

ReLeaf

SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE OF OUR HOME

Bushcare
highlights

Protecting
precious local
patches



Become
a Bush
Guardian



TreesForLife

A Trees For Life Publication Autumn 2024 Issue 169



A message from our president

Welcome to autumn, a time when our native plants usually come out of their summer holding pattern, and, if conditions are right, put on some growth before winter. Mirrored at Trees For Life, our worksites are humming with new-year energy as everyone prepares for another productive year.

Natasha has started a three-month sabbatical as part of her and the broader organisation's development, awarded through the Social Impact Leadership Australia (SILA) program, a national capacity building and leadership program designed specifically for CEOs of Australian for-purpose organisations. During her three-month absence, senior program manager Vicki-Jo Russell has stepped up very ably as acting CEO. We look forward to Natasha returning with fresh skills, energy and insights.

Our autumn ReLeaf is focused on safeguarding our remaining precious nature. Through the Bush For Life Program, and other restoration activities, Trees For Life supporters have a proud history of being active bush guardians, which has inspired the Bush Guardian regular giving program proudly launched in this issue.

We also take the opportunity to introduce our team of Bush For Life Regional Coordinators and learn about why they are so passionate about the sites they work with volunteers to protect, as well as the impact of their work.

Our gratitude goes to everyone who generously contributed to our Christmas appeal and to those who have already joined as visionaries and regular givers. Everyone can make a difference and with your support we look to continue our vital work conserving and restoring habitats. Also worthy of celebration, Bush For Life turns 30 this year – look out for birthday festivities in spring.

In our role as guardians, the Trees For Life board has been working on a new strategic plan. The plan has a simple but powerful vision: *Thriving landscapes that support a diversity of life*. The many ways Trees For Life goes about achieving this vision is summed up in our purpose statement: *We conserve and restore South Australian landscapes so nature can flourish*. We trust this rings true with your shared values and aspirations for what we do together. We look forward to sharing the plan with you in the next winter edition. 🌿

Dr John Virtue
President

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Trees For Life acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of our land and waters and we pay our respects to Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that First Nations peoples have to Country.

Cover photo: Courtesy of Peter Watton.





Restoring our landscapes

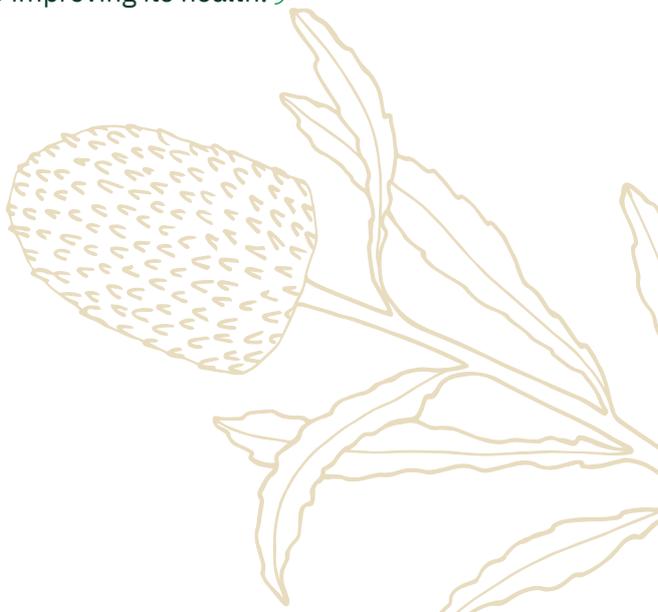
Bushland conservation

Bush For Life

Bush For Life continues to harness the power of volunteers to protect and restore precious fragments of bushland which are home to our native plants and animals.

In 2023 the Bush For Life team had another busy and successful year, with 145 days of supervised activities, including nearly 70 people attending for the first time as 'Come and Try' participants.

We're incredibly grateful to our partners and to our wonderful volunteers who love South Australia's bushland and dedicate so much time to improving its health. 🌿



1,382
registered
Bush For Life
volunteers



240
Bush For Life
sites



530
'adopt-a-site'
bushcarers



66
people attended a
Bush Action Team
day for the first time



969
activities supervised
by our professional
field officers



29,150
hours of
volunteer
bushcare



16
planting days with
over 300 volunteers

Protecting precious local patches

Bushcarers hold the line, and tip the balance back in favour of our natural ecosystems, which are unique globally and perfectly adapted to the local conditions.

By removing the invasive non-native plants, bushcarers remove the pressure on native species allowing them to thrive and reproduce. We return our forests, woodlands and grasslands to health which then ensures habitats for our native wildlife.

“**People are part of our native ecosystems and trained bushcarers are guarding the future of our precious natural world.**”

We are proud to introduce you to our Bush For Life Regional Coordinators and learn about what’s special about the places they are helping to protect. 🌿

Regional Coordinators

The image shows a map of Victoria, Australia, divided into several regions. Each region is color-coded and has a small circle indicating a Bush For Life site. Lines connect these sites to portrait photos of the regional coordinators. The coordinators and their regions are:

- Megan Lock** (Western Districts)
- Randall Bates** (South West)
- Holly Price** (Central Highlands)
- Tiffany Jamieson** (South East)
- Elisha Brunton** (North East)
- Mark Hardham** (Central Victoria)
- Tamara Horsnell** (East Gippsland)
- Cory Nicholas** (South East)

Legend: ○ = Bush For Life site

The City of Adelaide Council sites are important because there is very little remnant vegetation left within this council area. They are like a museum of native plants. The South Terrace, South Parklands site is starting to become a good representation of what the area looked like and contained before European settlement.

According to leading South Australian botanist Ann Prescott OAM, the Greenhill Road site contains some of the best pre-European records of the vegetation on the Adelaide Plains.

– Randall

My 'Why' is to give a voice to all the trees, shrubs, grasses, herbs, lilies, birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, fungi and microorganisms that don't have one in this ever-threatened landscape. Bush For Life Regional Coordinators are presented with the opportunity to showcase these beautiful ecosystems to the general public, who may not know they exist, and educate them on how to care for them. We connect people with nature and can help foster that appreciation and deeper understanding for what's all around us.

We have a responsibility to protect these areas, as once they disappear, there is no way to get them back. Most of these sites hold answers to questions we haven't even thought of yet. The history and knowledge held within the interconnectedness of these sites is limitless. What a disappointment and enormous loss it would be to see them disappear.

– Holly

The City of Mitcham is predominately made up of Grey Box Grassy Woodland, which is classified as an Endangered Ecological Community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of 1999. Originally widespread across south-eastern Australia, there is less than 10–15% of remnant vegetation remaining.

– Tamara

Outside of Conservation and National Parks, SA Water catchment reserves contain some of the largest patches of remnant vegetation in the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges. Aside from the ecosystem services (clean air and water) that these catchments provide to humans, the multitude and diversity of species present there are of significant value as a collective. I am thankful that SA Water's long-term commitment to the Bush For Life program has given me the opportunity to take a role in stewardship, contributing to the preservation of such important pieces of bush.

Adelaide Hills Council recognises that many people choose to live in the area because of the direct connection to nature their location provides. Bush For Life's role in the area is about sharing that connection with as many people as possible. We aim to educate people about the incredible biodiversity in their backyard and inspire them to contribute to preserving the important genetics provided within.

– Mark

97% of Light Regional Council is primary production land, with parklands encompassing just 1% of the council's area. Protecting and preserving the small amount of remnant vegetation in the area is critical, not only for biodiversity but also for allowing residents an opportunity to connect with nature.

Barabba Scrub is the only Bush For Life site within the Adelaide Plains Council. It is a small sanctuary for our native wildlife, which is surrounded by crops as far as the eye can see. Recent surveys conducted by the Town of Gawler have shown that Willaston Cemetery Bush For Life sites have the highest biodiversity areas within the council district. It is important to maintain a high level of biodiversity to help support native fauna in the area.

Tea Tree Gully has a large number of remnant vegetation sites; however, most are small and all are spread between urban developments. It is important to maintain these sites in order for species to move freely between areas to allow for pollination and diversity.

– Megan

I feel very privileged to work on the sites across three councils and many different ecosystems, from the stringybark forests in the hills (a vegetation association in sharp decline across the state) to the delicate intertidal samphire flats of Hindmarsh Island. Due to land clearance for agriculture and development, many of these sites are the last examples of local intact and diverse ecosystems and refuges for rare and endangered species. It is my hope that from these islands of biodiversity, habitats in the surrounding areas can be improved and increased to ensure the future of the beautiful and unique biology of SA.

– Cory

Bush For Life sites through Southern Onkaparinga range from woodland to coastal ecosystems, providing irreplaceable sources of food and habitat to our native fauna. These spaces are an open classroom for everyone to come and see how remnant vegetation can thrive with the right kind of care and showcase rare and uncommon flora, mosses and fungi (even some that glow!).

Bush For Life sites at Marion are home to phenomenal open grassland areas, which are a core ecosystem in South Australia. Native grasses act as a natural erosion control measure with deep root systems and play a huge role in balancing soil health. Grasses support our native ground-dwelling pollinators, who, in turn, pollinate native plants that common European honey bees can't.

Rare plants are tucked safely amongst remnant vegetation in Holdfast Bay's Bush For Life sites. Nurturing these spaces allows rare species to continue to spread and retain their genetic diversity, allowing them to adapt to changing environmental conditions. Ensuring these spaces within the busy urban environment are kept in good health secures a crucial source of food and habitat for our native fauna.

– Tiffany

Broadscale agricultural land clearance has left a handful of small, precious patches for our wildlife to take refuge in. These bushcare sites feature a complex system of plants and animals featuring towering gum trees, delicate endangered orchids, magnificent spring wildflowers and traditional bush foods. These sites are always filled with life, even during the harshest, driest northern summers, offering us a place of respite and connectivity.

Magnificent ocean views and sprawling tree-lined streets are not things that resonate with your first thoughts of Playford Council. The bushcare sites on the southern slopes of Hillbank invite you to escape the concrete jungle and bask underneath the shade of an ancient *Eucalyptus porosa* tree, watching the flailing swales of Kangaroo Grass while the tiny, insignificant cars drive the streets below. Immerse yourself in a different hustle and bustle — the one of birds, bees and leaves!

– Elisha 🌿



Help save our South Australian home

Healthy native remnant ecosystems have all the species, structural and genetic diversity to provide a variety of habitats and resources through time, as seasons change and as the climate changes. Only with the genetic diversity that exists in remnant ecosystems can species adapt and evolve.

It's the grasses, herbs, tiny plants and microscopic organisms that form the vast bulk of life on earth. The microbes in the soil are the drivers of our ecosystems; they keep the cycles of carbon and nitrogen functioning, they break down dead matter and maintain ecosystem health and function.

As with fauna, it's the tiny things, like the ants, worms and beetles that are critical for ecosystem processes such as nutrient cycles, pollination and seed dispersal. We are not able to propagate most of our tiny plants. Invertebrates once lost, cannot be recovered. These 'invisible' elements of ecosystems, are irreplaceable.

And this is WHY it's so critical that we protect and care for our remnant bushland. Everything that's needed is already there. It's functional; each element has a job to do and there are cascades so that losing one element will lead to losing the next and the next until our ecosystems, which we as humans and all living things depend on, are no longer able to support life.

Bushcare is about keeping our ecosystems healthy, which is ultimately about health care for generations to come. You can help safeguard the future of the land we all love. Providing loving care and protection to bring back balance.

WILL YOU HELP GUARD OUR HOME?

Tending to our precious bushland helps give all life the best chance to thrive and flourish by removing threats and restoring balance.

But we can't do this alone.

You can help by joining our passionate community of supporters who are dedicated to protecting our bushland for future generations.

Your monthly donation helps us to:

- provide protection for hundreds of precious patches of bush across the state.
- mobilise our teams of bushcarers to monitor and remove threats to the health of our bushland.
- plan ahead for the future.

Join us as a Bush Guardian so thousands of insects, birds, reptiles, trees, grasses, plants ...who rely on a healthy environment can survive and thrive.

Your support gives native animals and plants the best chance and helps ensure they have a future home by defending our most precious bushland.

We cannot afford to lose vital pieces of our home. Once they are gone...they are gone forever. 🌿

BECOME A BUSH GUARDIAN TODAY

\$20 per month helps protect local native plants and animals.

\$30 per month helps mobilise teams to care for precious bushland.

\$45 per month helps improve the health of native habitat.

With your love and support we can work together to safeguard the future of our home.

Visit treesforlife.org.au/bush-guardians or call us on 08 8406 0500.



BushGuardian

What's happening at Trees For Life?

ANNUAL GARDEN PLANT SALE

The Golden Everlasting (*Xerochrysum bracteatum*) is a striking native plant cherished for its vibrant appearance and ecological significance. Growing up to one meter tall, it boasts green or grey foliage and produces captivating golden yellow or white flower heads from spring to autumn. What makes these flowers unique is their papery bracts that resemble petals. Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the Golden Everlasting serves as a vital food source for numerous winged insects, including butterfly and moth larvae, while attracting adult butterflies, hoverflies, native bees, small beetles, and grasshoppers to its flower heads. Its adaptability is evident in its widespread distribution across various Australian habitats, from rainforest edges to deserts and subalpine regions.

In addition to this, we will also have plants suitable for larger properties, perfect for those who missed out on our last Tree Scheme order season. Trees For Life members receive a discount on all plants. To access great savings, join online at treesforlife.org.au.

Our Annual Garden Plant Sale will take place at Westwood Nursery on 13 – 15 June between 9 am and 1 pm. We'll be managing the number of people in the nursery at one time and bookings are essential. A list of garden plant species on sale will be available on our website by 7 June. Contact us for more details.

Image credit: *Xerochrysum bracteatum* by Denzel Murfet.

TREE SCHEME GROWERS: NEED BACKUP?

With May fast approaching, you should have an idea of the number of seedlings you'll have ready to hand over to your landholder for planting this winter. If you're growing for a landholder, it's important to make sure you fulfil their entire order. If you find you need more seedlings to meet their order, please get in touch to request backup seedlings. Backup seedlings will be ready to collect from our Westwood Nursery on 26 and 27 April from 10 am to 12 pm.

If you're growing for your own project, please note that not all grow-your-own species are available as backup. However, we'll do our best to find appropriate replacement species for your needs. We'll continue to manage the number of people in the nursery across our backup collection days. Bookings are essential. We'll send you a reminder and more details in early April. If you're unsure whether you require backup seedlings or if you have any questions about your growing activities, do not hesitate to contact us.



TREE SCHEME ORDERS: OPEN 1 MAY

Do you, or someone you know, need help with species selection and ordering low-cost native plants for a revegetation project? Our Tree Scheme staff are here to help. Whether your aim is to improve productivity on your property, increase biodiversity, provide food and homes for local wildlife, create windbreaks and shelter belts, attract pollinators, manage soil erosion – or all of the above – we can help you source the right native seedlings and provide all the expert advice and information you need.

If you ordered in the 2023 season, keep an eye out for your 2024 order form in early May. If you don't receive an order form or would like us to send you one, please call 08 8406 0500, and we'll send you a form for your area.

You'll also find more information about the Tree Scheme on our website. Subsidies on the cost of seedling orders are available to small community groups and schools in South Australia (if you're unsure whether you qualify, please get in touch). Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for updates. Orders are open from 1 May until 31 August 2024.

Subsidies on the cost of seedling orders are available to small community groups and schools, flood affected landholders in the Riverland and landholders with an ElectraNet easement in South Australia (if you're unsure whether you qualify, please get in touch).

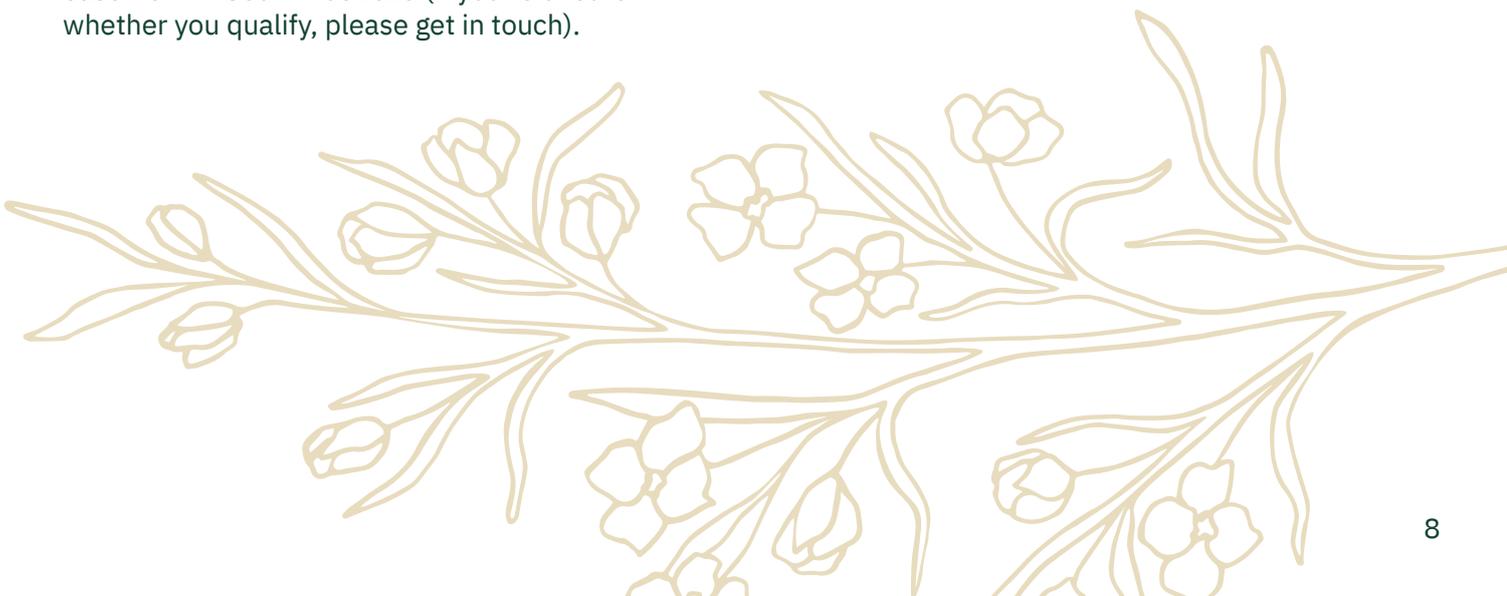
COMING SOON!

Do you manage land in the Adelaide Hills or Fleurieu Peninsula and want to see your native vegetation thrive? Coming soon – Caring for Native Vegetation Workshop Series. Participate in person or online. Workshops proudly presented by the Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu 'Stewardship Program', in partnership with Trees For Life. 🌿

EVENT DATES

Fleurieu	3 March	Fleurieu	5 May
Online	6 March	Adelaide Hills Central	17 May
Adelaide Hills North	15 March	Eastern Hills & Plains	31 May
Eastern Hills & Plains	13 April	Online	4 June
Online	2 May		

Visit the Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu website for more details and book via Eventbrite www.eventbrite.com/cc/caring-for-native-vegetation-workshops-3084899



WHAT'S ON

Please note: Dates are correct at the time of printing and are subject to change. Please check the advertised date closer to the event by calling our office or checking for updates on our website and Facebook page.

TREE SCHEME AND NURSERY

Back-up In: Volunteers deliver Tree Scheme back-up seedlings to Westwood Nursery Bookings essential	21 – 23 March 10 am – 12 pm
Introduction to Seed Collection Workshop – Southern Adelaide Hills *Free for Trees For Life members	12 April 9.30 am – 11.30 am
Back-up Out: Tree Scheme back-up seedlings available from Westwood Nursery Bookings essential	26, 27 April 10 am – 12 pm
Tree Scheme ordering season	1 May – 31 August
Westwood Nursery winter sowing ordering season	1 May – 31 July
Native Garden Workshop Westwood Nursery Bookings essential	25 May 10 am – 12.30 pm
Annual Native Plant Sale Westwood Nursery Bookings essential	13 – 15 June 9 am – 1 pm

BUSH FOR LIFE EVENTS

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer on one of our Bush For Life sites, or would like to learn more about managing your own bushland, come along to a Bushcare Workshop (these workshops are free for our members). Or come and try a Bush Action Team day.

BUSHCARE WORKSHOPS

Magill	12 March
Modbury	23 April
Clare	1 May

BUSH ACTION TEAM DAYS

Belair	4 April	Littlehampton	10 May
Port Noarlunga	6 April	Williamstown	14 May
Onkaparinga Hills	10 April	Belair or Morialta	20 May
Mitcham	12 April	Ashton	24 May
Tanunda	16 April	Belair or Morialta	26 May
Happy Valley	18 April	Wattle Park	30 May
Hallett Cove	20 April	Willunga Hill	1 June
Vista	24 April	Victor Harbor	3 June
Woodcroft	26 April	O'Sullivan Beach	7 June
Cromer	30 April	Williamstown	13 June
Littlehampton	2 May	Freeling	15 June
Hillbank	8 May		

PLANTING DAYS

West Beach	29 May	Banksia Park	11 June
Hillbank	30 May	St Agnes	19 June
Glenelg North	1 June	West Beach	26 June
Smithfield	8 June	Mt Osmond	27 June

REGENERATE IN THE ADELAIDE PARK LANDS

Nantu Wama (Park 6)	6 March	Tuthangga (Park 17)	22 April
Pakapakanthi (Park 16)	21 March	Adelaide Park Lands	2 May
Pakapakanthi (Park 16)	3 April	Nantu Wama (Park 6)	7 June
Tuthangga (Park 17)	12 April	Christie Walk, Sturt St	29 June



Continue your story

**BY LEAVING A GIFT
IN YOUR WILL**

Your support means we can grow more native seedlings, collect more seed for propagation and protect more of our incredible South Australian creatures and landscapes.

PLEASE TELL US

Please get in touch if you'd like more information, or if you've decided to leave a gift and want to let us know.

5 May Terrace, Brooklyn Park SA 5032

P: 08 8406 0500

E: info@treesforlife.org.au

W: treesforlife.org.au



**Scan here for
more information**



TreesForLife



THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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