

NCS Annual Report 2022-23



Photo: Bandicoot by Alex Chu



Nature Conservation Society
of South Australia

Speaking & acting for nature

Acknowledgement of Country

There have been people in South Australia for over 40,000 years. Every landscape that we work in is a cultural landscape with a rich human history. Our Adelaide office sits on Kaurna land, and our work throughout South Australia encompasses the traditional lands of many other nations. NCS pay our respects to their elders past and present. We acknowledge the ongoing cultural and spiritual connection that First Nations peoples have with their country, and their commitment to its stewardship for future generations. As we work to conserve nature in South Australia, we aim to get better at listening, learning and working with First Nations People.

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River Murray

Nature is in decline

Biodiversity is in decline. An extinction crisis is sweeping the globe, with scientists estimating that we are losing species at 1,000 to 10,000 times the natural background rate, and some suggesting we could lose up to half of all species by the end of this century.

These changes to our natural environment have serious consequences and carry great risk - according to the World Economic Forum's 2023 Global Risks Report, biodiversity loss is the fourth most severe global risk over the next ten years behind climate action failure, climate change adaptation, and extreme weather.

Our call to action

Despite some changes to existing legislation, there has been little progress in the legislative landscape. It is therefore significant that a specific opportunity exists to create a strong, new Biodiversity Act. The NCSSA recognises that a single piece of legislation alone cannot reverse the nature crisis or entirely address climate change. However, if done well, a new Biodiversity Act for South Australia could significantly improve the protection, management, and restoration of our biodiversity.



Our VISION

South Australia's Biodiversity and People Thrive in Resilient Landscapes.

Our MISSION

To inspire all South Australians to value and protect the native species, ecosystems and landscapes of our State.

The NCS will work to engage government, partners, members and the South Australian public in the enjoyment, care and protection of South Australia's natural biological diversity and natural systems. We will engage, educate and advocate to connect South Australians to nature and raise awareness of the local impacts and solutions to the global extinction crisis and the local loss of ecosystem services and natural heritage values. We will strive to protect biodiversity and function in every South Australian landscape through protection of a comprehensive, adequate, representative network of natural ecosystems.

Research | Advocacy | Engagement

A Message from our President

Patrick O'Connor

The NCS continued to thrive in 2022-23 under the guidance of the fantastic staff and committee.

The staff have led the way in stepping up the breadth and depth of fantastic conservation projects like the Bandicoot Superhighway and Biodiversity and Fire projects. These projects continue to connect people to nature and nature expertise through direct action for both knowledge generation and conservation of critical ecosystems and species.



The volume of advocacy work undertaken by the small staff is really incredible. The reputation of the NCS is in excellent hands and is well known in government and community circles. The year has seen some really important steps taken in advocating for strong legislation for Biodiversity and Pastoral area protections.

The work to advocate for protecting the habitat and species at Whaler's Way on Eyre Peninsula is a standout. It has been a great example of holding the line on evidence-based advocacy and in informing the public and decision-makers of the need to prioritise conservation over the interests of private development.

The strategy and operations of the NCS are strongly aligned to the needs of conservation in South Australia and the NCS goes into its sixty-first year with high confidence and energy.

A Message from our CEO

Kirsty Bevan

South Australia stands as a beacon of hope for the preservation of its natural ecosystems and the protection of its precious species. At the heart of this effort lies the NCS's resolute commitment to reverse the decline of biodiversity.

The year unfolded with a monumental chapter in the state's conservation journey as foundational work commenced to craft new Biodiversity Legislation, poised to redefine how South Australia safeguards its environmental assets. New legislation emerged, paving the way for Hydrogen and Renewable energy development, affirming the state's commitment to a sustainable future. The dedicated staff of NCS protested against draconian protestor laws, and continued to advocate against the temp. rocket launch facility at Whalers Way, firmly asserting that space belongs in harmony with the environment.



I extend my heartfelt thanks to the our Management Committee volunteers, the tireless dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support of our valued members and advocates. Together, we have amplified our voice for nature, reinforcing that our collective efforts can yield immeasurable results. The year ahead holds the promise of continued progress, where South Australians, united in their dedication to nature's preservation, will shape a future where biodiversity flourishes, and the resilience of their landscapes becomes a testament to their unwavering commitment.



Our Impact

A snap shot of our impact during **2022-2023** includes significant changes made to legislation and our knowledge base through new data from surveys and research, speaking for nature and pressuring government, all with an aim to protect our biodiversity. The greatest impact is to have more native vegetation, and greater protection.



91

Field days, site visits and events



9

Submissions made



264K

impact on social media



238

Surveys undertaken - building our evidence base



33

Partnerships



>2,440

Volunteer hours



Piccininnie Ponds Conservation Park, South Australia

Our Work 2022- 2023



Research

The conservation of nature requires an evidence base and we undertake research and partnerships with others to build and use compelling evidence to guide our advocacy and action.

in 2022-23 NCS undertook a year of thriving collaborations as we continued with our long term monitoring and took on new and exciting work around resilience and vegetation condition management.



Advocacy

Advocacy has been an important aspect of our achievements over this year as NCS continues to call for the protection of our biodiversity assets.

During 2022-2023 our advocacy for the protection of 'Whalers Way' took us to State Parliament. We also took a leading role in advocating for biodiversity protection and being a voice for the the new state 'Biodiversity Legislation'.



Engagement

Core to all work at the NCS is that the people of South Australia gain from connecting to nature and understanding the beauty and complexity of South Australia's native species and ecosystems.

Our connection to community continues to drive our project delivery and we were proud partners of the very successful Nature Festival again this year.



Our Research



Stringybark woodland SA

The Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Bird Monitoring Program :

The wet and windy weather of spring 2022 prevented surveys from being performed as quickly as previous years, hence surveys were still occurring in late January 2023.

The 2022-23 season recorded 5,682 individual birds and a total of 90 species, highlighting a slight decline in overall numbers observed and a slight increase in number of species detected. Nine species of interest were identified at various locations.

In January, Ali Ben Kahn retired as the coordinator of the Program, and Brittany Norris took over, we loved celebrating Ali's contribution to nature conservation and her time with the NCS and wish her a very happy retirement.



PHOTO: NCS staff with Ali (centre front) and Britt (right of Ali).



PHOTO: Red Browed Finch by Peter Day

We were also very lucky this year to engage two Interns from the University of Adelaide School of Computer and Mathematical Sciences. Yaxin and James helped upgrade our database and introduce a field data capture app for next season.



PHOTO: Yaxin hard at work programming

A special thank you goes to the University of Adelaide, for not only supporting our work with interns, but also to the analytical research around trends, and drivers of change. Specifically we'd like to thank Dr Tom Prowse.

Our research is underpinned by effective and productive partnerships. We could not have achieved all that we did in 2022-23 with out our partners - Thank You!

Bushland Condition Monitoring (BCM):

One of our major BCM projects since 2019 has been ecological monitoring for the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board between 2019 and 2023. Work included 59 BCM surveys, split between the Northern Agricultural district and the southern Yorke Peninsula, within the footprint of the Marna Banggara landscape restoration project.



PHOTO: BCM site photopoint

The Marna Banggara project included the establishment of 20 survey sites using the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network's (TERN) AusPlots Rangelands survey methodology.

The BCM and TERN surveys conducted over the life of this project provide baseline data for assessing the long-term health of Yorke Peninsula's remnant native vegetation, and the landscape-scale ecological impacts of

management practices used such as feral animal control and native fauna re-introductions.



PHOTO: TERN Ausplots survey technique

We conducted a final analysis and evaluation of the project and provided recommendations for future monitoring. Some of the recommendations include:

- Establishing monitoring plots closer to the areas where Bettongs have been introduced.
- Undertaking a process for reviewing all monitoring plots and prioritising data collection for the next 2 years
- Analysis and evaluation of seedling recruitment, leaf litter and bare ground changes.



Bandicoot Superhighway Project:

This community-led project will reduce the risk of the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot becoming extinct in the Mount Lofty Ranges. The project combines science, restoration and engagement to improve our knowledge and deliver on-ground outcomes. Some of the project highlights between 2022 and 2023 include:

- >110 observations uploaded into our new web-based portal
- >800 camera trapping days (bandicoots seen 32 times)
- Recommending and funding restoration at 12 sites
- >67 property visits and events.



PHOTO: Planting day at Mark Oliphant CP

The Deputy Premier will be launching our Impact Report and Habitat Management Guidelines (in progress) in November 2023. Contact bec.duffield@ncssa.asn.au for a copy of these documents.



Bandicoot in Adelaide Hills.
Photo by Andrew Palmer

Kangaroo Islands Rare Plant Garden: In July 2022, the Deputy Premier Susan Close launched Kangaroo Islands first Rare Plant Garden (KIRPG). The KIRPG is a partnership between NCS, the SA Seed Conservation Centre, BioR and the community.



PHOTO: The launch of the KIRPG July 2022

Ultimately, the KIRPG is about threatened flora conservation supported by a suite of principles:

1. Maintain genetically diverse ex-situ populations of threatened plant species
2. Utilise living collections for seed banking and recovery projects
3. Create awareness, education and research opportunities
4. Activate and support community to be the custodians of the KIRPG.

A Kangaroo Conversation:

This project was developed so community and scientists could have a conversation about, and establish a social licence, on kangaroo management.



PHOTO: A Kangaroo Conversation on Facebook

This developed into a campaign that utilised social media to raise awareness about how abundant kangaroos are impacting on biodiversity within South Australia. We implemented this campaign by:

- Providing evidence and knowledge
- Testing communication approaches to identify effective methods
- Interviewing 29 people and surveying the general public (responses=568)
- Evaluating response and impact from different communication platforms.

This was an initial pilot and NCS have been engaged to deliver the next stage of this program in 2023-2024.

WAIT THERE IS MORE....

Over this year the NCS have also assisted organisations and groups to increase their knowledge base and impact, including through:

- The development of a translocation Plan and Communication Plan to **prevent a threatened small mammal from becoming extinct**
- A Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Plan to identify impact of landscape-scale restoration and **providing evidence for landscape function improvements**
- Reviewing datasets and biodiversity monitoring programs to **recommend a relevant and robust long term biodiversity monitoring program**
- Research and synthesis of literature on **Bushfires and Biodiversity**, including a Discussion Paper (and recommendations) and 12 Spotlight Studies.
- The completion of an **objective evaluation** of the \$3 million conservation program 'Revitalising' and involvement in co-design of the next stage.



Our Advocacy



Whalers Way, Eyre Peninsula

Whalers Way: The NCS have been fighting for over 3 years for a conservation area under threat from a proposal to build a rocket launching facility. The area, known as Whalers Way, is a protected Heritage Agreement found on the southern tip of the Eyre Peninsula.



PHOTO: NCS joining local action group on the steps of parliament

Over 2022-23, the campaign included:

- Supporting the **protest action** of a local group on the steps of Parliament House.
- Presenting at a **briefing to MPs** in February in support of Greens MLC Tammy Franks' motion for a Parliamentary Inquiry into the selection of Whalers Way
- Igniting public support, with over **1300 letters** sent to Parliamentarians responsible for deciding the future of Whalers Way.

One of the birds at greatest risk from this proposal is the **Southern Emu-wren (Eyre Peninsula)**.



PHOTO: Southern Emu-wren EP, Marcus Pickett

In 2022-23, the NCSSA received funding from the Wettenhall Environment Trust to undertake a survey of known populations, which will take place in 2023-24.



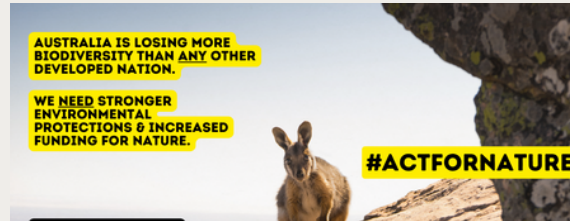
Decisions on whether to let this damaging proposal proceed are still pending from the SA Planning Minister, the SA Environment Minister (regarding the Heritage Agreement) and the Federal Environment Minister. Disappointingly, in June 2023, Planning Minister Nick Champion granted extra time for 'test' launches from a 'temporary' launch pad. Our campaign will continue into 2023-24!

Pastoral Act: The previous Liberal Government proposed reforms based on the view that running stock was the only legitimate use of South Australia's pastoral estate, and all other 'alternate land uses' such as conservation were illegitimate. This was clearly unacceptable and did not reflect the broader community's views or interests.



NCS's position was and still is that pastoralism can, and should, continue to coexist with conservation. In April, amendments to the existing legislation were drafted that **confirmed the legitimacy of conservation** as a land use. Whilst in draft form, the NCS provided input that strengthened these proposed amendments, which will now be considered by Parliament in the 2023-24 year.

This is a fantastic step forward and one that all contributors to the "Save Our Outback" campaign are proud of.



Biodiversity Legislation:

The Malinauskas Government has committed to bringing in a new **Biodiversity Act**. A major reform for South Australia's nature legislation. The NCS seized the opportunity to shape it by running a workshop in May with key environmental organisations to discuss principles on which new legislation could be based. This legislation will be a priority for the NCS in 2023-24.

An emerging issue for nature conservation in South Australia is the rapidly developing renewable energy sector, whilst a rapid transition is welcome, nature protection is critical as this major industrial transition takes place.

2022/23 Submissions:

- Native vegetation clearance associated with widening of Hog Bay Road on KI, Oct 2022
- Submission on draft Lake Eyre Basin Strategic Plan, Dec 2022
- Submission to Planning System Implementation Review, Dec 2022
- Draft Heritage Agreement Policy, Dec 2022
- Submission to Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act Engagement Feb 2023 & June 2023
- Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into the Urban Forest, Feb 2023
- Proposed amendments to the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*, April 2023
- Submission to the Legislative Council's Select Committee on the Hunting of Native Birds, May 2023

Featured Submissions



Consultation on the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act
The NCS supports a rapid transition to renewable energy to address the climate crisis. However, the nature crisis must also be recognised. The proposed Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act should provide adequate protection for nature. It should be



Submission to Planning Review Expert Panel
The NCS outlined the outstanding issues for nature protection following the introduction of the State Planning and Design Code by the Marshall Liberal Government. The Code needs to be amended to better protect nature, for example by explicitly protecting areas from inappropriate development and ensuring a



Heritage Agreement draft policy
The NCS found that the draft Policy generally provided useful guidance about Heritage Agreements. However, some gaps must be highlighted to ensure enduring nature conservation outcomes. Collaboratively, the review that underpinned the draft Policy was

Our Advocacy & campaigning always needs help,
head to our website to make a donation: ncssa.asn.au

Key NCS submissions are made available to the public via our Advocacy page on our website



NCS 60th Birthday Celebration



Our Engagement



Nature Festival: We were absolutely thrilled to introduce our exceptional Artist in Residence work, 'Dawn Chorus,' during the Nature Festival in 2022. Additionally, we offered a selection of her exquisite watercolors, still for sale via our website (limited numbers available).



If you haven't yet experienced the serene and contemplative sounds crafted by Amber Cronin, we invite you to don your headphones, scan the QR code, and immerse yourself in our captivating native soundscape along with the lovely vocals of Emma Borgas – it's truly magical.



Dawn Chorus

We are looking for more opportunities to share Ambers work-amplifying our voice for nature conservation.

NCS 60th Birthday Celebration:

We held a spectacular birthday celebration in 2022. Many of our members and supporters joined us for an action packed night with speeches, competitions and a silent auction.



More than anything it was a special night where we could come together as one and celebrate our shared love for nature.



Such a proud history to share even with two of our Founding Members, Peter and Anne Reeves.



Bird Survey enthusiasts Adrienne and Peter playing during the Nature Festival Dawn Chorus event Oct 2022

Nature Campaigning:

The NCS Nature Campaigner took a lead facilitating and running the 'Creating Positive Change fellowship'. The Fellowship ran for 6 weeks in October 2022, and received 20 applicants who took part in a program to skill-up and become new nature advocates and campaigners.

Creating Positive Change Fellowship

An exciting opportunity to develop the skills and confidence needed to make a difference for climate action and nature protection!

SA Environment Awards:

During 2023 NCS were so excited to see our dedicated NCS Nature Campaigner, Rhys Abbott awarded the Leif Justham Young Achiever Award.



Rhys was acknowledged for his effective conservation and climate action campaigns at NCS, as well as his highly successful social media accounts... CONGRATULATIONS

NCSSA on National, State and Regional Committees:

The NCS continues to contribute to cross partnerships and landscape scale approaches to addressing biodiversity decline and are proud partners/members with groups such as:

SANA: The South Australian Nature Alliance

NPAC: the National Parks Australia Council, and

The Mount Lofty Ranges Bird Recovery Alliance.

Our CEO continued to meet with members of parliament, including the Environment Minister, Hon Susan Close, to raise attention to and put pressure on the government to take action on biodiversity conservation assets currently under threat.

NCS also made the most of engaging with community interested in reversing the decline of Bandicoots.



PHOTO: NCS at Uraidla Sustainability fair to talk about Bandicoots

2022/23 NCS Partners:

Trees for Life,
Conservation Council SA, the
Wilderness Society
Hills and Fleurieu, Northern and
Yorkes, Murraylands and Riverland,
Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, SA
Arid Lands and Green Adelaide
Landscape Boards,
South Australian Government,
Australian Government,
The South Australian Seed
Conservation Centre, BioR
private landholders,
Adelaide Hills Council,
Forestry SA,
The Biology Society of SA,
First Nations groups, Foundation for
National Parks & Wildlife, Nature
Festival, Eco Action KI, the Bandi
Bunch
Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group,
National Parks and Wildlife SA,
Landcare SA
Resilient Hills and Coast, Wettenhall
Environment Trust, Flinders University
University of Adelaide, and
Friends of Parks groups incl. KI
Western District



Publications and Presence

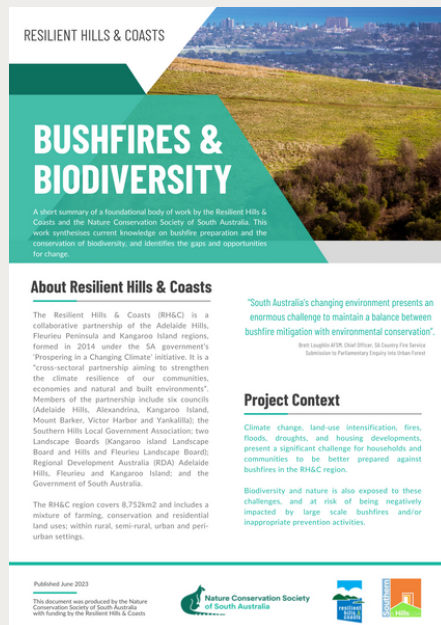


PHOTO: Example of one of the publications NCS has produced

Our publications: Over the last year, NCS have developed a range of documents that include:

- Literature Reviews
- Discussion Papers
- Spotlight Studies
- Technical Reports
- Project Impact Reports
- Community newsletters
- Project Brochures.

A total of 48 documents have been produced including 36 that are technical. Contact us for a list of what we have done.

"The report is exactly what the Committee wanted and needed; it sets out very clearly for us how we need to approach the survey work envisaged for our project. We look forward to further contact with you both during the course of the project, but in the meantime, thanks again on behalf of the Committee."

Client that engaged us to review past and current monitoring, synthesise gaps and strengths, and propose a long-term monitoring project.

Our presence: NCS staff have been present, and valued, at key events, forums and meetings, including:

- 16 Workshops
- 14 Presentations
- 50 Field days and landholder visits
- 11 forums and public events
- 23 Meetings with politicians.



PHOTO: NCS & Participants at the Environment Forum in Aldinga

We have also supported and championed 7 new external projects.

Generating interest: As a result of our partnerships and new projects, we have developed a Capability Statement that showcases our Science, Research and Engagement work. We have also developed a Partnership Prospectus.

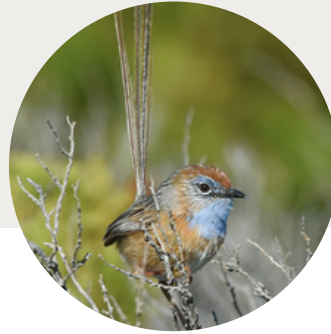


2022-23 Major Achievements



Speaking in parliament:

The NCS works in a collaborative way to amplify calls for nature protection. One example is participating in a briefing to MPs in February regarding why protecting Whalers Way is important from a nature conservation perspective, together with a local group and Indigenous representatives.



Improving our knowledge:

Over the last year, NCS has been successful in receiving grants that address current knowledge gaps to support better decision making. This includes funding to survey the EP Southern Emu-wren that is now considered endangered under EPBC.
Photo: NCS and Ashwin Rudder



Securing our future:

Over the last year we have applied for >17 grants and funding opportunities. As an organisation that has limited funding, we know that we need to work towards building our capacity to support our advocacy and campaigning. We will continue to source ethical funding but still require the support of our conservation community.



Conservation Biology Grants:

In partnership with the Biological Society of SA we were so excited to award grants to 4 new early career researchers this year:

Kimberly Michael
Josephine Lingard
Jack Bilby
Nicole Fickling

For more information on our grants visit our website

Our Community

Here at the NCS we are supported by a rich legacy of members, volunteer committee members and staff. The expanse of work we have achieved over our 60 years is owed in part to them, but also to our supporting members, project partners and hundreds of volunteers.

We would like to take this opportunity to hear from some of these inspirational people who are still a part of the NCS in 2022-23, who continue to dedicate their time and hearts into nature conservation in South Australia.

- **Anthelia Bond** - One of our own Management Committee members.
- **Danny Rohrlach** - One of our project partners in 2022-23.
- **Rhys Morgan**- One of our dedicated staff members.



A message from one of our members

Annie Bond: Management Committee Member and active volunteer

One of my first experiences with NCS was volunteering for Walks with Nature in the mid 1990's when I was studying natural resources management at Roseworthy. I loved seeing Adelaide's wildlife and landscapes, learning from the brilliantly knowledgeable and skilled guides, and sharing my enthusiasm with walk participants. I was hooked from my very first walk.

Getting to learn from all the smart, creative, dedicated and caring people at NCS is a gift for which I am deeply and continually grateful. I am also incredibly proud of the Society's scientific research and advocacy work.

We are so fortunate to have this committed and talented group of staff, volunteers and supporters standing up for nature in South Australia and I'm glad to do whatever I can to help.





A message from one of our project partners

**Danny Rohrlach, President, Sturt Upper
Reaches Landcare Group (SURLG)**



On behalf of the Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group (SURLG) I express our heartfelt appreciation to the Nature Conservation Society (NCS) for its partnership over the last several years in the adventurous, ground-breaking Bandicoot Superhighway Project. A project of this size and budget was beyond the scope of our group to administer, so we selected NCS for its ability to successfully bring together numerous stakeholders to deliver this large, community-based project. The NCS team, exceeded all our expectations, listening carefully then working closely with dedication and energy alongside us to achieve results.

NCS has shown itself to be a highly-professional organisation that is genuinely invested in achieving meaningful environmental benefits, not only for bandicoots but for the wider biodiversity. NCS skilfully raised awareness within the target community and gently built the community's capacity to be involved; this has helped our small Landcare group to maintain and grow our own energy and project management capability. We cannot praise and thank you enough, and look forward to securing more funding to enable us to work with you on the next phase of the project



*The Bandicoot Superhighway Project logo was
designed by Allan Sumner.*

*Allan is a descendant of the Ngarrindjeri people of the
lower Murray and lakes of the Murray River along the
Coorong, the Kurna people of the Adelaide plains and
the Yankunytjatjara people of central Australia.*



A message from one of our staff

Rhys Morgan – NCS Biodiversity Project Officer

I've worked for NCS since 2021 and I am very proud to be a part of an inspirational team who consistently fight to get the best possible outcome for nature.

My interests lie in vegetation ecology and threatened species conservation although the variety of work that NCS delivers on a regular basis is something that I've enjoyed and admired. In my role as a biodiversity project coordinator I've led teams of volunteers tackling the Tasmanian Blue Gum outbreak on Kangaroo Island, conducted threatened flora surveys, coordinated habitat restoration for the Southern Brown Bandicoot, and engaged with countless community groups and landholders who are invaluable to conservation in our state.

As an organisation we may be addressing the serious and rapid decline of the environment but we strive to do this in a positive, people-centred, and solutions-based way and I think this is a big part of our continued success.

NCS Staff

Kirsty Bevan - CEO (full time)

Julia Peacock - Nature Advocate (3d/wk)

Rhys Abbott - Nature Campaigner (3.5d/wk)

Bec Duffield* - Strategic Partnerships and Projects Manager
(2d NCS & 3d projects/wk)

Brittany Norris* - MLR Bird Survey Coordinator (2.5d/wk)

Elen Shute* - BCM Coordinator and Advocacy Officer (2d/wk)

Maddie McShane* - Advocacy Researcher (1d/wk)

Rhys Morgan* - Biodiversity Project Coordinator (1d/wk)

Tessa Roberts* - Projects and Science Communication
(1d/wk)

Nicole Flicking* - Project and Research Support Officer
(1d/wk)

Amanda Stewart - Administrative Manager (3d/wk)

Lesley Parton - CMS Database and Website Officer (0.5d/wk)

NCS Total Full Time Employment (FTE) = Core funded: 3.2 FTE, Project funded: 2.3 FTE
*Funded externally

NCS Management Committee



Patrick O'Connor
President



Doug Bickerton
Vice President



Melissa Feller
Treasurer



Nick Lawry
Secretary



Anthelia Bond



Meredith Hennessey

The NCS Management Committee is 100% volunteer



Flinders Ranges, South Australia

By Doug Bickerton, Vice President (retiring)

I'd been aware of NCS and the good work it does ever since the 1990s, as a student and then in the early days of my career as an ecologist, but I'd never been a member until 4 years ago, when I joined the Management Committee.

At the time, much of the not-for-profit environmental sector was struggling to grasp the attention of Government in SA, also nationally, and to engage meaningfully with the general public. The year 2020 exacerbated this situation, with the focus necessarily on the global pandemic.

Despite these difficult circumstances, NCS has rebuilt itself in the space of a few short years. I feel very proud to have been a part of a Management Committee that has worked with staff and members to develop a Strategic Plan with a long-term Vision and Mission Statement that will serve to guide this organisation into the future.

Our public profile has improved considerably in this time. Government is now acutely aware of the impact we have with our advocacy efforts, and of the public support we've engendered for legislation changes with favourable biodiversity outcomes. We're being actively included in consultation processes, where this had been in decline in previous years. Additionally, our linkages with other groups, such as the Biological Society and Threatened Plant Action Group, continue to strengthen.

I've no doubt that the enthusiasm and dedication of our staff have greatly contributed to this success. Thanks to them, our portfolio of successful projects continues to grow, so does our opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to biodiversity research and implementation. Their tireless efforts to advocate, and to improve our public engagement through social media have undoubtedly returned beneficial dividends.

Thank you to the Management Committee, and to the NCS staff for helping to make my time with this organisation so rewarding.



Next Year 2023-24

- The Governments new Biodiversity Legislation will be drafted.
- The State of Environment Report will be released.
- NCS will support the CCSA on the Landscapes Act Advisory Panel.
- NCS will run its Fundraising Campaign: Trekking the Torrens for Nature (35km walk to raise money).
- Campaign focus: Whalers Way; Kangaroo Management; the Biodiversity Act; Hydrogen and Renewable Energy and biodiversity protection.
- Research priorities: Landscape resilience & climate change; Restoration and threatened species management; Biodiversity conservation; MLR birds in decline, NEW grant to honour the late and great Nickolas Neagle.
- Engagement importance: NCS members; South Australian Nature Alliance; the conservation sector; landholders undertaking private conservation; our First Nations partners; and the MLR Bird Recovery Alliance.

We have 5 new regional research projects, grants and initiatives that we will be developing next year.





Mount Lofty Ranges

Create your own Nature Conservation Legacy

One of the most impactful ways you can support the NCS is by pledging a gift in your will. It won't cost anything during your lifetime, but it will help ensure we continue to advocate for the protection and management needed to maintain and restore South Australia's unique biological diversity and landscape function into the future.

By leaving a gift in your will to the Nature Conservation Society of SA , you will be assisting us to achieve our mission:
'To inspire all South Australians to value and protect the native species, ecosystems and landscapes of our State'

The NCS have partnered with Gathered Here. With just a few clicks you can Write your will for free in the comfort of your own home, in less than 15 minutes. Gathered Here offers free and unlimited Will updates for life, supported by a legal team of highly experienced Wills and estate lawyers, something which would normally cost hundreds of dollars.

You can find out more on our website, While there is absolutely no requirement when writing your will, after you make important preparations for your family, you may like to make a meaningful gift to the NCS. All gifts, no matter what size, will allow the NCS to have a meaningful impact in nature's protection.

Thank you!

for supporting the NCS to amplify its voice as we
Speak and Act for nature

2022-23

Contact Us

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(08) 7127 4630
www.ncssa.asn.au