



Bandicoot Superhighway Project WINTER NEWSLETTER

THE BANDICOOT SUPERHIGHWAY PROJECT HAS A NEW LOGO!

The logo was designed by **Allan Sumner**, a talented visual artist, musician and graphic designer, and director of Aboriginal Contemporary Arts (ACA Studios). Allan is a descendant of the Ngarrindjeri people of the lower Murray and lakes of the Murray River along the Coorong, the Kaurna people of the Adelaide plains and the Yankunytjatjara people of central Australia. Thank you to Allan and Amy Sumner (ACA coordinator) for your thoughtful and engaging design!

In Allan's words: *"The logo features the Southern Brown Bandicoot. The Bandicoot is represented in its natural habitat with dense low foliage. It's depicted showing its playful and inquisitive nature alongside two Superb Blue Wrens that live in the same environment. The archway above the Bandicoot represents the 7 partner organisations who make up the Bandicoot Superhighway Project. Between the 7 groups are the footprints of the Bandicoot representing its explorative nature and its revival as an endangered species throughout Adelaide Hills."*



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN 2022?

Wow, look what's been happening so far this year with the Bandicoot Superhighway Project!

- **Workshop 1:** Bandicoot ID and Monitoring, at the Upper Sturt Soldiers Memorial Hall/Belair NP
- **Workshop 2:** Bandicoot Habitat Management, at Stipiturus Conservation Park (CP) (Mt Compass)
- **New Project Logo!** Designed by Allan Sumner of Aboriginal Contemporary Arts (ACA Studios)
- **Community Planting Day:** Planting Bandicoot Habitat at Mark Oliphant CP
- **Project Presentation:** by Bec Duffield and Danny Rohrlach to the Field Naturalists Society
- **Project Presentation:** By Danny Rohrlach to the Friends of Private Bushland at Glenside
- **Camera Monitoring** reveals which critters are sneaking around your place — including bandicoots!
- **Habitat Assessments** of Private Properties for project funded weed control
- **Kangaroo Proof Fencing:** Installed at Mark Oliphant CP to protect new bandicoot habitat seedlings
- **Citizen Science:** Bandicoot Observation Portal nearing completion!

Bandicoot Workshops

WORKSHOP 1 (APRIL): BANDICOOT ID AND MONITORING

This workshop was held at Upper Sturt and was combined with a walk to look for signs of bandicoots. A project overview was provided by Danny Rohrlach (Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group) and information on how to survey and identify bandicoots, their habitat and diggings by Luke Price (Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, HFLB). The Bandi Bunch provided some useful tips on how to differentiate between native raspberry and introduced blackberry and discussed trapping methods and 'iBandi' citizen science. Darren Kennedy (Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare) discussed remote cameras and new machine learning software called eVorta. Darren also provided a demonstration on how to set up and use the cameras. We had a great turnout of 42 people. All were keen to learn about bandicoot recovery and how the community and our project can work together.



WORKSHOP 2 (MAY): BANDICOOT HABITAT MANAGEMENT

An enthusiastic group of 54 landholders and community members gathered at Stipiturus Conservation Park (outside Mt Compass) to learn about managing bandicoot habitat on their properties. Danny Rohrlach (Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group) gave an introduction to the project and Luke Price from the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board (HFLB) talked about Bandicoot ecology.

Then we moved into stringybark where Elisa Sparrow (Green Adelaide) showed the group where and how to set up remote cameras to check for bandicoots on their property. After some delicious morning tea, Jacqui Best (HFLB) shared her tools of the trade for managing different weeds and Tom Kloeden (HFLB) showed the group some deer tracks and rat tunnels and taught us how to identify deer, sheep, rabbit and roo scats. Workshop participants were also provided with information on how to manage grazing pressure from animals like roos, from Luke Price (HFLB). The weather was absolutely perfect until the 3pm downpour! Thanks to all those who joined us for the day.

Here is the [FeralScan](https://www.feralscan.org.au/) link for reporting deer, goat or other feral animals: www.feralscan.org.au/



Community Events

INCREASING BANDICOOT HABITAT AT MARK OLIPHANT CP

On the 2nd and 3rd of July, 110 dedicated volunteers joined us at a very chilly Mark Oliphant CP to help with the mammoth task of planting over 13,300 seedlings! The ~1.4 ha revegetation area we planted out was previously overrun by invasive weeds. Prior to the planting day, the site was prepared and weeds removed. Kangaroo proof fencing has also been erected to ensure seedling survival. A mix of species were used that will create dense heath and a low dense habitat along the watercourse, as this is important for bandicoots. We were excited to plant out 168 native raspberry plants among the other native plant species, and we look forward to monitoring how this patch grows and provides habitat for bandicoots. A huge shout out to our amazing volunteers!

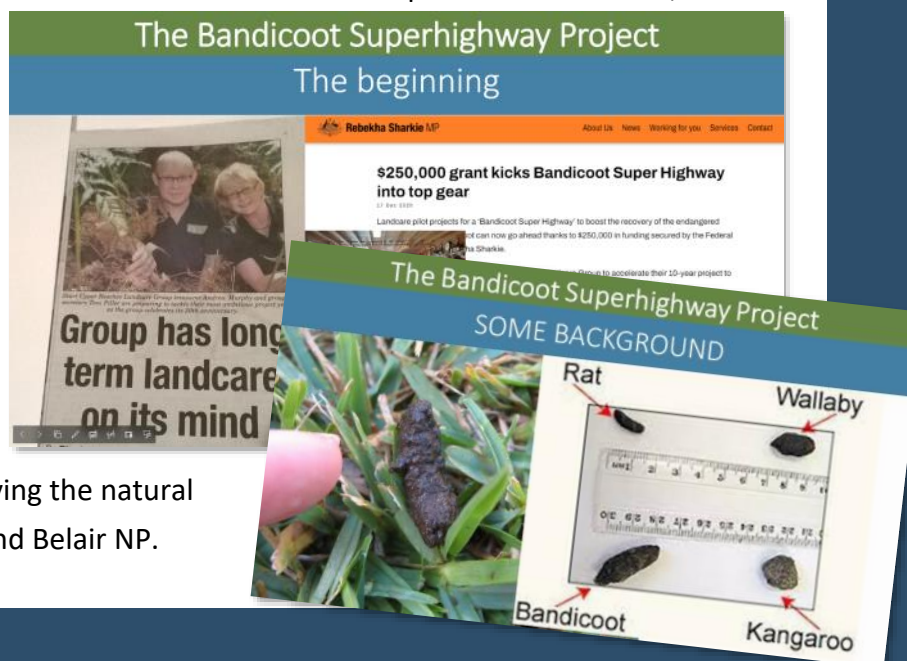


SPREADING THE WORD - BSH PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Bec Duffield (NCSSA) and Danny Rohrlach (Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group) gave a presentation to the Field Naturalists Society of South Australia on the 8th of June to spread the word about the Bandicoot Superhighway Project.

Danny also gave another project presentation of the Friends of Private Bushland (FOPB) on June 27th at the Glenunga Hub. One FOPB member had bred bandicoots in the past for wild release, and had some interesting insights to add. e.g they eat millipedes, are prone to fleas, and the young are preyed upon by owls (note that this was in a managed breeding area).

The presentations covered everything from bandicoot identification, to how the project began. You may not know that the project was first developed by a Landcare group and based on the concept of improving the natural environment between Mark Oliphant CP and Belair NP.



Showcasing Local Landholders

DAVID'S PLACE

David's property is next door to Mark Oliphant Conservation Park, in Ironbank. It has some **really good quality native vegetation**, as well as some spots with weed issues. We conducted a habitat assessment on David's property and recommended weed control of some key weeds (including Erica). The project will be funding a contractor to tackle the weeds and this will be commencing soon.

As part of the process we set up some remote cameras to confirm which areas the bandicoots (and any other critters) were using. Bingo! —we saw bandicoots at 3 of the 4 camera sites (**17 bandicoot photos**). But...uh oh, there were also 13 pictures of foxes (at all but one of the bandicoot sites). Whilst the presence of foxes is always concerning, it appears that bandicoots are surviving, likely due to the high quality of the habitat, which provides them with enough cover for protection.



TIM'S PLACE

Tim (also located in Ironbank) was very keen to work with the BSH project as he regularly hosts visitors from far and wide, and his local bandicoots (including one dubbed 'stumpy') are his claim to fame. We set up four remote camera at Tim's place and the results were pretty interesting.

We found a lot of fox activity (with 17 fox photos overall, mostly at a site with no bandicoots), **and a fair amount of bandicoot activity** (5 photos overall, but one fox at this site too). The bandicoots seem to have adjusted their activity to forage during the day and evade the night-time predator!

In light of the fox activity, Tim put out a fox trap and a fox was destroyed. However, our cameras showed another one appearing shortly after.



What Else Has Been Happening?

UPDATING KNOWLEDGE

The Bandicoot Superhighway Project has extracted and reviewed data from the Biological Database of South Australia. We then produced new maps that highlight recent records and older records. We provided a buffer (the purple shade) that may indicate where bandicoots occur. This will help us with prioritising our monitoring.

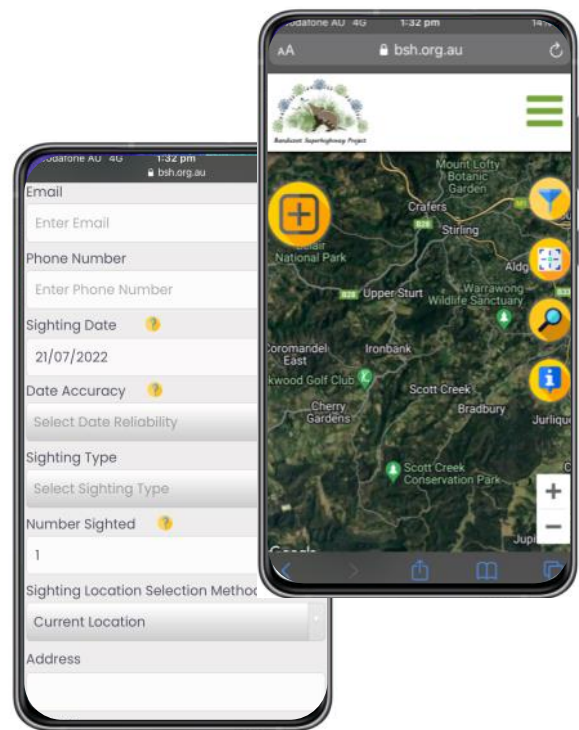


BANDICOOT SIGHTING 'PORTAL' ALMOST READY!

Tell us where you have seen a bandi

Very soon you will be able to log bandicoot sightings via our brand new project App! The App is an interactive web-based portal which is easy to use, and also means **you won't need to download yet another App on your phone!** It will allow citizen scientists to easily record sightings/scats/diggings of bandicoots and see where others around you have also recorded them. The application will allow you to add a photo and a location (among other details) via your smartphone or computer.

We look forward to launching this very soon!



HERBIVORE EXCLUSION FENCING

The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board installed herbivore exclusion fencing at Mark Oliphant Conservation Park to mitigate against the impacts from kangaroos and feral deer.

Overgrazing is a big threat to bandicoot habitat and bandicoot revegetation. Funding for the fencing was provided by the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife.

What Else Has Been Happening?

WEED CONTROL FOR 'SUPERHIGHWAY' PROPERTIES

Completed weed control

Weed control has already been undertaken at six native vegetation sites that support bandicoot habitat. The sites were spread across the region and resulted in 37.3 hectares of improved bandicoot habitat.

In fact, the weed control was so successful that we can no longer use one of the sites to demonstrate the issues of weed management!

Ongoing site assessments

We continue to visit private properties identified as important for either existing or potential bandicoot habitat, or which form part of a corridor for bandicoots (i.e. part of the superhighway!). **Some of these sites will be funded for weed control.**

At the sites we did **Rapid Assessments** which involved recording the type of vegetation present, the quality of the vegetation, the percentage of area that the understory covered (as this is very important for bandicoots) and the weeds present. Based on the results of our rapid assessment, we then identified the type of weed management that is required to either improve or expand bandicoot habitat in particular 'zones' on the property. We also reported where bandicoots had been sighted in a 5km radius and what other threatened species of fauna and flora were present in the area.



I-Spy With Remote Cameras

REMOTE CAMERAS SPY BANDICOOTS...

Landholders have loved receiving our camera reports showing which critters are scampering about while they aren't looking!

The Bandicoot Superhighway (BSH) project has purchased ten remote cameras, through funding from the Federal Government's Environment Restoration Fund, which have been placed at participating properties to check for the presence of bandicoots. After a few weeks the cameras are moved to a new property and the images are checked. We have been able to fund eVorta software licences for five of the cameras, which is machine learning software that can be taught to recognise the species of animal in the photo—a huge time saver for us (see the rabbit photo on the bottom right of the page). The good news is... we've found heaps of bandicoots!



... AND SOME OTHER FRIENDS AND FOES

Interestingly we have found lots of foxes inhabiting the same area as bandicoots, though usually the fox at night and the bandicoot during the day... clever! It seems if the bandicoots have enough dense vegetation to hide in they can co-exist with their foxy foes.

We also spied roos, rats (some native), possums, echidnas, birds, feral deer and rabbits ... even a chook!



To register your interest in the Bandicoot Superhighway Project

click here: [https://](https://bandicoots.paperform.co)

bandicoots.paperform.co

For further information contact Bec Duffield
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The project partners: The Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group, The Nature Conservation Society of SA, The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, Green Adelaide, National Parks and Wildlife SA, The University of Adelaide and Friends of Parks Groups.

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