

# SA Arid Lands Landscape Board

## Port Augusta - Quorn Newsletter – March 2021

### Welcome to the Region

Firstly, a warm welcome to the SA Arid Lands Landscape region. The Port Augusta - Quorn district was previously a part of the Northern and Yorke Landscape region and as of July 2020 now falls within the SA Arid Lands (SAAL) Landscape region. The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board works across this region on issues such as pest plant and animal control, water management, biodiversity, sustainable land management, and climate resilience. Hannah Ling started as the new Community Landscape Officer in November 2020. She has been out meeting stakeholders and landholders in the district over the past few months and is really excited to be working in the district.

This is the first newsletter to bring you news on what has been happening so far and to let you know of any upcoming events. Newsletters will be sent out bimonthly. Feel free to get in touch any time if you have information to share or if you have any questions. Hannah can be contacted at [hannah.ling@sa.gov.au](mailto:hannah.ling@sa.gov.au) or on **0409 753 495**.



*Landscape Officer Hannah Ling and landholder Cromer Just releasing cochineal on prickly pear at Saltia Creek, November 2020*

### News

#### Cactus Control

Cactus is a key issue in this district and there has been some progress in recent months. Cochineal, a small insect that loves eating cactus, has been released on all properties along the Saltia Creek where infestations of prickly pear have spread downstream. Cochineal has also been released on a number of other cacti populations in Port Augusta. This process will be greatly supported with the establishment of a cochineal nursery at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens which is almost complete. Get in touch if you know of any cacti populations that need treating with the biocontrol cochineal or if your organisation would like to hear more about it.

### **Roadside Weed Mapping**

Key roadside weeds on all rural roads in the Port Augusta - Quorn district have been mapped and recorded over five days, including weeds such as African Boxthorn, Cacti species, Buffel Grass, African Rue and Pepper Trees. This data will serve as a current source of information to prioritise and plan effective weed control on roadsides in the district.



*Mangroves at Winninowie Conservation Park*

### **Coast Care Group**

Keen community members in Port Augusta have formed a Coast Care Group focused on improving the health of coastal and marine systems. Issues of focus include removing marine plastics, monitoring water quality and creating awareness about the importance of local coastal and marine biodiversity. The group has met three times since December 2020 and is welcoming new members. Get in touch with Hannah Ling if you would like to be involved.

### **Chemcert Training**

Chemcert training was offered to 12 volunteers from Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society, Friends of Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, Quorn Community Landcare Group and Friends of Mt Remarkable in February 2021, fully subsidised by the SAAL Landscape Board. The certified training provided knowledge on how to use chemicals for weed control safely and effectively. If you would like to receive Chemcert training at a subsidised rate, either new or as a refresher please get in touch.

### **Native Grass Identification and Plant Propagation Workshops**

SAAL Landscape Ecologist, Ben McCallum, taught participants how to identify local native grasses and the importance of local native grasses for biodiversity and agriculture, in January 2021. Two plant propagation workshops were also held in Quorn by Andrea Tschirner in February and March 2021. Participants learnt how to propagate and incorporate native plants in a home garden. A combined total of 60 community members attended the workshops.



*Andrea Tschirner and participants at the plant propagation workshop in Quorn, February 2021*

### **Summer Webinar Series**

An informative sustainable agricultural webinar series was delivered by SA Arid Lands Landscape Board over the summer months. Catch up on any topics you missed:

- **Boosting Bottom Lines by Behaviour – Bruce Maynard**  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6clHG9-myz2KAcYLnEXfEbee0j0DcP10>
- **Containment Feed Ewes Successfully – Deb Scammell**  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6clHG9-myz2KAcYLnEXfEbee0j0DcP10>
- **Pastoral Technology for SAAL – Michelle Cousins**  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6clHG9-myz2KAcYLnEXfEbee0j0DcP10>
- **Livestock Biosecurity –Pene Keynes**  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6clHG9-myz2KAcYLnEXfEbee0j0DcP10>
- **Sheep Survival in the SA Arid Lands – Colin Trengove**  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6clHG9-myz2KAcYLnEXfEbee0j0DcP10>
- **Map Your Place – FarmMap4D**  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6clHG9-myz2KAcYLnEXfEbee0j0DcP10>
- **Dark Cutting Beef – Wayne Pitchford**  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6clHG9-myz2KAcYLnEXfEbee0j0DcP10>

### **Call for new Port Augusta-Quorn District Group Members**

Each of the seven districts in the SA Arid Lands Landscape region is guided by a District Group made up of members from the community, including First Nations, conservation, agriculture, education and industry. The District Group acts as a connection with community and meets at least four times a year to provide advice and knowledge on local natural resource issues. A call is going out for interested members to join the new Port Augusta-Quorn District Group, opening on 22 March and closing on 2 May. There are seven positions available and up to two proxy positions. District Group members are paid for their time and travel. Get in touch with Hannah Ling for more information.

### **SAAL Landscape Plan**

With the change from Natural Resource Management regions to Landscape SA regions, a new plan has been undertaken for the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board. We would love to hear your thoughts on the draft plan. For more information visit <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal/about-us/our-regions-plan>

### **Grassroots Grants**

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board is offering community Grassroots Grants for projects up to \$10,000. The grant round will be open from 7 April – 17 May. Check out our website soon for more information.

### **Linking Landscapes Grants**

Open now - Grant opportunity for Heritage Agreement owners with a focus on innovative, collaborative and multi-property outcomes, for projects over \$10,000. See <https://www.naturefoundation.org.au/conservation/revitalising-conservation> for more details.



*Native grass regeneration on Ken Fuller's property near Quorn, January 2021*

## Upcoming Events

Date	Description
<b>Tues 23 March</b> 9-12pm	Injection Baiting at Quorn Gun Club, call Jessie White (Northern & Yorke Landscape Board) on 0429 151 138 to register
<b>Wed 31 March</b> 1-5pm	Regenerating Goyder's Line Pre-seeding Workshop, Paul Rodgers' Shearing Shed Quorn, bbq at 5pm, call Denni Agnew (UNFS) on 0431 233 679 to register
<b>Wed 7 April</b> 10-3pm	Free Online Grant Writing Workshop funded by SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, visit <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/BPQNW">www.trybooking.com/BPQNW</a> to register
<b>Fri/Sat 9-10 April</b>	Planting Days with Quorn Community Landcare at Quorn Bush Food Garden, call Andrea Tschirner on 0437 287 130 to register
<b>Thur/Fri 6-7 May</b>	Two day Stress Free Stockmanship workshop by Bruce Maynard in Craddock, funded by Northern & Yorke Landscape Board, call Jessie White on 0429 151 138 to register
<b>Tues-Thurs 11-13 May</b>	Two and half day RCS Grazing Clinic in Pt Augusta, hands-on principles and practices of grazing management workshop, cost \$770 – subsidised by SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, visit <a href="https://www.rcsaustralia.com.au/event/rgc-portaugusta2021/">https://www.rcsaustralia.com.au/event/rgc-portaugusta2021/</a> to register
<b>Tues 18 May</b> 5-6pm	SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Info Session at Quorn Bowls Club, covering information on issues such as water affecting activities, pest plant animal control, SEB credits and erosion control, call Hannah on 0409 753 495 to register, includes free bbq dinner at 6pm

**Acknowledgement of Country:** We acknowledge and pay respects to Nukunu, Barngala and Kokatha Nations, their elders past, present and emerging, and their strong connection to Country on which the Port Augusta – Quorn district is located.



White Goodenia - *Goodenia albiflora*

### More information

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