclusions was that ?there is a robust breeding population of about 400 pairs of Malleefowl on Gluepot Reserve?.

**Darren Baldyga** commenced his PhD project *Conservation and Management of Avifauna in a Semi-arid/arid Mallee Woodland Region of Australia?*. Darren is with RMIT University and was assisted in his field work by Gluepot Management Committee members Doug Holly and Wally Klau. Darren's project is the fourth PhD study on Gluepot.



Darren carrying out running repairs to his vehicle.

**Richard Donaghey** carried out research over two seasons on *Breeding Ecology and Behaviour of Ground Foraging Birds?*. He was accompanied by wife Carol who assisted with field work, as did a number of Reserve volunteers (see article on page 4).

Gluepot Committee members **Doug Holly and Kevin Smith** undertook soil sampling on behalf of the National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology ? University of Queensland.

The study was part of a National Dioxin Program initiated by Environment Australia.

**Tanya and Anne Williams and Gina Scriven** spent two weeks at Gluepot studying *The Association of Insectivorous Bats with Artificial Water Sources?*. The ?bat ladies? as they came to be known, spent long hours at night catching and releasing bats and during the day, tracked the animals to which they had attached radio transmitters the previous night. They were particularly interested to see the effect that closing Old Gluepot Dam had on bat activity and worked in conjunction with John Wyld as he bulldozed the dam flat.

Our ?bat ladies? will be returning in the summer of 2003, for follow-up research.



Anne Williams radio tracking marked bats during the day to identify roosting places.

**J a m e s**

**O'Connor** spent three months at Gluepot working on his honours project which looked at *Breeding Success in the Black-eared Miner?*. James is from La Trobe University and his supervisor, Mike Clarke, also visited the Reserve.

James was accompanied during his stay by partner ?Frosty? and 19 month old son Jordan. ?Frosty? assisted the Rangers with weather observations while Jordan was the ?Chief Yabbie Catcher? and ?Resident Expert on Trucks and Heavy Equipment?.



**T h e James O'Connor National Black-eared Miner Recovery Field Team** led by **Rhidian Harrington**, spent some weeks at Gluepot during the spring, and was assisted in field work by Richard Thaxton (UK) who was an Assistant Ranger at Gluepot for a month. Rhidian was previously at Gluepot during 1999 ? 2001 undertaking PhD research.

## News Items? ? ...

This year the Riverland will host the National Eco-tourism Conference on the 3rd to 7th of November.

Gluepot Reserve will play a major role in the conference by assisting in planning workshops, mentoring Riverland attractions to attain Nature and Eco-tourism Accreditation, presenting a paper at the conference and hosting tours to Gluepot for conference delegates.

Following Telstra's installation of broadband satellite connection to the Reserve's Internet, Telstra Country Wide has agreed to fully sponsor the reprinting of 20,000 Gluepot Reserve colour brochures.

During April 2003, the Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AC, CVO, MBE will spend a day at Gluepot. She will meet with Committee members and partners, tour the Reserve and enjoy a lunch prepared by the Committee.

Committee member Michael Hyde became a proud father again, when wife Nora gave birth to a healthy son, Michael Capulong (Nora's family name) Hyde on the 8th February.

Another addition to the 'Gluepot Family' came from Rhidian and Sue Harrington in the form of new baby daughter Ella, born on the 21st February.

We offer both families our heartiest congratulations.

Visit the Gluepot Website at: [www.riverland.net.au/gluepot](http://www.riverland.net.au/gluepot) to see a number of additions. Website manager Peter Waanders will be including video clips in an upgrade of the site.

Pascale Michel (Ranger for seven months in 2000/2001) recently completed her MSc in Scotland with commendations and is now commencing a PhD in New Zealand.

Olivier Fontaine (Assistant Ranger for 9 months in 2001/2002) is now in Morocco working on the ecology of the Houbara Bustard.

Graeme Chapman, one of Australia's leading bird photographers, is presently preparing an interactive computer display on the Birds of Gluepot Reserve. Visitors to the new Information Centre will be able to interrogate a terminal and see photographs and text on each of the Reserves 187 bird species.

The Friends of Birds Australia recently donated two EPIRB units to Gluepot for use by volunteers working remotely on the Reserve. They also donated volumes 4, 5 and 6 of HANZAB as an addition to the extensive reference library at Gluepot.

The Reserve wishes to thank the Friends group for their valued support.

The 90 sq. m area between the research buildings was paved in 2002. A team of 12 Committee members and partners took three days to complete the very professional looking job. The team was supervised by Ian Falkenberg, who will be more careful in future, where and when and to whom he mentions his wide-ranging qualifications.



Doug Holly obtaining levels during the paving exercise.

*Soon after arriving at Gluepot, Volunteer Ranger Len Fidler, mentioned to Reserve Chairman, Duncan MacKenzie, that he suffered from arthritis in the back. Duncan suggested that he take it easy, and a few days later, received this email from Len:*

Dear Duncan,  
I think you ought to know  
It isn't really so  
That infirmity is keeping me unsound.

With just a little zest  
I'd put it to the test  
And challenge all contemporaries around.

At seventy six point seven  
I'm not ready yet for Heaven  
Just a little rusty here and there.

I'd breast the starting post  
Then offer all a toast  
To Age, I'd say, and drink to it with flair!!!

*Since his arrival at Gluepot, Len's arthritis has disappeared.*



Len Fidler painting trail droppers

## New Committee members

Two new members were welcomed to the Gluepot Reserve Management Committee during 2002:

**Kate Preiss** is the Revegetation Officer with the Mid Murray Local Action Planning Association (LAP) and formally held the same position with the Riverland West LAP. Kate advises the Reserve on our various revegetation projects and lives with partner Scott at Cadell. Having Kate on the Committee is a 'double bonus', as Kate's mother Sally has developed an interest in Gluepot, and attends Committee meetings along with her daughter.

**Jody Gates** was recently appointed the Regional Ecologist for National Parks and Wildlife SA, Murraylands region. Jody holds an MSc and prior to his current appointment was an ecologist/biologist for the NPWSA on Kangaroo Island. Jody is a keen ornithologist and lives with partner Kylie in Berri.

We welcome both to the 'Gluepot Family' At March 2003, Ranger positions for all of

## Our Rangers? ?

2004 and five months of 2005 were booked. Assistant Rangers positions are available at any time, depending on the availability of bedroom accommodation.

**Rangers for 2002 were:** Jenny Lewis (NSW): Rod & Karen Davis (VIC): Graham Wrightson (NSW): Brian & Marilyn Ingram (VIC): and Robin Goodchild (SA).

**Assistant Rangers were:** Olivier Fontaine (France): Martin Toland (NZ): Roland Loewe (Germany): Brendan Best (QLD): Averil Bones (NSW): David Gower (NZ): Meg & Don Macmillan (VIC): John Martin (VIC): Margaret & Greville Reidy (NSW): Shirley Loffhagen (NZ): Antoine Gauquier (France): Anne Bourke & Gail Abbot (NSW): Jim Spiker (SA): Dianne Coon (TAS): Don Royal (NSW): Richard Thaxton (UK): Natasha Dawson (SA):

**Rangers for 2003 are:** Robin Goodchild (SA): Len & Jill Fidler (VIC): Dave & Betty King (VIC): Marilyn & Brian Ingram (VIC): Brian & Joan Irving (VIC): Frances Guard & Bob Philpot (QLD).

**Assistant Rangers for 2003:** Anne Rulle & Adeline Bodenheimer (Germany): Paul Derbyshire (UK): John Martin (VIC): Brian Watts (VIC): David Hulett (SA).



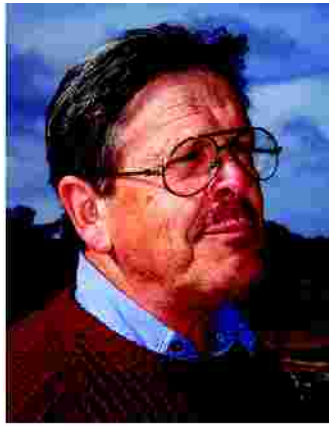
## Volunteers at work around the Reserve



Rod Davis, (Ranger April-June 2002) during a musical interlude at the Reserve.



Karen Davis (Ranger, April-June 2002) installing malleefowl grid reflectors



Graham Wrightson (Ranger, August & September 2002).



Robin Goodchild (Ranger, November & December 2002, January 2003).



Shirley Loffhagen (NZ) (Assistant Ranger June-October 2002)



John Wyld. John and Leonie Wyld are our northern neighbours and an integral part of the Bluepot Family?



Jill Fidler (Ranger, February & March 2003). Jill has been propagating seed for our revegetation program.



Jordan O'Connor ? bulldozer operator and resident expert on all heavy equipment.



Michael Mackintosh cutting pavers



Wendy Mackintosh installing Malleefowl grid reflectors



Meg Macmillan (Assistant Ranger, May 2002)



Don Macmillan (Assistant Ranger, May 2002)



Paving the recreation area: Ian Falkenberg, Doug Holly, Wally Klau and Wendy Mackintosh



Rod and Karen Davis and Antoine Gauquier



Anne Rulle (Assistant Ranger, January-February 2003)



Adeline Bodenheimer (Assistant Ranger, January-February 2003)