



## Paiwalla Update

Issue 3# - April 2021



Welcome to our latest issue of 'Paiwalla Update'.

A special welcome to those who have joined our 'Friends of Paiwalla' this year. Your support is valued. Feel free to forward our newsletter to friends and family who may share our passion - full details for joining our FoPs are on the 'Friends of Paiwalla' tab of the website.

Visit our website at [www.paiwalla.org.au](http://www.paiwalla.org.au) to learn of our commitment to the environment..

- **Boxes for Bird, Bats, Possum, Frogs and other critters**

We have recently received two donations for replacement and additional tree boxes. Firstly a member donated 5 various boxes that were excess to their requirements and at about the same time Birds SA, on their annual field outing to Paiwalla, observed that some of our existing boxes were in poor condition and generously offered to help with the cost of replacement. We have since received a Grant of \$500 from Birds SA for replacements. We have negotiated with the Strathalbyn Woodshed to build an additional 16 purpose-built boxes. Our thanks to Birds SA and the Strathalbyn Woodshed.



## • Grants

We have recently been successful in obtaining a grant from the Murray Darling Basin Authority. This grant will allow us to follow up on our Cultural Heritage survey and engage in consultation with the three relevant Aboriginal groups that are stakeholders in the cultural heritage sites at Paiwalla. The grant will allow us to seek advice from the groups to determine how best to manage Paiwalla's heritage sites.

As mentioned above, Birds SA granted us \$500 for the replacement of boxes to house birds and other critters around the wetland.

Our Grant application to Bendigo Bank for a defibrillator to be placed at Paiwalla was not successful. Our branch is currently listed as Goolwa - part of the Fleurieu region. Paiwalla is not in that region so we are planning to re-apply through the closest branch located at Mount Barker with hope of more success. What this space!

## • Yellow Fan Flower (*Scaevola spinescens*)

This native plant, also known as Maroon Bush (aka Currant Bush), is nicknamed the "prickly fan flower" for its prickly foliage, fan-shaped flowers and fan-like growth.(photo below)

Following our recent 'Cultural Heritage Survey of Paiwalla and Sunnyside' (reported in Issue #2) we have been looking at some of the flora that was identified in the report.

One of particular interest is the Yellow Fan Flower, of which there are about 5 plants on the top of the cliff in Sunnyside, possibly one of the harshest environments on the reserve. Despite this we found that three of the bushes were fruiting, and we have collected seed to attempt propagation.

It features in Aboriginal bush medicine as "...a treatment for cancer, heart disease, intestinal conditions, kidney and urinary conditions, and general illness. Most commonly consumed as tea, the leaves, flowers and berries of this plant can be simmered (covered) in water for up to 40 minutes, then left to cool overnight before straining and drinking. The roots were also infused in water and taken to help with digestive pain. The berries themselves are edible, tasting best when purple-black in colour (ripe)....."

an interesting plant.

<https://tuckerbush.com.au/maroon-bush-scaevola-spinescens/>



## • Weed eradication - Mexican Waterlily and Willows

The pleasant weather through autumn has made it possible to spend time on our two most rampant water weeds; the Mexican Water Lily (*Nymphaea mexicana*), a yellow waterlily in Sunnyside, and Willows throughout the wetland.

The introduced yellow waterlily is native to southern USA and Mexico and has escaped from domestic use to freshwater habitats. Once established it can be difficult to eradicate.

Combating the waterlily requires our volunteers to enter the water with spray units, and target individual plants while they are flowering. A support boat with additional chemical is on call.

Willow eradication is ongoing throughout the extended wetland area and has been refined over time. We now utilise a winch and cable apparatus on the levee bank – a team of workers cut and secure the willows to the winch cable for removal and then disposal. This is more effective than our previous methods of ‘drilling and filling’ or ‘cut and swab’ and leaving the willow to rot and decompose over time. A past project involved extensive re-snagging of the river edge with large red-gum logs and stumps to replace the stabilisation and fish habitat that was provided by the invasive willows. There has been significant regrowth of Native trees and bush in places where Willows have been removed.



## • FoP Open Day

There will be a Sunday BBQ lunch held at Paiwalla for members of ‘Friends of Paiwalla’, management, member/owners and regular volunteers.

The date is 16 May. 2021, and invitations have been emailed directly.

Invited participants will be offered guided tour/s with wetland information and discussions on past and

future projects. We have some planned activities for optional involvement.  
A great opportunity to stay informed of our activities!

- **Twin City Camera House visit**

Twin City Camera House, a prominent Adelaide photographic store, held a very successful excursion to Paiwalla on the 10th April. Keen photographers had the opportunity to test drive the latest Nikon equipment. There are a few photos of Paiwalla on their Facebook page. This function was wholly organised by the Camera House.

- **Another 'Art Weekend @ Paiwalla' in the planning**

The planning for the 2021 'ART Weekend @ Paiwalla' is underway. Following the very successful workshops conducted in the last two years we are planning to do it again. Management will organise this year's event and Maxine Ashton will be asked to facilitate the weekend as she has done so successfully for our previous events. Visit our website at <http://www.paiwalla.org.au/events-and-bookings.html> to read the review of last year's event. Contact us to express your interest.

