



Wetland Restoration on the Lower Murray, South Australia
Paiwalla Wetland owned by Wetland Habitats Trust and managed by Paiwalla Pty Ltd
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From the Chairman

I'm trying a different format for this newsletter. Instead of a long document I will try to cover a few items in brief, and then endeavour to get the news out more frequently.



Donations

Our visitor numbers are increasing and this is shown by the increased contributions in the Donation Box. At last count we had received over \$500 in the box this financial year.

Feral Control



We have contracted Richard De Nichilolo to take care of our feral animals at Paiwalla. Richard is a licensed firearms holder and also insured with the Sporting Shooters' Association.

Last visit there were three feral goats roaming from Sunnyside to the Pompoota gate and they were doing damage to the new plantings.

When Richard is working at Paiwalla the wetland will be closed to all.

'Do Not Enter' signs are placed on the three entries and notification is on the Website.



Please Note — next Wetland Closure

Richard's next visit is this coming weekend, Saturday and Sunday, 27th & 28th of May.

He will be focusing on cats and pigeons and there is a wool blind sheep to be dealt with.



Grants



We have applied for several grants in recent months.

An application to “NRM Volunteers Small Grant” for \$1038, for the maintenance and security of our weed control equipment, was successful.

The Riverine Recovery group, who focus on wetland and floodplain management, applied in conjunction with Conservation Volunteers Australia, for \$15,500 to assist with the maintenance of Paiwalla. Members were asked to vote on the process. We are yet to hear if this has been granted.

A NRM ‘Connecting Communities’ grant was applied for, again in conjunction with CVA, seeking \$43,400 to support weed control, vegetation propagation and maintenance. We are waiting confirmation.

Signage



Birds SA is sponsoring the production of 8 signs that will be placed at locations around the wetland. Each sign will illustrate a different group of birds that frequent Paiwalla.

The final designs have recently been submitted to the signwriter. All costs for the design and manufacture will be paid for by Birds SA at a cost of \$940.

To the left is the sign with information on Raptors of Paiwalla, showing 6 of the 15 which have been recorded there.

Birds SA members have regular group excursions to Paiwalla recording their sightings for the day. Many members also seek permission to visit individually at other times.

Their next field outing is tentatively set for 30th July, 2017.

O H & S

Following our Occupational Health & Safety report last year there are several items that are being addressed at Paiwalla. There will be operational procedures for the use of equipment and additional safety procedures introduced for chemicals and fuel. Roger W has identified issues that need to be addressed and several members have been appointed to implement actions.



Vegetation Planting for 2017

We have requested some 400 plants from the Murray Bridge Community Nursery. Heather B and Annie O are co-ordinating a planting programme which commenced last Thursday, 17th May. Further planting days will be notified as more plants become available. If we are successful with our Grant applications (see above) it is hoped to purchase additional plants and more days of planting will be organised.