

Gluepot Reserve

January 2016

The Rewards of Being a Volunteer Ranger

Many fond memories are created and retained for life by both the visitors who come to Gluepot to camp, relax, and observe the wildlife, and the volunteers who manage, work or undertake research activities at the Reserve.

The volunteer Rangers who live at Gluepot, most commonly for one to three months at a time, frequently liaise with the visitors, providing advice and information about the Reserve. All enjoy this interaction and cherish some of the memories.

This is one such memory..... shared by Rangers Shirley and Tim Pascoe.

Tom and Sally, a couple from Scotland, travelled to Gluepot for a visit of two days, but stayed for six.

One-day Tom came to the Homestead to apologise for having driven down the track to Whistler Bird Hide, a track normally restricted as a walking-only trail. But Sally had felt unwell due to heat exhaustion and Tom needed to pick her up.

The Rangers invited them in for a cuppa and then suggested that Sally should have a shower because she looked exhausted. The offer was gladly accepted.

They planned to go along the track to Whistler again the next day because they were very keen to observe the Major Mitchell's Cockatoos.

On that day, the Rangers had travelled to Waikerie, the nearest town to Gluepot, to purchase supplies, and undertake all the other necessary activities.

When they arrived back at Gluepot Tom and Sally had departed, but had left a note and a \$50 donation. The note said:

'We did well. The Major Mitchell's turned up at 7.23 a.m. with crests raised, a superb and unexpected pleasure.'



Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (G. Chapman)

So, could the day get better. Yes, indeed; we spotted two Black-eared Miners on track 7, so staked out a small bush with red flowers which looked like a good spot, and sure enough a pure strain of the bird turned up. Got a perfect photo.

Mission accomplished, all thanks to you. Words cannot say how much we appreciate all of your help and kindness.

Love Tom and Sally'

For volunteer Rangers Shirley and Tim, this is just one of the reasons why Gluepot is so special.

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Chairman's Comments

The last Gluepot Newsletter was produced in March 2007, so there has been a hiatus of eight years between that and this new electronic Newsletter.

Previously, the Newsletter was printed and 2,500 hard copies were mailed out to Gluepot donors and supporters. Unfortunately, with the expansion of Reserve activities and allied responsibilities, I (as the previous editor) have not had the time available to continue and for this I apologise.

When I look back to the commencement of the Reserve in July 1997, it is obvious to me that the aims and ideals that we started with have never changed and have never been 'tainted'. Our main aim, then and now, has been 'the preservation and enhancement of the Gluepot environment for future generations.' When you read the visitor comments in the Visitor Registers and talk with volunteers and visitors, it is patently clear that Gluepot provides a 'pillar of stability' and profound pleasure to so many people. In a time when we hear of bad news almost every day, the Reserve offers an escape to one of Australia's great natural wonders – the Mallee and its wonderful biodiversity.

Gluepot is now accepted nationally and internationally as a major centre for research and monitoring and as an exemplar-training centre for overseas university students. Our Environmental Education Courses have been running for over 10 years and attendees come from all states of Australia and overseas.

Donors particularly like knowing that every dollar they donate goes directly into the operation of the Reserve. Being managed and operated ENTIRELY by volunteers, there are no wages and associated overheads to worry about. Our volunteers are the mainstay of the Reserve, and are the reason that Gluepot has an international reputation for the high quality of its' management model.

Best wishes.



Duncan MacKenzie
Chairman

Birdlife Australia's Gluepot Reserve is located approximately 60 km north of Waikerie and the River Murray, in the Riverland region of South Australia. It comprises approx. 64,000 hectares, or 540 sq. km., and is part of the largest block of intact Mallee remaining in eastern Australia, the Riverland Biosphere Reserve.

The land was purchased by Birdlife Australia in 1997, with the assistance of donations from over 2,400 people and organisations. Prior to becoming a conservation reserve, the land had a long and interesting history, principally as a marginal sheep grazing property.

Open to visitors on most days of the year, visitors have three campsites to choose from. And with over 200 species of birds observed on the Reserve, it is a wonderful place for birdwatching. And much more.....

Editor's thoughts.....

I hope that 2016 is a happy and interesting year and that nature may provide new and beautiful memories for you. If you spend some time at Gluepot your chances of success are high.

As a newcomer to the Gluepot 'world', I'm in awe of the volunteers who have created, enhanced or maintained the facilities on the Reserve. Many have long service achievement, and most are modest. Gold may be precious, but I'd swap a bit of it for an hour of 'chewing the fat' with one or more of them.

And, as editor, this presents a challenge for me. All of these people deserve recognition in the newsletter.

Indeed, a big challenge. Since 1997 the Reserve has been blessed with 'nuggets'. But I take up the challenge, and in forthcoming editions will share with you more stories about the Gluepot 'family'.

To help me in my quest, I'd like to hear from as many readers as possible - whether as a past volunteer or visitor. Tell me about your experiences or memories of your time at Gluepot, I'd love to include your photos, especially your favourite bird shots.

From an amateur herpetologist who wants to learn about birds, visiting Gluepot gives me a great chance of success.

All the best
Ian Williams, Editor

Using technology to monitor wildlife

Volunteers and researchers at Gluepot are keen to utilise new technology to enhance the Reserve's wildlife monitoring programs. The results of this monitoring helps to determine if we are achieving our long-term management goals.

Movement detection cameras

For several years now, the Reserve has been using 'Stealth' movement detection cameras in three main projects across the property. The cameras operate in both daylight and darkness, can take both stills and video images, are high resolution, and with the addition of solar panels and large memory cards, can operate for long periods without intervention.

It is important to monitor the movements of goats, kangaroos and any stray sheep along our 50km of electrified fence boundaries that border neighbouring grazing properties. Cameras have been placed at strategic points along each fence and 24 hours per day, monitor movement of animals – this helps to inform us on how effective our electrified fences are in keeping goats out.

Malleefowl are a species listed as nationally threatened. Almost since the Reserve began, Malleefowl breeding mounds have been monitored at seven Malleefowl Survey Grids across Gluepot. Following the introduction of the 'Stealth' cameras, two cameras are placed on every active mound, recording movement on the ground 24/7 (picture below; setting up a camera).



We are now able to tell (to the minute) when every egg is laid and when every chick hatches and emerges from the mound. Importantly, we can record predator activity, and this aspect has shown just how many threats there are to the birds' breeding success.



The cameras have recorded (amongst other things!) cats, foxes, a Sleepy Lizard, Sand Goanna, Collared Sparrow Hawk, Mulga Snake, sheep and goats. The stoush between the Malleefowl and the snake on the partially hollowed out active mound (pictured below) was particularly exciting to see as the bird 'shovelled' heaps of sand at the predatory snake. Eventually the snake realized that defeat was ominous and slithered off



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Using technology to monitor wildlife

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Malleefowl with newly laid egg



Malleefowl parents with hatchling

The third use of the cameras is at the Reserve's five bird hides overlooking bird watering troughs. Cameras are positioned at each of these to record which species are coming in to drink, and interestingly, the interaction between species on the trough.

Detecting Malleefowl mounds using a drone

Detection of active Malleefowl mounds entails a lot of walking through the mallee over considerable distances, a time consuming activity.



Perhaps one of our most interesting moves into new technology has been the use of a drone to locate these active

mounds. Experienced Ranger and member of the Management Committee, Tim Pascoe who is in charge of using this technology, is able to program the drone to search segments of the mallee. The drone takes video during its flight, which is then able to be reviewed to detect the presence of active mounds. In future it is hoped that that Tim's work will enable a reduction in mound searching time.

Tim also has responsibility for the 'Stealth' cameras and our Bird Atlas program. A busy volunteer!

New display in Visitor Centre

Two of Gluepot's greatest supporters, Mal and Janet Kidson from Melbourne, recently visited Gluepot to undertake some bird photography and to present a beautiful hand-made quilt that now hangs in the Reserve Visitor Centre.



The maker of the quilt, Janet Kidson (pictured above, far left, with the quilt high above), has been quilting for about 12 years - initially taking it up as a retirement activity. Mostly she makes quilts suitable for hanging in homes, galleries and public areas rather than for traditional domestic use.

She is interested in using and experimenting with fabric dyes, bleaching and over-dyeing, printing on fabric and in developing new patterns and styles.

She is particularly interested in "art quilting" rather than in the traditional forms of quilting and she likes to represent themes from the natural environment including more abstract work on themes such as global warming and bushfire.

The Gluepot Hanging has evolved from an earlier representation of Malleefowl on the Patchewollock-Ouyen Road in NE Victoria.

Janet is an active member of several Victorian quilting associations and has convened a number of exhibitions.

The Reserve sincerely thanks Janet for her work.

Our volunteers are the key to our success

by Chairman, Duncan MacKenzie

Gluepot's volunteers are the lifeblood of the Reserve. There is a sign in the Visitor Centre that states:

**Our volunteers are not paid.
Not because they are worthless, but because
they are PRICELESS**

For 18 years, the Reserve has gone from strength to strength because of the dedication, loyalty and multiple skills of our volunteers.

Between July 1997 and the end of 2014, donated volunteer hours at Gluepot totalled some 403,600. These hours, plus donated mileage, is the monetary equivalent of over \$11m, if Gluepot had to pay for their services - a truly amazing figure. But to put these donated hours into some sort of perspective; they are equivalent to 11 people working full-time for the complete 18-year period.

In particular, our volunteer [Management Committee](#) is an example of this dedication. Two present members have been on the Committee for 18 years, one for 17 years, two for 15 years, and so on. This ongoing 'stability' in the Committee, helps ensure that our long-term management plans are developed from a profound knowledge of how the 'Gluepot Environment' works and what we need to do to build on past successes to ensure that our future is sustainable and one of which we can continue to be proud.

It should be said that this 'people stability' extends across all facets of the Reserve's operations. Our [Rangers](#), for instance, are the mainstay of the day-to-management of Gluepot and are considered an integral part of the Management Team. Ros and Jock Bromell (Vic) and Tony and Suzi Burgin (NSW) for instance, first came as Rangers in 2004 and have been back as Rangers virtually every year since. Most of our Rangers book 2-3 years ahead. And it is not only our Australian Rangers that show a dedication to Gluepot – Martin Toland (NZ) first came as an Assistant Ranger in 2001 and has been back as Ranger a number of times since and is booked in for 2016. Such is the Rangers' enjoyment and commitment to volunteer to help at Gluepot that the roster is fully booked halfway through 2019.

The [Friends of Gluepot](#), each year undertake biodiversity surveys and monitor our seven Malleefowl survey grids.

Added to this, each of our Management Committee members has particular skills that are utilised to manage

specific operations including conservation and land management, feral animal control, weed management, education courses, and bird atlassing.

The RAG Team

Our RAG (acronym for 'rough as guts!') Team have been coming to Gluepot one day a week for many years and undertake a great deal of the maintenance and building operations that are done on the Reserve. They are all retired with multiple skills across a wide range of applications. Bill Santos leads the team while Stewart Slade can 'turn his hand' to anything and also drives the Reserve's grader. Gil Pilgrim is a 'Jack-of-all-Trades' and keeps the rest of the team on the straight and narrow. The newest member of the group is Ian Kowald, a retired electrician.



Bill Santos, with the Library & Science Centre, named in his honour. Built by the RAG Team, with the help of other volunteers, this is a wonderful resource for researchers and volunteers.



RAG team members, from left to right: Gil Pilgrim, Stewart Slade & Ian Kowald,

This Team has 'all the bases covered' when it comes to skills. Far from 'rough as guts' Bill and his team make a wonderful contribution without which the Reserve would struggle to function.

And there is always something that needs doing at Gluepot. New volunteers are always very welcome.

Our volunteers are the steel threads that will always bind together the fabric of the Reserve – without them, we have nothing!!

Environmental Education Courses 2016

Spend a weekend or longer visiting Gluepot Reserve, undertaking a course and camping out on the Reserve.

Gluepot will be offering seven environmental courses during 2016. These two-day courses are conducted at Gluepot Reserve in the Education Centre. The cost of each course is \$99. Although accommodation is available at Waikerie, it is 64km away (just over one-hour travel), so we suggest that you camp at the Reserve.

The first course for the year **A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MALLEE VEGETATION AT GLUEPOT** will be conducted on the **19th and 20th March 2016**. During the weekend, participants will learn about the range of plant groups and plants found in Mallee vegetation, and strategies will be suggested to help you identify plants in the field. We will also explore strategies to help you remember botanical names. The course comes with a complimentary copy of the handbook 'The Mallee in Flower'.

The other courses will be conducted from August to October and topics include botanical illustration, painting nature, birdwatching, photography, bird banding and insects. All courses are conducted by experts in their field.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Detailed course brochures are available on the Gluepot Reserve website at: www.gluepot.org

For a hard copy of course brochures and registration please contact:

Danielle Packer Email: daniellepacker@live.com.au Mobile: 0417 853 373
or

Anne Morphett Email: amorphett@adam.com.au Mobile: 0421 582 710



Gluepot's website is undergoing a major upgrade, with the newly designed site expected to be available by mid-2016. This will make it much easier to update the site and improve the content for viewers .



Regent Parrots – one of several parrot species that attract visitors to Gluepot.

Regent Parrots are irregular visitors to the Reserve, but relatively commonly observed, mainly during the summertime when they visit to forage and feed in the Mallee habitat.



Gluepot Country Cooking

In 2017, as a part of the 20th anniversary celebrations of Gluepot becoming a conservation reserve, we will publish a cookbook, themed 'GLUEPOT COUNTRY COOKING'.

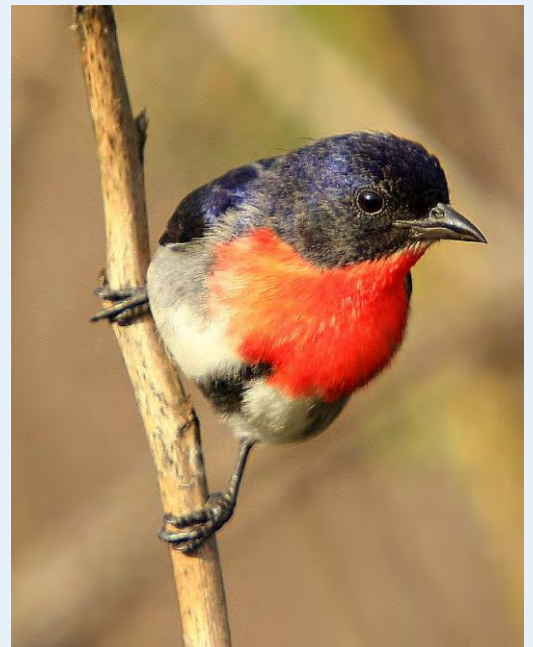
We need your help – send us your favourite recipes

To ensure the success of the publication, we would love to receive a large number of recipes that we can consider, before deciding on the final ones to be included. The content will be wide-ranging and will include tried and tested recipes handed down through family generations, and some that are not that old! If the recipe is a treasured one, perhaps provide a few words about why it is so special. Instead of photos of each of the finished recipes, the book will feature photos of the 'Gluepot Environment' – birds, mammals, scenery and people. – it will be a very special publication, in full-colour and approx. 250 pages.

The following are the contents of the book and we ask you to submit your recipes in as many subject areas as you wish. If you have a recipe that does not come under any of the headings shown, please include it anyway.

Proposed contents

- Breakfasts including pancakes and crepes
- Entrée's and appetisers (can include dips)
- Drinks and cordials
- Soups
- Main course (1) Beef, lamb, pork, sausages, stews, chicken, duck and seafood.
- Main Course (2) Pies, pasties, curries, pasta, rice, grains.
- Main Course (3) Game
- Vegetarian/Vegetable dishes
- BBQ, picnic and camping.
- Salads
- Desserts (hot and cold) and including puddings
- Custards
- Cakes, biscuits, slices, pastries and muffins
- Bread, scones, yeast, (rolls, buns) and dumplings.
- Icings, cake fillings, dressings and stocks.
- Jams, jellies and preserves.
- Sauces, dressings, gravies, stuffings, pickles and chutneys.
- Confectionary
- Recipes may include dairy free/ gluten free. Just add the initials **DF** or **GF** to the title of the recipe.



From top down: Rainbow Bee-eaters (T. Pascoe), Painted Dragon (I. Williams), and Mistletoebird (T. Pascoe)

Please send your recipes to one of the following coordinators, including your name and email/mail address:



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Mail: PO Box 275, Nuriootpa, SA 5355



Anne Morphet

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Mail: 61 Sturdee St, Linden Park, SA 5065

Ranger interview

Suzi & Tony Burgin are currently Gluepot Reserve's longest serving Rangers, with 14 visits as Rangers.

The editor had a chat with Suzi & Tony late in 2015.



How did you first hear about Gluepot Reserve & when did you commence volunteering as Rangers?

We first visited Gluepot on a day trip in 2003 following much talk in our local bird group about 'it being nice to go there.' Then in 2004 we saw an article in the then Birds Aust. Magazine about Gluepot saying they needed volunteers—so we sent our CV to Duncan, he accepted it—and the rest is history. Best decision we ever made.

How do you describe Gluepot to your friends or anyone else who ask about the Reserve?

We always tell them it is a conservation reserve where they can come to camp, get close to nature, experience the Mallee first hand, and of course watch birds. Their response is invariably positive usually saying they would like to visit. Indeed, we had a group from the Hunter Bird Observers here in about 2006. Because we live in NSW—so far away from Gluepot, it is not always easy for people to come—but we still keep inviting them—offering to some of our friends to put them up for short periods at the homestead if it is during our time as Rangers. Over the years almost all our family (eight kids plus spouses and grandchildren) have visited the Reserve. It has become an institution with friends and family. We are often asked by those who know us 'I suppose you are going back to Gluepot again this year!' It's become part of our way of life.

What is the attraction that keeps you returning to Gluepot for such a sustained length of service?

Initially it was the desire to see the birds, Black-eared Miners, whistlers, grass-wrens and many others, but over the years it has grown into something much deeper. It is the feeling of caring for one of the most beautiful,

unique places on the continent, the idea of being able to contribute in a meaningful way to the maintenance of such a beautiful place. It was the realisation that we are members of the 'Gluepot Family' - a chance to catch up again with Gluepot people – all the volunteers, members of the Management Committee, our friends in Waikerie and many others. And of course to experience living with the visiting overseas students who contribute so much and bring so much character to the Reserve whilst there as Assistant Rangers. Gluepot is a home away from home, a haven of peace and seclusion, and we can actually contribute to a wonderful cause.

Can you describe a couple of activities that give you most satisfaction whilst in your role as Rangers?

The most enjoyable part is welcoming and advising visitors to the Reserve who are invariably happy, pleased to be there, and grateful for any assistance we can give them.

Sharing our visits with French students who come to Gluepot as Assistant Rangers, amongst other things to become more proficient in English, has given us many happy memories and we still stay in contact with some of them years later.

It is always gratifying to prepare for, greet and meet the participants in the Environmental Courses conducted at the Reserve's Education Centre. These visitors are always grateful for the opportunity to attend and are usually great advertisements for Gluepot when they depart.

As you have spent a lot of time at Gluepot over the years, there must have been a few things go wrong or that have tested your personal resources on occasions?

The most stressful time was November 2006 when major fires erupted in the eastern part of the Reserve.



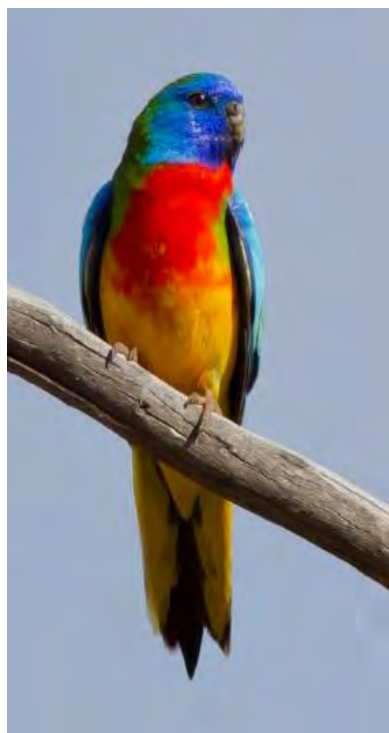
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Ranger interview cont'd

Suzi and I found ourselves out in Reserve at 1a.m. in the dark, guiding CFS appliances to the seat of the fire. Then the next day we were planning and preparing for protection of the Homestead area and the Visitor Centre in case the fire erupted close to our assets. We also had to care for and be ultimately responsible for the safety of one English student, one German student and two French students who were staying on the Reserve. It was a very frightening time. We had plans to shelter in vehicles on the Helicopter pad if the fire spread. Fortunately, a wind change meant that the fire burnt itself out without endangering anyone or any infrastructure.

[Do you have favourite animals or plants that you especially look forward to seeing each time you visit?](#)

It is always a surprise to see what has been happening on the Reserve over the year we have been away. We look forward to seeing the change in bird populations—one highlight being the unexpected views of the rare Scarlet-



Scarlet-chested Parrot (J. Barkla)

Suzi's favourite animal is the Pygmy Possum, not commonly observed on Gluepot, but found by La Trobe University during pitfall trapping in 2007.....when she was able hold one in her hand!

AND, at Gluepot you never know what you might see next!



ched Parrot in 2013. It is lovely to wake to the calls of the Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters or observe Major Mitchell's Cockatoos foraging in the home paddock or on a couple of notable occasions a flock of Regent Parrots or Purple-crowned Lorikeets roosting in the trees behind the house.

[Have you had any particularly memorable experiences or encounters with the visitors who stay and camp on the Reserve?](#)

An American turned up at the back door early one morning to announce that he had come to see a Black-eared Miner and he was returning to America next day. We suggested possible locations and off he went to search; returning mid-afternoon smiling, as he had accomplished his wish. Back to America 'happy as Larry'!

There was the Swiss couple who came to Gluepot to look at Malleefowl. They came back one afternoon sad and unsuccessful after a long day looking all over the Reserve. They departed only to return half an hour later; a Malleefowl had crossed the track in front of their car a couple of kilometres on the way out. They departed the second time, absolutely ecstatic.

These types of experiences are commonplace on Gluepot. It is marvelous to see the pleasure people get from these much sought after ambitions.

[Gluepot is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2017. Why do you think that it has been such a successful organisation over its journey?](#)

It has to be the people and particularly the voluntary aspect of Gluepot's operation and management. Much credit inevitably goes to the Chairman, Duncan MacKenzie, who is prepared to recruit people, trust them and give them responsibility to do what must be done. He has also promoted Gluepot very well so that wherever you go amongst the bird-watching community people know about Gluepot and want to come and see the Red-lored Whistler, Striated Grass-wren and other birds. It helps that Gluepot is the repository for a number of vulnerable and endangered bird species.



The Michael Hyde Visitor Centre at Gluepot, where visitors can self-register to visit or camp, view the displays and obtain information about the Reserve.



Ranger Peter Struik, inspecting the new gel batteries in the solar power system's battery shed.

Generous donors fund replacement batteries.

Gluepot's solar power system has undergone a number of upgrades since it was commissioned in 2003. Last year the lead-acid batteries were deemed unsafe and requiring replacement. It was decided to replace them with low-maintenance gel batteries. The day after the order was placed a husband and wife (who want to remain anonymous) from Melbourne decided that Gluepot Reserve and its philosophy was a cause worthy of support and donated the full \$40,000 cost of replacement. A generous donation and wonderful gesture. Sincere thanks from all who work at Gluepot.

Homestead undergoes renovations

During 2015 Gluepot homestead, the Ranger's residence, has undergone some renovations and improvements to both maintain the building and to make life more comfortable for the Rangers.



The entire interior of the house was re-painted by Volunteer Ranger Jock Bromell (pictured right) during his two-month stint at Gluepot. Jock is a retired pastoralist from the western districts of Victoria, and now lives in Port Fairy. He and his wife Ros have been Rangers for 14 years. In addition, Jock also painted the helipad 'H' during his stay. Jock enjoys painting and he has scheduled to paint the homestead exterior during the next visit.



With the transfer of hundreds of books to the recently completed Library and Science Centre, the house Office has been reorganized with an improved layout. Much of this work was undertaken by long-term Volunteer Rangers Gunter May (pictured left) and Elisa Bell. Gunter is a retired 'master' cabinet-maker and usually brings much of his own carpentry equipment with him when he comes to Gluepot. Gunter, with the assistance of Elisa's organizing skills, re-designed and built shelving for the Office and built new showcases for a number of our rare books in the Library. During the building of the 12km of electric fence along the western boundary of the Reserve, Gunter designed and built a number of portable seats with carry handles that could carry the required tools to undertake the fencing work. Perhaps the hardest part of the fencing task was sitting and stapling the six wires to each post, so Gunter's seats were a wonderful aid to help with the task.

Late in 2015 the old iron windows and the exterior doors of the house were replaced with new aluminium ones (pictured right, workmen replacing a window in the passageway).



Volunteer Ranger Peter Struik, is a Mechanical Engineer who has previously specialized in computer system project management. From Newcastle in NSW, with his partner Toni Marsh, they are second-time Rangers at Gluepot. During his stay, Peter has been improving the internet and computing systems at the Reserve. Amongst other tasks, Peter has installed a new satellite dish on the roof of the homestead (pictured left) to help improve communications.

Succession planning – future new Chairman announced

Succession planning is a necessary and key element in any organization, and in 2015 it was agreed that Ian Falkenberg would become the Reserve's new Chairman when he retires from the Department of Water, Environment and Natural Resources (DEWNR). Ian is very experienced in environmental management, having held a number of positions with DEWNR over many years. Due to his knowledge and experience, he has been a vital member of the Management Committee since 1999, advising in a number of areas including rangelands management, feral species management, and community engagement programs. Until commencing as Chairman, Duncan MacKenzie will continue in that role, with Ian as the Deputy Chairman.



Friends of Gluepot complete a successful bio-survey



During December members of the Friends of Gluepot completed their annual pit-line trapping survey on the Reserve. 6 sites were surveyed for 4 nights, with 95 reptiles observed, comprising 15 species. One of the less commonly observed reptile species on the Reserve, the Coral Snake (*Brachyurophis australis*, pictured right) was found during the survey. Three native mammal species were found, being a Common Dunnart (*Sminthopsis murina*), a Southern Ningau (Ningau *yvonneae*), and a Fat-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*), the latter a species that may not have been previously trapped on Gluepot, although distribution maps indicate that it could be present.



Feral animal management

Since it was founded Gluepot Reserve has had management programs in place to reduce the impact of feral animals, principally goats, rabbits, foxes and cats, on the flora and fauna of the Reserve.

Feral goats contribute significantly to total grazing pressure and are by far one of the most serious pest animal in the rangelands and Gluepot Reserve. Currently goat numbers are very low, due to a combination of management activities



including culling and the construction of 50 kilometres of electrified fence along the northern and western boundaries of the Reserve. Mustering efforts on neighbouring properties over the past 3 years have also contributed to a significant reduction in the feral goat population. In December, an additional control measure was added to our arsenal, being a new 'spear' gate on the northern fence-line, installed by Tim Pascoe. The design of the gate permits goats to leave the Reserve, but prevents their return.

Foxes are, and always will be, a major feral animal problem. Gluepot fox-baits six times per year at 120 sites and we are about to introduce another 'weapon' in our arsenal against this animal – the M44 fox capsule injector system. These capsules, that contain the poison 1080, are used in an injector head that is staked in the ground. The head contains a lure (dried meat etc) that attracts the fox and when it clamps its jaws on the head to take the bait, the head ejects a capsule down the foxes throat. We will use 160 of these ejector systems in addition to the existing meat bait program. This program is being coordinated by our Fox-baiting Manager, Anne Morphett – a member of the Management Committee.

Christmas celebrations at Gluepot

Each year, on the second Saturday in November, the Reserve has its last Management Committee meeting for the year followed by a BBQ for our partners, volunteers and neighbours. Just over 40 people attended the 2015 celebrations. The dinner was held in the Education Centre that was decorated with festive lighting and a Christmas tree.

The evening is a celebration of the past year and a way of saying thanks to our many and varied friends and volunteers. The catering for the evening was organised by our Catering Manager, Margaret Falkenberg and her 'merry band of assistants', including Anne Morphett, Sue Nettlefold, and Margaret's grand-daughter, Emmalyse Booms, who loves Gluepot so much that she will undoubtedly be a future Reserve Ranger. The cooks were Ian Falkenberg and Bill Santos.

Awards

Since 1999, Gluepot has been the recipient of 41 national and international awards in the categories of environment, conservation, science, ecotourism, health and the built environment.

Winning awards is a way of saying 'thank you' to the wide community we represent; it is a recognition of the value of the work we do, the contributions of our donors, and very importantly a way of recognising the wonderful efforts put in by our volunteers.

In 2015 we entered the prestigious national "Banksia Sustainability Awards" (we were a previous winner in 2003) but this year was a finalist, being 'pipped at the post' by the Macquarie Island Pest Eradication Project' – a very worthy winner.



BANKSIA
SUSTAINABILITY
AWARDS 2015

Natural Capital Award



Supported by



Finalist

Gluepot Reserve: A Reserve with a difference

Birdlife Australia Gluepot Reserve


Grazyna van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer


Richard Evans
Co-Chairperson

Gluepot Reserve is a Reserve of Birdlife Australia.

ABN: 75 149 124 774

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Website: www.gluepot.org

On Facebook

Postal address: PO Box 345, Waikerie, SA 5330

Gluepot is a not-for-profit conservation reserve, managed and operated entirely by volunteers. It is funded through donations and bequests from its supporters, and by grants for capital works and projects. If you wish to support the Reserve by being a donor or providing a bequest, please contact the Chairman: Duncan MacKenzie
Phone: (08) 8332 1204
Email: dmackenzie@iname.com

'Gluepot' newsletter will be produced twice yearly, in January and July. It is produced as an e-newsletter, and is not available as a printed version. Contributions, comment, and feedback may be forwarded to the editor: Ian Williams
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