



Gluepot Reserve

January 2017

Chairman recognized for leadership at Gluepot Reserve

Duncan MacKenzie, Chairman of the Management Committee, is rarely speechless. But for a few moments at the Gluepot Christmas BBQ held on November 12 last year, he was humbled by the event that took place.

Duncan had just finished delivering his annual 'state of the Reserve' speech, that included thanking the many Volunteers who had contributed to the Reserve throughout the year. Then to Duncan's surprise, Ian Falkenberg, Deputy Chairman, took over proceedings and in a speech, Duncan for a change, received recognition and congratulations for his long and extremely dedicated contribution to Gluepot. This culminated in the presentation of a sign naming the area containing the research facilities in his honour. The sign has now been erected at the entrance to the main Reserve facilities.



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Editor's Thoughts

This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to the Volunteers of Gluepot Reserve.

From cleaning, to construction, to management. The vast majority of work on the Reserve is undertaken by Volunteers. And an impressive array of skills accompany them or are learnt on the job.

A read of the most recent Ranger's report describes just some of the activities undertaken by the Rangers and others during the Rangers' two-month residence; '.....cat trapping, fox baiting, spraying weeds, checking electric fences, painting, cleaning, library cataloguing, restoring furniture, updating manuals, assisting visitors, constructing new toilet seats.....(yes, they did!). And a strange onefloating a raft. Really? I think this last unlikely activity deserves greater explanation.....see the picture on page 15.

In addition to the Rangers, other Volunteers include Assistant Rangers, the Management Committee members, the 'RAG' construction and maintenance team, researchers, bird atlasers, and caterers just to name some.



Volunteer grader driver, 'Stewie' Slade, maintains several hundred kilometres of dirt track on the Reserve

In this issue of the newsletter, articles recognise the enormous contributions made by two founding Management Committee members, who have served Gluepot Reserve since its beginnings in 1997. Yes, nearly 20 years of continuous voluntary work. Another article describes the Assistant Rangers, Volunteers who come to Gluepot for periods from 1 week to 4 months, undertaking both 'routine' duties and projects. And many of these are students from overseas, who come to study and work at Gluepot as a component of their tertiary education courses.



Bird bander, past Management Committee member & long-time Volunteer, Wally Klau, discussing issues with ecologist & current Management Committee member Chris Grant, at the Xmas BBQ, 2016.

Motivated mainly by the desire to preserve our natural heritage, hundreds of Volunteers have contributed time and effort over the nearly 20 years of the Reserve's existence.

What superlatives can be used to describe the contribution of these Volunteers. Well, there are too many to fit into this column. And anyway, most of them would rather get on with the task, than receive a pat on the back. Such is their nature.

Lastly, we need your favourite cooking recipes. Please consider submitting them now for the forthcoming Gluepot Country Cookbook – refer to the 'advertisement' on page 7.

Wild wishes
Ian Williams

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Chairman's Comments

Well, we are now into another new year – let's hope it is as exciting as 2016 was, and before looking ahead, I would like to comment on a number of things that have happened following my July 2016 'Chairman's Comments'.

Our Green Army Team has just completed its first 20 week project on Gluepot and their 'Graduation' Ceremony was on the 12th January. The Team comprised Aaron Huckle, Christopher Attwood-Mitchell, Michael Gower, Amy Ballard, William Downs, Sean Moors along with Supervisor, Adrian Williams.

The Team has done a magnificent job and some of the projects worked on are as follows:

- Library cataloguing and analysis of the Stealth Cam Camera photos – this was primarily undertaken during the hot weather.
- Striated Grasswren habitat surveys – they have completed 15 of 34. The rest will be completed this year.
- Bird Atlas Surveys – a large number undertaken.
- Track clearing – a number of tracks have now been completed and this will continue in 2017.
- Weed eradication – working across the Reserve and assisted by Chris Lill.
- Installation of 159 M44 fox baiting ejector systems.

We look forward to working with the 'new' Team when they commence on 6th February.

Unfortunately it has been announced by the Commonwealth Government that the Green Army program will be terminated as soon as existing project contracts are completed – a great shame and a great loss for environmental improvement.

Thanks to Chris Grant and his team of volunteers, who during July braved cold early morning starts for another successful controlled burning program on the Reserve. An assessment will be made later in the year regarding further controlled burns.

The rains over the past few months have filled the two house dams and our homestead rainwater tanks are full. Unfortunately, the volumes of rainfall caused us to cancel a number of Environmental Education courses plus the eagerly awaited 'Kids Campout' on the October long weekend. There were 27 disappointed kids and parents. However, the Camp will be run on the same long weekend this year, so get in now and make a booking!

We have been informed that the proposed gypsum mine for an area in Taylorville (about 1 km from our boundary)

will not proceed. A relief for us.

During the year, genuine concern had been expressed about the lack of Striated Grasswren sightings at Gluepot (and many of its other mallee habitats). However, our Research & Monitoring Chair, Rebecca Boulton, has recorded three birds in recent months – reassuring sightings.



[Striated Grasswren \(Tim Pascoe\) – recent sightings reassuring](#)

A new multi-faceted research project has recently commenced on Gluepot. 'The Malleefowl Adaptive Management Experiment' is a project that looks at a number of facets in the life-cycle of the Malleefowl, but in particular, it aims to actively learn about the effectiveness of predator baiting at improving Malleefowl persistence. The experimental site on Gluepot has eight cameras set up and the same number of cameras have been deployed at sites in Danggali and Calperum. The Malleefowl Adaptive Management Experiment is one of the largest experiments of its kind to be conducted in Australia.

On advice from Rebecca Boulton, our new ten-year 'Plan of Management' will include a 'Conservation Action Plan (CAP)' component – this is in keeping with management trends, worldwide. The CAP represents world's best practice conservation planning.

On a sadder note, we learnt that on 29th August, Dudley Gross, aged 91, passed away after a short illness.

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Chairman's Comments cont'd

Dudley and wife Noel commenced volunteering at Gluepot in 1997 and were at Gluepot for a couple of weeks every winter thereafter, working on the elimination of horehound. They were relentless in their pursuit of the weed and at the end of each visit they left the Rangers with a complete list of all weeds seen at every old dam site. They retired from visiting Gluepot in 2015, and as Noel says, 'it made quite a hole in our year'.

Another of our loyal supporters who passed away only recently, was Professor Mike Bull from the Flinders University. Mike's work in biodiversity and ecology is internationally recognised, and he was particularly well known for his huge contribution to the understanding of lizard behaviour and ecology. Some of Mike's students undertook higher degrees on Gluepot, taking advantage of our large number of permanent biodiversity sites and the fact the Gluepot has about 50 species of reptiles.

With Ranger positions already booked through to the end of 2019, and exciting research and monitoring projects underway or planned, the year ahead is going to be one of excitement for Gluepot. The Reserve's reputation is going from 'strength to strength' and that is the result of the huge number of hours dedicated to the Reserve by our volunteers – we could not exist without you!!!



Best wishes.
Duncan MacKenzie
Chairman

Recent good rains at Gluepot

After only 13mm rain in October (10 yr. ave., 22mm) and 16 mm in November (10 yr. ave., 28mm) it looked as if Gluepot could have been heading for a dry summer. However, December is usually Gluepot's wettest month (10 yr. ave., 36mm), and rainfall came in a much bigger volume than expected, with 101mm recorded at the homestead weather station. And it was the repeated good falls through the last week of December and into January, with 21mm, 57mm, 19mm and 15mm on December 24th, 29th, January 14th and 20th respectively that have been so beneficial to the flora and fauna.



The pictures above were taken after 19mm of rain had fallen in several hours. Taken from near the homestead, the first one shows the Visitor Centre surrounded by water. The second picture shows how lengthy sections of the tracks can become 'lakes' very quickly. It was taken during a track assessment by one of the Rangers, when deciding whether to close Visitor access to the Reserve.



It is true that many of Gluepot's tracks are sandy and often dry out very quickly. However, the lower lying sections often have a much greater clay content and become slippery and soft, occasionally impassable. Whilst not wanting to embarrass the driver of the vehicle, this picture taken several years ago (by Ranger Elisa Bell) illustrates how a vehicle can get seriously bogged in these clay sections.

So when preparing for a visit Gluepot, please check recent rainfall on the BOM website, and ring the Rangers a day or so before the planned trip to get advice on track conditions and possible closure.

Duncan MacKenzie recognised for leadership at Gluepot cont'd from page 1

No, Duncan is not retiring, just yet. But as any good leader would do, Duncan has laid down plans for that day when his successor, Ian Falkenberg will take over as Chairman of the Management Committee.

More on Duncan's achievements sometime in the future. For now....several pictures celebrating Duncan's award.



From the left, Rosemary & Duncan MacKenzie & Ian (Deputy Chairman) & Margaret Falkenberg, immediately following the presentation to Duncan.



Environmental Education Courses & Kid's Campout 2017

Six interesting courses, plus a Kid's Campout are programmed during August - November 2017.

The two-day courses are conducted at Gluepot Reserve in the Education Centre (pictured below).

The cost of each two-day course is \$99.

The Kid's nature-study campout is free, with participants camping at Babbler campsite.



Although accommodation is available at Waikerie, it is 64km away (just over one-hour travel), so we suggest that course participants camp at the Reserve.

Course Title	2017 Dates	Facilitator
An Introduction to Scientific Botanical Illustration	18-19th March	Browyn Bean
Painting Nature	26-27th August	Wendy Jennings
An Introduction to Birds & Birdwatching	16-17 th September	John Gitsham
Kids' Nature Campout (Free event)	30 th Sept – 2 nd Oct	Rebecca Boulton
An Introduction to Bird Banding	14-15 th October	Luke Ireland
An Introduction to Nature Photography	28-29 th October	Tim Newberry
A beginner's guide to mallee vegetation at Gluepot	4-5 th November	Chris Lill

For further information:

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

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

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



Several of the participants at the 2016 mallee vegetation course, with facilitator Chris Lill, in the Education Centre

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'.

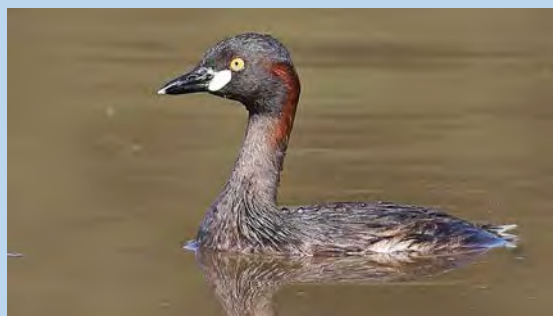
We need your help – send us your favourite recipes

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:
Apostlebirds (Elisa Bell)
Australasian Grebe (Graham Lee)
Rainbow Bee-eater (Ian Williams)

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

Chris and Don Lill - 20 years of volunteering at Gluepot

As the Reserve 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.



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 (refer to newsletter of July 2016).



Such is their long and dedicated service that more of their story needs to be told.

Chris and Don have always been interested in birdwatching and botany and over the years have been involved with a number of Riverland environmental and conservation groups, including the Riverland Field Naturalists.

Joining the Gluepot Management Committee

Don was approached in 1996 to see if he was interested in being involved in the development of Gluepot. He gave a nod, and in 1997 with John English as the first Chairman of the Management Committee, Don became a founding member and remains on the Committee today.

Although Chris has not been on the Committee, she and Don are 'joined at the hip' when it comes to volunteering work on Gluepot; they are a well-organised and committed couple.

They remember their first visit to Gluepot, with the area surrounding the homestead almost devoid of vegetation, with only a few sad-looking mallee trees and acacia bushes in the vicinity. They also travelled to Picnic Dam – similarly denuded, but saw three species of fairy-wrens in the same small area, so decided that Gluepot wasn't such a bad bird watching place after all! Both of these areas and also many others have since been transformed due to the removal of stock and the efforts of a large number of volunteers.

The Involvement of the Riverland 4WD Club.

In the early days of setting up of Gluepot, the Lills asked the local Riverland 4WD Club (they were members then), if they would like to do some volunteer work on Gluepot. The Club built and installed the toilets at the campgrounds and also during 2002 and 2003 all of the bird-hides – no mean feat. Each hide was prefabricated by Murray Harris and assembled in a day from the ground to the finished product. The skilled labour was mainly provided by Bill Santos and Murray Harris, with the rest of us as helpers.



Chris & Don were involved in the building of the bird-hides & now have one named after them, in honour of their work.

Weed control and revegetation

Don and Chris have jointly managed the weed control program on Gluepot since its inception. From 1999, after the dams were progressively closed, they commenced a weed control program, using mainly herbicides, particularly around the dam sites. Both still carry out ongoing weed control.

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Revegetation was, and still is carried out on all of the dams with the involvement of many Volunteers. Revegetation involves mulch and seed spreading, and also planting out of tube stock on some of the dams.

Malleefowl grids and surveys

In the early 1980s concerns were expressed about declining Malleefowl populations. In 1982 Chris and Don, together with the Riverland Field Naturalists, installed the first Malleefowl grid in the Riverland area at Pooginook. The grids were designed to monitor Malleefowl activity. The Gluepot Management Committee decided to install seven Malleefowl grids. Over the next few years Chris and Don and a number of other volunteers installed six out of the seven existing grids on Gluepot. This was pre-GPS availability, so it was all done using a compass, a 25 m length of cord and a sighting pole. With markers placed every 25m and sighting transects every 200m, it was always exciting to see how accurate they were when we reached the other side of the grid. Eventually Don was designated the 'sighter' as he consistently got the most accurate results!

After the construction of the grids, the first transects were used to locate and evaluate the status of all Malleefowl nests. With the help of Friends of Gluepot they have carried out annual inspections of nests ever since.



Friends of Gluepot, with Chris in the centre, during a Malleefowl grid survey in 2011

Bird Atlassing

Around 2005 Don and Wally Klau accurately surveyed the original bird atlas sites and added a number more. Don organised a number of local Volunteers to survey selected sites four times per year. Several years ago, due to health issues, Don relinquished his role as co-ordinator of the operation of the national bird atlassing

scheme on Gluepot. Don was also involved with the Black-eared Miner recovery team for a time.

Environmental Courses

Gluepot conducts annual 'environmental' courses covering a variety of topics from photography to painting to birds. Over the past few years Chris has conducted a popular course entitled 'A Beginner's Guide to Mallee Vegetation on Gluepot'.



Chris (in yellow) conducting a course last year in the Education Centre.

Chris is an expert on the botany of Gluepot, in addition to being an enthusiastic teacher. During the two-day course participants develop a good understanding of mallee plants and the techniques to identify them.

Visitor Centre and Homestead Garden Areas

Together with Bruce and Dawn Schultz, Chris and Don painted the murals of the Visitors Centre walls. They remember painting furiously followed by local artist Garry Duncan who followed behind them turning their wall painting into art. Chris and Don also set-up and planted the garden area in front of the Visitor Centre and the homestead. They continue to maintain the irrigation systems and plantings around the Visitor Centre and homestead complex.



Chris & Don, with help, landscaped around the Visitor Centre

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Merchandise sales

In 2002, just after the construction of the Visitor Centre, it was decided to set up a sales outlet there. Chris organized the sale of merchandise, including clothing and books, and since then has managed the Reserve shop, the profits contributing important funds to the Reserve.

Friends of Gluepot

From 2007 to 2016 Chris has acted in the roles of President and Secretary of the Friends of Gluepot. This group of Volunteers, predominantly from the Riverland, have undertaken a wide range of projects and activities on the Reserve, including Malleefowl (mentioned earlier), reptile and small mammal biodiversity surveys. Chris has been involved in most of these.

Other contributions

Don has been the OH&S Officer on Gluepot since 2006.

Over the years, Chris has acted as a guide to several 'celebrities', including a Governor of South Australia, Bill Oddie of the Goodies fame, and the S.A. Museum Waterhouse Club.

They have also been involved in many other working-bees and Volunteer activities, including managing a

weather station, and in 1999 setting up of the trails and guide pamphlets for two of the walking trails on Gluepot – the Airstrip walk and the Botanical Walk.

Over the many years they have been involved with Gluepot they have had a lot of fun and enjoyment, and met many great and interesting people. The only lows in their association with Gluepot have been saying goodbye to so many enthusiastic and interesting people who have helped make Gluepot the success it is today.

They are continuing their involvement in Gluepot, but have handed over some of their responsibilities to the 'next generation'.

The acknowledgement of their contribution to Gluepot and the naming of Emu Bird-hide after them was a big surprise and a huge honour for them.

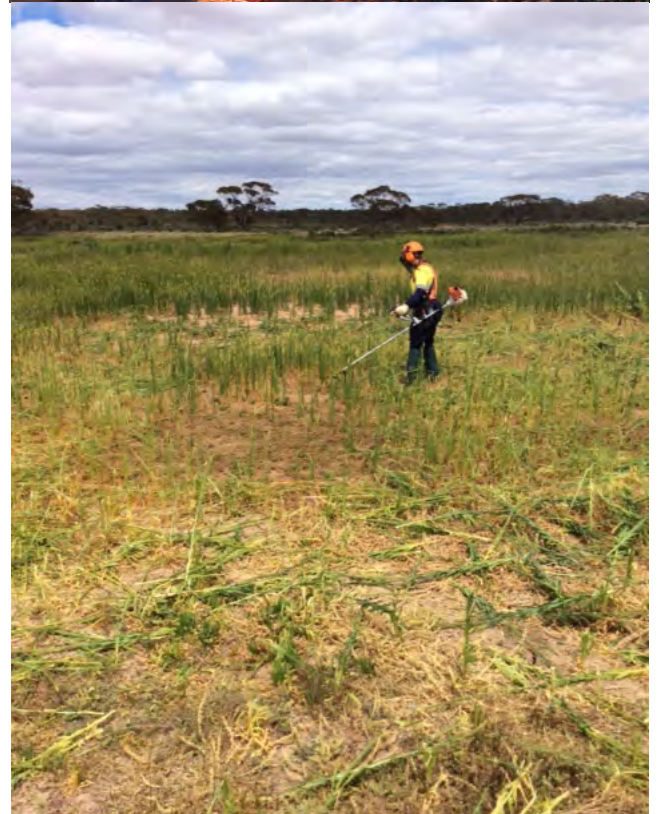
Over nearly 20 years Chris and Don have devoted many thousands of volunteer hours to help ensure that Gluepot Reserve provides a model for environmental sustainability. They are a prime example of just what dedicated volunteering can achieve.



Australian Owlet-nightjar (left) and Southern Boobook (right)
Photos taken by Gluepot Ranger Graham Lee during a January visit to Gluepot.

The Green Army

Duncan MacKenzie has described the Green Army project in his 'Chairman's Comments' column (p.3). This pictorial essay shows the team at work, and celebrating their 'graduation' at a BBQ function held at Gluepot on January 12th.



From top to bottom, left to right, the Team, track vegetation clearance, OH&S training, working on soil profile pits, brush-cutting weeds on old dam-site, data entry & checking stealth camera pictures

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Congratulations to the members of the first Green Army team – a successfully completed training program, and valuable conservation and maintenance work undertaken.

Camping at Gluepot



Gluepot Reserve has four campgrounds:

- Babbler, Bellbird & Sitella campgrounds for use by visitors
- Thomas Myers campsite located near the homestead, for use by Volunteers and Researchers who work on the Reserve.

The campgrounds have two toilets, except the more popular Babbler campsite that has three.

Each also has a small rainwater tank. The water is not assured to be safe for drinking or the tanks may be empty, so campers should bring their own drinking water with them.

Campfires are not permitted on the Reserve.

A diverse group, but huge contributors – the Assistant Rangers

Gluepot welcomes individuals and couples to visit the Reserve as Assistant Rangers for varying terms, from a week to six months.

Many visit because they have an interest in flora and fauna, and wish to contribute to the Gluepot conservation cause. Some just love the outdoors. Many are bird-watchers. Most want to learn more and improve their skills in one or more areas. Some are skilled in a particular area and visit to undertake a specific project, perhaps constructing some infrastructure. It is most often a 'give and take' work – leisure arrangement', with an unwritten requirement to undertake a minimum of about four hours work per day, although most contribute many more hours. The range of duties varies enormously from working on a specific project to undertaking the general day-to-day maintenance duties on the Reserve. The latter may include making weather observations, campground and bird-hide maintenance, cleaning, checking electric fences, feral animal control, painting, weeding, cataloguing library books just to name a few activities. For many, this commitment is achieved by working throughout the morning and then having the afternoon to undertake personal activities, such as bird watching.



French university student, Sylvain Arenal, recording rainfall.

Accommodation and related living facilities are provided free-of-charge to these 'staff members'. Training is also provided by the Rangers where required.

There are essentially two Assistant Ranger origins – locals, that is Aussies from all over the country (and we include Kiwis as locals; apologies Martin & Janet!) and overseas university students.

For many years Gluepot has been accepting overseas university students as Assistant Rangers on the Reserve. These students spend from 2 – 6 months at Gluepot undertaking their 'internships' by designing and completing a research project, or as a means to improve their English – English students must complete an international English exam on their return home.



The Controlled Burn team of 2016, volunteer Assistant Rangers from France, Spain & Oz. Fourth from left is Chris Grant, Management Committee member who supervised the project.

Students who undertake a project are required to produce a written report and are examined on this by their university faculty when completed. The Reserve provides a 'supervisor' to assist these students in the design and implementation of their projects, and projects are developed to cater to each student's interests and those of Gluepot.

Study subjects have included: 'Fire management plan for Gluepot Reserve'; 'Monitoring of feral goats and kangaroo pressure on the native vegetation on Gluepot Reserve'; 'The influence of the 2006 fire event at Gluepot Reserve on bird populations and management implications'; 'Monitoring fox-baiting systems on Gluepot Reserve'; and 'The efficiency of the western boundary electric fence in terms of goat behaviour'.

Gluepot is considered to be an 'exemplar training organisation' for six French, two Dutch, one Spanish and one UK universities. Gluepot has been certified by the Netherland Aequor organisation as 'a recognised environmental training company for secondary vocational students'. We have taken up to nine students per year and they range in age from 19 – 26 years of age. The only cost to students is their food. We also welcome Australian students, however the 'structure' of the Australian university courses does not allow for long 'internship' periods.

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Assistant Rangers cont'

Whilst at Gluepot students are an active part of the 'Gluepot family', and when not working on their projects are under the supervision of our Rangers. They participate in all Reserve activities, including those mentioned earlier.

During 2016, Assistant Ranger nationalities included 6 French, 4 Aussies, 2 Kiwis, 1 Spaniard, 1 Dutch & a Swede. Gluepot is a true multi-cultural destination!



Bird-bander & Assistant Ranger in 2016, Alistair Bestow. He is returning as an Assistant Ranger in 2017, and a Ranger in 2018.

Several of our Rangers are retired school teachers and may conduct English classes when overseas students are present.



Assistant Ranger, Kyle Bradshaw undertaking track vegetation clearance during 2016. From Melbourne, Kyle is a certified chainsaw operator and cleared many kilometres of track during his visit

Some Assistant Rangers only visit once, some return multiple times, some become Rangers, and most develop a love for the place. Our Assistant Ranger program is certainly one of the many strengths of Gluepot Reserve, and they have contributed enormously to the continued success of the Reserve.

Memoirs of an Assistant Ranger – Marine Delesalle, France – Dec 2015-March 2016



I arrived at Gluepot in mid-December, after 6 months in Australia. Ranger Peter picked me up in Waikerie and after being shown around the town we went to Gluepot. Once arrived in Gluepot I met people who were undertaking pitfall trapping. It was a really good start for me; we saw some nice reptiles, spiders and mammals, including Beaked Gecko, Jewelled Gecko, Knob-tailed

Gecko, Southern Ningui, and a Fat-tailed Dunnart which hasn't been seen much in Gluepot! At this time I already knew that I would have a good time here.



A Jewelled Gecko (*Strophurus elderi*). This species was caught during a pitfall trapping biodiversity survey during Marine's visit

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Memoirs of Gluepot cont'd

The next few days Ranger Toni show me how to collect the data about the weather and how to record it. Peter showed me the property and explained to me how the electric fence works and how to check it (check if there is no twist, no animals...)

After a few days in Gluepot it felt like home (but a bit more quiet than home!). Even though there were no other students during my stay I met a lot of other people who made my visit really enjoyable. The work on the Reserve is really diversified so I couldn't have been bored; there was always something new to do. During my stay I participated in many different tasks; collecting photos from stealth cameras, fox baiting, cat trapping (I tried with different kind of meat but it seems that these cats weren't really hungry...), bird atlassing, shovelling gravel, and many more. I also assisted a researcher and a student to catch some bird in a net and then set a transmitter on them in order to follow the activity of the bird during the heat.



Marine training to use the fox baiting ejector system

Before coming in Gluepot I didn't have a lot of knowledge about Australian birds, but watching pictures from the stealth cameras at the bird-hides and birdwatching allowed me to learn more. Now I'm able to recognize more than 20 species on Gluepot (I guess it's not a lot for you, but for someone who isn't a bird specialist it's not that bad. And I'm pretty sure I know more Australian birds than French birds.....such a shame!). The good thing is that I also learnt more about reptiles thanks to the survey with the pitfall traps, and thanks to the other people who came to Gluepot to look for snakes, lizards and geckos. So now, I'm glad to say

that I'm able to recognize a Mulga Snake, a Bandy Bandy, a flap-footed lizard and many more.



Shovelling gravel for paths around the Library

Gluepot is really a nice place, having beautiful wildlife. So even if most of the visitors who come in to Gluepot come for birdwatching I think it's really important to keep in mind that Gluepot, it's not just a good place for birds but also for mammals and reptiles. This deserves to be pointed out.

To finish, I can't talk about Gluepot without thinking about the Rangers, Toni and Peter. I really had a great time with them. We shared good meals and drinks - like homemade pizza, yabbies caught in the dam, kangaroo (my first one!) and much more. So I really want to thank them for their welcome and their kindness. I won't ever forget it. And I also would like to thank Duncan, who gave me the opportunity to discover this beautiful place where I had a really good time.



Ranger Gunter May needed to apply some of his problem-solving skills. The dam depth gauge indicator had collapsed & with water levels high Gunter needed to get out there to straighten it up. After some thought he constructed a raft using four inverted buckets containing entrapped air, attached to a frame. It floated, or at least partially. But he got the job done!

From the Visitor's Book..... (November & December 2016)

'Back again! Fab environment. Great layout & infrastructure. Congrats to volunteers'Barry & Barb

'The best place to be!'A&J

'Had a fantastic time. Will be back again. Plenty of birds. Thank you to the wonderful Rangers'Mathieu

'Saw a Malleefowl. Great! Plenty of birds. Had a great time' Jeanne & Ken

'Great Scarlet-chested Parrot (observed)'Warwick & Warren



A wary, basking Tree Skink (*Egernia striolata*), a common site at Gluepot, if approached slowly and quietly (Ian Williams)

Gluepot Reserve is a Reserve of Birdlife Australia.

ABN: 75 149 124 774

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Telephone: (08) 8892 8600

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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