

ReLeaf

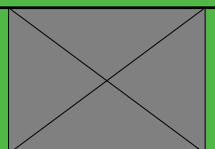
Trees For Life
Autumn 2009
Number 110

**BFL funding still
uncertain**

**Team TFL to ride 600
kilometres**

**Backup and surplus
seedlings offered soon**

**Landholders help
restore biodiversity**



Bailing out our economy at what environmental cost?

Welcome to 2009 and sincere thanks to all that responded so enthusiastically to the request that Carmel and I made before Christmas to lobby your parliamentarians on our behalf.

It wasn't a request that we made lightly but difficult times require different approaches.

Our failure to attract at least some reasonable level of funding from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country initiative seriously threatened the viability of the Bush For Life program. Accordingly we enlisted your assistance in raising the political pressure. Subsequent approaches to Canberra have unfortunately proved fruitless but we have received positive support closer to home.

The Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, already a strong supporter of our program, has promised us priority consideration, as has Minister Jay Weatherill's office.

At the time of writing, the rhetoric has not yet turned into hard cash but we have reason to be optimistic!

Certainly these are particularly challenging times both here and abroad but I am deeply concerned that in a time of financial meltdown, the environment will drop further down the list of priorities.

From time to time I entertain the thought that the GFC (global financial crisis) will replace terrorism as the political justification for all sorts of decisions, good, bad or indifferent. I'm not convinced that a ceiling full of pink insulation batts really cuts the mustard as an environmental policy!

Important though the financial situation is (I too am worried about the purchasing power of my superannuation) it pales into insignificance when we consider the long-term degradation of the planet.

While some are upset about the financial debt we might be leaving our grandchildren my sleepless nights are more about the pollution and extinction debt we'll leave behind. I'm convinced that there is a widespread mentality that sooner or later it will rain and that will fix most of our environmental problems. We know differently, however, and have done so for many years, which is why we continue to pursue our revegetation and bushcare objectives with such passion and patience.

My fear is that the state and federal governments will divert funds from environmental and community programs to bail out the economy. My hope is that the GFC will raise awareness of the dangers of continuing along the path of consumption, social inequality and concentration of wealth.

We have a role to advocate on behalf of the conservation cause and in a changing world pursue new avenues of funding and models of activity to enable our work to continue.

Trees For Life will stay true to its aim.

- DAVID MITCHELL

Dynamite request one of many memories

The call for original members to recount their TFL stories in preparation of our 30th birthday continues to unearth some great memories.

We recently received an interesting letter from Alice Shore, who is Member #325, Honorary Member #11 and for years was the coordinator of seedling plantings.

Alice joined TFL in 1982 when the office base was situated in a private home in Balhannah and the first depot was at Hampstead. Among the memories, she recalls:

- At Two Wells planting 500 trees, which "were all pulverised" after a marriage dispute when someone let the horses into the planted areas;

- A landowner, again with horses, asked TFL to plant in a stallion paddock – while the stallion was still present. Needless to say, club members refused!

- An Eyre Peninsula landowner wanted them to use dynamite to blow out a hole for each seedling, while her husband was out in another part of the property "bush bashing".

Despite the more unusual requests and incidents, Alice said over the years many friendships were formed and "99.9%" of landowners appreciated TFL's free labour and did their best to protect seedlings with adequate fencing.

She said it was with reluctance that she handed over her role in 1999 and the years involved in the organisation remain the happiest of her life.

**If you have some memories of early TFL days, keep sending them in to us here – we'd love to hear from you.*

"The generosity of your time is the most valuable gift you can give."

- The State of Volunteering

Green ReLeaf

ReLeaf's format is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Fusion and Finsbury Green Printing.

ReLeaf is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper and printed with 100% vegetable-based inks, ensuring the 'greenest' possible publication. The sponsorship has also enabled major savings in printing costs and postage, enabling the product to be designed at no extra cost.

Contact us

ReLeaf is a production of Trees For Life.

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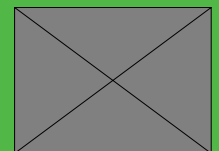
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Want to advertise?

Advertising space is now available in ReLeaf. Phone 8406 0500 or email taniak@treesforlife.org.au for advertising rates.

Cover photo: *Phragmites australis* by Paul White (see Page 4).



Trees For Life

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Lottery prizes go to worthy winners

The annual Trees For Life lottery has been very successful once again this year, with ticket sales of \$92,000.

The winner of the \$10,000 first prize was Jessica Hardy, and the winner of the second prize (Garry Duncan's painting) was Kirrilee Anderson. The ticket seller's prize (an Acer computer) was won by Brenton Riches.

Both Jessica and Kirrilee attended a TFL presentation last month to receive their prizes, with artist Garry Duncan also attending to personally hand over his painting, the *Right Hon Eucalyptus Camaldulensis*, to Kirrilee. A first-time volunteer grower, Kirrilee, of Port Willunga, said she was thrilled to win such a magnificent painting.

First prize winner, Jessica, of Clarendon, is also a Trees For Life member and is currently studying viticulture. She said the money would come in very handy, with much of it being used to pay off her HECS debt.

Trees For Life would like to thank all members who sold or bought tickets for our annual fundraiser. Your efforts are much appreciated.

All winners were notified by Trees For Life and results published in *The Advertiser* newspaper on February 11. The winning ticket numbers, starting from first prize, are: 18812 00805 22986 29970 42443 34388 20876 03362 41370 07250 32246 53311 45932 26139 23539 51235 29997 07502 09876 28021 44795 35770 34486 10190 03591 34924 52502.

Congratulations to all of our winners and thank you again to everyone for their outstanding support this year. A big thank you also goes to the following people and organisations for donating prizes: Garry Duncan, Team Poly, Global Village, Cape Cassini Wilderness Retreat, Acer Computers, New Internationalist, Penny's Hill, Woop Woop Wine, Wirrina Cove Resort, Monarto Zoo, Clare Valley Cabins, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, State Theatre Company, Kangaroo Island Sealink, Imprints, State Flora Nurseries, Port Power, Stamps Restaurant, Aldinga Beach Holiday Park, Total Tools, Rosemount Estate, clos Clare Wines, Fox Creek Wines, Gomersal Wines and Greenhills Adventure Park.

Finally, we ask that any unsold tickets please be returned to Trees For Life, as the Lotteries & Gaming Section requires us to account for all books.



Federal Labor MP Mark Butler tours one of the bush sites with his Port Adelaide constituent, TFL member and volunteer, Kevin McCormack.

Funding situation still unknown

By CARMEL DUNDON
Chief Executive Officer

As members will be aware ATF's application for federal Caring for Our Country funding for the Bush For Life program was unsuccessful.

In December we asked members to approach their state and federal MPs in order to lobby for reinstatement of funding for this important program.

We have been overwhelmed by the response and because of member efforts a motion was put to the Senate by Senator Hanson-Young (Greens) seeking restoration of funds. Following a call from a TFL member, Iain Evans (Liberal) organised television and radio profiles on our behalf. Letters and offers of support were received from Isobel Redmond (Liberal), Senator Simon Birmingham (Liberal), Bob Such (Independent) while Mark Butler (Labor) requested a guided visit of the site cared for by his constituent BFL volunteer.

The Labor MP also gave a speech in the House of Representatives on February

5, outlining the work BFL does and throwing his support behind the program.

Thank you to all members and other supporters for mobilizing so effectively on our behalf.

In early December we received notification that we had been successful in securing some Coastcare funding for our coastal BFL sites. While this was welcome news it has still been necessary to slash budgets for the rest of the financial year and reduce some staffing hours in order to maintain the BFL program to June.

The Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board has proved a good friend and strong supporter throughout and is actively pursuing a one-off opportunity to get access to some unspent National Heritage Trust funds to cover us for the period January to June 2009. We appreciate the Board's support and that of Minister Weatherill's office which is also working behind the scenes on our behalf.

Successfully securing the longer term future of the Bush For Life program remains our major challenge so we ask members to keep up their efforts at lobbying both state and federal governments on our behalf. It is not too late to write that letter.

Hopefully the next *ReLeaf* will bring some more positive news.



Artist Garry Duncan, left, with painting winner Kirrilee Anderson, first prize winner Jessica Hardy and TFL Fundraising Manager Bernie Omodei.

Nature's beauty captured by local photographers

Most of you would agree the images featured both on the cover and inside *ReLeaf* since its upgrade have been stunning.

One benefit of this new look is that TFL has been in contact with several amateur photographers, all of whom have been happy to share their spectacular images of South Australian native flora and fauna.

In this edition, the magnificent cover image of *Phragmites australis* was taken by Waikerie photographer, Paul White. Paul is an experienced photographer and over the years has developed a wonderful collection of photographs that capture the beauty and colours of nature. He has his own website, www.paulwhitephotos.com.au, with much of the collection centred on the beautiful Riverland area and other colourful State destinations.

You will also notice the eye-catching advertisement below, which promotes a local photographer's work. The website promoted consists mostly of images of the landscape in the Flinders Ranges National Park, with 15% of sales going to UnitingCare

Wesley for their work in supporting Aboriginal people.

This page also features a lovely photograph from budding young photographer Felicity Crowe, who has a passion for photography and phoned one day to see if we would consider featuring some of her nature shots.

Thank you to all who have kindly allowed us to feature their work – your photographs are always welcome. Please also keep in mind our 2010 calendar, details of which you can read on Page 13.

Out & About

2009 has already started with a rush for Trees For Life, with a presence at several major events and more planned in coming months.

TFL staff and volunteers have held displays at the Australia Day breakfast at Government House, Kangaroo Island Field Days, Womadelaide, ABC Garden Expo and University O-Weeks. TFL also held an inaugural youth quiz night in February, and a nursery open day at the Westwood Nursery. Future events include the Mt Pleasant and Stirling shows, so if you're in the area, please stop by and say hello or raise any questions you might have. Thank you to all who volunteer their time at these functions, ensuring TFL's aims and achievements are promoted regularly.



Photo: Felicity Crowe.

Wildlife returns to farms

Revegetation on farms in Victoria is bringing back wildlife, according to the findings of a three-year study by environmental research scientists at Deakin University.

Dr Rohan Clarke and Associate Professor Andrew Bennett presented their research into ways to help native wildlife survive and prosper in farmland at the Ecological Society of Australia's annual conference in Sydney late last year.

When farms are revegetated, wildlife, such as frogs, native mammals, butterflies and especially woodland birds return. Many of the detected species were making use of the revegetation, supporting the notion that farm landscapes can provide important habitat opportunities for local wildlife.

"There is no doubt that birds that specialise in woodland habitats are in trouble, but revegetation is helping turn things around. The total amount of cover is the key driver for the recovery of woodland birds

and any increase in the amount is of benefit," Dr Clarke said.

The study, involving 43 farming areas in western Victoria, focused on ways to improve habitat for wildlife on working farms.

"It is not about bringing back the bush wholesale, rather it's about improving opportunities for wildlife while maintaining farm productivity," Dr Clarke said.

Dr Clarke said it was positive to see that there had been a lot of revegetation undertaken in the region, through the hard work of many individuals and various community schemes.

"When revegetation is undertaken the number of woodland bird species occupying these areas rebounds," he said.

(Article courtesy Deakin University website).

Photographic images of the Flinders Ranges

Adnyamathanha Yarta
The Flinders Ranges in Northern South Australia

15% of sales go to UnitingCare Wesley

To view more images and to purchase prints:
www.flindersimages.com.au e. flindersimages@me.com

Request for volunteer tree planters

By BUNTI PELLEN

TFL Planting Coordinator

If you love working in the great outdoors, then you might like to join our Fleurieu planting team this year.

In 2008, 4760 trees were planted by Trees For Life volunteers in the Fleurieu region. This makes a total of 71 610 since 1993. Last year nine properties were visited, spanning from Wistow (near Mt Barker) in the north to Victor Harbor in the south. As a special event for National Tree Day, the team also did a planting at Blyth in the north.

Previously there has been approximately 10 plantings per year, every Sunday fortnight, from May to September, in any weather. This year it will be slightly different. I will be away in June so there will be one planting in late May and then plantings every Sunday for July and August.

The plantings run from 10am to approximately 12-1pm, followed by a great lunch provided by the landholder. It is a good opportunity to see different locations you wouldn't normally have access to.

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone who joined in last year, for their dedication, hard work, and enjoyable company and look forward to catching up with you this year.

I will automatically post out a planting schedule (in April-May 2009) to people that attended last year and those that have already advised that you wish to attend this year (please advise if would prefer your schedule via email).

For registrations of interest or more information, phone me on (08) 83874652 or 0429016335 or email buntipellen@optusnet.com.au (No calls after 7pm please).

Team TFL tackles 600km bike race

By TANIA KEARNEY

A seven-day, 600-kilometre mountain bike race – featuring mountains and hills totalling an altitude gain of more than 15,000 metres – may not sound like much fun to a lot of people.

But for two Trees For Life members, Ollie Klein and Mark Simpson, the Terra Australis mountain bike race in Victoria is a challenge they are looking forward to.

The race is held for the first time in the North East Victorian Alpine and High Country regions, starting in Falls Creek and ending in Wangaratta from March 29 to April 4.

Ollie and Mark, who have decided to call themselves the Trees For Life team, will compete against an estimated 150 other teams of amateur and pro riders.

Fortunately for Ollie and Mark, they aren't newcomers to the sport however. Both members of the Adelaide Mountain Bike Club, both have been riding and racing mountain bikes for about 18 years.

Ollie and Mark initially met through the Adelaide Mountain Bike Club but it is their respect for and interest in the environment which has also cemented their friendship.

Mark has been a Bush For Life volunteer at Eagle Mountain bike park for six years and a volunteer grower for three.

"Over the years I've gained a respect for the natural environment through outdoor activities such as bushwalking, mountain biking, kayaking, and rock climbing," Mark said.

"I became a Bush For Life volunteer at the Eagle Mountain bike park for a couple of reasons; restoring the bush to its natural state mostly for aesthetic reasons in wanting somewhere pleasant to ride, as a social outlet, and putting something back into the sport."

As well as the BFL



Oliver Klein and Mark Simpson during a 70km training ride in preparation for the Terra Australis mountain bike race and below, the jerseys designed by Oliver, which they will wear during the race.



work, Mark's family is also into its second year of growing seedlings for Ollie's rural property.

According to Ollie, while bike club volunteers were building sustainable trails on his property Mark offered to grow trees for him. Just last year Ollie's and Mark's families, together with other TFL mountain bikers and their families, planted 1000 seedlings on the property.

In a show of their environmental links for the Terra Australis race, Ollie and Mark have designed a Team Trees For Life jersey, which they will wear during the week. The stunning final

design, done by Ollie who also happens to be a graphic artist, is featured above.

Let's hope the clean, fresh air provided by Australia's wonderful natives carries them over the finishing line with plenty of energy to spare.

*Cycling enthusiasts interested in purchasing one of the jerseys can email taniak@treesforlife.org.au

Do you need some backup seedlings?

Backup seedlings are available to help growers complete their order when they have not been able to grow everything requested.

Backup seedlings are available for

1. Volunteers growing seedlings for landholders
2. Landholders whose volunteer growers have had a complete failure
3. Landholders having problems growing their own seedlings (but not to fill the order because you did not get started). We do not have backup for grow-your-own only species.

To collect backup seedlings

Where: Trees For Life Nursery, corner of Sir Donald Bradman Drive and May Terrace, Brooklyn Park. See Map.

When: Friday April 17, Saturday 18 and Sunday 19.

Times: Friday 10am-3pm; Sat & Sun 10am-1pm each day.

Please bring your Growing Order, which lists the plants that you are growing, with you as identification and to allow us to help you most effectively.

Remember that there are 60 tubes in a box and the order is for 50 seedlings per box so you might have enough to fill the order even if you have lost some. If you have most of your seedlings don't feel you have to make the trip to pick up those last few.

We can't grow backup for all species for every zone (there are 1500 combinations of species and zone) so when you come in we may not be able to fill your order exactly, but we will do our best. We should be able to give you suitable substitutes if necessary. Usually we can't supply more than one box of the same species.

Country growers please contact us directly on (08) 8406 0500 for backup seedlings.

If you are growing for a revegetation project you do not need to get backup. You will receive a letter later this month detailing when and where to deliver your seedlings.

Ordering season opens soon - don't miss out

A benefit of Trees For Life membership is that landholders can order heavily subsidised native plants, grown from seed collected in their local area. This results in the good biodiversity outcomes and promotes resilient habitat. Financial members can order up to 500 seedlings to be grown for them by volunteers or 1000 to grow for themselves. A material and supply fee of \$45 is due when you place your order and your membership must remain current until you have received your plants or materials.

The cost of supplying seedlings and materials is subsidised by Trees For Life members and volunteers and by SA Water. The market price for tubestock is from \$1.75 - \$2.75 per plant. The member subsidy is provided to encourage and promote broadscale revegetation in South Australia.

Orders for 2010 seedlings open on May 1 and close on July 31, 2009.

Your newsletter address label indicates if you will be sent a form automatically. If the line above your name on the covering letter says "Order form coming for your zone" then you don't have to do anything. You will be sent an order form in May.

If you want to order seedlings or materials to grow your own and your label does not have this message, phone us on 8406 0500 and ask for an order form to be sent.

Surplus seedlings offered for sale

After backup requirements are met, any surplus seedlings will be sold to financial members of TFL for \$50 per box.

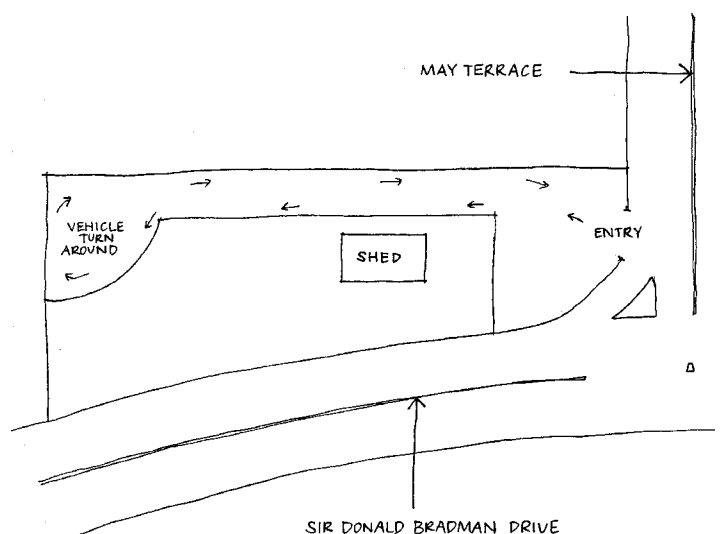
The sale will be held Thursday May 7 and Friday May 8 between 10am-3pm and Saturday May 9 between 10am-1pm. Phone 8406 0500 for more information.

Nursery access (see map below)

1. Travelling East along Sir Donald Bradman Drive turn left into May Terrace, the nursery entrance is immediately on the left.
2. Travelling West along SDBD turn right into May Terrace and then sharp left into the nursery - caution - merging traffic.
3. Travelling south along May Terrace - no entry.

Nursery exit

1. Give way to vehicles entering. All traffic must turn left into May Terrace and travel north: take caution.



An outline of the Westwood nursery, showing entry and exit points.

Seedlings thrive despite heatwave

TFL member Mary Lane sent a letter to us detailing her seedlings' success in spite of Adelaide's recent heatwave. She hoped it might help other growers concerned about leaving their seedlings out in full sun, regardless of the weather.

"Thank you for the newsletter for growers – a great idea for new and experienced growers. As a grower for 20 odd years just to reconfirm that when the weather gets really hot you need to keep your seedlings in full sun but water more – I water once a day generally, twice a day as soon as it gets over 35 and three times (where possible) when it gets over 40. As a result my trees are absolutely thriving and look tremendous out there in the searing heat and glare! Even the ones that had only just germinated when the heat arrived are fine. My species are for the northern Adelaide Plains so are drought tolerant but assume that most species from most areas would be similar. Hope that helps others who might be a bit dubious about leaving their 'babies' outside in this heatwave."

- Mary Lane

Teakles enjoy Mallee success

Persistence, innovation and foresight are three words that would best describe Brian and Sandra Teakle's efforts to revegetate a Karoonda property they bought 19 years ago.

When the Adelaide couple bought Glenholme in late 1990, the southern part of the farm was mainly treeless.

Today, Brian can boast – and justifiably so – that since then they have planted 20,000 native trees and 120,000 Old Man saltbush on the property. In fact, 90 native species have now been planted altogether, with help from the Teakle's sharefarmer grandsons and friends.

With an average annual rainfall of around 350mm, Brian knew how tough conditions could be in the Murray Mallee and set about planting 10 acres of saltbush (*Atriplex nummularia*) as a trial for sheep feed. They also wanted more trees to enhance the appearance of the farm, provide additional stock shelter and play a part in additional drought proofing.

Brian said in early 1991, they set out to grow 10,000 seedlings to plant in July, and also bought 250 tree seedlings from State Flora at Murray Bridge.

"The saltbush survival rate was excellent, the trees not so good," Brian said.

"All had been fenced and all trees were hand-planted from tubestock. The saltbush was machine planted using a converted broccoli planter that we purchased from Virginia."

When they considered the cost of tree seedlings, Brian and Sandra decided it would be more cost-effective to join Trees For Life and grow their own.

"This we did and we have been members most years since," he said.

The following three years were "big years" for planting saltbush, Brian said, so they decided growing more saltbush and tree seedlings was a must. In 1994 they grew nearly 1000 trees and with the help of a



The Teakle's Karoonda property, with the magnificent saltbush and trees they have planted over the past 18 years.

neighbour and share farmer, built their own direct seeder.

"In previous years we had direct seeded a few handfuls ... a mix of saltbush and trees," Brian said.

And although the results were not that good initially, years later they realised how effective it had actually been.

For the last two years, Brian has collected more than five kilograms of seed from the farm or adjacent roadways.

For the past five years they have also dual planted by hand planting seedlings over patches of direct seeding.

First remnant block

After joining the Murray Mallee LAP (MMLAP) in 2000, the Teakles received funding for fencing under the Mallee Futures Program and fenced off their first remnant vegetation block.

It was also in this year Brian and Sandra started to trial native grass by planting seed by hand - a project that is continuing each year.

In good rainfall years, Brian said Glenholme has had a survival rate of up to 95%. In the past three years however, the survival rate has dropped to around 50-70%.

"During the early years we often wondered if the trees were going to grow, however now we see the improvement to the overall landscape, the shelter and the potential feed if needed.

"Over the years we've realised that growing the seedlings with the help of TFL is easy and is not costly, persistence is essential and grants administered by groups such as the MMLAP (when available), make the projects cost neutral."

As for the future, Brian said he'd ideally like to fence off all remnants of native vegetation so that they may regenerate, but still provide stock shelter and survival feed when needed.



A close up of the Blue Devil (*Eryngium rostratum*) flower and, inset, what the overall plant looks like.

Blue Devil often mistaken for weed

The stunning *Eryngium rostratum* (Blue Devil) is often mistaken for a weed, but is in fact a perennial herb.

The genus *Eryngium* has approximately 230 species in tropical and temperate parts of the world, but only four or five are endemic to Australia. In Australia, *Eryngium* species are widespread throughout temperate woodlands and grasslands. In SA however, this magnificent plant species is rarely found and has a State conservation rating of "V" – Vulnerable.

The plant develops a rosette of narrow, spiny, divided leaves which have a waxy appearance.

Flowering from November to early February, the flowering stems can extend up to shin high.

The stems and bracts are a metallic blue and, together with its 'spiky' look give rise to its common name, Blue Devil.

Blue Devil is relatively long lived and is apparently easily grown from seed, sown into tubes in early December and planted out in April. In SA if you have located some nearby, chances are that it may have once occurred on your land.

Using it as part of your revegetation needs to be carefully considered. Your revegetation site should be well established, with good weed control already achieved over a number of years.

Frequently, people include small species such as *Arthropodium strictum* (vanilla lily) in their revegetation work, only to lose them among weeds the following winter. So, before planting, ensure that you have no soursob, salvation Jane and capeweed on your site. If your site is well managed, perhaps small species such as Blue Devil can be included after a number of years.

Randall is new group coordinator

As reported in the December edition of *ReLeaf*, Garry Forrest (aka BAT man) retired at the end of 2008 after more than 10 years of service with Trees For Life.

This position has now been changed to the BFL Group Activities Coordinator, which we are pleased to announce has been filled by Randall Bates.

Randall comes to this position with many years of experience as both a BFL Regional Coordinator and BAT Assistant Coordinator.

Randall also has many skills in the area of OH&S and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) so he brings to the role many new abilities and ideas.

The Bush For Life team welcomes Randall to this new position and we all look forward to an exciting year of Bush For Life Group Activities in 2009.



BFL Group Activities Coordinator Randall Bates.

Thanks for responses

Thanks to all Bush For Life volunteers who returned their annual questionnaire and 2008 site progress forms.

The information is used to demonstrate to councils, government, NRM Boards and private landholders the time and effort volunteers put into protecting remnant native vegetation on BFL

sites and provides evidence of the importance of keeping the program funded.

It also enables us to collate basic information such as volunteer age groups and helps us plan future activities.

Congratulations to Peter Lumb, who won the \$100 book voucher as part of our prize draw for returned questionnaires. Second and third prize winners for \$50 Trees For Life vouchers were Dino Murtic and Peter Sachs respectively.

Safety reminder for volunteers

Recently a Bush For Life volunteer was working on a BFL site when she was caught downwind of spraydrift coming from an adjacent property.

This was a very unpleasant experience for the volunteer and has been reported to the State Government for follow-up.

In light of this incident, Trees For Life recommends volunteers cease work immediately and leave the area if spraying is occurring on an adjacent property.

A sudden wind change could result in spraydrift affecting volunteers and there is no guarantee safety precautions have been followed by neighbouring landowners.

If you ever feel that your health, safety or welfare is jeopardised in any way while working on a Bush For Life site, please leave your site immediately and report the issue to your Regional Coordinator or the Bush For Life Volunteer Coordinator.

We value all of our volunteers and do not want to see their health, safety and welfare jeopardised.

Private landholders help restore biodiversity

In *ReLeaf* a year ago, we told of how the Bush For Life program had received 12 months funding from the State Government to extend support to more private owners of bushland in the Mount Lofty Ranges, Northern & Yorke districts and SA Murray Darling Basin.

We are pleased to report that the Private Lands Program has been a resounding success with more than 22 new private properties covering more than 1700ha of native vegetation joining the Bush For Life program.

This, together with other Heritage Agreement owners already in the program, takes to 3240ha the area of native vegetation under active management by Bush For Life private property owners.

Bush For Life helps landowners manage their bushland for biodiversity by training them in minimum disturbance bush regeneration strategies and techniques, one-on-one technical site support and links to the BFL volunteer program including Bush Action Teams and other local volunteers.

Throughout 2008, many new private landholders attended our BFL workshops, during which we received enquiries about the Private Lands Program.

As a result, staff visited several properties to do an initial property assessment with the landowner, discussed land management aspirations and provided on-site advice on weed control strategies and other issues. A preliminary native plant and weed species list was prepared during the visit, followed by a full Bush For Life Action Plan for selected properties.

Some of the properties added to the program last year were:

Lindley scrub

This is a 40ha Stringybark Open Woodland located at the top of the hill at Hope Forest. The property is an important link to other privately owned bushland along the top of the 'range' that combine to create a contiguous corridor of native vegetation. It is a significant native vegetation community with high biodiversity value supporting approximately 100 native plant species.

Since coming under the BFL Private Lands Program, other community groups have been enlisted to support the Lindley Scrub. Several members from Willunga Creek Projects Inc. attended a BFL workshop and currently work on the property on a regular basis. Local birdwatchers have undertaken monthly bird surveys, with the site recently being registered as an Atlas site with Birds Australia. To date 48 native bird species have been recorded. The local school community is also utilizing the site as part of their environmental education program.

The support from the BFL program, together with the hard work of a dedicated group of trained volunteers, has ensured that long term management to conserve the biodiversity value of the property can be achieved.

Gollop's swamp

Leigh Gollop was a long-standing TFL member who contacted us about the Private Lands Program after reading our ad in *Small-Talk*.

Leigh's property at Nangkita on the Fleurieu Peninsula is fascinating, with a 100-year-old man-made water channel running along the crest of a hill to the middle of his property. Here it stops and has eroded a deep gully between two waterfalls, passing by his home, before joining up with another creek coming into Leigh's swamp from the north and into the Tookayerta Creek further downstream.

In addition to the swampland, there is a small patch of Stringybark low open forest and large open areas dominated by bracken fern.



Doug Lindley's property is a 40ha Stringybark Open Woodland located at the top of the hill at Hope Forest.



John Bouilly's mallee block about 20km east of Robertstown in the Mid-North.



Leigh Gollop's property at Nangkita, which features swampland and waterfalls (pictured above right).

The vegetation contains about 110 native plant species, with a high proportion being of conservation significance in South Australia and the Southern Lofties Region.

The main weed threats to the native vegetation include blackberry and gorse, with treatment in the swampland being a particular challenge. With the support of BFL and an action plan to guide his activities, we are confident that Leigh can maximise the results of the time he puts into managing his valuable native vegetation.

Bouilly property

John Bouilly had only just purchased his mallee block at Bower (about 20km east of Robertstown in the Mid-North) when he found out about the Private Lands Program. Soon after, he increased the size of his property to 612ha by purchasing an adjacent piece of land from a neighbour, all in the name of conservation.

As a past BFL volunteer, John had some experience in bush regeneration, but found

himself on a steep learning curve with the different vegetation communities at Bower. Despite the land being grazed and having some tree removal for firewood prior to John's purchase, there are no major weed issues at this stage. It will be very interesting to see the regeneration of the native species now that the stock has been removed and, with BFL's support, John will be working hard to ensure weeds are kept at bay.

While we are unable to include any new properties in the Private Lands Program without additional financial support, we encourage landholders who own bushland to register their interest to: The Manager, Bush For Life, 5 May Tce, Brooklyn Park SA 5032. This will enable us to use the expressions of interest to seek further funding.

Trees For Life would like to acknowledge the valuable funding support given to the Private Lands Program in 2008 by the AMLR NRM Board.



Finlaysons' expert environment, climate change and planning practice is headed by partner Suzanne Dickey, above.

Finlaysons provides CN legal advice

One of the biggest challenges for Trees For Life in setting up the Carbon Neutral program in South Australia has been in navigating the legal requirements for the Forest Property Agreements necessary to protect the plantings from clearance for 100 years.

TFL has been generously supported in this by our legal sponsor Finlaysons and after 12 months of planning and work, we now have our first agreements registered with the Land Titles Office.

Finlaysons has supported TFL by providing pro bono legal work as part of its commitment to supporting the wider community in which it operates and because the company believes that being a responsible corporate citizen includes taking a responsible approach to the environment.

Based in Adelaide, Finlaysons is a leading commercial law firm servicing businesses in the local, national and

international markets.

Finlaysons' talented commercial services team, led by partner Jeremy Schultz, has expertise in a wide range of specialist areas including energy, health, resources, intellectual property and wine, as well as providing general commercial and contractual advice.

Finlaysons' expert environment, climate change and planning practice, headed by partner Suzanne Dickey, works in proactive partnership with many clients, not only dealing with everyday compliance issues but helping them to prepare for the long-term and to meet growing public expectations.

Finlaysons will continue to support TFL by providing legal services at a special community rate.

"We appreciate the professional support of the Finlaysons team who provide timely advice in a warm and friendly manner, TFL Chief Executive Officer Carmel Dundon said.

The work Finlaysons has done on TFL's behalf equates to a Silver Banksia sponsorship.

Properties sought for free plantings

Trees For Life is looking for landholders who would like to undertake some large scale revegetation projects for long term environmental benefit.

There are two current opportunities for our members: **Carbon Neutral**

This season we have completed direct seeded plantings on 82 hectares of land owned by Trees For Life members for biosequestration on behalf of Carbon Neutral subscribers.

We are now looking to work on other properties for the 2009 season.

Ideally sites need to be at least 10 hectares in total and in an area with at least 350mm annual rainfall.

It has to be suitable for direct seeding and fenced to keep out grazing stock.

The plantings are done at no cost to the landholder, who will be eligible to receive a

small stewardship payment for hosting the planting.

The carbon plantings are protected by legal agreement for 100 years, with the agreement registered on the Land Title.

If you are interested in showing us your property and getting more information about what is required, please call Dennis Hayles, CN Operations Manager, at the Trees For Life office.

Land and water

Do you live along the River Murray, or on another river or wetland, and want to see some long term rehabilitation achieved?

TFL, in collaboration with Healthy Rivers Australia and Green Ochre Environment, is looking for significant areas of land for rehabilitation to achieve better water quality and habitat values over a number of years.

Ideally, a group of landowners who own adjacent properties along water courses would join as partners to plan the project and we would seek funding to support the project.

If you are interested, please phone us here at TFL.

Prepare for more severe weather

Following on from the tragic bushfires in Victoria, climate change experts have warned that severe weather events are likely to occur more often in Australia as global warming continues. Climatologists have claimed the recent hot temperatures both in SA and Victoria were unprecedented. According to one expert, records were broken by a large amount, which cannot be explained just by natural variability. "What we are seeing now is that the chances of these sorts of extreme fire weather situations are occurring much more rapidly in the last ten years due to climate change." Scientist Greg Holland, from the US National Centre for Atmospheric Research, said it was an unfortunate fact of life that high levels of greenhouse gases would "be with us for decades". "We definitely need to change our habits so that we can leave our children and our children's children with a better world to live in," he said. "In the meantime we are going to have to adapt, we are going to have to accept that it is not going to be six days per summer of extreme temperatures. It may be 20 days per summer of extreme temperatures. And we have to take the appropriate actions to actually live with those conditions."

Courtesy The Australian and ABC Lateline

Stud owners redress overclearance

By TANIA KEARNEY

Wool producers and breeders throughout the state's sheep industry would be familiar with highly respected Lucernbrae Poll Merino Stud in Callington.

What they and many others may not know is that for the past 10 years, owners Judy and Keith Paech have been on a mission of a different kind – and it doesn't include a new breeding technique for their 1600 ewes.

The Paechs have been trying, like many other generational landholders, to redress overclearance of properties by their forebears; spending considerable time, effort and money to enhance their properties through revegetation and remnant bush protection.

Lucernbrae, a 1200 hectare mixed farming property, has been in the Paech family since Keith's father bought it in 1947. They have gradually increased their holdings and now run a mixture of cropping (wheat, barley, oats, lucerne), 50 beef cattle, 1600 breeding ewes, 700 ewe lambs and Judy's 103 "pet wethers".

Judy said initially, a problematic area of Horehound weed and sections of granite-laden land led them to forge links with Landcare and start investigating ways of revegetating areas of their property.

Since then they have placed 140 hectares of native bushland under Heritage Agreement and, according to Judy, have undertaken direct seeding and planting in several areas.

"It's such a beautiful property and I guess our ultimate aim is to leave it in a better condition than when we started here. A lot has been overcleared and overgrazed, which is the case with most properties, so if we can leave it a bit more 'treed' then we'll be happy," Judy said.

Their desire to revegetate

but lack time to plant seedlings led to the Paech's contacting Trees For Life to undertake direct seeding on an exposed hill-top site. The four-hectare area, which is bordered on one side by a disused quarry, was direct seeded under the Carbon Neutral program in July 2008.

Species selected

A mixture of large and fine seeded species of local provenance seed was chosen for the area including *Acacia argyrophylla*, *A. calamifolia*; *A. menzliei*, *A. pycnantha*, *A. retinodes*, *Allocasuarina verticillata*, *Dodonaea viscosa spatulata*, *Callitris gracilis*, *Eucalyptus odorata*, *E. fasciculosa*, *E. leucoxylon* and *E. porosa*.

According to Carbon Neutral Operations Manager Dennis Hayles, the dominant vegetation association is defined as Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) Grassy Woodland, which the Australian Government recently listed as "critically endangered".

"Focusing revegetation efforts in these areas will not only help to buffer and link the fragmented remaining stands of remnant vegetation, but also provide biodiverse habitat for local fauna and flora and lessen wind and gully erosion," Dennis said.

Germination results of the direct seeding to date have been very promising, despite the area being the driest Judy's ever seen it.

And, as well as being well on their way to revegetating the site, an added advantage of the plantings is the fact it has been done under the Carbon Neutral program. Based on this four hectares alone, the 2008 planting (with a 100-year protective covenant) will sequester more than 560 tonnes of CO₂.

Now that's what's called a win-win for the environment!

Seed drying a vital part of program

Trees For Life would like to thank JAG industries for supplying us with enough greenhouse film to build an additional hothouse for drying our seed.

TFL's Direct Seeding Program requires approximately 300kg of native seed each year for its project works.

Seed is collected by removing branches of trees laden with mature fruit (*Eucalyptus* and *Melaleuca* gum nuts), or in the case of *Acacias*, the pods are removed using a plastic rake and drop sheet.

The material is desiccated in a drying tunnel to force open the fruits, allowing their seed to fall on to plastic sheets. *Acacia* pods, while mature and generally quite dry at harvest, are also further dried to reduce moisture before processing and storage.



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2009 seed collecting workshops (SC1)

Fri	Feb 27	Stirling
Wed	Apr 15	Belair

2009 group seed collecting days (SD1)

Fri	Mar 6	meet Birdwood 8.45am
Tues	Mar 24	meet Monarto Zoo
Tues	Apr 21	meet Myponga
Mon	May 25	meet Mt Compass

2009 Bush For Life workshops (B1)

Bush regeneration is about looking after the bushland we have left, using minimal disturbance strategies and techniques to help it repair itself. It can be extremely rewarding lending the bush a helping hand and seeing the native vegetation spring back.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer on one of our Bush For Life sites or would like to learn more about management of your own bushland then come along to an Introductory Bush For Life workshop.

This year we are offering both daytime and evening workshops for your convenience. See our website for more information on the Bush For Life program and its workshops

Thurs	Apr 16	Stirling
Tues	Apr 21	Strathalbyn
Sat	May 9	Murray Bridge
Thurs	May 14	Happy Valley
Sat	May 16	Goolwa
Sat	May 23	Tea Tree Gully
Thurs	Jun 11 (evening)*	Brooklyn Park
Thurs	Jun 18 (evening)*	Brooklyn Park
Tues	Jun 16	Mount Barker
Thurs	Jun 25	Belair
Sat	Jun 27	Aldinga

* Brooklyn Park evening workshop comprises 2 sessions of 2 hours (6-8pm) plus a field trip to be arranged at a mutually convenient time). Attendees must be able to attend both dates (June 11 & 18).

(Further workshop dates to follow subject to funding)

Phone 8406 0500 to register for either workshop or collecting days.



Phillip Endersby, Bunti Pellen and Phil Booth enjoy a chat at the TFL Christmas Party.



Robin Devore, Carol Cox-Devore and Kay Homes catching up at the TFL Christmas Party.

2008 Volunteer Christmas party

(recipients pictured below).

Thanks to everyone who attended, brought food to share and helped with the clean-up.

A big thank you must go to the Adelaide Convention Centre, UniFresh and Skala Bakery for their catering assistance, the City of West Torrens for their loan of equipment and the City of Mitcham for their donation towards expenses.

Thank you also to those members who nominated people for the Tree Awards.

The 2008 TFL Volunteer Christmas party was celebrated by more than 160 people in November last year.

This annual event provides us with the opportunity to thank all of our valuable volunteers and supporters for their tireless efforts throughout the year, and also features our Thank You Tree Awards



2008 Thank You Tree Award recipients, from L-R at back, Lyn Bartlett, Mike Bartlett, Joy Forrest, Donna Bagshaw, Emmanuel Chubaka, James Hickey, Jon Kirwan, Malcolm Woods and Graham Garfoot. At front L-R Nadia Vernari, Roy Caldwell, Lee-Ann Palm, Laima Guscia, Helen Pryor, Jane Duguid, Natasha Kapulski and Carole Pinnock.



First time volunteer grower Jaya enjoys watering her seedlings.

A report from the backyard

By JAYA SHEVLIN, aged 11

A couple of weeks after filling the black tubes with soil with my family, my dad and I were on the lookout for a table that would hold the six boxes which my tubes were in. Every Wednesday dad drops my sister and I to our Nana and Grandpa's house and they drop us to school. One day when my dad was driving to my Nana and Grandpa's, dad spotted a fairly large table frame with two pieces of wood on top on the side of the road. Dad and I thought it would be a perfect frame to hold the boxes. We could not pick it up and put it in the boot of car because it was too big. That afternoon dad and I came back to pick the table frame up, we brought dad's trailer and when dad and I put the table frame in the trailer it fitted perfectly. Then we both popped into my Nana and Grandpa's house, and Grandpa gave us some of his spare metal racks. The next day dad attached the metal racks to the table frame and there we made ourselves a table.

That afternoon dad and I planted the Acacia and the Allocasuarina seeds; I found it very interesting how such a tiny, little seed turns into a

big, strong tree. Something I have also found interesting was how fast it took those little seeds to grow until they became little shoots. A couple of weeks later, dad and I planted the Eucalyptus seeds and only in a few days to a week later the shoots were already up facing the bright sun. I have also enjoyed watering my plants, I have found it relaxing and enjoyable.

Trees for mum

Are you stuck for gift ideas for Mothers Day? Consider a Gift of Trees certificate from TFL. For \$25, 10 local native seedlings will be planted in her honour and she will receive a gift certificate (similar to Peter below, celebrating his recent 1st birthday).

To find out more log onto www.treesforlife.org.au.



Calendar a huge success

The TFL calendar just seems to get better each year. Not only was the latest edition a complete sellout, we also received complimentary feedback from calendar recipients overseas. TFL Honorary Life members Dennis and Carolyn recently emailed us with the following:

"For the last two years we have sent a Trees For Life calendar to our friends Norma and Herman in Holland. Norma is an Australian living in Holland and they both have an interest in Australian flora and fauna. Both are very good photographers and Norma is an amateur artist. So to their comment:

The calendar is even more beautiful than last year. Seldom have we seen such beautiful photographs. Herman says he is going to frame the one of the owls. It took me a long time to see more than two owls."

The theme for 2010's calendar is SA native plants living in wetland, coastal and river environments. Photographs must be a minimum of 300dpi and in landscape format. Reduced versions can initially be emailed to taniak@treesforlife.org.au. Keep up the great work capturing our beautiful SA environment!

Tree guard giveaway

We have tree guards and used coreflute guards to give away to TFL members who ordered seedlings last year and will be planting in 2009.

The tree guards were kindly donated to TFL last year and contain 200 plastic sleeves per roll (max 1 rolls per member).

Stakes are not included, but can be purchased from various retailers including JA Grigson on 8384 3177.

If you'd like some free guards contact TFL on 8406 0500.



TFL Family Fun Day

Members of TFL and their families and friends are warmly invited to join us for a family day and bbq picnic at Greenhills Adventure Park on Sunday 5th April 2009.

Bring some picnic food to share and a chair or rug, and TFL will supply a bbq. From a maze to water slides to volleyball, there should be something for everyone!

The special entry price of \$15 is available through TFL, but you must book and pay by 30th March (see registration details on the letter accompanying the newsletter or can be downloaded from our website).

Additionally we have 2 family passes to give away - get in quick for these, first in best dressed!

Youth team update

After months of preparation the TFL Youth Action Project Team's Quiz Night was held on Friday February 6. The night was an outstanding success, with a full house (170 people) despite the hot conditions.

With lots of non-TFL members in attendance and raising over \$2500 in funds it was a great result overall.

Many thanks to all our generous sponsors, the Irish Club for allowing us to host the evening and our MC Daryl who did a fantastic job. The night was so popular that we've decided to run another quiz night next year, so stay tuned!

If you'd like more information about the Youth Action Project Team contact Carly at TFL on carlyg@treesforlife.org.au.

Trees For Life

Trees For Life, 5 May Tce, Brooklyn Park 5032
 Ph: (08) 8406 0500; Fax: (08) 8406 0599
 info@treesforlife.org.au; www.treesforlife.org.au

Trees For Life Board

President - David Mitchell
 Vice President - Mary-Anne Healy
 Treasurer - David Bradley
 Secretary - Megan Harper
 Board Members - David Grybowski, Warren Hilton,
 Jonathan Lambert and Michael Cain

Trees For Life Key Contacts

Chief Executive Officer - Carmel Dundon
 Office Manager - Alison Platt
 Tree Scheme Manager - Maureen Redfern
 Bush For Life Manager - Mark Ellis
 Direct Seeding Manager - David Hein
 CN Operations (Land) - Dennis Hayles
 Seedbank Manager - Bruce Smith
 Membership - Carly Gowers
 Sponsorship - Glenys Perri
 Communications - Tania Kearney
 Fundraising - Bernie Omodei

Trees For Life Rural Contacts

<i>Gawler</i>	Sylvia Nieuwenhuizen	8406 8419
<i>Noarlunga</i>	Graham Greaves	8386 1018
<i>Willunga</i>	Joyce West	8323 7513
	Paul Rosser	8323 8189
<i>Mt Gambier</i>	Briony Schleuniger	8724 9759
<i>Mt Pleasant</i>	Ruth Charlesworth	8524 6661
<i>Clare</i>	Dean Schubert	8843 4317

Useful contacts

NRM Board Contacts

<i>Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges</i>	Kym Good	8273 9100
<i>Alinytjara Wilurara</i>	Lorraine Rosenberg	8357 3880
<i>Eyre Peninsula</i>	Kate Clarke	8682 5655
<i>Kangaroo Island</i>	Jeanette Gellard	8553 4300
<i>Northern & Yorke</i>		8636 2361
<i>South Australian Arid Lands</i>	John Gavin	8648 5194
<i>South Australian</i>		
<i>Murray-Darling Basin</i>	John Johnson	8532 1432
<i>South East</i>	Hugo Hopton	8724 6000

Local native seed & seedling suppliers

<i>Trees For Life</i>	8406 0500
<i>Blackwood Seeds - Fleurieu Peninsula, Mid North, Adelaide Hills & Murray Mallee</i>	8558 8288
<i>Northern Lofty Native Seeds - Northern Lofty provenance.</i>	Ph 8566 3073 Fax 8566 3630
<i>Provenance Indigenous Nursery - Adelaide coast, plains and hills</i>	8345 0300
<i>Themeda - Adelaide Plains</i>	8352 6778
<i>Wirrascape - Aldinga Plains</i>	8557 4173
<i>Fleurieu Natives - Adelaide Hills and South Coast</i>	8556 9167
<i>Yorke Seeds - Yorke Peninsula</i>	8853 1120
<i>Eucaleuca Native Services - South East</i>	8762 2061
<i>Growing Bush - Southern Mt Lofty Ranges & South Adelaide</i>	0427 722 979
<i>Alexandrina Community Nursery - Southern Fleurieu and South Coast</i>	8554 2555
<i>Eyre Native Seeds - Eyre Peninsula & Far West</i>	8682 6233
<i>Barossa Bushgardens - Barossa region</i>	0448 676 348
<i>Natural State - Mallee, Riverland, Adelaide Hills, South Coast, South East (www.naturalstate.com.au)</i>	8572 3049
<i>South Para Biodiversity Project - Yvonne Gravier</i>	0430 018 007

DEH Bush Management Program

The Department for Environment and Heritage is divided into two broad functional areas in relation to the conservation of Biodiversity: Park Management and Biodiversity Conservation. Phone Bush Management advisers on (08) 8222 9311.

AMLR Land Management Program

The Land Management Program is an education and advisory service provided to the rural landholders of the Mount Lofty Ranges and the Fleurieu Peninsula. Through the program, rural landholders can participate in low-cost education courses, and demonstration field days, and receive one-on-one farm advice. Phone (08) 8391 7500.

Murray River LAP

Local Action Planning groups undertake education and training programs, catchment monitoring, improved property management, wetland management and revegetation. Assistance is provided by way of direct funding or advice on technical, financial, engineering and contractual matters. Phone: (08) 8582 4477.

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Helping to cook the TFL volunteers barbecue is the Adelaide Convention Centre's Melanie Gowers and helper Mat Carneiro.

Convention Centre comes to the party

Trees For Life would like to thank the Adelaide Convention Centre and its staff,

award-winning chef Melanie Gowers and Tze Khaw, for their help at our volunteer party on November 26.

Thank you also goes to UniFresh and Skala for supplying salads and bread for the party.

ETSA workers give to TFL

Trees For Life is delighted to be ETSA Utilities' Employee Foundation's chosen charity for the environmental sector.

Donated funds will sponsor a Bush For Life site, supporting two fully trained volunteers to care for a valuable patch of bushland.

Through the Foundation, ETSA employees donate funds through a workplace giving arrangement that are matched \$ for \$ by ETSA Utilities. Fundraising efforts include lamington drives, casual days, movie nights and quiz nights.



Register for our badge day

Trees For Life will be holding a badge/fundraising day in the CBD to coincide with National Tree Day on Friday July 31.

We need as many volunteers as possible to help us raise awareness of our work and to raise funds.

Can you spare a few hours of your time?

Register your interest by phoning 8406 0500.

Can you help?

Do you work for an organisation or know of a business who may be interested in supporting our work through sponsorship?

TFL has various sponsorship levels available that can be tailored to suit specific requirements including conservation sponsor, special events sponsorship and program sponsorship. Support of TFL can help position your business as an environmentally aware operator and helps fund our commitment to education, training, and volunteer support.

For all enquiries contact Glenys Perri glenysp@treesforlife.org.au



Disclaimer

Trees For Life takes no responsibility for the services or products featured in its quarterly magazine, ReLeaf.

Thank you!

Trees For Life would like to thank Baker's Delight in Fulham Gardens, and Baa Moo Oink, Kidman Park, for kindly donating food for our Nursery Open Day on February 11.



Trees For Life Sponsorship Manager Glenys Perri, left, accepts the cheque from ETSA Utilities' Employee Foundation's Executive Officer Jim McCartney.

POSITION VACANT – BUSHCARER

Casual bush regeneration position available, predominately in the Barossa Valley & Northern Foothills.

Suitable candidate must have experience in spot spraying, drill and fill, brushcutter/ chainsaw use and have good plant ID skills.

Must be fit & strong enough to cope with such work.

Please contact:

bushcare@aussiebroadband.com.au

or

PO Box 871 Williamstown, SA, 5351.



Maggie the magpie by Hannah

Great giveaway

To celebrate our 6th edition of Kids Branch we've got some fantastic prizes to give away!

Our mascot Maggie wants to hear about any of your environmental stories. Maybe you've got beautiful drawings of Maggie flying or feeding that you could send in, or perhaps you've got some funny environmental jokes we can share? Send in your entries to either 5 May Terrace, Brooklyn Park 5032 or email kids@treesforlife.org.au.

Carly

Students help and learn

Last year Trees For Life was pleased to have several visit requests from schools. In our last edition of Kids Branch we showed you some work by the Lockleys North Primary School.

In November Sue from the Bush For Life program paid a visit to both Hahndorf and Macclesfield Primary Schools. Sue gave the students a demonstration on how to get rid of the weed Monadenia from native bushland. Some of the great student work is featured, and is also on our website.

Earlier in 2008 both Loretto College and St Peters Girls School helped raise funds for our work by holding a student casual day. In return for a gold coin donation students could choose to receive either a TFL sticker or ribbon. If you would like more information about this for your school email kids@treesforlife.org.au.

Lookout Monadenia...

by Lewis & Jack, from Hahndorf Primary School

On Thursday the 6th of November 2008, Rooms 10 and 3 went to Yantaringa to pick Monadenia Orchids. These orchids are weeds from Africa that are overpopulating Australia. They are green with about 40-100 little purple and yellow flowers.

We walked with our buddies along Pine Avenue past the oval to Yantaringa. When we got there, Sue from Trees For Life talked to us about the Monadenia. Our shoes were sprayed with methylated spirits and we started searching for the Monadenia Orchid. Isaac found an orchid approximately 40 cm long.

In total we got about 1000 plants. After that we walked back to school.

Overall it was a good day.



Drawing by Holly

Why trees?

Whether it's planting them or saving them, you may ask why are trees so important? Trees are in fact one of the world's most valuable resources and are vital to our existence.

Trees are responsible for one of the most important processes on the planet - the production of oxygen. They take in the stuff we don't want (the carbon dioxide) and pump out the stuff we do want (oxygen).

Trees roots bind soil together holding in vital nutrients and minerals.

Trees provide shelter and food for millions of species of birds and animals.



Drawing by Danielle

Sue helped us cut out monadenia

Did you know?

Did you know that the tallest living tree in the world measures in at 115.55m high? This tree is a coast redwood named 'Hyperion' that lives in Redwood National Park in California. It is believed to be 'only' 600 years old, and was discovered and given the title of 'tallest living tree' in 2006, after a brave man climbed it and dropped a measuring tape from the top. An Australian tree, mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), found on Mt Baw Baw in Victoria held this record in the late 1880s standing as high as 143m - that is higher than the Sydney Harbour

Bridge! Mountain ash is the tallest of all flowering plants and, appropriately, the species name 'regnans' comes from the Latin word for ruling.

Quiz: True or False? Write X for your answer.

- True False
The number of growth rings is used to estimate the height of a tree.
- True False
Some individual trees have been recorded to have lived for over 5000 years.
- True False
Coast redwood seeds are about the same size as tomato seeds.