



Gluepot Reserve

July 2017

New scholarships to be awarded – Encouraging research at Gluepot

Since its inception, the Gluepot Management Committee has encouraged research activities on the Reserve. During its 20-year history a wide variety of biological research activities have been undertaken involving bird, reptile, mammal, insect and plant species.

Despite this research there is still much to be done, especially understanding and preventing the decline of some species, with the ultimate hope of increasing numbers of those that are vulnerable or endangered.

To assist students and to encourage biological research at Gluepot, the Management Committee has decided to award two \$500 scholarships annually.

In honour of Peter Edwards ([see page 11](#)), the scholarships will be called the 'Gluepot Reserve Peter Edwards Postgraduate Award'

The scholarships can be used to help support travel for field-work at Gluepot, the purchase or hire of equipment and materials, or for the promotion of results.

Dr Rebecca Boulton, Chair of the Research and Monitoring Committee, is coordinating the awarding of the scholarships. Additional information will be posted on the Gluepot website.

Amenities available for volunteers & research staff working at Gluepot

Very good facilities are available for volunteers and researchers who work at Gluepot. The pictures below show three of the principal amenities.

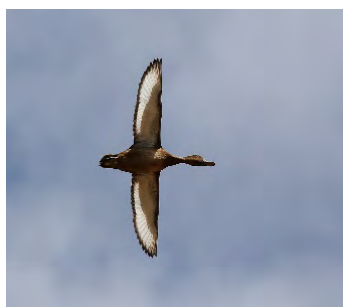


Images on the right, from top down:
Kitchen, lounge & relaxation area
Accommodation block
Library & science work area

Editor's thoughts

Patience and persistence.....two admirable traits.

For some time, I have been thinking about taking up bird photography at a more serious level (not alone there, eh...!). So, I asked Graham Lee for advice. Graham and his wife Linda, are volunteer Rangers and A/Rangers at Gluepot. Graham, who only took up bird photography relatively recently, has had some good results and has been kindly allowing me to use them to illustrate newsletters. Expectedly, he provided some advice about equipment; lenses are always of prime focus when photographers get together for a chat (sorry about the pun!). The other salient advice that he provided was:



Hardhead (G. Lee)

'The thing I had to improve on most with bird photography was patience and persistence, and accepting that quite often the bird might be there but I won't get a shot that is any good'.

Throughout Gluepot's history there are many examples of patience and persistence to achieve a goal, complete a project, or provide the support required to maintain a successful conservation reserve.

In this newsletter, there are multiple examples of patience and persistence. For example, the volunteers pictured throughout the newsletter who have demonstrated these qualities whilst making contributions to Gluepot over many years.

Along with other skills and traits, members of the two Green Army teams working at Gluepot over the last 12 months will have learnt that patience and persistence are qualities that will help them for the rest of their lives.



As wildlife observers we have days when we don't see much out in the field, but if patience and persistence are a part of our repertoire we always get to experience those exciting and rewarding days..... especially at Gluepot!

Wild wishes,
Ian Williams

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.....

Contents

Chairman's comments	3
Research news	4
John Barkla	4
Fire is a feature of the mallee	5
Environmental courses & kids' campout	6
Biodiversity survey	7
Ranger interview	9-10
Peter Edwards	11
The Green Army	12
Camping at Gluepot	12
People - Lynette Ensor	13
Assistant Rangers	13
From the Visitor's book	14

Over 20 years, there are many volunteers who have generously contributed their knowledge, time and effort to both shape and to permit Gluepot to function successfully. Only a few of these get mentioned in the newsletter, but from the Chairman..... thank you to all.

If you have any stories or photos, that will highlight some of these efforts, especially from early on in Gluepot's history, please forward them to the Editor.

Chairman's Comments

We welcome a new member to the Gluepot Management Committee, Dr Greg Johnston (pictured).



Greg is one of the State's most experienced ecologists and has been working on several projects involving the analysis of Gluepot's biodiversity data. He is also a member of the Research & Monitoring Committee.

Gluepot Management Committee member Anne Morphett (pictured) was a volunteer Ranger for a number of years and 6 years ago became the manager of our fox-baiting program. During that time, she expended some of her energy working with PIRSA, DEWNR and the Commonwealth Government, to have the Canid Pest Ejector (CPE) or M-44 fox-baiting system approved for use in Australia. In May this year the system 'went live' at Gluepot with over 150 CPE stations being added to the 100 meat bait stations currently in use. All data, including how many baits are taken in each of the annual 6 rounds of baiting are then analysed.



Also working on the fox-baiting program is Mark Laws, a higher degree student who is analysing the fox-baiting data and remote sensing camera data from the CPE stations. An article outlining Mark's project appears on the next page.

Tim Pascoe (pictured right) manages our remote sensing cameras as well as the operation of our drone and Bird Atlassing at 75 sites on Gluepot. The cameras have become an essential element in 'remote observation' and are providing us with observational data on malleefowl and other wildlife.



Tim is also keen to hear from any 'birdos' who would like to work with us on our Atlassing program. Many of our Atlassers 'adopt' a set number of sites, and survey them up to 4 times a year.

Our second Green Army Team has been busy working on many projects, the largest being the erection of fencing around three large exclusion plots so that we can ascertain the degree of damage done by herbivores. Each plot is in a different vegetation association and contains a 50 square-meter plot that keeps out all herbivores, with an adjoining plot that allows entry by rabbits only.

In addition to enhancing and promoting the environment at Gluepot, we are active in a number of areas and organisations that ultimately affect the Reserve. As an example, we have meaningful input to the '2018 State of the Environment Report'; NRM Investment Strategy; SA Nature Alliance; 'The Nature of SA'; SA NRM Alliance; draft management plans for DEWNR SA Parks etc. In May this year, the Environment, Resources and Development Committee of the South Australian Parliament visited Gluepot to study the operation and management of the Reserve.

We have recently received some very welcome donations that have ensured that a number of Reserve projects have been able to proceed.

Thank you to everyone who sent in recipes for our planned forthcoming Gluepot Country Cookbook, being produced as a part of our 20th anniversary. We are currently reviewing the recipes received.

It should be noted that Gluepot is run entirely by volunteers (no salaries, wage overheads, administration costs etc.) so that every dollar you donate goes directly into the operation of the Reserve. Recent purchases from donations have included remote sensing cameras including solar panels to provide continuous power for them, and fox baiting materials. They will also contribute to the preparation of our 2019 – 2029 Gluepot Reserve Plan of Management.

If you would like to donate to Gluepot or arrange for a bequest in your will, please contact me for full details.



Best wishes.
Duncan MacKenzie
Chairman

Research news

Modeling fox bait uptake and assessing the field performance of the canid pest ejector at Gluepot Reserve by Mark Laws, The University of Adelaide

Foxes have influenced the decline and extinction of several native vertebrate species.



A fox about to raid a malleefowl mound nest on Gluepot
(Image from remote sensing camera, T. Pascoe)

To reduce the threat of fox predation on native wildlife at Gluepot, rangers and volunteers have baited 100 sites up to six times per year since 2000. This has provided me with an extensive dataset to statistically analyse for my Honours project with the University of Adelaide. By determining the influence of season, bait station location (i.e. in different vegetation associations) and perturbations (e.g. fences) on bait uptake, I aim to improve the location and timing of future fox control at Gluepot. To prepare for the analysis, I collected the necessary environmental data while assisting with fox baiting during March this year. I am also in the process of reformatting and 'cleaning' the bait uptake data.

Coincidentally, my project has aligned with Gluepot's trial deployment of the Canid Pest Ejector (CPE)—you may recall the story from the July 2016 newsletter of Gluepot volunteers undertaking CPE training. I was fortunate enough to receive safety and practical training and set 100 CPEs during the most recent baiting period.



Researcher, Mark Laws, setting a CPE on Gluepot

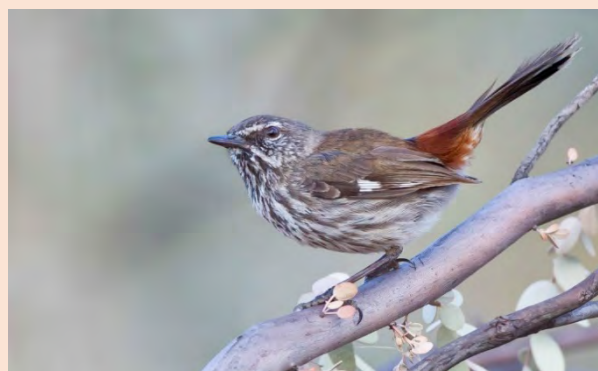
Furthermore, motion sensor cameras have been placed at a dozen ejector sites to observe the behaviour of foxes (and non-target species) at the new devices. This will allow me to determine if foxes prefer conventionally buried bait or the exposed bait head of the CPE, if foxes comply to CPEs in the field, and if CPEs prevent non-target species uptake.

The impact of adding CPEs to Gluepot's fox baiting program on fox abundance will also be monitored using motion sensor cameras. To do this, camera data collected prior to CPE deployment will be compared to data collected after CPE deployment. Evaluating previous fox baiting and the CPE during this trial period is critical to the efficacy of future fox management, and thus protecting the rich and diverse wildlife of Gluepot that we all love.

Congratulations to John Barkla, who this year became the new President of Birdlife Australia.



Pictured (above, to the right) during a recent visit to Gluepot, John is a leading bird photographer and allows the Reserve to use his photographs whenever we have the need. He is a generous supporter of Gluepot and we know that Birdlife Australia will flourish under his leadership.



Shy Heathwren (J. Barkla)

Fire is a feature of the mallee by Dr Greg Johnston

Fire is a feature of mallee, the predominant vegetation on Gluepot. The growth form of mallee "trees" is determined by fire. They can survive fires because they grow from underground lignotubers (also known as "stumps") that are protected from fire by soil. Mallee "trees" are shrubby in form because the branches growing from the stumps are continually coppiced by fire.



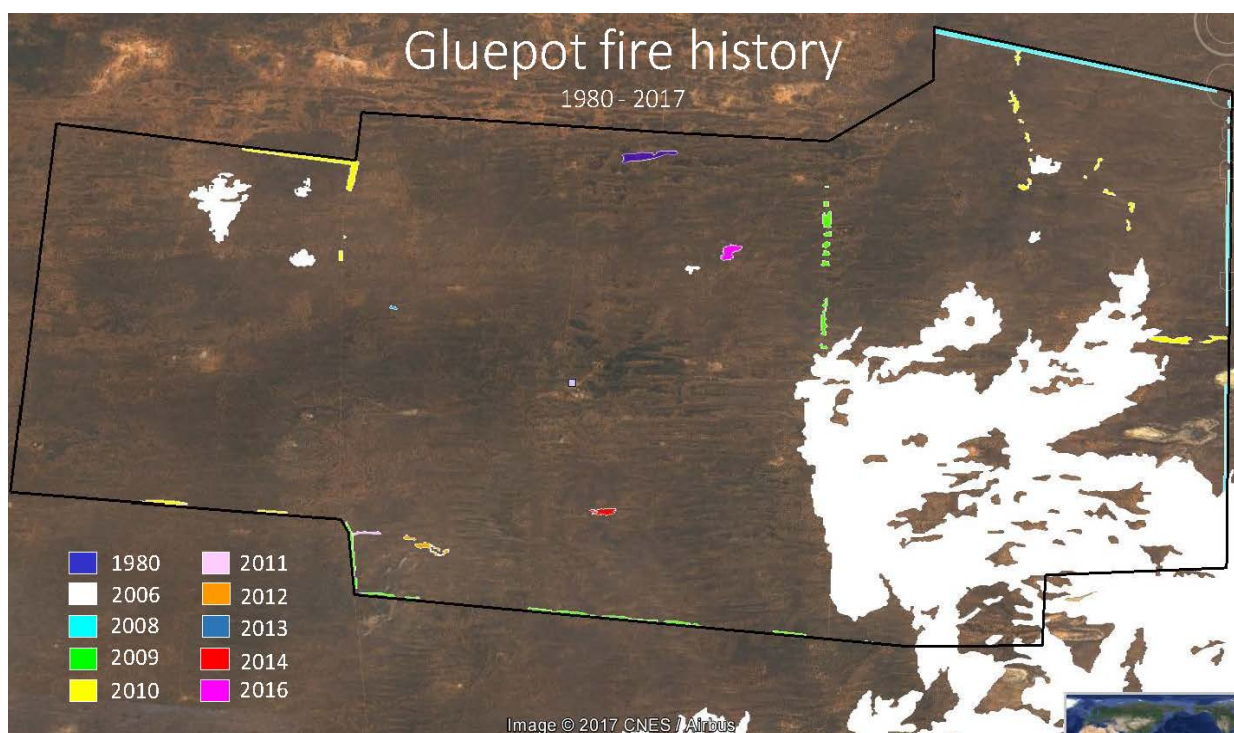
When a fire burns a patch of mallee, the above ground vegetation is erased. Subsequently new foliage grows from the stumps and new plants of other species grow too. A new vegetation community develops on the burnt patch, including more species and greater structural complexity over time. This vegetation provides habitat for animals and fungi. As we know, Gluepot's iconic black-eared miners require long-unburnt, old growth mallee, whereas other species prefer recently burned patches. Still other species are like Goldilocks. They require patches that are not too young, not too old, but are "just right", with an intermediate time since the last fire.



The time since a patch of mallee was last burned is a major determinant of what plants, fungi, reptiles, mammals and birds occur in that patch. So, understanding the mallee wildlife and managing it well at Gluepot is best done with knowledge of the Reserve's fire history.

We have some information about the fire history of Gluepot, but we need to know more. What we do know has been summarised in a map, which shows the extent of fires recorded on the reserve and the year when they occurred.

This map was derived from information in the South Australian Department for the Environment, Water and Natural Resources archives, the recently released Google Earth historical series of Landsat satellite imagery, along with information provided by the Gluepot community of volunteers.



This information is the best we have available now, but is a work in progress. The dates associated with some fires are precise, whereas they are approximate for others. If you know of a fire that is not recorded on the map, or have more accurate dates for the fires already on the map please let us know. The better information we have about the fire history of Gluepot, the better we can understand our reserve, its inhabitants, and the better we can manage this dynamic landscape into the future for conservation.

Environmental Education Courses & Kid's Campout 2017

Five 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
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:

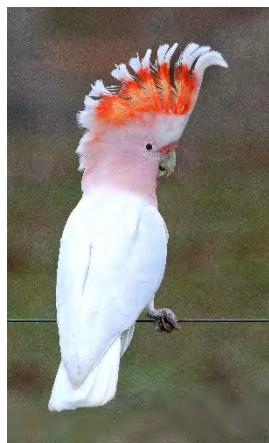
Visit the Gluepot Reserve website, www.gluepot.org. For a hard copy of course brochure and registration please contact:

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

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

A major attraction – Major Mitchell's Cockatoo

One of the major attractions that entices birdwatchers to Gluepot is that 22 nationally threatened species of birds have been recorded on the Reserve – there are few areas of the world that support such a concentration of threatened species.



One of our most appealing attractions is Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (pictured left; image: G. Chapman). These birds breed at Gluepot, and one pair used to nest in a large mallee hollow just off the road on the drive in to the Homestead area. The interesting thing was that a Goshawk had its nest in the same tree, at the same time!

Majors' can be seen around the Homestead regularly, coming into the dams to drink and occasionally visiting the bird watering troughs.

On a recent June day, thirty birds were at the Visitor Centre water trough! (pictured right; image: D. Kerr)



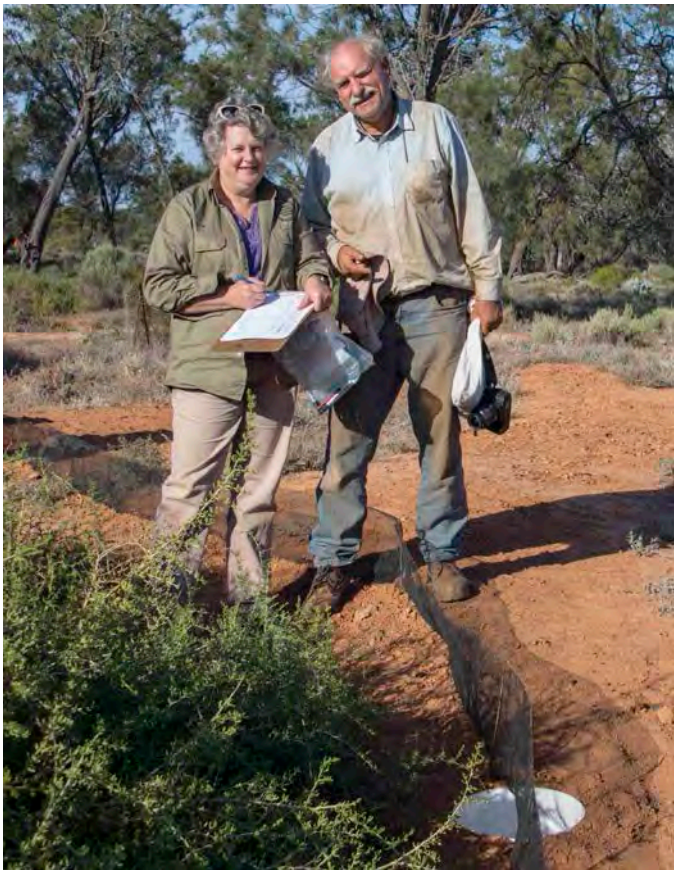
Biodiversity monitoring

S.A. Herpetology Group (SAHG) & Field Naturalists
Society of SA (FNSSA) Mammal Club

Easter Survey, 13th – 18th April 2017

25 participants successfully completed a reptile and small mammal bio-survey over the Easter long weekend. They had ideal weather with day-time temperatures in the mid-20s. The group camped at Sitella campground, located on the western side of the Reserve.

The survey was conducted in the SW corner of Gluepot Reserve, with eight pitlines established. Each pitline comprised 6 bucket traps, 14 Elliot's traps, 4 funnel traps and 2 cage traps. 6 of the pitlines utilised established Gluepot biodiversity sites. The other 2 sites were set up on the old Bluebird and Kelly Dams with the purpose of determining what reptiles and small mammals had re-established themselves at the dam sites. It is believed that surveys of this type had not been conducted on the old dam sites before. Opportune sightings were also recorded at each site.



19 reptile species, one frog species and 3 native mammal species were recorded. For the reptiles, 4 gecko, 4 dragon, 9 skink and 2 (elapid) snake species were trapped or observed. Interestingly, even though it was dry on the surface of the old Bluebird dam, the Spotted Marsh Frog was trapped indicating the damp conditions below the cracked clay surface. Several Yellow-faced Whipsnakes were trapped at the spinifex sites and a Mitchell's Short-tailed Snake was an opportune

observation. For the native mammals, several Fat-tailed Dunnarts, Ningau and Bolam's mice were trapped. The observation of the Fat-tailed Dunnarts was interesting because usually Common Dunnarts are reported on Gluepot with only several trappings of Fat-tailed Dunnarts made in the past.



The participants had a very interesting and enjoyable time and would like to thank Gluepot Reserve for providing the opportunity to undertake this survey on the Reserve. Many expressed a desire to return to Gluepot sometime and several expressed an interest in becoming Assistant Rangers in the future.

Images clockwise from the left: Margaret Camens & Peter Matejic working at a pitline; Ranges Stone Gecko (*Diplodactylus vittatus*) (Image: A. Uren); visiting French A/Ranger Bastien Sandberg photographing a lizard; Painted Dragon (*Ctenophorus pictus*).

Wildlife at Gluepot

With the exception of the bird in flight, the birds and reptiles pictured below are commonly observed at Gluepot. Can you identify them?



[Answers on page 11.](#)

(Bird images: G. Lee; reptiles: I. Williams)

Ranger interview

The 'guest' Rangers for this newsletter are Carmel and Ted Meissner, who have been one of the longest-serving volunteer Ranger teams at Gluepot.

The editor had a chat with Carmel and Ted during May.



Carmel and Ted first visited Gluepot in 2008 as Assistant Rangers and Rangers in 2010. They have been volunteer Rangers every year since, with a cumulative residency of some 2 years. They have made a wonderful contribution to the Reserve.

[You two have had a very adventurous life together, especially undertaking some very significant sailing trips throughout the world. Can you tell us about several of your more memorable trips?](#)

We have been fortunate to experience sailing on many of the world's oceans.

For Ted, spending five months cruising the Chilean Channels, Magellan Straits, Cape Horn and Falkland Islands, and cruising the European canals from France through to Poland have been two highlights.

For Carmel, when 'crewing' for a friend and crossing the Indian Ocean from Djibouti to Thailand, she had a fear of pirate attack, but was stunned and humbled by 'so much ocean'. An unexpected and memorable trip was sailing the Inside Passage in Alaska, after which she published an article about this adventure in the Cruising Helmsman Magazine.



We both have fond memories of sailing from Portland to the Louisiade Islands at the south-eastern end of Papua New Guinea. This trip lasted for two and a half years!

[How did you first hear about Gluepot Reserve?](#)

From members of our local Portland Field Naturalists Club who had previously visited the Reserve.



[What is the attraction that persuaded you to volunteer at Gluepot?](#)

We like the mallee country and enjoyed camping at Gluepot when we first visited. Carmel adds that she loves the red earth and being surrounded by trees that are low enough for her to see the birds. Importantly, they liked the 'atmosphere' at the Reserve.



[How do you describe Gluepot to your friends or others who ask about the Reserve?](#)

Putting it simply, don't waste your time thinking about it; just go there and enjoy everything the Reserve has to offer.

Gluepot is remote enough for one to enjoy nature at its most peaceful. It's a wonderful place to study flora and fauna, to bushwalk and to employ all of your senses with everything that surrounds.

[cont'd next page.....](#)

Ranger interview.....cont'd

Can you describe for the readers two or three activities that have given you the most satisfaction during your role as Rangers?

Carmel likes the interaction with the Assistant Rangers, including the overseas students and the researchers, plus welcoming and being of assistance to Gluepot's visitors and campers.

Ted, amongst other activities, gets satisfaction from recording and reporting the daily weather observations to the Bureau of Meteorology. He also doesn't mind the challenge of trapping the feral cats that predate the native wildlife.



Have you experienced any difficult or challenging situations during your visits?

Two activities or situations came to mind for Carmel and Ted.

On a weekly basis, Rangers patrol the 50 kilometres of electric fences that protect the property from goats entering on the northern and western boundaries. For Ted (and most Rangers) maintaining adequate voltages and correcting faults on the fence has its challenges.

Another is managing the Reserve after heavy rain with respect to undertaking outdoor activities, making the decision to close the Reserve to visitors and taking care of wet tracks that can be damaged by vehicles.

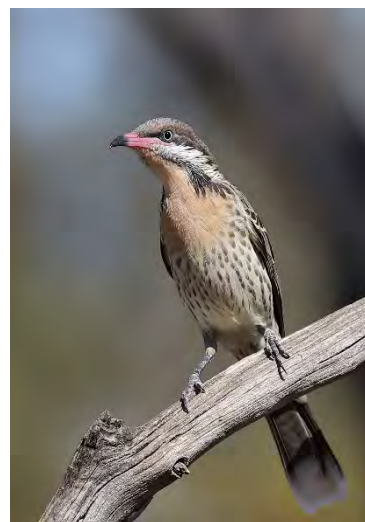
Can you recall any humorous stories or encounters?

Ted will never forget the reaction of surprise and fear exhibited by a female French student upon arrival at Gluepot at night during a thunderstorm. She was greeted by a locust and mouse plague, and by a large Huntsman spider on her cupboard door. Welcome to Australia!

As dry as it is on Gluepot, Carmel remembers taking a shortcut to the Visitor Centre one day after heavy rain, and a leg sinking quite deeply into the clay – one bogged leg. Unsure if Ted had to pull her out! (Ed)

Do you have any favourites when it comes to the wildlife that you observe whilst living at Gluepot?

It's all very interesting, but we get special pleasure from the beauty of the bluebush when it sparkles in the sun after a rain shower. Carmel adds that she enjoys seeing the bearded dragons in the vegetable garden and the spiny-cheeked honeyeaters splashing away in the homestead birdbaths.



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (G. Lee)

You have had many volunteer Assistant Rangers live on the Reserve with you during your times at Gluepot. Can you tell us a bit about them and what you've had them doing?

Well, the Assistant Rangers help with just about everything.

We have supervised a lot of the overseas Assistant Rangers, especially from France and Holland. Not only do they learn a lot whilst living at Gluepot, they are invaluable helping with maintenance duties. Many of them improve their English language, time management and, of course, their 'bush' skills very significantly. Occasionally they request English lessons from Carmel, giving her French encouragement in exchange. One student's family offered French hospitality to us in Brittany. This November, we will be returning their kindness with a reciprocal visit to Portland in November.

As Gluepot nears its 20th anniversary, why do you think that it has been successful over its existence?

Simply put, the success is due to the volunteer system and being given responsibility and trusted to get things done.

The 'pooling' and application of a diverse range of skills from all volunteers, including the Rangers and Assistant Rangers, the 'RAG' building and maintenance team, Friends of Gluepot, and Management Committee, enables continuous improvement of the Reserve's organization and its facilities.

Peter Edwards - a quiet man, who loved nature by Duncan MacKenzie

In late 2005 I received a phone call from Peter Edwards, who lived in Wagga Wagga, NSW.

He phoned to say that he was going to see his solicitor regarding changing his will to include a bequest to Gluepot, and wanted me to send him the relevant wording that his solicitor should use. I did that.

We talked for a while and I asked him if he minded telling me the sum he intended leaving to Gluepot. There was a long hesitation, and he said that he wanted to keep it confidential, but stated that it would be generous. I immediately asked him what the state of his health was, and we both had a good laugh. That started a phone and email 'friendship' during which I kept him up-to-date on what was happening at Gluepot, forwarded him our newsletters and other information of interest.

From that time on, Gluepot also started receiving annual donations from Peter, and he never missed!

Peter was one of five kids – he was the second last.

His father had purchased a farming block east of Wagga Wagga and sent two sons, Peter being one, to build it into a 'going concern'. The only problem was that Dad had purchased the block prior to the introduction of myxomatosis and the place was infested with rabbits. Added to this, the whole area was virtually covered in black wattle.

To rid themselves of the rabbits, they hired an old rabbitier who went out on horseback accompanied by his 40 dogs. Each day, he would catch enough rabbits to fill two large wheat bags placed on either side of the saddle, and then skin them at night.

The black wattle was another matter, and the 'boys' spent endless days trying to rid the property of this pest. Eventually the two boys had earned enough to purchase a bulldozer to help with their work.

Peter 'worked his heart out' to help make the property a success. However, during his life Peter always experienced poor health, but he never complained. In his early fifties he was forced by ill-health to retire from the land, and he then moved into Wagga Wagga. The property is now one of the most beautiful and productive in the area.

In early May this year I received a phone call from Peter's solicitor asking me for the details needed for a cheque to be made out to Gluepot Reserve.

Peter had passed away in September 2015, aged 84.

I have often wondered if Peter had ever been tempted to give Gluepot a 'miss' and instead choose another environmental organisation for his bequest. My thought is that he could see what a great place Gluepot is, and the fact that it was managed and operated entirely by volunteers meant that the full sum of his bequest would go directly into the running of the Reserve. Peter really liked the ethos of Gluepot and was always interested in our many projects, and our work in protecting and enhancing our environment.

He was a very quiet bloke who loved walking and bird-watching, which in turn gave him a love of nature. He was also an extraordinarily brilliant pianist. Peter's sister, Fay, told me that he was too tough to die – despite all his health problems. He had a heart that just wouldn't stop.



Gluepot is indebted to Peter for leaving a generous bequest, which has been deposited in full into the Gluepot Reserve Foundation. To assure the long-term financial future of Gluepot, the capital in this fund is inviolate, and only the interest is used to support the operating budget and special projects.

Wildlife at Gluepot.....

Bird and reptile identifications from page 8.

From top left, clockwise:

Eastern Tree Dtella (*Gehyra versicolor*; previously named *G. variegata*). As its common name implies this gecko is arboreal, but it also inhabits buildings where it is commonly seen on warm nights feeding on insects that are attracted to the light emanating from windows.

Preening young Brown-headed Honeyeater

Sandplain Ctenotus (*Ctenotus schomburgkii*)

Little Eagle, observed regularly at Gluepot but not common in number.

White-eared Honeyeater

The Green Army – the end of an ‘era’ – too soon by Duncan MacKenzie

The Commonwealth Governments ‘Green Army Program’ has now ended in South Australia, with Gluepot’s Phase 2 projects being completed in June.

The program was initiated to give young people (19 – 24 years old) the opportunity to ‘work at the coal face’ on a variety of environmental projects. This would give them valuable experience to assist them to obtain employment, possibly associated with environmental work.

Gluepot was very lucky to have been awarded 2, twenty-week project periods that commenced last year. Our second project involved five participants spending three 10-hour days per week at Gluepot, working on up to 10 environmental projects ‘designed’ by the Reserve.



Four of the five Green Army team members (in yellow) who worked at Gluepot for 20 weeks during 2017. Supervisor Adrian Williams (in orange), and on the right, volunteer Rangers Ian & Deidre Kerr.

Projects included weed mapping and treatment, track maintenance, checking the electrified fences, monitoring remote-sensing cameras including the analysis of images, undertaking bio-surveys, and assisting with feral fox and cat control. Vegetation, bird atlassing and grasswren surveys were undertaken. Fox control work included the setting out of 150 canid pest ejector fox baiting systems. Other projects involved the maintenance of our 14 walking trails, library cataloguing, and the construction of fences for 3 vegetation ‘exclusion’ plots for vegetation recovery monitoring in a recently burnt area.

Probably one of the most amazing outcomes of the Project was just how experienced the team became at identifying the bird species on Gluepot and the team’s ability to then conduct bird atlas surveys across the Reserve. At least three of the participants have applied to come back to Gluepot as Volunteer Assistant Rangers – they love the place!



Green Army team, standing next to newly constructed ‘exclusion’ fences to be used for vegetation monitoring in an area burnt by a lightning-induced fire in 2016.

Our Green Army activities were managed by Conservation Volunteers Australia and our ‘on-ground’ supervisor was Adrian Williams. Adrian did a superb job, ensuring that all projects were completed with the utmost professionalism and that all his team members became an integral part of the Gluepot ‘family’ during their stay at the Reserve. The team was farewelled with a BBQ luncheon on the 21st June.

The Green Army Program was certainly one of the best environmental projects developed by the Commonwealth Government, and it is a great pity that the program has concluded after such a short, but very successful ‘life span’.

Camping at Gluepot

Gluepot Reserve has three public campgrounds:

- Babbler
- Bellbird
- Sitella

A camping fee of \$10 per night per vehicle applies.

Visitor 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.

People are what make Gluepot so special . . . by Duncan MacKenzie

I'm often asked what has kept me 'glued' to Gluepot for the past 20 years, and the answer is simple – it's the people, our wonderful and ever-growing band of volunteers, and the mallee environment.

Recently a SA Parliamentary Committee on the Environment visited Gluepot for a day and they could not believe that the Reserve was totally managed and operated by volunteers.

Of particular interest were our Volunteer Rangers and Assistant Rangers, who are a multi-talented and extremely dedicated group with a wide diversity of skills, and daily, are responsible for managing the Reserve.

Back in 2014, one of our Assistant Rangers was Lynette Ensor, who spent a month at Gluepot and is planning another visit shortly.



Lynette was born in Townsville but raised in southeast Queensland, then in the 1990's she went looking for an adventure and a closer connection to the environment. As a tour guide in far north Queensland she developed a connection with some of Australia's bird species. This has evolved into a passion for photographing Australian birds and created a desire to provide interesting information that is well-researched and accompanied by images to help with accurate identification.

Lynette is lucky enough to spend several months each year travelling around Australia in her motorhome, enabling her to observe and photograph the varied and interesting characters of Australia's birdlife. Lynette's goal is to eventually publish a complete series of books on the birds of Australia.

Initially her compilations of reference information were an aid and tool for her work as a tour guide, and many of the species included in her first volume were observed where she worked, or were welcome visitors to her garden.

'My Australian Obsession: Volume One – The Wet Tropics – Queensland' is the first in a series of volumes that will eventually cover all the bird species found on mainland Australia and Tasmania. In this first volume, 65 species that inhabit the wet tropics of Queensland are included. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please go to Lynette's website at: www.myaustrianbirdobsession.weebly.com/

The book has received some good reviews and these are also featured on her website.



Olive-backed Sunbird (L. Ensor)

Assistant Rangers

by Lauriane Cahard & Marie Lemonnier



We are two French students, Lauriane and Marie from Normandy in France, who are studying agriculture at La Salles University, Beauvais, which is north of Paris. We came to

Gluepot Reserve in June this year for a one month internship.

During this period, we have participated in the Reserve's maintenance activities, including recording the weather observations each morning, maintaining the campgrounds, and undertaking track clearing. We have also worked with bird-banders. It has been very interesting for us; we learnt a lot about birds, their species, and about native Australian animals. We helped on a project which consists of setting up of a eucalypt phenology monitoring project. We learnt to identify species of eucalypt.

Moreover, this has been a great human experience. We met many passionate people coming here, helping and sharing their knowledge.

Thanks to everyone, especially to the Rangers.

From the Visitor's Book.....a few comments from this year

'Stayed 2 weeks until our coffee and water ran out. Stunning environment, superbly maintained. Wow!'
Diane & Ron

'Fabulous, we'll be back in spring' Jan

'Wonderful feeling to be surrounded by birds' Chris

'Great place; love spinifex and red sand' Liz'

'Great to be back and see the changes over time. Fantastic facilities, great birds, thank you!' Dan



Boundary 'riders'. 'Mmmmmmm.....it's easy for you little ones to cross the fence!' (T. Pascoe)

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:

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Contributions, comment, and feedback may be forwarded to the editor, Ian Williams

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