



**Normanville
Natural Resource Centre**
3/50 Main Street Normanville SA 5204

NEWSLETTER

Issue 16—Spring 2014

HELP SAVE THE HEATH GOANNA

Goannas are our last remaining large, native, terrestrial predator in southern SA and they need our help!

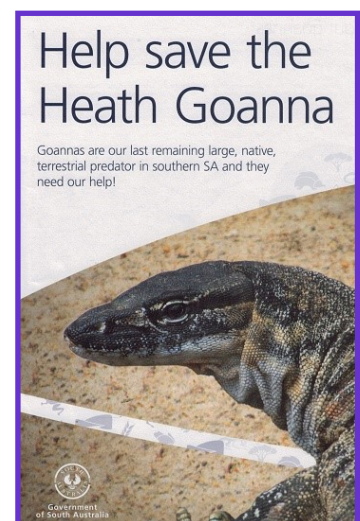
The Heath Goanna, also known as Rosenberg's Goanna, (*Varanus Rosenbergi*) is classified as vulnerable in South Australia. Regionally, it is classified as Endangered in the Mount Lofty Ranges, Northern and Yorke, Eyre Peninsula, Murray-Darling Basin and South East regions.

The Heath Goanna was once common in many higher rainfall, cooler areas across southern Australia but is declining. It now occurs in mostly small, isolated populations in WA, SA, Vic and NSW. There are possibly less than 100 individuals left in each of the NRM regions in which they occur!

In the last three years there have only been 18 recorded sightings of a Heath Goanna on mainland South Australia. While they are still relatively common on Kangaroo Island, they are also declining there.

How can you help save the Heath Goanna:-

- ⇒ Report any sightings of alive or dead goannas to DEWNRThreatenedWildlife@sa.gov.au
- ⇒ Protect native vegetation and termite mounds in your local area
- ⇒ Be a responsible pet owner by keeping pet cats indoors and dogs on leads
- ⇒ Leave valuable habitat like fallen trees, logs and smaller timber in the bush and on grazing land
- ⇒ When driving, slow down for goannas to let them cross roads safely (and be mindful around road kill which may attract goannas onto the road)
- ⇒ Get involved in local restoration and revegetation programs to help increase habitat and connect remnant bushland



Come into the centre and pick up a 'Help Save the Heath Goanna' brochure.

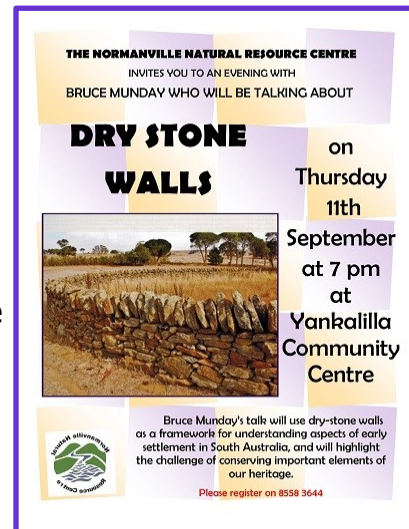


SUPPORTED BY THE Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board

DRY STONE WALLS

Join us on Thursday 11th September at the Yankalilla Community Centre at 7.00 pm for a very interesting evening with Bruce Munday talking about Dry Stone Walls. Bruce is the author of a stunning book, available for loan at the NNRC, titled 'Those Dry-Stone Walls' – stories from South Australia's stone age, which is rich with beautiful imagery of these walls, the stories behind them and advice to inspire others to follow in the footsteps of our early settlers and start building their own.

Far from being a dying craft, dry-stone walling is enjoying a renaissance, continuing to make a statement across the South Australian landscape. Bruce Munday's talk will use dry-stone walls as a framework for understanding aspects of early settlement in South Australia, and will highlight the challenge of conserving important elements of our heritage.



Please register on 8558 3644

YANKALILLA SHOW & VEGGIE SWAP

Again the Yankalilla show falls on the same day as our October monthly veggie swap, so please remember to come along with your shared produce at the same time – 9.30 am to the show grounds on Saturday October 4th, we will be situated just near the gate on Jervois Road.

If you have not attended a veggie swap this is a great chance for you to come and see how it works. Bring something to swap, fresh produce, home baked items, eggs, honey, flowers, recipes, knowledge etc. and join like minded people sharing, chatting and enjoying a cuppa. The idea is to share your excess so there is no value assigned to your items, it is about fostering community spirit and sustainable living through encouraging people to grow fruit and veggies in their garden and providing an outlet for sharing these.



Then stay and experience all the fun of the 'fair'. The centre will be hosting a **snake pit!** A variety of venomous snakes are in the pit, together with two 'Living with Wildlife' staff who will answer questions about the snakes and how they behave in close vicinity with humans. An added feature of the Snake Pit is the full-height clear plastic windows on each side to allow safe viewing by children.

PLASTIC FREE JULY

Congratulations to everyone who took part in this exciting event, 75 people registered and took up the challenge to try and reduce single use plastic during July. It wasn't easy but it certainly made you realise how much plastic is in our daily lives and also got us thinking about where this enormous amount of plastic ends up when we have finished using it.

Next year, Willunga Environment Centre, Victor Harbor Natural Resource Centre, Sustainable Communities McLaren Vale and the Normanville Natural Resource Centre will be joining forces to make it a bigger event. We hope to include some of the local schools and other community organisations. Here is some of the feed back I received at the end of July:-

"It was quite difficult shopping as so much is wrapped in plastic. I also found it hard not to automatically reach for the glad wrap when needed, in fact it is the things I do automatically that I found hard to change" — Kath H

"Whether it be using my gauze bags at the supermarket, taking my own lunch box to buy my sushi, buying in bulk, using brown paper bags at my fruit & vegie shop, washing with eco washballs. It all makes me feel proud of my stay on Earth. Unfortunately also I've noticed I am disgusted & frustrated by those around me that don't give a damn about plastic. I wish I could live in a community that was as plastic free as I. It gives me hope knowing at least there is soft plastic recycling these days. There is hope!"- Joy M

"I too have fallen victim to things wrapped in plastic, although both Normie and Yankalilla Foodland deli sections have been good about wrapping things in paper. It is almost impossible to buy some things without plastic on them though, I even feel guilty buying ready wrapped cheese. Still, I have had a couple of other successes in avoiding it and it is certainly making my daughter a bit more aware"—Coral W

OTHER EVENTS



REcreate

It is amazing what can happen with a bit of creativity, imagination and rubbish!

Join our ReCreate group on alternate Thursdays at 1.00 pm at The Normanville Natural Resource Centre

Contact us on 8558 3644



Free family fun day
Deep Creek Conservation Park

Head to South Australia's most scenic bushland reserve for a free family open day. Enjoy the park's great walking trails with spectacular views and look out for western grey kangaroos, short beaked echidnas and 300 native bird species.

When: Sunday 21 September
Where: Deep Creek Conservation Park, 150 Tapanappa Road
Time: Activities and displays from 11am-2pm
Entry: FREE all day!
Details: parks.sa.gov.au

- Enjoy kids' face painting and games
- Win park passes
- Meet baby animals from the Native Animal Network
- Meet animals including koalas from Urimbira Wildlife Park
- Browse local markets and displays from Raywood Nursery, Zen Energy and Southern Ocean Retreats
- Find out about marine parks, gorse control and coastal gardens
- Find out how to volunteer and meet new friends with Friends of Deep Creek and Friends of the Mopan Trail
- See a DEWNR fire truck and meet your local CFS crew and Smokeys the Bear
- Learn about macro invertebrates with kids' Water Watch activities

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges | National Parks South Australia

MEMBER SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who responded to our member survey, we had a 28% response rate, which is really good. Overall the centre and its volunteers were rated very highly for the services it provides. In the next few months we will be reading all the individual responses and start planning how we are going to address some of the issues.

NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped plant 400 trees and shrubs in Bungala Park again this year, especially the Happy Valley Girl Guides who came out in force. Although it was quite cold the sun did make an appearance which made the day quite enjoyable.

After all the hard work, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch of roasted veggie soup, steak sandwiches and homemade cake and slice. Tree planting must be hungry work as there was not much left by the end of the day.

Again thanks to everyone involved and to Corey Jackson from Yankalilla Council for all his help in organising and working on the day.



FREE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENTS

Normanville Natural Resource Centre is offering households in the Yankalilla Council district free home visits and assistance with their energy use. This program is funded by the Essential Serviced Commission and will help households to better manage their energy consumption and engage in the energy market. A trained volunteer will work with the householder to explore options for reducing energy consumption, will discuss their energy affordability, and will provide information about alternative services to assist them. We will also install a number of free items if required.

Here is some feedback from a house we visited recently:-

*We thought we knew a lot about saving energy, but were surprised to learn other useful tips. Kym, the trained energy assessment volunteer spent some time reading our electricity bill and discovered that we were paying a \$15 monthly meter reading fee. This has now stopped saving us over \$100 per year. Kym also provided us with new light globes and a great heated throw rug, which is very convenient and cheap to run, all **free**. We borrowed a power mate which measures energy used and attached it to our fridge, freezer, fish tank and some smaller appliances. This provided us with cost per year of operating these items and these results were very surprising! We would recommend this service to everyone using electricity as it is free service and all the items installed are free. **Contact the centre on 8558 3644!***

