

The last issue of the Newsletter appeared in March 2003. The Editor apologises for the three year hiatus, the result of extremely busy times and wearing too many hats at once!

The intervening three years have been a period of progress and productivity at Gluepot, but also a time of great sadness.

On June 3rd 2003, Michael Hyde, a much valued member of the Reserve Management Committee and Gluepot botanist, died of a virulent and incurable form of cancer. Michael fought the disease with the strength and dignity he had exhibited throughout his very productive life and only weeks before his death, had been accepted by Flinders University to study for a PhD degree.



Michael at Froggy Dam



Dexter Palmer

On the 28th March, 2004, Dexter and Irena Palmer were killed instantly in a split second vehicle accident. Both had been actively involved at Gluepot from the time of purchase and, along with their Adelaide orienteering group, mapped the entire Reserve - visitors to the Reserve receive an A3 copy of their map.

They then proceeded to survey selected areas of the Reserve, prior to the establishment of seven Malleefowl survey grids.

The Reserve has been deeply saddened by these losses and we will never forget their dedication to Gluepot. We have lost vital members of the 'Gluepot Family' but their memory will remain.



Irena Palmer

On the 29th November 2004 Mr Bill Spurr, the CEO of the South Australian Tourism Commission, officially opened the 'Michael Hyde Visitor Centre' at Gluepot Reserve. Michael's eldest son Kean cut the ceremonial tape in front of over 150 visitors.

A new five bedroom accommodation block has recently been completed and this is to be named the 'Dexter and Irena Palmer Building' in memory of two of the Reserve's greatest supporters.

The 'Friends of Gluepot Reserve' formed in February 2004 with over 100 members, has been extremely active in all aspects of the Reserve's operation, including: weed eradication, revegetation, feral control, building and building conversion projects etc.

Gluepot's combined volunteer input since the Reserve was purchased in July 1997 now totals 157,175 hours (the equivalent of 19,647 eight hour days) and 991,420 km². This equates to a volunteer donation to the Reserve of at least \$2,843,294. Over the last seven years, Gluepot volunteers have averaged 20,790 donated hours per year.

Such dedication deserves recognition and this has occurred, with Gluepot receiving 27 major national and international awards in the areas of: science, conservation, environment, ecotourism, health and the built environment.

Dam closures and the resulting drop in herbivore pressure, has meant that plant growth has been prolific, and the important understorey plants are now in the best condition in many years. A rainfall of 290mm during 2005 has resulted in an abundant breeding season for birds and native grasses are now growing across large areas of the Reserve.

Interestingly, two of the Reserve's most threatened species, the Malleefowl and Black-eared Miner, are yet to return to their pre-drought breeding status.

2005 also saw the introduction of the Reserve's first environmental education courses and a further 10 courses are planned for 2006. The newly established 'Environmental Education Centre' completes the fourth 'pillar' in the development of the Reserve.

By successfully combining the elements of biodiversity conservation through land management, scientific research and monitoring, environmental education 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.

Many of the research projects and conservation initiatives undertaken at Gluepot Reserve will help solve the problems of land degradation and loss of biodiversity. They will assist in providing the opportunity for this generation to sustain itself and to make sure that there are resources left for the generation to come. Importantly, they will increase awareness of the environmental issues surrounding this highly endangered area of Australian wilderness.

The Governor of South Australia, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AO, spent a day at Gluepot Reserve during 2003. She was taken on a tour of the Reserve by members of the Management Committee, alternating between cars during the tour.

A lunch at the Homestead followed and the Governor made special comment on the delicious food prepared by Leonie Wyld, our northern neighbor. It was even hinted that Leonie could be in line for the next Chef's position at Government House!



Chris Lill (right) describing the history of the Old Gluepot Homestead area to the Governor (left)

The safety of Reserve volunteers, researchers and visitors has always been a prime concern of the Management Committee. For some years we have had UHF, VHF and HF communication systems in place, however adequate coverage over such a large area has always been a problem, particularly with UHF, which is the most common system in use. That problem has now been solved, with the installation of a registered UHF Repeater tower at the Homestead? the system operates on **channel 1**.

During a midwinter dinner of returned Antarctic personnel, Reserve Chairman Duncan MacKenzie mentioned the problem to Ron Worden who had served 'Down South' as a radio supervisor. Ron accepted the challenge and began collecting the required hardware and software and building it into a 'working package' - all at no cost to Gluepot.



Michael Mackintosh and Ron Worden (right) assembling the system in the homestead

The Michael Hyde Visitor Centre was officially opened in November 2003 and has since been recognized, as setting a new Australian standard for visitor centres of this type. The building was funded by two \$55,000 grants from the SA Tourism Commission and a \$1,000 grant from Country Arts SA.



The Centre was designed by environmental architect (and Birds Australia member) David Rudder and the internal designs and graphics were by Janine Mackintosh, a professional graphic designer. Internal furniture was built by Murray Harris and Ian Campbell, both Riverland craftsmen.

Riverland environmental artist Garry Duncan designed and painted the mural that adorns the internal walls and Riverland glass artist Adrian Webb, produced the five magnificent glass interior panels and the glass finch design on the exterior of the building.

All of these wonderful people donated their professional skills to the Reserve.



The official opening of the Michael Hyde Visitor Centre. Left: Reserve Chairman, Duncan MacKenzie, centre: Kean Hyde (Michael's eldest son) cuts the opening tape and right: Bill Spurr, CEO of the SA Tourism Commission



A section of the Garry Duncan mural in the Visitor Centre



The five glass panels produced by Adrian Webb. The design was taken from a Garry Duncan painting, produced specifically for the Reserve. Prints of the painting are on sale in the Visitor Centre.

Most birdwatchers will be aware that Birds Australia conducted a Bird Atlas of Australia during 1998-2002, and the book of results was published in 2003. Gluepot Reserve was one of the best-covered locations in Australia during this period. Even though the information has been published, the Atlas project is still ongoing and it is now making a significant contribution towards annual assessments of the health of the Australian environment. Gluepot Reserve has 75 Atlas sites where 2 ha searches are regularly conducted. The data collected at Gluepot contribute to both the monitoring of management actions on the Reserve, and to the national database.

Visitors to Gluepot are strongly encouraged to obtain information on the location of the Reserve's 75 monitoring sites from the Visitor Centre and undertake 2 ha Atlas searches. Some of the Atlas sites are in the eastern 'restricted access' area, and a few visitors will be given special permission to enter this area to Atlas these sites.

The Nest Record Scheme is a very important database containing information on nesting birds. The Scheme has made a major contribution towards our understanding of this vital aspect of bird's lives. Much of the information has been published in the multi-volume *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. Unfortunately the nesting habits of most mallee birds are poorly known and this limits the scope of some conservation actions that might be undertaken on their behalf. Visitors to Gluepot Reserve can make an important contribution towards filling this gap by filling out a Nest Record Sheet for any and every bird that they find breeding on the Reserve. Record sheets are available in the Visitor Centre on the same stand as the Atlas forms.

Gluepot Reserve Research and Monitoring Committee

In 2005, a Reserve *Research and Monitoring Committee* was formed to oversee and guide research and monitoring projects on Gluepot. The Committee comprises Jody Gates (Chair) Kevin Smith, Peter Wanders, Wally Klau, John Gitsham, Luke Geelan and Duncan MacKenzie. The Committee was formed as one of the three action priorities listed in the *Plan of Management 2004-2008*.

One of the first priorities of the Committee was to obtain a grant from the NHT Envirofund to undertake *Development and Implementation of a Biological Monitoring program for Gluepot Reserve*. On receipt of the grant, Penny Paton was appointed to undertake the project and in December 2005 completed a 60 page draft report *Research & Monitoring at Gluepot Reserve? A Status Report & Recommendations for the Future*. The report will be finalized at the end of January 2006. The Reserve has already commenced instituting some of Penny's recommendations and a second grant of \$18,700, received from the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board to *Link Monitoring at Gluepot Reserve to Natural Resource Management*, will greatly assist this process.

Another report completed in 2005, *Gluepot Reserve Dam Site Survey*, was prepared by Luke Geelan and Darren Schmitke and identifies the key management issues for all old dam sites on the Reserve and prioritizes on-ground works activities for the Friends of Gluepot, Rangers and other volunteers to undertake at these sites. These works include, weed mapping and surveying, weed control and removal of infrastructure.



Friends of Gluepot erecting a herbivore proof fence around 650 newly planted trees at Woolacott Dam site.

predators have been reduced to their current low levels during 1999-2002 by decommissioning artificial water points, and regional culling and poisoning campaigns. Similarly the threat of habitat fragmentation has been reduced to low levels by the actions of the Riverland Biosphere Land Partners. The threat to endangered Black-eared Miners from hybridisation remains at medium levels, despite the decommissioning of artificial water points, which favour Yellow-throated Miners. Degraded sites around former dams need more revegetation work and this is being undertaken by the Friends of Gluepot Reserve.

Plan of Management 2004-2008

A new Plan of Management for 2004-2008 has been completed and published. The three highest priorities for action in this Plan are: (1) Implementing a Fire Management Plan; (2) Obtaining funds for the Gluepot Reserve Foundation; and (3) Ensuring monitoring data are collected routinely and analysed.

Through the Department for Environment and Heritage, a *Draft Riverland Mallee Fire Management*

Plan has been written and is currently out for public comment prior to finalization. As a significant Land Partner in the biosphere, Gluepot Reserve is an important element in this plan. The document is extremely comprehensive and the intention of the plan is to provide strategic direction and a framework for fire management activities in the Riverland mallee. The plan defines objectives for ecological fire management, and life and property protection. More specifically, it lists recommendations, strategies and suggested works to allow these objectives to be met. The pre-suppression works and activities will increase the level of preparedness for bushfires and guide management and suppression during bushfire incidents.

The Gluepot Management Committee have considered the Plan and have accepted its recommendations in regard to Gluepot Reserve. This is in line with the first priority in the *Plan of Management 2004-2008*. Additionally, the newly completed Environmental Education Centre will be utilized as a *Fire Control Centre* in the event of a major fire in the area.

Review of Progress Towards Implementing Management Plan Actions

In late 2003 David Baker-Gabb met with the Management Committee and conducted a review of progress towards implementing the actions listed in the *Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve (a) Management Monitoring Plan, and (b) Business Plan* which covered the period from mid-1997 to the end of 2003. A score of 3 was given for actions that had been fully implemented, 2 for those that were two-thirds completed, 1 for actions where one-third of the work had been done, and 0 for those that had not begun. For the 80 actions listed for completion, a score of 240 (3 x 80) was possible, and Gluepot Reserve scored 209 with an outstanding 87% of the work done. Of the 80 listed actions, 90% have been finished or two-thirds completed. This is particularly impressive given that the initiation of a number of the larger infrastructure projects was contingent on external funds being raised. The few tasks that were not started or were incomplete were mostly lower priority jobs. Moreover some substantial tasks not listed in the Management Plan, such as the construction and fit-out of a purpose-built Visitor Information Centre, had been completed.

Review of Progress Towards Reducing Threats

To assist in the review of how the implementation of actions listed in the Management Plan has reduced threats to Gluepot Reserve's biota, we used the USA Nature Conservancy's *Landscape-scale Community-based Conservation Practitioner's Handbook*. The current viability of each of Gluepot's priority conservation targets was ranked after an assessment of its size, condition and landscape context. The sources and severity of stresses being placed on conservation targets were then identified, and this gave rise to a ranked lists of threats: large wildfires (high risk); hybridisation in Black-eared Miners (medium); overgrazing (low); predators (low); and habitat fragmentation (low).

This review confirmed large wildfires as the greatest threat to the Reserve's biota and highlights the need to devote more resources in the near future to dealing with what is now the only threat in the 'high' category. Threats from overgrazing and

New Committee Memb

John Gütsham:

John's interest in natural history began when he started collecting lizards and frogs at age 10 and ended rather abruptly when part of his collection escaped in the house.



In his late teens, John went to art school and studied photography and graphic design and spent some years as a professional photographer, photographing wildlife, nature and commercial products. At this time he developed a serious interest in bird watching.

John has lived with his wife Narayani in Macclesfield for 17 years and from 1997 worked with Earth Sanctuaries at Yookamurra and Warrawong Sanctuaries working his way up to Land Manager/Volunteers Coordinator at Warrawong. Following the demise of Earth Sanctuaries, John commenced his own environmental business and undertook contract work for a number of agencies. He has now returned to university life (at Flinders University) to complete his degree in Ecotourism and undertake an additional degree. John is the Gluepot Management Committee Environmental Education Course Coordinator, responsible for the planning of courses. He also facilitates the Introduction to Bird Watching Course.

Roger Schmitke:

Roger is President of the Friends of Gluepot and is one of Australia's leading garlic growers. He has been growing garlic on his Taylorville property for a number



of years and through his own research has revolutionised the garlic industry.

Roger is also an engineer and virtually all the complex equipment he utilises in the growing, cleaning and sorting of garlic, he has designed and built himself. Roger is also a keen conservationist and along with wife Raelene, cares for over 400 hectares of prime mallee country that is home to a large population of wildlife, including the nationally threatened Regent Parrot.

Roger is a member of the Harts Lagoon Management Group in Waikerie; is Chairman of the Australian Garlic Industry Association, and a Councilor on the tristate body, Riverlink - Rogers many skills have provided huge benefits to Gluepot Reserve.

Mary Crawford:

Mary is the Land Management Adviser with the Land Management Program on the Fleurieu Peninsula where her key role is to design, implement, promote, facilitate and present at land and property courses, workshops and field days across the Peninsula with the aims of promoting the adoption of sustainable land practices and best practice.



Mary is also a Ministerial appointment to both the Fleurieu Consultative Committee and as a Member of the Soil Conservation Appeal Tribunal. She is extremely active in a number of Soil Conservation and Landcare movement organisations including: the Bungala Restoration Steering Committee, Normanville Resource Centre Management Committee, Natural Resource Centres Alliance, to name a few.

Mary is a past Landcare Award winner and is a member of Trees for Life, Normanville Bushwalking Group, Scientific Expedition Group, Birds Australia and Native Grasses Society. She is a keen nature photographer and bird watcher and has led a number of bushwalking trips to Gluepot Reserve.

With the expansion of projects and larger numbers of volunteers and Assistant Rangers now working on the Reserve, the Nissan single cab 4WD was unable to cope with the requirements of a modern day reserve?

Accordingly, the Management Committee approached potential sponsors for assistance in purchasing a new vehicle and we are now the proud owners of a Mitsubishi Trident Twin-cab 4WD. Funds for the purchase came from the Reserve and sponsorship from Birds Australia, Mitsubishi Australia and Rosenthal Motors in Berri.

The Nissan utility has been retained and carries the fire-fighting unit.



Gluepot

By: Len Fidler, Reserve Ranger 2003

The road's a bloody worry
so you really shouldn't hurry,
just press along, you'll get there anyway.

The summer's bloody hot
and it doesn't rain a lot,
the kiln dried earth's the colour of baked clay.

Now, the dust is pretty bad
and the flies could drive you mad
and the "mossies" too are often pretty bold.

But the Dawns'- Oh God! what bliss
when the rising Suns' first kiss
paints the morning light a burnished gold.

As the sky turns Wedgewood blue,
and each day unfolds anew,
you'll hear the gentle whisper of the slowly passing years.

And the ancient trees around you
will constantly astound you
with a beauty and a grandeur that can bring a one to tears.

And much magic still remains
as the orchestrated strains
of nature's ululation marks the passing of the day.

When the velvet cloak of night
bids farewell to the light
and the firmament enfolds you, requiring that you stay.

Then there in Heavens' bowl you'll see
the hand of Gods' imploring plea
to touch the studded diadem on the gown of midnight blue.

And as terms end approaches
you'll hear your own reproaches
as you prepare to leave this place behind.

But the Stars, the Trees, the Dawn
won't leave you sad, forlorn,
they'll stay with you forever, engraved upon your mind.



Les Warnes of Burra has donated four old pieces of machinery to Gluepot. Les knows Gluepot well because his father, Reg Warnes, held the Gluepot Pastoral Lease from 1934 to 1962 and Les worked with his father at Woolgangi and Gluepot.

Les was born in Adelaide on 3rd February 1922 and grew up at Woolgangi. He followed correspondence lessons with the assistance of governesses at Woolgangi and completed his Qualifying Certificate. He commented that "when school wasn't on we were out working".

Apart from managing sheep and the day to day tasks on a pastoral lease, Les became a (self-taught) mechanic and engineer. At the age of 15 he acquired a new Chevrolete utility in October 1937. He said "my job was to drive it and maintain it". It still has a special place in his shed along with other vehicles he maintains.

The pieces of equipment Les has donated were all used in the construction and maintenance of dams including the Old Gluepot dams which were shown on an 1890s map of the area. They are an

- 1875 ? 1900 Netherton Dam Sinking Plough
- 1890 ? 1900 Sampson Mud Scoop or Dredge
- 1920 Dennis Buck Scraper
- 1940 Gaston Scoop

Les realises that knowledge of the early machinery and techniques is disappearing and has supplied explanatory notes on each of them. Bullocks powered them all. Later the Gaston scoop was used with a tractor and Les made several modifications to it.

On 16th November 1943 Les married Nancy Lenore GALE who was born in Adelaide on 16th June 1922. They have four children, Jennifer, Ian, Neville and Chris. Ian now carries on the Warnes involvement with Woolgangi.



Les Warnes at Gluepot, May 2004



Les explains the workings of one of the old scoops to Reserve Ranger, Jock Bromell. The machinery, along with descriptions of each item, will be on permanent display beside the shearing shed



During 2005, the Reserve purchased a second hand 2,000 gallon stainless steel water tanker that will be used to keep our five, 20,000 gallon fire-fighting tanks, (situated strategically around the Reserve) topped up during periods of dry weather.

The unit was purchased from Mrs Helen Rhodes of Mundulla and Roger Schmitke conducted the negotiations - knowing that the unit was for use at Gluepot, Mrs Rhodes sold to us for an excellent price. A week later, a local farmer offered to purchase the tanker for five times the amount we had paid. Friend of Gluepot, Robert Taylor, (a previous joint owner of Gluepot Station) used his prime mover to transport the unit from Tanunda to the Reserve. Roger Schmitke built a turntable dolly on a large trailer donated by Bill Santos and we were in business - a real team effort. The unit will be towed around the Reserve with our grader.



The water tanker attached to its dolly.

- 2003 Riverland Tourism Awards -Winner "Tourist Attraction" Category
- Banksia Environmental Awards 2003-Winner "Award for Environmental Leadership in the Community"
- United Nations World Environment Day Awards 2003-Winner "Award for Best Community Based Environmental Project or Initiative"
- South Australian Landcare Award 2003-Winner "Bushcare Nature Conservation Award" Category
- 2003 Heart Foundation Kellog Local Government Awards-Highly Commended in the Category "Project by a Community Organisation"
- River Murray Catchment Environmental Awards 2003-Winner of the "Improving the Quality of the Environment and Water Quality" Category and "Sustainable Recreation Award" Category
- 2003 National Volunteer Awards South Australian State inner of the "Environment, Conservation, Heritage and Animal Welfare" Category
- 2003 KESAB Tidy Towns Awards-Winner "Environmental Action and Education" Category
- SA GREAT Awards 2003 -Winner "Science and Environment" Category
- Yellow Pages South Australian Tourism Awards 2003-Highly Commended in the "Ecotourism" Category
- 2003 National Volunteer Awards-National Winner of the "Environment, Conservation, Heritage and Animal Welfare" Category
- South Australian Tourism Awards 2004 -Winner "Ecotourism" Category
- SA GREAT Awards 2004-Winner "Science and Environment" Category
- Year of the Built Environment 2004 EXEMPLARS Program - National Awards-Winner in the category "Towards Sustainable Communities"
- South Australian Landcare Awards 2005 -Winner "Bushcare Nature Conservation Award" and "Alcoa Landcare Community Group Award"
- SA GREAT Awards 2005-Highly Commended in the "Science and Environment" Category
- South Australian Tourism Awards 2005-Winner "Sustainable Tourism" Category

FRIENDS OF GLUEPOT RESERVE

- Friends of Parks Forum Awards 2004-Winner "Best Biodiversity Project" and "Best Landcare Project"

Research activities have expanded during the past two years, and under supervision of Professor Mike Bull from Flinders University and Dr Mark Hutchinson, South Australian Museum, projects on reptile research have been added to the Reserve's growing list of ongoing activities.

Some of the recent projects include:

- Huw Cookesly (2003/2004) **?The ecological community of reptiles at Gluepot Reserve?** (MSc thesis, School of Biological Sciences, Flinders University) - report published.

The project surveyed population densities and demographic structures of populations of five lizard species of the scincid genus *Ctenotus* across a range of habitats at Gluepot Reserve, an area with one of the richest reptile diversities in South Australia.



We planned to advance our understanding of the biodiversity of this region beyond the level of the species survey, and start to understand aspects of the ecology of these species to aid in the conservation management both at this site and at other locations where these species are found.

Although five species of *Ctenotus* are reported to be common in this region, two of them *C. atlas* and *C. schomburgkii* are at the southern edge of their range at Gluepot, being restricted to the north of the River Murray. The other three, *C. brachyonyx*, *C. regius* and *C. orientalis*, are still restricted to arid and semi-arid regions of the state, but are also found south of the Murray (and south of Gluepot). Thus a central question behind this project was to consider what factors limit distributions, and whether populations at the edge of a species range are any different, and potentially more fragile, than those in the middle of a species range.



- Chantelle Derez (2004) **?Sexual dimorphism, spatial ecology and behaviour in a tree-dwelling population of *Egernia striolata*?** (Honours thesis, School of Biological Sciences, Flinders University) - thesis published.

My introduction to Gluepot was being a member of the Scientific Expedition Group (SEG) back in 2000. It was there that I fell in love with the Reserve and people, so it seemed natural to go back to Gluepot to do my honours degree. I was looking at sociality in the tree-dwelling populations of the tree skink, *Egernia striolata*. Being a skink, this lizard is related to things like the bluetongue and shingleback but my lizards were a lot smaller and out at Gluepot, live in trees rather than on the ground. The rock-dwelling populations share crevices and have a high sociality status, whereas the tree populations tend to be territorial. However, groups of Mum, Dad and babies can be found in the breeding season living together in the tree hollows. It is quite incredible watching the video tapes of a male biting other lizards and then in the next trial, letting babies climb all over him.



Studying at Gluepot gave me the chance for many different experiences including sharing a bedroom with 16 lizards, having lizards wander through my feet in the bathroom and seeing a bandy-bandy (the snake equivalent of a Red-ored Whistler in the birding world). My camera worked overtime capturing some fantastic photos of the animals, and leaving me with visual reminders of the great time I had at Gluepot. And I can't wait to go back again!

- Wayne Lawrence (2005-2006) **?Why do some species of lizard at Gluepot Reserve only occupy Spinifex dominated habitat while other closely related species occupy a variety of habitats?** (Honours thesis, School of Biological Sciences, Flinders University) - in progress.

My research project involves studying three different species of *Ctenotus* skink that inhabit Gluepot Reserve. One species, (*Ctenotus atlas*) only inhabits the Spinifex grass, while the other two species, *Ctenotus regius* and



grass along with all the other habitat types that are found within Gluepot. I am attempting to find out why *C. regius* and *C. schomburgkii* have colonized all the different habitat types while *C. atlas* has stayed within the Spinifex.

The project involves capturing lizards in the permanent pitfall lines already established at Gluepot and placing them in enclosures in two different habitat types, a Spinifex grass habitat and an open whipstick mallee habitat. Observations are then be taken on the behaviour of the lizards in the different habitat types to see if this will give some indication as to why this selection of habitat type is occurring.

- Dragos Moise (2004? 2006) **?The behavioural ecology of Red-ored (*Pachycephala rufogularis*) and Gilbert's Whistler?** (PhD thesis, School of Environmental Biology, University of Adelaide) - in progress.

The behavioural ecology of Red-ored (*Pachycephala rufogularis*) and Gilbert's Whistler (*P. inornata*) is the subject of my PhD research, supervised by Dr. David Paton and funded by the Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.



Despite their overlapping distribution in the South Australian mallee, the Red-ored Whistler is far less abundant and widespread, and has undergone greater decline than the more common Gilbert's Whistler. Interestingly, it was observed that in some Murray Mallee areas Red-ored Whistlers have been replaced by Gilbert's Whistlers over time. Whether this process is passive, related to changes in the habitat suitability with age or involves interspecific competition is unknown. However, the relationship between the two species is not well understood at the moment, as many aspects of their ecology and behaviour are poorly documented.

The main objectives of my project are to identify the key habitat requirements of these two species, their habitat use, and aspects of their behaviour, particularly with respect to foraging, breeding, and intra and interspecific interactions. A sound knowledge of the ecology of the two species is crucial in developing adequate management programs, especially for the conservation of the vulnerable Red-ored Whistler.

Project research is being conducted in three mallee parks in South Australia - Billiatt and Ngarkat Conservation Parks and Gluepot Reserve, all areas where Red-ored and Gilbert's Whistlers occur.

Research projects continued

Gluepot Reserve has produced the most complete and valuable sets of data regarding the ecology and behaviour of the two whistler species.

In the main study area of 10 square kilometres, situated at the western end of the Birdseye Block, three Red-lored Whistler pairs and up to 13 pairs of Gilbert's Whistlers were found coexisting during the breeding season. From this area, I collected data on the ecology and behaviour of the two species, related to habitat use, movements, foraging, breeding, social interactions etc. I also collected data for another five Red-lored Whistler pairs outside the study area.

The home ranges of Red-lored and Gilbert's Whistler pairs were determined by tracking the movements of birds in the landscape. It was observed that Red-lored Whistlers have much larger home ranges than Gilbert's Whistlers (the largest range for Red-lored Whistler was of 216 ha, compared to the largest for Gilbert's Whistler, of 52.6 ha). In the field the two species show a clear separation by habitat, Red-lored Whistlers favouring low mallee with *Triodia* on low sand dunes, Gilbert's Whistlers being commonly found in tall mallee with sparse shrub understorey in interdunes, but also in other habitats, such as *Casuarina* and *Callitris* woodlands. Observations across breeding and non-breeding seasons revealed that, generally, Gilbert's Whistler seem to be a more mobile species, showing a poorer site fidelity than the sedentary Red-lored Whistler (only four individual Gilbert's Whistler were found in the study area in winter). Considerable effort was put into catching the target birds from the sampling area by mist-netting and colour banding them, for an easier identification in the field (a thousand thanks to Wally Klau, Gluepot Bird Banding Manager, for helping me!). Few individuals (two Red-lored and three Gilbert's) were fitted with transmitters and their movements were radio-tracked.

The foraging behaviour did not differ consistently between the two species, both capturing insects mostly by snatching them in the canopy foliage, and also by gleaning on the vegetation, at different heights. It is interesting to note that neither the Red-lored or Gilbert's Whistlers are essentially ground foragers at Gluepot, as previously considered.

Future work will focus on habitat assessments at a fine scale for both species and constructing habitat suitability models, which will assist in the management of both species.

Gluepot Remembered

By: Don Gobbett

As 2006 begins I am feeling quite excited about the coming months. The history of Gluepot, which I have been slowly working away on since I was a volunteer assistant ranger in June 2001, is about to be published!

My work is in the finishing stages, organising photographs and maps, talking with possible publishers, and double-checking some material.

The book is called **GLUEPOT REMEMBERED ? From Sheep Paddock to Conservation Reserve?** It is largely based on interviews with former owners of Gluepot Station as well as their friends, partners and visitors.

Sadly four of these people have now died so it has been a very timely piece of work. They and others, including Ken Finch who was at Gluepot with his brother in the late 1920s, willingly shared their memories. In the book I have tried to let them tell their own stories.

I hope that present day visitors to the Reserve will find it adds to their understanding of what they experience there and help them appreciate how things developed since the first lease in 1877. It honours the life and work of pioneers and station people as well as the changes brought about by Birds Australia.

If you have already visited Gluepot the book may help to rekindle your own memories. It may even make you want to make another visit!

The publication of the book is possible because of a \$2,000 grant from the History Trust of SA and a most generous contribution from an anonymous donor.

If you wish to be kept informed about the publication date and availability of the book contact the Newsletter Editor? details are at the bottom of the front cover.



1880 threepence found near the Old Gluepot dam site. A clay pipe, dating back to the mid 1800's, was also found in the same area.

They love their weeds

For quite some years now, there have been three volunteers who turn up like clockwork at Gluepot, to work on the removal of horehound. They often stay for a month at a time and sometimes visit twice in one year.

John Martin is a retired Assistant Police Commissioner from Melbourne and brings his caravan to Gluepot each year. He has assisted on many projects but has



adopted a number of closed dam sites at which he works extremely hard, eliminating horehound. John also has the habit of noticing when the Reserve is in need of a particular piece of equipment and producing that item on his next visit. John also plays a mean hand of Euchre and takes some beating when he gets into his straps.

Dudley and Noel Gross

often call into Gluepot before or after one of their trips to the far flung reaches of Australia. They are passionate about the weed situation on Gluepot and spend long hours out in the field eliminating their pet hate, horehound.



Dudley Gross

On departing the Reserve they always leave, or send via email, a weed status report on all the dam sites at Gluepot. This helps enormously in future planning for weed control.



Noel Gross

The Reserve has again been the subject of television features, the most notable being the ABC *George Negus Tonight* show (about 3 months prior to the shows demise) and Channel 9 *Postcards* in South Australia. The George Negus Tonight crew spent three days filming across the Reserve, with the result that visitor numbers increased following the program going to air.



The George Negus Tonight film crew at work. Rangers Ros & Jock Bromell were the stars.

Why Go Back?

By: Frances Guard, and Bob Philpot
Rangers 2003 & 2005

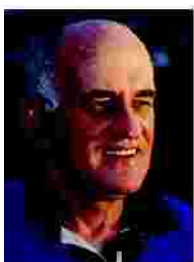
Serving as volunteer rangers for three months at Gluepot was a unique experience. We were able to absorb the sights, sounds and atmosphere of the Mallee in a way that a casual visit would not have afforded.

Committee chairperson and members provided a great sense of family that undergirded our whole time there. Actually doing something practical about promoting conservation and protecting bird species and habitat gave us a real sense of achievement.

Meeting other people also interested in birds, plants and conservation helped reaffirm for us that we are not alone in our efforts to care for this great planet.



Frances Guard



Bob Philpot

Sprinkled among the visitors were people who stand out as leading bird photographers and writers on the environment. We gained a lot from our brief contacts with them.

Research workers and students from overseas gave us opportunities to examine and understand some of the creatures endemic to the Gluepot region. And as we extended hospitality to these workers, local and international relationships were further strengthened.

The opening of the Michael Hyde Visitor Centre was a highlight of our time at Gluepot. It brought together friends and Committee members who worked hard to ensure the great day ran smoothly with suitable hospitality for all the visitors and official guests. The Centre has a strong emphasis on the part Gluepot is playing for conservation and the environment within the tourism context.

Other highlights for us were Fran's photos and Bob's bridge! Fran was able to start a collection of colour photos of the plants of Gluepot, to complement the herbarium specimens. This will be an ongoing project.

Bob undertook the challenge to construct a culvert and 'Bridge' between the Homestead and the visitors centre. Together with some loads of gravel donated by Bill Santos, it now provides a dust and mud-free track.

Maintenance to equipment, vehicles and buildings, weather recording, and regular liaising with the public were day to day duties which were interesting and rewarding in themselves.

Why go back was the question at the beginning. The answer is in the article above and the fact that in 2005 we will be able to build on this very rewarding experience and catch up with all our friends at Gluepot again.



'Bob's Bridge' involved the utilization of a number of secondhand items including dam inlet/outlet pipes from Picnic Dam and Mt Gambier stone bricks from the old Moranvale Homestead



The new 'bridge and culvert' in operation after heavy rains.

Editor's Note: The above article was written after Frances and Bob completed their time as Rangers in November/December 2003. They returned to Gluepot as Rangers in September/November 2005.

During that time Frances completed photographing over 135 species of plants covering 360 images. Color prints were produced and laminated at the Reserve to facilitate the production of two A4 Plant Identification binders. One is retained with the Reserve herbarium and the other is for the use of visitors at the Visitor Centre.

Bob's two main projects during his 2005 stint, were to build 19m of 2m high shelving, workbenches and chemical storage facilities in the new storage shed. He then converted the 'old' storage/workshop shed into a magnificent workshop.



The new 19m long steel storage shed (not completed) built by the Friends of Gluepot. Roger Schmitke designed and built the shed with the assistance of volunteers and Rangers.

Gluepot Reserve Rangers during 2003-2005

NOTE: As at January 2006, Ranger positions are fully booked to the end of 2007 and three months of 2008.

Rangers for 2003: Robin Goodchild (SA): Len and Jill Fidler (Vic): Wendy and Michael Mackintosh (SA): Marilyn and Brian Ingram (Vic): Frances Guard and Bob Philpot (Qld):

Assistant Rangers: Anne Rulle and Adeline Bodenheimer (Ger): Paulk Derbyshire (UK): John Martin (Vic): Don and Meg Macmillan (Vic): Don and Estelle Gobbett (SA): Colin Smith: John Gitsam (SA): Heather Gibbs (Vic): Coral Dow (ACT): Malcolm Brown (Vic): Dudley and Noel Gross (Vic): Sabine Ponitz, Katrin Plogstert, and Rainer Neuffer (Ger): Kirsty Morphet (Vic).

Rangers for 2004: Don Royal (NSW): Doug Holly (Vic): Ros and Jock Bromell (Vic): Bernard and Fay Ryan (Vic): Suzi and Tony Burgin (Vic): Penny Paton (SA):

Assistant Rangers: Jack Wells: Simeon Lefebvre (Fra): Pirmin Nietlieb (Swit): David and Christine Orcahrd (UK): Clair Gifford and Frances Taylor (SA): John Martin (Vic): Charlene Kent (Vic): Guillaume Boyet (Fra): Anne Morphet (SA): Berenice Denis (Fra): Val LaMay (Vic): Virginie Decroix (Fra): Ricahrd Wilson (UK): Bernice Cohen (SA): Robyn Jewell (Vic).

Rangers for 2005: Richard Everett and Frances White (Vic): Anne Morphet (SA): David, Debbie and Megan Pool (Vic): Frances Guard and Bob Philpot (Qld): Don Royal (NSW).

Assistant Rangers: Anthea Bell (WA): John Martin (Vic): Mathieu le Lay (Fra): Mike Rosendal and Annette Baker (Can): Brian Watts (Vic): Clair Gifford and Frances Taylor (SA): Claire Obellianne (Fra): Pip Love (SA): James Plowman (UK): Yannick Obellianne (Fra).



Don at Gluepot

Donald Macmillan was born in 1928. He was a student and later a teacher at Geelong College and then taught at Scotch College until his retirement in 1987.

Don was a great athlete and represented Australia at the 1952 and 1956 Olympic Games and the 1950 and 1954 Empire Games. Don and beautiful wife Meg were strong supporters of Gluepot and were Assistant Rangers in 2002 and 2003. Don passed away on the 19th November 2004 and will be very much missed by the Gluepot Family.

Gluepot moves into a new era

Early in 2004, the Reserve Management Committee approved the next phase of development for Gluepot – the establishment of an **Environmental Education Centre**. It was determined that the most cost effective way to do this, was to convert part of the existing shearing shed to provide a large classroom and separate kitchen/dining room. The Friends of Gluepot agreed to undertake the project and Roger Schmitke (Friends President) managed the operation. One of the objects of the conversion was to retain as much of the old heritage as possible.

Conversion work consisted of removing huge piles of materials that had been stored in the shed and the dismantling of the old information centre at the shed front. The slatted shearing slats were then removed, inverted, blocked tightly together and nailed back onto new bearers (white ants had decided to 'make a meal' of the old bearers). The remaining floor boards were also retained and these and the blocked slats were sanded in places, washed several times (by hand) to remove old stains and lanoline and several applications of Estapol were applied. During building conversion, Rangers spent countless hours cleaning the old shearing stand equipment and bringing it back to almost 'as new' condition. The stands remain inside as a focal point of the classroom.

We were lucky enough to obtain a large number of second-hand modern sliding aluminium windows and doors, (courtesy of the Loxton Lutheran Homes who were also undertaking a building conversion) and these were installed in the classroom and kitchen/dining areas. Another set of timber framed glass sliding doors (courtesy of Gluepot Management member, Bill Santos) were installed between the two rooms.

Utilising corrugated iron that had been donated to the Reserve some years ago (from dismantled commercial chook sheds and a barn in Victoria) and new 'R' section, a second skin was added to all external and some internal walls.



John Gitsham with some of his 'Introduction to Birdwatching' students

Insulation and all electrical wiring was placed between the 'Double walls'. New walls were added internally to separate the facility from the rest of the shed – which is still used for material storage.

The floor of the kitchen/dining room was tiled and a second hand set of kitchen cupboards installed. The kitchen has a full size gas stove, hot & cold water, a microwave oven and refrigerator, all donated. The walls of the dining area have had vertical timber slats applied (they came from the chook sheds) to which are attached the donor recognition boards. Curtains, made by volunteers, are fitted to all windows and doors.

The classroom is outfitted with the latest in equipment, including a laptop computer, data projector, 35mm projector, overhead projector and sound system. A large pull down 2.4m sq screen, white board and various trolleys



Craig Ingram, facilitator of the 'Introduction to Nature Photography' course

complete the installation. Tables and chairs (including those in the dining room) were purchased for an excellent price (it's amazing the deals you can do when you ask nicely!). As the shearing shed had not previously had power connected, it was necessary to wire the building to provide lighting, ceiling fans and power points. A 'Bull-nosed' veranda will be added to the front of the building this year and the area beside the shed, 'dressed-up' to display the dam dredging equipment and other heritage items.

Although the majority of materials used in the conversion were second-hand or donated (Gluepot is not called 'The Steptoe & Son of the North' for nothing) we did have to locate funding for items such as the insulation, 'R' section steel, electrical wiring (including new fittings), floor tiles (they were laid by volunteers) and the classroom equipment including tables and chairs. We were lucky enough to source good second-hand equipment for most of the classroom equipment, leaving the lap-top and data projector the only new items purchased.

We received grants from Earth

Sanctuaries Foundation, Birds Australia 2004 NSW 'Twitchathon' and from an anonymous donor who purchased the data projector – the most expensive single item. The cost of electrical wiring and fittings was covered under a grant for the new Accommodation Block from the South Australian Tourism Commission – the grant also covered the third extension to our solar power system.



A section of the kitchen/dining room area prior to its completion.

The first courses were run in the Centre at the end of 2005, even though the conversion work had not been completed. They were a great success and most attendees will be returning in 2006 to attend further courses. When the Committee decided to proceed with the Education Centre, it was agreed that it would be a multi use facility, available for school use, small conferences, meetings, training and as a Control Centre for the CFS when large fires are being fought in the area. Reserve facilities have already been used for two day NRM and Soil Board meetings, and the National Conference of the Australian Bird Study Association. The National Rangelands Conference will spend time at Gluepot during 2006 and the Reserve Catering Committee offers services to these groups, bringing in much needed funds.

Gluepot thanks most sincerely, the great band of willing volunteers and donors who have made the 'dream' of a Gluepot Environmental Education Centre a reality. Support has enabled us to provide a further service to the 'Australian community' and shows that the 'value adding' concept of the Gluepot Reserve management model, produces a great many benefits!



Raelene Schmitke and Debbie and Megan Pool assist in cleaning the area during the conversion from a shearing shed to a classroom. The walls and floors were washed to remove an excess of lanoline.

A road much travelled

The enthusiasm of 'Twitchers' to add new birds to their lists is well known. But there are also a select body of bird photographers who will go to great lengths to photograph a new species of bird to add to their collection of images.

One such photographer is Peter Odekerken who lives on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland and travels widely in pursuit of his hobby. His passion is capturing images of Australia's parrots and cockatoos and he was keen to obtain images of Gluepot's Scarlet-chested Parrots. However when informed that these birds had not been sighted for a while, his enthusiasm immediately renewed when told that in summer, the nationally threatened Regent Parrots visit the Reserve bird watering troughs in considerable numbers.

Shortly after our last email contact, Peter arrived at Gluepot having spent two days driving from Queensland. The first morning spent in Whistler hide, Peter was able to photograph 40-50 Regents and a number of other species. He then moved over to Grasswren hide and had similar success. A quick visit to Old Gluepot hide produced images of an immature Goshawk. After two days at Gluepot, Peter headed back home, very satisfied with his now bulging portfolio of new bird images.

In 2004, two girls on bicycles 'suddenly' appeared at Gluepot. They had been riding around the state and had come down from Scotia on the NSW border. They stayed a few days, helping on some Reserve projects, then packed up their bikes and departed. Those who have visited Gluepot will know that it is a 50km trip in from the bitumen on a sandy/gravel road, not the easiest for bike riding and especially as these bikes were packed with gear.

There were a few very puzzled visitors who followed the bike tracks in to the homestead, providing a number of wild guesses as to 'what' had made the tracks? none guessed that it had been bikes!



Five years ago, Assistant Ranger John Martin decided to establish a vegetable garden at the Gluepot Homestead. Utilising fencing panels from the old sheep yards and donated shade cloth, he built an enclosed garden area that would keep kangaroos and goats out. Raised garden beds were established incorporating old sheep manure from the shearing shed and compost from kitchen scraps (all kitchen scraps at Gluepot are composted). A water line was installed and a drip watering system added. The system uses dam water, pumped from one of the two house dams to a large storage tank situated behind the homestead.

A wide variety of vegetables are now grown, including pumpkins, carrots, peas, beans, spinach, tomatoes, broccoli etc. and the year round productivity of the garden depends very much on the care given by successive Rangers.

2005 was a very good year, particularly as Ranger Bob Philpot had been the garden 'armer' for the last three months. During early January 2006, ready to pick vegetables included a 15.3 kg pumpkin (one of at least 20 of very nearly the same weight) and scrumptious, sweet tomatoes, the average picking weight being 0.05kgs. With such a large volume of vegetables available, Assistant Ranger Helan Reid made up jars of delicious relish utilising a mixture of pumpkin, tomatoes, onions and herbs.

Gluepot really does bear out the theory that if you could provide a good supply of water to the rich soils of the pastoral country, Australia could very well be the 'Food Bowl of the World'.



Luke Frost, grandson of Roger and Raelene Schmitke, with one of the 15.3 kg pumpkins

Our overseas students

Many of our French and German university students, who spend from two to six months at the Reserve as Assistant Rangers, are required, as part of their course curriculum, to work on a project while at Gluepot. On their return home they are expected to present their findings in either written form or orally at a seminar.

In 2004, Mathieu le Lay from ISAB (University of Agriculture and Management) Beauvais, France, spent three months at Gluepot and was a great favourite of all at the Reserve. Mat was in his second year of a five year engineering degree, studying Agriculture and Agronomy.

A couple of months after Mat's return to France, a bound copy of the following report arrived in Gluepot's mail. *'Occupational Health and Safety in Australian Parks'* This was Mat's 100 page course report (written in English) and based on his research conducted at Gluepot Reserve and Innes National Park, in South Australia. The report contained many photographs and maps and is a credit to Matt and his dedication to his work.



Mat le Lay at Gluepot during 2005



Anne Morphet was Ranger at Gluepot during April, May and June 2005 and helped supervise Mat with his OH&S project.

Anne is booked to return to Gluepot as Ranger, in 2007 and will be there for seven months.

Editors Note: There are a number of overseas universities that regularly send their students to Gluepot Reserve for work experience/training. ISAB (above) is a favourite, and has up to six students per year at Gluepot.

Gluepots 14 Walking Trails

Completed in 2003, Gluepot's 14 Walking trails cover a diverse range of habitats and distances.

The trails were developed to provide safe and interesting access to large areas of the Reserve and it was thought that some visitors might undertake one or two of the walks, during their stay on the Reserve.

Analysis of our Walking Trail Survey Forms indicate that this is not so and in fact a large number of our visitors undertake up to seven and eight walks and that age is certainly not a barrier to the number of walks undertaken - during 2005, an 83 year old undertook six walks; several 70+ year olds up to seven walks with four 60+ year olds doing eight walks.

Our walks are held in high regard and the SA Tourism Commission features them in a number of their publications, including *240 Great South Australian Short Walks*.

Developed by Kevin Smith (Gluepot Committee member), the new *Peregrine Vehicle Trail* guides visitors to some of the most interesting features on Gluepot. 50 km in length, the trail provides a guide for those requiring an overall impression of the Reserve or who may be short on time or are unable to walk distances.



A sample of the walking trails signs supplied by the SA Tourism Commission. Whistler Walk is one of our more popular walks and includes a visit to a bird hide.

Gluepot Reserve has been a leader in the use of solar power in the Riverland since 1999. The Reserve relies entirely on solar energy for power and from the original installation of 40 panels has added another 24 panels in two steps. This has increased amperage input to the batteries from 30 to 50 to 80 amp. The second upgrade was to provide power to the Michael Hyde Visitor Centre while the latest was to service the new accommodation block and Environmental Education Centre.

In 2004, the Reserve obtained a grant from the SA Tourism Commission to build a new accommodation building. This followed a marked increase in accommodation demand from volunteers, research personnel, Assistant Rangers and other visitors to Gluepot.

Our inimitable environmental architect David Rudder, provided the design and completed drawings for a five bedroom and bathroom accommodation block that has been built near the management camping ground.

Murray Harris, our master craftsman? builder, performed his usual magic and produced a building that screams? QUALITY! Following on behind Murray, Rod Bradke undertook the Gyprock work and Alby Price, another master craftsman, tiled the bathroom. Ian Campbell (who with Murray Harris built all the beautiful furniture in the Michael Hyde Visitor Centre) installed the plumbing at the same time connected the Education Centre to gas and water. During their 2 months stay as Assistant Rangers, Mike and Annette Rosendal from Canada, painted the building inside and out. A number of other volunteers assisted in various stages of construction.



Bill Santos, Bruce and Dawn Schultz and Travis Hague working on the new accommodation block? May 2005



Trenching for water and power to the new accommodation block.

Wendy retires as Treasurer

Wendy Mackintosh accepted the position of Treasurer and as a member of the Gluepot Management Committee, in April 1998. She rapidly became one of those people who really are indispensable? guiding the Committee along sound financial paths (we have never exceeded budget) and placing constraints on expenditure when necessary. Her books of accounts have always been immaculate and would be the envy of any large corporation. After six years, Wendy has decided it is time for a rest and with husband Michael, undertake outback travel and see more of her family. She will remain on the Management Committee (Michael is also a member) and we thank her for her dedicated years of service and friendship.

The Reserve has always been strong in forging partnerships? and when Wendy decided to retire, Stephen Noble of Noble Chartered Accountants, Waikerie, offered to accept the position of Treasurer with his firm undertaking to look after all our financial affairs, pro bono. Accountant Belinda Kuchel is our Noble's contact and the last six months has seen an excellent relationship develop between our two entities.



Wendy trains Ranger Frances White (left) on the details of the Reserve's day to day financial and banking procedures.

The range of Reserve products on offer and the quantities sold have improved dramatically following the completion of the Michael Visitor Centre. Items are now displayed on special stands in the centre with a wider variety of sizes now available in clothing items. A number of popular books and CD's are on offer and some items of clothing now carry an embroidered logo, adapted from the design on the front of the Visitor Centre? see below.



Working with partners

One of the real successes of the Reserve has been the partnerships we have developed with individuals and organizations sharing similar goals.

Banrock Station Wine & Wetland Centre is one such partnership that has greatly benefited both organizations. We encourage our visitors to experience the diversity of habitats and wildlife that each venue offers and we work together to promote the regions natural values.

During 2005, Banrock ran their 'Bird Day Out' and Gluepot assisted by providing four seminar facilitators and a manned stand with samples of goods sold in the Reserve Visitor Centre.

In 2006, Banrock and Gluepot will continue their series of seminars and courses and we will be working together to promote these events to a wide audience. As well as being on of the states premier RAMSAR sites and offering a superb boardwalk facility for visitors to experience these wetlands, Banrock is the maker of fine wines. A percentage of each bottle produced goes to wetland development throughout the world and to-date, Banrock has donated over \$1 million.

Banrock has now generously offered, as sponsorship for Gluepot, a percentage of each case of wine sold to members of Birds Australia, Friends of Gluepot and visitors to Gluepot Reserve. Either complete the order form enclosed (they are also available at the Reserve) or when you visit Banrock, please let the staff know you are a 'friend' of Gluepot Reserve. Monies raised from this generous sponsorship, will go towards the production of this newsletter.

Gluepot road grading

The last two years have seen a marked turn around in the quality of Gluepot roads. Our northern neighbour, John Wyld, grades our roads using the Reserve's grader. John donates his labour, and along with wife Leonie, are integral and much loved members of the 'Gluepot Family'. Roads can only be mechanically graded when they are moist, so there can be long periods between gradings and particularly in dry years.

Friends President Roger Schmitke soon solved that problem, by shackling together three large tractor tyres - these are towed slowly behind the 4WD vehicle. This type of road 'grading' is best done when the roads are dry and removes practically all corrugations, thus providing unusually excellent road conditions for our many visitors.

Doing it tough in the drought

The last few years of drought has seen a dramatic drop in Malleefowl breeding across all areas of the mallee, which very much indicates that breeding success is tied to rainfall. Surveys of the seven Malleefowl grids on Gluepot during 2005, produced only one active mound. However, as seen below, there were odd active mounds located outside the survey areas.



Malleefowl working its mound during the 2005 Gluepot breeding season

Gluepot Environmental Education Centre Courses for 2006

The following 10 courses are planned for Gluepot during 2006. They are all of two days duration (Saturday and Sunday), and where possible attendees should try to arrive at the Reserve on the Friday afternoon. Courses will finish at about 4.30pm on the Sunday. If you are interested in registering and/or receiving individual course brochures, please contact the Editor - details are at the bottom of the front page of this Newsletter.

CODE	SUBJECT	FACILITATOR	COURSE DATES
BW6A	Introduction to Birds & Birdwatching	John Gitsham	15 th & 16 th April
BW6B	Introduction to Birds & Birdwatching	John Gitsham	7 th & 8 th October
NP6A	Introduction to Nature Photography	Craig Ingram	25 th & 26 th March
NP6B	Introduction to Nature Photography	Craig Ingram	16 th & 17 th September
MP6A	Macro Photography	Craig Ingram	8 th & 9 th April
MP6B	Macro Photography	Craig Ingram	23 rd & 24 th September
BOT6	Botanical Illustration	Gilbert Dashorst	TBA
PN6	Painting Nature	Wendy Jennings	9 th & 10 th September
DP6	Discovering the Plants of the Mallee	Anne Prescott	TBA
IND6	The Indigenous & European History of Gluepot Reserve	Keryn Walshe and Doni Gobbett	May 2006

Bird banding at Gluepot provides some interesting longevity records

Bird banding is undertaken at Gluepot Reserve by Wally Klau, the Reserve's Bird Banding Manager, with operations commencing on the 28th October 1997. Wally has been banding in selected areas, concentrating on a number of species for future research projects. He also assists our graduate research students with their banding requirements. Wally's work to-date has shown some interesting results including some of Australia's oldest recovery records and remarkable site 'faithfulness' for a number of species.

SPECIES	BANDING LOCATION	DATE BANDED	DATE RECOVERED	RECOVERED AT	PERIOD BETWEEN
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Birdseye Block	12th February	8th November 2003	Same site	5 years 8 months
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Whistler Tank	7th May 1998	25th February 2005	Same site	6 years 9 months
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater	Birdseye Block	6th July 2000	October 2004	Whistler Tank	4 years 3 months
Common Bronzewing	Whistler Tank	20th October 1998	11th December 2003	Same site	5 years 2 months
Southern-scrub Robin	Froggy Dam	7th April 1999	29th April 2003	Same site	4 years
Southern Whiteface	Whistler Tank	10th February 1998	15 h June 2000	Same site	3 years 4 months
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Whistler Tank	4th May 1998	2nd May 2001	Same site	3 years
White-fronted Honeyeater	Froggy Dam	5th May 1998	30th March 2001	Same site	2 years 10 months
Owlet Nightjar	Whistler Tank	1st May 2001	12th Decembe 2003	Same site	2 years 7 months

