



Gluepot Reserve

July 2016

‘Our volunteers are the mainstay of the Reserve’ Duncan MacKenzie, Chairman



Don & Chris Lill with Chairman Duncan MacKenzie

As Gluepot nears its 20th anniversary, there are number of volunteers who have been working at the Reserve since its inception. Two of these long-serving volunteers are husband and wife team Chris and Don Lill, from Renmark.

For 20 years Chris and Don have devoted many thousands of hours supervising and undertaking a wide and varied range of responsibilities, to help make Gluepot the success that it is today.

At a presentation ceremony recently, their long service was acknowledged by the naming of one of the Reserve’s bird hides in their honour. Congratulations to Chris and Don; recognition well-deserved.

More of the Lills’ story in the next newsletter.....



Editor's Thoughts

A flash of movement and a female Red-capped Robin lands on the ground ahead of us.....as we stroll early one morning. She shuffles around, perhaps hoping to flush out an insect from the leaf-litter. Then a quick flutter of wings, and she lands on a dead branch.



The male is usually nearby, so we lift our eyes, and sure enough, there he is sitting on top of a bush to our right.....surveying his territory. The crimson red of his cap and breast, easy to detect, as the morning sunlight displays this stunning little bloke.



One of many memories, after spending a month as a Volunteer Ranger at Gluepot.

Female (top right) & male
Red-capped Robins (Graham Lee)

During my stay on Gluepot, I developed a much greater appreciation of the history of the Reserve. I felt both humbled and inspired by the contributions that have been made by the many volunteers who have visited over the lifetime of the Reserve. And by the generous people who have made donations that have contributed to the very good infrastructure at the Reserve. It is heart-warming that so many people care.

Whether it be visiting the Reserve for recreation, to observe the wildlife, to undertake research, or to volunteer to work as an Assistant Ranger or Ranger, all can be very rewarding experiences at this special place!

In this edition of the newsletter, there is a focus on some of the research occurring at the Reserve; studies from ants to beetles to birds.

A Crested Bellbird lands on a nearby branch.....

Wild wishes
Ian Williams

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Gluepot Reserve has a new email address:

gluepot@gluepot.org

The old address 'gluepotreserve @bigpond.com' remains active, but will gradually be phased out, as our pamphlets & publications are updated. This change has occurred due to the Reserve switching to NBN services.



Male Crested Bellbird (Graham Lee)

Chairman's Comments

There has been a lot of activity and improvement occurring at Gluepot during recent times.

In the January 2016 newsletter we highlighted the work of our magnificent RAG (Rough As Guts) Volunteer Team. Recently, with help from the Rangers, Assistant Rangers & others, they have completed the installation of a new sewerage system for the homestead, arranged re-roofing of the house, built an extra toilet at the popular Babbler Campsite, organized the installation of new doors and windows in the 'Research Quarters', plus eight soil profile pits across the Reserve.

Gluepot has been successful in applying to host two Australian Government Green Army Projects and the first 20-week project commences in late August 2016. The program provides opportunities for young Australians 17-24 years to gain training and experience in environmental and heritage conservation fields and explore careers in conservation management, while participating in projects that generate real benefits for the environment. The second 20-week project will follow in 2017. One of the great benefits in obtaining these two projects is that we have also gained the services of Adrian Williams, one of the most highly qualified and dedicated supervisors in the Green Army.

Another great initiative is the free 'Cathemeral Kids - Gluepot Campout' that will be held in October 2016 for children between 4 and 13 years. The Campout is being organised by Committee member Rebecca Boulton, and the event is already fully booked. It is hoped that it will become an annual event.

While we are on the subject of 'good news' the Reserve has been successful in obtaining another two grants. The Friends of Gluepot won a grant for \$2,900 to supply another four remote sensing cameras and a 'Song Meter' that will be used out on the Reserve to record and track elusive cryptic birds (such as the Red-lored Whistler).

The second grant was for \$1,000 to provide fencing material and signs for the eight soil profile sites mentioned previously. Since 1999, the Reserve has won grants for capital works, research and environmental or conservation projects to the value of \$971,879.

Gluepot will again be undertaking prescribed burning during 2016, in accordance with the Riverland Biosphere Mallee Fire Management Plan 2009 – 2019. The main objectives include: '...protection of important habitat for many species and communities including those with conservation ratings...' and '....the protection of fire

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 near 200 species of birds observed on the Reserve, it is a wonderful place for birdwatching. And much more.....

management blocks within a landscape context, with the aim of reducing the likelihood of the whole Reserve, or a large proportion of the Reserve, burning in a single bushfire event....'

The burns will be to re-establish and maintain boundary fire breaks, particularly around the eastern Birdseye Block.

The burn team will comprise a number of experienced volunteers and will include our Assistant Rangers, who will be trained by the Burn Program Manager, Chris Grant – a member of the Management Committee. Gluepot maintains its' own range of burning equipment including uniforms and all necessary (OH&S) safety equipment – we are entirely self-sufficient.

In line with Gluepot's strategy of maintaining long-term management plans, we have commenced work on the 2019 - 2028 Plan of Management. The 2009-2018 Plan was written by Belinda Cale (with input from all Committee members) and Belinda has agreed to write this next update. Our Management Plan is published by Birdlife Australia and provides a framework for the conservation, protection, and maintenance of the values of Gluepot Reserve.



Best wishes.
Duncan MacKenzie
Chairman

Travelling into Gluepot recently, we had stopped to open one of the closed gates along the track. A vehicle pulled up behind us, with a couple inside; we exchanged greetings, let them pass through, and closed the gate. 'Probably campers', I said, not expecting to see them again.

Next day we received an invitation to dine at the homestead, with Rangers Ros & Jock. When we arrived, sitting at the dinner table was another couple, Frances Guard and Bob Philpot. Yes, you are correct.....they were the 'strangers' whom we had met at the gate the previous day!

Over a very enjoyable dinner (thank you again, Ros), we learnt of Frances' and Bob's long association with Gluepot.

Frances first visited Gluepot in 1999, when she spent a week with a friend undertaking bird atlassing. Responding to a request for Rangers in a newsletter, Frances and Bob offered their services..... and subsequently served as Rangers for three months in 2003, and a further three months in 2005.

The newsletter clip (to the right) was written by Frances and Bob after their 2003 visit to Gluepot. It is from a 2006 newsletter, and describes some of their thoughts and experiences from this visit.



Frances & Bob during their recent visit, standing near the culvert constructed by Bob in 2003, with the Visitor Centre in the background

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.



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.



Frances Guard

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.

During their second term as Rangers, Frances completed photographing over 135 species of plants, resulting in the production of plant identification 'folders'.

Bob's main project was to build new shelving and chemical storage facilities in the then new 'Squirrel Shed'.

Frances, a retired GP, and Bob, a well-roamed Uniting Church pastor, live at Maleny about 100km north of Brisbane, in SE Queensland. Amongst other activities, in 2014, Frances co-authored the book 'Australian Sub-tropical Fungi'.

Next time I stop at a gate, the people in a following vehicle may well contain volunteers from the Gluepot 'family'. Such are their numbers!

Environmental Education Courses 2016

The first course for the year, A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MALLEE VEGETATION AT GLUEPOT was conducted on the 19th and 20th March. During the weekend, under the leadership of Chris Lill, 13 participants learnt about the range of plant groups and plant species found in Mallee vegetation, and studied identification methods that can be used in the field. Several walks into the Reserve were undertaken to identify vegetation and to collect specimens for identification during the course.

Six more courses are programmed during August - October 2016.

These two-day courses are conducted at Gluepot Reserve in the Education Centre. The cost of each 2-day course is \$99. Although accommodation is available at Waikerie, it is 64km away (just over one-hour travel), so we suggest that participants camp at the Reserve.



Participants studying mallee plants during the course in March this year

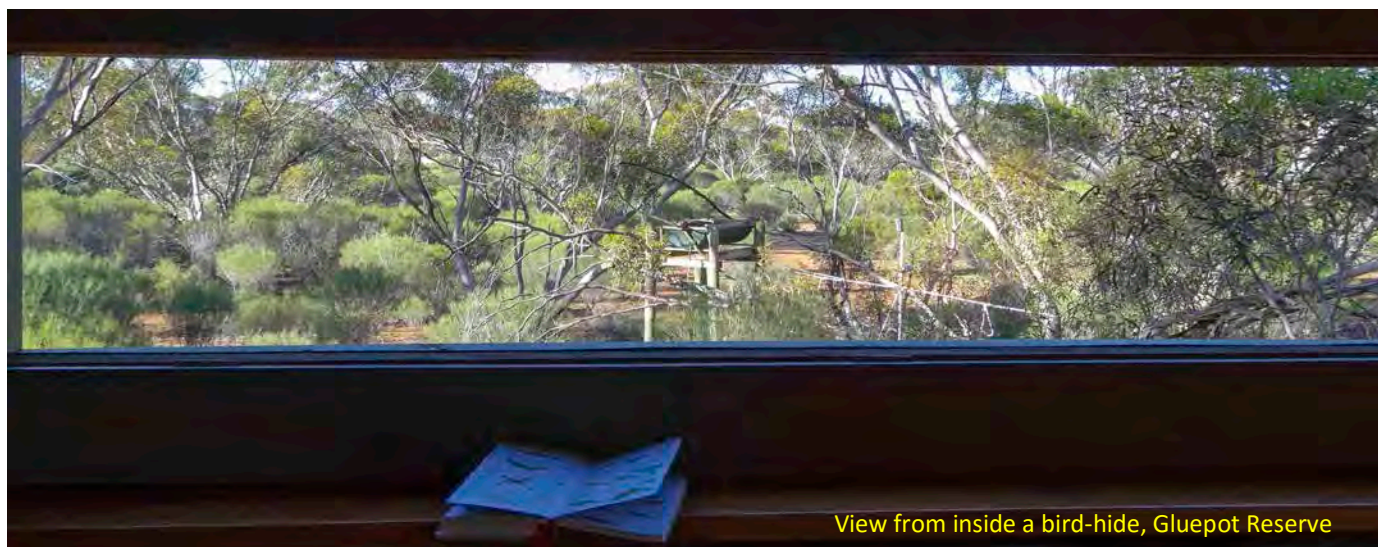
Course Title	Date	Facilitator
An Introduction to Scientific Botanical Illustration	20-21 August 2016	Browyn Bean
Painting Nature	27-28 August 2016	Wendy Jennings
An Introduction to Birds & Birdwatching	17-18 September 2016	John Gitsham
An Introduction to Nature Photography	8-9 October 2016	Tim Newberry
An Introduction to Bird Banding	15-16 October 2016	Luke Ireland
Insects: The Movers & Shakers of the Mallee	29-30 October 2016	Richard Glatz

For further information:

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



View from inside a bird-hide, Gluepot Reserve

Research News

Research and Monitoring Committee

by Rebecca Boulton, Chair R & M Committee

The Gluepot Reserve Research and Monitoring Committee met in March after a lengthy hiatus. Our current members include Rebecca Boulton (Chair), Chris Hedger (DEWNR), Joan Gibbs (Uni SA), Chris Grant, Greg Johnston, John Gitsham (Vice-president Birds SA) and Marilyn Wilkins (DEWNR). Membership is voluntary and is comprised of people interested in using good science to guide the management of Gluepot Reserve. The Committee's role is diverse, but is centred around prioritising, promoting and advising on the scientific monitoring and research to be conducted on the reserve. Currently, the Committee is compiling a list of their top 10 projects they believe will help drive important management decisions while revising the ecological objectives in the Management Plan 2009-2018.

Gluepot volunteers collect a large amount of data across the Reserve, including atlassing at a large number of permanent sites. It is part of the Research and Monitoring Committee's role to facilitate the interpretation and storage of all this information. Twenty-minute surveys have regularly been undertaken at over 70 fixed atlas sites since 1998, with dedicated volunteers endeavouring to survey each site three to four times a year. Data from these sites are not only fed back into the BirdLife Australia Atlas database but they can also be used by students studying on the reserve. Recent analysis of the Striated Grasswren (*Amytornis striatus*) data has confirmed the observed decline of the species across the reserve (University of Adelaide). This has brought the species plight to the attention of the Threatened Mallee Birds Conservation Action Plan (CAP) Steering Committee. Only regular monitoring at fixed atlas sites makes this sort of analysis possible. If you are interested in contributing such data, we are always on the lookout for new atlasers. Why not come and spend time out in the mallee and get to know your regular site.

WANTED

Bird Atlasers at Gluepot Reserve

Contact Rebecca Boulton: rlboulton@gmail.com

Ant Surveys

by Annette Vincent, Volunteer S.A. Museum

I started volunteering at SA Museum in 2000, identifying and drawing ants. The Scientific Exploration Group (SEG) invited me on their biodiversity surveys in 2007. In 2008, I published my book for beginners "The Art of the Ant".

When I met Chairman Duncan MacKenzie in 2007, he invited me to undertake some ant research at Gluepot, using micro-pit collection methods.

The survey work started in the bushfire area in November 2007, along the southern end of track 8. In 2008, the back-burning for fuel control was carried out along the northern end of track 8. When I was offered help from the Assistant Rangers to set out the micro-pits, which is physically hard work, I agreed to increase my survey. Sites were found in the fuel control area with a similar aspect to those that I had for the bushfire sites.

Since November 2009 I have surveyed in autumn, winter and spring, (summer is too hot). All the *Formicidae* (ant) specimens have been identified to genus and counted. The *Collembola* (springtails) have been sorted by description (mine), and the "Other Invertebrates" have been sorted by 'common name'.



Annette, seated, demonstrating to Rangers & Assistant Rangers how to identify ants. Picture taken several years ago, with the partly constructed 'new' Library in background.

Comparisons between bushfire and control sites, aspects of the site, time, season and the overall weather has to be taken into account in analysis. And results have to be statistically analysed to determine what is significant.

For the *Formicidae* (ant) specimens there is an increase in abundance (numbers) and richness (genera) since the survey was started. The numbers are lower in winter.

Australian birds feel the heat of climate change!

by Dr. Todd J. McWhorter

School of Animal & Veterinary Sciences
University of Adelaide.

Ever wondered how some bird species are able to function on extremely hot days, whilst others are nowhere to be seen? Or why some species seem to be especially sensitive to extreme climate events like heat waves?

My research group at the University of Adelaide is part of a large international study aiming to advance our understanding of how different groups of birds tolerate and respond to heat and climate variability. The study includes Dr. Blair Wolf's research group at the University of New Mexico, USA and Dr. Andrew McKechnie's research group at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Broadly, the project is examining the physiology and behaviour of birds in response to heat, so we can better understand which species or families might be the most sensitive and thus help in prioritising conservation efforts.

We've been conducting research at the Gluepot Reserve since early 2014. Results from the first physiology project, examining the thermal tolerances of birds, are starting to be published in scientific journals.

Avian thermoregulation in the heat: efficient evaporative cooling allows for extreme heat tolerance in four southern hemisphere columbids

Andrew E. McKechnie, Maxine C. Whitfield, Ben Smits,
Alexander R. Gerson, Eric Krabbe Smith,
William A. Talbot, Todd J. McWhorter and Blair O. Wolf

Journal of Experimental Biology (2016), **9**, 2145-2155

(Editor's note: Above, recently published scientific work by Todd's group)

We have found that some groups of birds are better at coping with heat than others. For example, pigeons and doves can tolerate temperatures much higher than passerines. This probably has something to do with their ability to cool themselves by evaporating water across their skin.

Ongoing studies are looking at behavioural responses to heat waves, to determine whether different species or families of birds use different strategies to reduce heat gain or increase heat loss when needed. Some aspects of this work are being done on captive native Australian birds at the Adelaide Zoo (Honours student Erin Turrell in 2014), and other aspects involve direct observation and tracking studies done on the Gluepot Reserve (PhD student Shangzhe Xie).

Funding for this work has been provided by the U.S. National Science Foundation, the Holsworth Wildlife Endowment, and the BirdLife Australia Stuart Leslie Research Award.

The influence of bushfires on mallee bird distribution and abundance

by Zoe Reynolds, PhD student, Aust. Nat. Univ.

Understanding the way disturbances, such as fire, affect ecosystems is an important part of conservation research. Although fire is a natural part of many Australian ecosystems, the frequency and severity of bushfires have changed from historical regimes. Mallee woodland has become extremely fragmented, with approximately 80% of the original mallee woodland having been cleared for agriculture since European settlement. This leaves the remaining mallee reserves isolated and vulnerable, and any large fire is likely to remove a high proportion of long-unburnt mallee in that reserve, with no similar habitat nearby for fauna to take refuge, or from which they might later re-colonise the regenerating habitat.

In November 2006 a large bushfire burnt much of the eastern part of Gluepot Reserve as well as much of Taylorville Station to the south.



Then in January 2014 another large bushfire burnt a huge section of Calperum Station to the east of Gluepot, including one area that overlapped the 2006 fire scar.

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Influence of bushfires on mallee bird distribution and abundance cont'd

Both of these fires left numerous patches of vegetation unburnt throughout the fire scars, ranging in size from an individual tree to almost 1000 hectares of long-unburnt mallee.

The distinctness of the three fire-affected habitat types, riddled with patches of what we consider healthy long-unburnt habitat, prompted me to consider three broad questions relating to how fires in the mallee affect bird populations: (1) How do mallee bird communities change over time following fire? (2) How do different bird species utilise burnt and unburnt vegetation in patchy fire scars? (3) What spatial and ecological characteristics of unburnt patches are important in determining the value as faunal refuges?



Mulga parrots, commonly seen at Gluepot (Zoe Reynolds)

To address these questions, I have been surveying birds and their habitat across Gluepot and the neighbouring reserves each spring and autumn for the past two years. I have just finished my final major field season at Gluepot and am now beginning to analyse the huge body of data that I have collected. I look forward to sharing my findings in the next newsletter.



Striated Grasswren (John Barkla)

Jewel beetles on Gluepot Reserve

Peter Lang, Volunteer, S.A. Museum

Editor's note: Peter trained as a botanist and worked at the State Herbarium of South Australia. In his spare time over the last 10 years, he has been studying jewel beetles with support from the SA Museum. He has a particular interest in their associations with native plants and is working towards producing an account of the South Australian species.

Below is a brief summary of work carried out by Peter, and is constructed from several detailed reports that he has provided to the Gluepot Management Committee.

Gluepot Reserve was surveyed for jewel (Buprestid) beetle species on two occasions, during spring in 2014 and in summer of 2015, as a part of a long-term project being undertaken in conjunction with the S.A. Museum. The project is building knowledge on the distribution and biology of S.A. jewel beetle species, with emphasis on their plant host associations, as well as investigating their evolutionary relationships using DNA studies.



The jewel beetle, *Castiarina propinqua*, a species found on Gluepot. (Peter Lang)

The jewel beetles were located by searching suitable plant hosts by eye and then captured by hand or using an insect net, or detected and captured by sweeping mallee blossoms with an insect net on extension pole.

GPS coordinates were recorded for all observations, together with habitat details and relevant field observations. The data associated with each record is maintained in a database. Field notes include details on the composition of the plant community in the immediate vicinity

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Jewel beetle research cont'd

Seven species of spring-emerging beetles were recorded on the four-day spring survey, and eight species during the two-day summer survey. None of the summer recorded species were found on the previous survey in spring.



Castiarina gardnerae, one of the species of jewel beetle found during the summer survey (Peter Lang)

Summer-flowering mallee *Eucalyptus* species, which are the major Buprestid host plants at this time of year, were limited and patchy in their flowering during the 2015 survey. In part, this may be because many were still recovering from an extensive defoliation caused by moth larvae. Red Mallee (*Eucalyptus oleosa*) in particular seemed to be severely affected. Most of the Buprestid records came from a single individual *E. oleosa* mallee, one of only a few in full flower.



Neocuris viridimicans, also found during the summer survey (Peter Lang)

For selected specimens, tissue samples to enable DNA sequencing were taken by removing legs (usually two) from frozen specimens. Part of the sample is fixed in 100% ethanol and kept ready for analysis while a second replicate is retained frozen and submitted to the Australian Biological Tissue Collection for long term storage at minus 80 degrees.

Pinned specimens are currently held in the private collection of P.J. Lang but will ultimately reside at the South Australian Museum.

Kid's Campout FREE Family Nature Event



Would you like to learn how scientists catch, identify and study our unique Australian wildlife? And are you interested in camping in a beautiful mallee location with a group of young families? Come along and enjoy this free nature education course at Gluepot Reserve, a special mallee reserve run entirely by dedicated volunteers.

The campout is aimed at children aged between 4 and 13. Children from each family need a parent or guardian to be present during all of the activities.

WHEN: Saturday, 1st Oct 2016 at 12:30 PM - Monday, 3rd Oct 2016 at 3:30 PM

WHERE: Gluepot Reserve, 55km north of Waikerie township, SA 5330

Late news:

THIS EVENT IS NOW FULLY BOOKED
Get in early for next year

Bird banding blitz at Gluepot

by Alistair Bestow

By arrangement, eight registered bird banders, their families and friends descended on Gluepot on 13th April 2016 for a week-long blitz of banding. Most banders were from Canberra, but two were from Adelaide and one from Albury. I made up the ninth spot on the list of banders, as I was part way through my role as an Assistant Ranger.

Four sites were selected for banding over the week, being the 'home' Bellbird Campsite, as well as Froggy Dam, and two sites on the northern end of Track 7 toward Grasswren Tank. Most days were very suitable for banding, being warm and sunny without much wind.



Bird banding team at work (Alistair Bestow)



Alistair Bestow measuring a bird



White-browed Treecreeper
(Graeme Chapman)

494 birds across thirty-one species were treated to a band, the most popular being the Yellow-Plumed Honeyeater (161), the White-fronted Honeyeater (105), and the Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (43). Among the less common species, and pleasing to see, were the black-capped race of the Varied Sitella (1), Southern Scrub Robin (2), Chestnut Quail-thrush (1) and Chestnut-crowned Babbler. We re-trapped a White-browed Treecreeper that had been first banded in September 2009 at Bellbird Campsite as being 2 years old. It is now at least 8 years of age.

The crew worked from dawn until dusk (literally) and really enjoyed the tranquillity of the Bellbird campsite (says he who enjoyed the tranquillity of accommodation at the homestead!). The lulls in banding were filled with good conversation, pickled onions, olives and crisps, and tea and pieces of Gluepot Reserve Fruitcake.

The observations were not limited to those birds that were banded, as 26 species were identified at Froggy Dam, 31 on Track 7 and 36 at Babbler Campsite. A new species was recorded on Gluepot for the first time – a Barn Owl at Bellbird Campsite - and has now been added to the extensive Gluepot Reserve bird list. However, many in the crew were displeased with the Striated Grasswrens, that continued to elude observation despite much looking and many crossed fingers.

After a tiring but very satisfying week however, the curtains came down (well –the mist nets anyway!) on the banding activities, and the banders departed on the 20th April, with many (all?) looking for the first available showering opportunity as they made their way home.



Barn Owl (Graeme Chapman)

Particular thanks go to Mark Clayton for organising the excursion, and there are already plans to return.

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 proposed 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:
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo (Graham Lee)
Central Bearded Dragon (Cyrielle Denis)
Red-lored Whistler at nest (Tim Pascoe)

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



Margaret Falkenberg

Email: hawknest2@bigpond.com

Mail: PO Box 275, Nuriootpa, SA 5355



Anne Morphet

Email: amorphet@adam.com.au

Mail: 61 Sturdee St, Linden Park, SA 5065

Ranger interview

Anne & Dave Sellar have been volunteer Rangers at several conservation reserves in South Australia, and during May and June this year became first-time Rangers at Gluepot.

The editor asked Anne and Dave about their time at Gluepot.

Ed's note: During the last weeks of their stay, Anne broke an ankle whilst playing soccer with the French students on the helipad. With true Gluepot Ranger resilience, and wearing a 'moonboot', she soldiered on.



How did you first hear about Gluepot Reserve?

I (Anne) met Chairman, Duncan MacKenzie, nearly 20 years ago when I was working at the South Australian Tourism Commission. We visited Gluepot as a part of my work, then to camp, and now as volunteers.

What is the attraction that persuaded you to volunteer as Rangers at the Reserve?

Having recently retired, we wanted to do volunteer work where we could make a contribution to something worthwhile, somewhere in the Australian bush. Having visited as campers – Gluepot was an easy choice.

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

An internationally significant bird reserve, completely run by volunteers in a beautiful area of old growth Mallee. Where one can see stunning sunsets and sunrises, and opportunities to see large numbers of birds up close. Along with quiet and spacious camping areas with lots of opportunities to bushwalk.

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

Meeting and talking to the many visitors and campers. It's great to see people experience Gluepot for the first time and see them really enjoy themselves. It's amazing how visitors indicate that they intend to come back to Gluepot, leave a monetary donation, want to volunteer, or all three!

It was very satisfying to finish the installation of over 2000 new spacers into the electric fence on the northern boundary. This fence very significantly reduces goat numbers on the Reserve, thus protecting the vegetation. Hopefully this work will reduce the number of faults that future Rangers will experience.



Thirdly, it has been wonderful meeting and working alongside the RAG (Rough-as-Guts) volunteer team, led by Bill Santos. This group of Riverland volunteers have been coming out to the Reserve for many years, almost weekly, and doing all sorts of practical jobs to improve the Reserve. Everything from constructing buildings, plumbing and electrical work, grading the tracks to pumping out camp toilets. They have made an amazing and enormous contribution, and are a great group of guys.

Any humorous stories or encounters that have occurred?

The French student Assistant Rangers thought that Dave was a real Aussie and laughed at his funny expressions; like "Onward" every time we moved onto a new section of fencing, or "Beeautiful" every time something was done well. There was much laughter when this perception was confirmed when we all watched the Australian classic "Red Dog" and the miners in the movie used the same expressions.

Another time we decided to show the French team how to catch and cook yabbies from the two dams – only to find out that several were vegetarians!

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Ranger interview cont'd



Dave at work, undertaking repairs to the tractor

Do you have favourite animals or plants that you have encountered on the Reserve?

Yes mulga parrots are a favourite with their bright and colourful plumage – if Picasso painted a bird it would be a mulga parrot. We also love galahs for their crazy antics and chattering; they always seem to be having a good time. We were also fortunate to see a mistletoebird up close during one of the bird banding sessions. Their red and steely-blue markings are quite beautiful.



Mistletoebird (Tim Pascoe)

You have a number of volunteer Assistant Rangers on the Reserve with you during your stay. Can you tell us a bit about them & what they've been doing?

Yes, we've had plenty of assistants up here, including three to six French students helping us. They were a

lively and enthusiastic group. All from different areas of France, mostly from cities, and all from different areas of study; everything from land management, to agriculture and occupational health and safety. They worked alongside us, undertaking fencing, servicing the camp grounds and bird troughs, grading roads and always a favourite (not) – cleaning! One of the students Cyrielle was a natural leader who had a great interest in all things conservation and developed an extensive knowledge of the birds of Gluepot. We've enjoyed film nights, soccer games, cheese platters and French desserts with the French team.

We also had Alistair, a recently retired guy from Canberra. An adventurer, he enjoys travelling by camel into the deserts of northern Africa; places like Mali and Chad. He is a registered bird bander, and this added another level of interest and experience to our time at Gluepot. This also meant that he knew lots about birds which was very helpful for the visitors, as we don't know very much about birds, but we're learning. He was happy to lead teams of French students bird banding, removing old fences, maintaining the walking trails, and on shopping trips into Waikerie. He is also great cook who produced large quantities of delicious cake and dessert, in exchange for tea or red wine in the English speaking quarters.

As Gluepot is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2017, has your visit given you a feel for why it has been such a successful organisation over its journey?

Many things contribute to its success, but some of the standouts for us include the outstanding leadership and organisational systems setup by the Chairman, Duncan MacKenzie and the marvellous volunteer Management Committee.

Support from the local community, who have embraced Gluepot as their own, and the way Gluepot supports the local community, buying local, and promoting the region are all important.

Another important factor is making it easy for people to volunteer and always recognising all the different contributions.

Lastly, permitting visitors to experience and camp at Gluepot builds more support and awareness of why Gluepot is a special place.

Editor: *Thank you Anne & Dave for sharing your thoughts and experiences.*

Volunteers undertake training to use new fox control technology

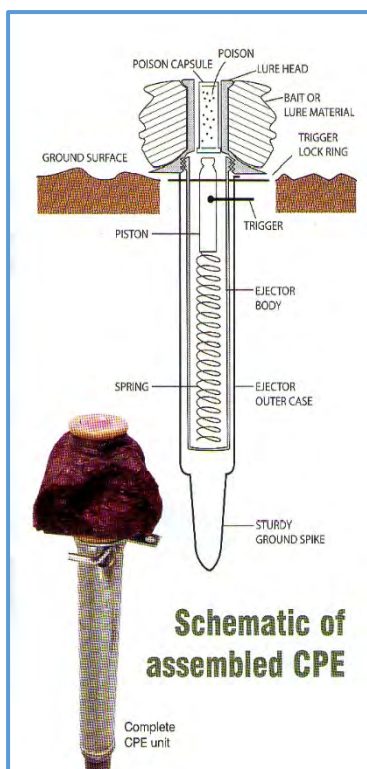
Foxes are magnificent animals, with formidable attributes - fast, agile, acute vision - but they don't belong in Australia. They kill millions of our native animal species each year.

Gluepot has had an intensive fox-baiting program in operation for many years, baiting six times per year at 100 sites. This has enabled fox numbers to be minimized to the limit obtainable using such an approach, and reducing feral predation on our native fauna.

In February this year, Gluepot volunteers undertook training to learn how to use a new technology - Canid Pest Ejector system - that will augment our existing fox baiting program.

Canid Pest Injectors (CPEs) were first developed in the USA in the 1930's as a spring activated device for the control of coyotes - the device was subsequently known as the 'M-44'. Over many years they were adapted and improved to achieve the delivery of 1080 directly into the mouth of a target animal. The CPE device has been extensively tested in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Capsules, that contain the poison 1080, are used in an ejector head that is staked in the ground. The head contains a lure (dried meat) that attracts the fox and when it clamps its jaws on the head to take the bait, the head ejects a capsule down the fox's throat. As the ejector can only be activated by an animal with an upward pull force of greater than 1.6kg, non-target animals on Gluepot are excluded from activating ejectors.



Victorian researchers stated 'only red foxes, wild dogs and feral cats had been recovered in field trials, suggesting a high level of target specificity

Under the tutorage of Steve Jordan, from Animal Control Technologies, six volunteers including Fox Control Program Manager Anne Morphett, undertook practical training that will enable them to use the system out in the field. It is planned to use 200 of these ejector systems.



Volunteers at CPE training course, conducted in Gluepot's Science & Library Centre (Duncan MacKenzie)



Volunteer Fox Control Program Manager, Anne Morphett, with trainer Steve Jordan.

Gluepot's new website is undergoing a major upgrade, with the newly designed site to be on-line soon. This will make it much easier for us to add information to the site and provide viewers with an improved experience.

From the Visitor's Book

'12th visit, love it'Lizzie & Kevin

'Finally made it here, lovely place'Richard & Jason

'So many improvements since our last visit. Well done volunteers. Great Visitor Centre'Vicki & Tony

'Fabulous birds, beautiful, quiet campsites, very well maintained, thanks Rangers'Wendy

'Thank you. Wonderful birding, great signage, walks & hides'Andrew & Lyn

'Great bird sightings today, always enjoy visiting'Catherine, Kelvin & Simon

'Just keep it as it is. Good luck, we really loved It'Charles



Gluepot's solar panel array provides all of the Reserve's electricity needs (Ian Williams)

Gluepot Reserve is a Reserve of Birdlife Australia.

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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

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It is produced as an e-newsletter, and is not available as a printed version.

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