



The Bush For Life program

Community volunteers regenerating bushland



The bush needs your help

The bushland you love is struggling to survive. Feral plants and animals are pushing out native species, agriculture and housing surrounds isolated islands of bushland, and human activities are encroaching and damaging those patches.

What you can do

Every patch of bush needs a friend or two. Our bushland can regain its vitality with the help of those who understand and appreciate its intrinsic value. The best way to secure its long-term survival is to use natural processes to allow it to heal and regenerate itself.

Volunteers in the Bush For Life program learn about our vanishing ecosystems and how minimal disturbance bush regeneration techniques encourage natural regeneration of plant communities and the animals they support.

Will you join us?



Step One: Attend a workshop

At a one-day Bush For Life workshop you will learn:

- why the bush needs your help
- the best strategies for restoring ecological processes
- minimal disturbance techniques
- how to work safely in the bush
- how you can get involved as a Bush For Life volunteer



Step Two: Choose what you want to do



Participate in a group activity

For those who like to work with other like-minded people, we offer regular small group activities in a range of bush locations. Group activities are supported by a Bush For Life supervisor who helps the group undertake bushcare work for a few hours or up to a whole day. You will be given equipment, safety gear and guidance for the task at hand. This is a great way to learn new skills, see new bushland sites and meet others. If you choose a full-day Bush Action Team activity not close to your home, you can catch the BAT Bus from TFL headquarters at Brooklyn Park.

Adopt a site

If you want to 'adopt' a site and commit to it for more than a one-off activity, we can allocate you one of our many bush regeneration sites, in a location convenient to you. One of our Regional Coordinators will introduce you to your site, discuss a site plan, supply you with basic bush regeneration tools and safety gear, and get you started. You can work alone or with others, visiting the site at your own pace, and in your own time. We recommend a minimum commitment of three hours a month to ensure the site is receiving appropriate attention. Your Regional Coordinator will guide you, replenish supplies and if needed, organise a group activity to help you tackle a persistent problem.

Work on your own bushland

If you own a bush block you may be interested in taking part in our Private Lands Program. In return for a commitment to use your new bush regeneration skills on your bushland, our Regional Coordinator will help you with species lists, technical advice, and basic bush regeneration tools and safety gear. We can organise a group activity or offer your site as an option for a volunteer if you want more help with your work.



Step Three: Learn more

Bush For Life offers opportunities for continuous learning. Discover more about the plants and animals that inhabit the bush, and the weeds that threaten them. Understand and use the best techniques to get the natives regenerating and defeat invasive weeds. You can also attend Bush For Life advanced workshops, which cover topics such as native plant and grass identification, advanced bush management techniques, brushcutting for biodiversity and lots more.

Individual Carer

Dean has been caring for his Bush For Life site on Research Road, Strathalbyn since 2005. The site is an unmade road reserve owned by the Alexandrina Council that contains important remnant vegetation. Trees For Life works with the council to protect and manage the vegetation. Dean is looking forward to seeing the long term improvements his bush regeneration works bring, especially since the site has been closed to traffic. Dean is seeing a real change in the diversity of understorey plants and native grasses, thanks to his bush regeneration work.

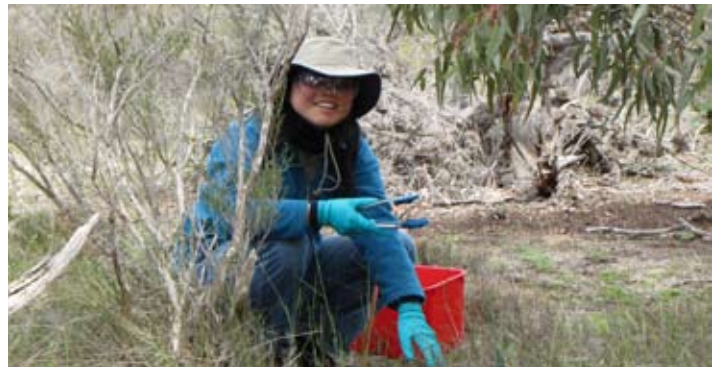


Working as a Group

Getting a group of friends, colleagues or teammates together to adopt a Bush For Life site is a great thing to do. After attending a Bush For Life course, members of the 'Ayn Academy' adopted Bridgewater Reserve in the Adelaide Hills and now visit once a month with a Bush For Life Regional Coordinator to do a morning's bush regeneration work. "It's wonderful to have been allocated a site to look after," Sumeja said. "This enables all of us to connect better with our patch of land and feel like we are indeed doing our bit for environmental conservation."

Bush Action Team participant

Working with others in a group and visiting a different site every time suits Ting. She chooses activities that suit her schedule from a program of activities Bush For Life produces each season. Ting says "It's a great way to see different types of bushland, not only that, it's heartwarming being with like-minded people." Bush For Life also runs occasional extended three-day trips for groups to do bush regeneration works on our sites on the Yorke Peninsula or in the Murray Mallee.



Private Landholder

Glenyss and Bob own 50 hectares of stringy bark woodland near Inman Valley and are part of the Bush For Life Private Lands Program. Although they live in the city, they visit their block regularly to use their bush regeneration skills, eradicating invasive weeds and helping restore the bush to health. They welcome other volunteers onto their land too. Trees For Life can help participating private landholders by organising teams of volunteers to help with occasional on-ground works.



Bush For Life achievements

The Bush For Life program has more than 300 established sites across South Australia in the Mount Lofty Ranges, Murray-Darling Basin, the Yorke Peninsula and the Mid North, covering more than 3400 hectares of native vegetation.

Over 700 active volunteers contribute over 35,000 hours of on-ground works each year. That's equivalent to over \$1 million worth of in-kind contribution to the management of South Australia's bushland each year.

Funding and Partnerships

The Bush For Life program works across three Natural Resources Management regions and 23 Local Government districts in SA on both public and private bushland.

The program is funded through contributions from Natural Resources Management Boards, our Local Government and Corporate partners, Trees For Life members, sponsors, and other grant and funding bodies.

In particular we wish to thank the following organizations for their ongoing funding support:

Adelaide City, Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, The Barossa, Clare & Gilbert Valleys, Light Regional, Wakefield Regional and Mid Murray Councils, the Cities of Burnside, Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, Onkaparinga, Playford, Pt Adelaide & Enfield, Tea Tree Gully and Victor Harbor and the District Councils of Mallala, Mt Barker, the Rural City of Murray Bridge, the Town of Gawler; Office for Recreation and Sport, Dept. Transport, Energy & Infrastructure, SA Water and ElectraNet.

Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board

South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board

Native Vegetation Council of South Australia



Contact Details

If you'd like more information on the Bush For Life program including dates for upcoming Introductory Bush Management workshops or the Private Lands Program, please contact:

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