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PO Box 47, Lobethal

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Wildlife Returns to Bushland Park

By Kendrea Rhodes



Volunteers from the Friends of Lobethal Bushland Park assisted Conservation Volunteers Australia member, Darren Kennedy, with the installation of nine nesting

boxes for the endangered Western Pygmy Possum. Historically found in the Mount Lofty Ranges, this species has only had 97 sightings over the past century.

Darren Kennedy (3rd from Right), Conservation Volunteers Australia, with Friends of Lobethal Bushland Park installing nest boxes to encourage the return of Western Pygmy Possums.

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Forgiveness - it is a word that makes us most uncomfortable. To have to forgive someone, or to have to ask for forgiveness is out of our comfort zone.

Why does it make us uncomfortable?

To ask for forgiveness means that we must acknowledge that we were wrong and that our action hurt the other person. To

ask for forgiveness means that we must put ourselves at the mercy of another and seek their forgiveness for our wrongdoing. Uncomfortable stuff!

To forgive someone is also difficult. When they have wronged us, we feel we deserve to 'get them back'. We feel justified in holding resentment against them and giving them our cold shoulder. For-

giving them makes us vulnerable and open to be hurt again by that person. Uncomfortable stuff!!

Here is a really uncomfortable verse from the Bible, Jesus speaking - *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."* MATTHEW 6:14-15 NIV.

Forgiveness is hard stuff.

But there is a reason God wants us to forgive and to seek forgiveness. We all make

mistakes.

To forgive someone is to free yourself from the continual thinking about it and grinding your teeth. To forgive someone is to be free to live, laugh and love, and know that God will deal with them and cause them to seek forgiveness from you. It is hard to do, but the only true way to handle a situation when it is really hard to forgive someone.

To seek forgiveness is to humble your pride and realize you have caused someone else hurt. Relationships are broken and life becomes grey with guilt and hurt. If someone

forgives you, relationships are restored. If they will not forgive, then take your repentance to God and allow Him to work on the other person. You are free from the guilt and God can act on our behalf.

These are uncomfortable things to talk about, but like the verse says, God is intimately entwined in forgiveness. He offers us forgiveness for our wrongdoing. He wants to wipe the slate clean and give us a life of love and freedom from guilt. He offers us forgiveness, and also forgives when we seek forgiveness.

Let us be rid of pride and seek to heal relationships. It pleases God when we do, because we are being like Him, because as His children, we Matter to Him.

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Habitat Recovery Alliance a ride not to be forgotten *Collaboration is key to success*

The amazing legacy of the 2019/20 Adelaide Hills fires is that a terrible disaster can bring together a collaboration of so many from the community, and for many of those people, the reconnection with the land, and those people who are caretakers of that land.

The Habitat Recovery Alliance (HRA) has been one of those instigators that when the call for help to grow seedlings for the Adelaide Hills fire scar area was made, they were overwhelmed by the number of people who wanted to assist.

Terese Stephens, Project Administrator said, "Many of the local community groups banded together to ease the

task, some with the offer of funds to get the project off the ground, others with hands on help to coordinate the now rapidly growing project. Engaging local companies to fulfil some of the project's requirements was also essential to complete the circle of collaboration."

The collaborative group very aptly named Habitat Recovery Alliance with the committee of the Upper River Torrens Landcare Group driving the project, and included Kersbrook Landcare Group, Mt Pleasant Farmers Market Inc., Mt Pleasant Natural Resource Centre, Barossa Bush Gardens, Seeding Natives Inc., Cudlee Creek Fire Recovery and the Mt Pleasant Progress

Association.

Harnessing the power of the people, HRA were responsible for over 16,500 seedlings being grown as part of the revegetation and restoration activities for those affected by the fire disaster.

HRA was awarded grants through Landcare Australia and Lockheed Martin, enabling the group to firmly and financially establish a strategy and project plan between landholder, HRA and volunteer growers. With the grant funds, thirteen landholders were supported with site visits, weed control, 7,000 plants, nest boxes and additional help to plant and the installation of the nest boxes themselves.

The significant project was

well underway when the COVID-19 pandemic arrived. A major rethink of planning was necessary to accommodate the now in place government regulations with the return and planting of the seedlings. Collaboration was fundamental in continuing the project. Adelaide Hills Council agreed to allow the use of their Woodside Depot for collection, batching and redistribution of the tubestock and this mammoth task of sorting through around 25,000 tubestock was achieved with support from Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges and SA Murray Darling Basin NRM staff.

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\$2.6M secured for Amy Gillett Bikeway

Adelaide Hills Council has received \$2.6 million of Federal funding to complete the Mount Torrens to Birdwood Stage Four Section of the popular Amy Gillett Bikeway.

Deputy Mayor Nathan Daniell says completion of the bikeway is an important step towards recovery in the region and supports the wider strategic vision for cycling in the Hills.

"Council and the community have long advocated for the completion of the Amy Gillett with this project providing another important way for our towns and community to reconnect after the Cudlee Creek Bushfire and COVID-19."

"The Amy Gillett is incredibly popular and I'm certain this final stage will be well utilised by both our local community and tourists visiting the Adelaide Hills."

"We know spending time outdoors and exercising is beneficial and the completion of the Amy Gillett will positively impact on the physical and mental well-being of our local community."

"Completion of the Amy Gillett bikeway also supports the region's wider strategic

interest in cycling, including securing funding for the Adelaide Wine Capital Cycle Trail, supporting The Santos Tour Down Under and development of mountain biking and other cycling trails," said Cr Daniell.

Stage 1 of the Amy Gillett Bikeway from Oakbank to Woodside was built by the State Government in 2010 on an abandoned rail corridor.

Stage 2 to Charleston and Stage 3 to Mount Torrens were then constructed but since 2014 work on the remainder of the planned bikeway has stalled when no further monies were allocated by the State Government.

Stage 4 Mount Torrens to Birdwood is covered with this Federal funding and the proposed Stage 5 would include Birdwood to Mount Pleasant.

Federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie has been a long-time supporter of the Amy Gillett Bikeway and Council recognises her efforts in securing this successful Federal funding outcome.

The bikeway is named in honour of cyclist Amy Gillett who was tragically killed in 2005 during a training ride with the Australian women's cycling team.



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Ashgrove Iris Garden

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Good news! After a delayed start to the 2020 Spring season, Open Gardens SA are again able to open private gardens for the public to visit and enjoy. The SA Health Department has now allowed Open Gardens SA to open gardens as public gardens, avoiding the limitations of visitor numbers that apply to residential gardens/properties. Each open garden will follow a Covid Safe Plan with suitable social distancing being observed.

This good news confirms that the popular **Ashgrove Iris Garden** at 53-55 Albert Street, Gumeracha, will be able to open the garden gates to the public, with this year being the 21st year of continuous opening. Ashgrove Iris Garden is a beautiful and exceptionally well-maintained garden, enjoyed by thousands of visitors over the years, while also raising funds for a range of charities.

Ashgrove Iris Garden is a relaxed, pretty, country style garden, located in the main street of Gumeracha, close to the Gumeracha Oval. The garden is well



established with most plantings 20 or more years old and includes six very large old ash trees.

If you like Iris and roses, this is a garden you will not want to miss! There are over 900 named varieties of bearded iris and more than 200 roses, with mass plantings of irises providing a kaleidoscope of stunning colour in spring. But the garden is much more than just iris and roses... a long lawn stretches to an elongated urn; a tiny 'Summer House' nestles amongst the trees and shrubs; David Austin roses encircling a classic water feature. And a concrete rainwater tank

at the rear of the house has been boldly painted with a colourful Art Nouveau inspired mural of the four seasons in the garden. The tank artist was Terry Howes from Lobethal.

The garden owner was named the ABC Gardening Australia Gardener of the Year in 2013. A beautiful garden and a pleasure to visit!

Extra activities: Iris plants for sale. Artist painting and art for sale; display of blacksmith-built garden furniture and art, by Farmweld. Unfortunately, Devonshire Teas will not be available in the garden this year - for morning and afternoon teas please support our

local cafes.

Please Note: The garden has two large open ponds and some steps.

The entry fee is \$8.00 per person for adults (Open Gardens SA Members \$6.00);

children under 18 are admitted free, limited concessions available.

Full details of Open Gardens SA Spring program is available on their website: <https://www.opengardenssa.org.au>

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Wildlife Returns to Bushland Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Darren said that with the spring regrowth after the recent bushfires, Lobethal Bushland Park has the perfect habitat for the Western Pygmy Possums. These marsupials are small, nocturnal, and feed on nectar, so the native shrubs and flowers in bloom right now are a real drawcard. It is hoped they will settle in the Park where this project can monitor and protect them using non-invasive observation of the boxes.

The Western Pygmy Possums are known to travel up to 5km from their nest, and considering their size, this is no mean feat. Darren is optimistic about their usage of the boxes because on past projects, the possums have been observed in the nesting boxes within four weeks of installation.

Darren said that for small mammals like Pygmy Possums the biggest threat is the loss of habitat, loss of natural nesting locations (removal of dead trees, hollows), the degradation of habitat (bushfires, erosion), and feral predation (cats and foxes).

These nesting boxes not only provide information for research and protection in the future, they also provide a safer environment for the Western Pygmy Possums right now.

While assisting with the installation of the nesting boxes, Friends of Bushland Park volunteers also noticed promising signs of flora and fauna returning to the Park such as a well-known family of kangaroos and their young, signs of echidna diggings, and vivid ground cover alive with

native grasses, shrubs, lilies and orchids.

Billy-Jo Brewer of the Friends group said, 'Just a few of the ground cover species that are currently in full spring flower include lilies and orchids such as Chocolate-Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*), Blue Grass Lily (*Caesia calliantha*), Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*), Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*), Donkey Orchids (*Diuris* sp.), Hare Orchids (*Leptoceras* sp.), Spider Orchids (*Caladenia* sp.) and Purple Cockatoo (*Glossodia major*).'

Billy-Jo said that making a post-fire comeback are some of the middle storey shrub species that could provide nectar resources for the possums in the future. They include Beaked Hakea (*Hakea rostrata*), Christmas Bush (*Bursaria spinosa*), and Heath

Tea-tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*).

This project in Lobethal is part of the bushfire recovery effort in the Park. The boxes were made and donated to the Western Pygmy Possum project by the Enfield Men's Shed and should last for up to ten years. They are made of 22ml untreated pine with a tiny entrance hole (the size of a 10-cent piece) that limits larger animals and birds using the boxes. The possums will not be handled or disturbed in their new habitat as monitoring is completely non-invasive.

For more information about the project, please contact Tonia Brown at the Adelaide Hills Council on 8408 0400, Friends of Lobethal Bushland Park on Facebook (@FOLBP), or visit conservationvolunteers.com.au website.



Rebekha Sharkie MP

Federal Member for Mayo

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Habitat Recovery Alliance a ride not to be forgotten

Collaboration is key to success

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Tubestock grown by the volunteers was pooled with other plant donations from Future Generation Natives (Mt Torrens), Walkerville Rotary and Trees for Life, and distributed to other property owners affected by the fires, resulting in almost 200 properties being supported by this project. Not a bad effort within 6 months!

HRA volunteer planting events for 2020 season were planned with the easing of some pandemic restrictions. The months of June & July wreaked havoc for planning the planting events with many being

cancelled and then re-scheduled due to the wet winter South Australia enjoyed.

Kim Thompson Project Co-Ordinator from HRA said, "Planning for the many planting events made for an event coordinators nightmare. With all events being weather dependant and volunteer reliant, it was a week to week proposition, sometimes day to day proposition, if the planting event was to go forward. To the credit of landholders, volunteers and co-ordinators, the many planting days went ahead, albeit on many different schedules than

first planned.

A diverse range of community including corporate volunteers from Lockheed Martin, members of the Upper River Torrens Landcare Group, Habitat for Humanity group, and land holders themselves, were all part of helping out in Cudlee Creek fires bushfire recovery planting days.

Building a range of different kinds of nest boxes has been really important for the habitat recovery project and has seen a big effort from the Gumeracha Mens Shed (supported by Adelaide Hills Council), Tea Tree Gully Mens Shed, TTG Council (supported by Buntings, Modbury), and a

special Mannum man, 82 year old Mr Malcolm Ashby. Collectively they have built over 80 boxes for all kinds of birds (kookaburras, pardalotes, owls, ducks) and small mammals (bats and possums). Great effort by local volunteer, Philip Cornish, who has spent the past month installing them around the bushfire scar. "This project has provided so many opportunities for volunteers to contribute in a worthwhile and fulfilling way, our community is very inspiring and we look forward to doing it all again next year. Our work isn't done yet, the environment will take many years to recover and we want to be around to facilitate that healing", said Project Coordinator Kim Thompson

"Thank you so much to everyone who came to help plant, and all the amazing volunteers who helped grow and nurture these seedlings

ready for planting over the past 5 months. This assistance will definitely help us, and our property, recover better and stronger than we were before the Cudlee Creek Fires", Cudlee Creek landholder Lucy Cahill said.

A **STREET STALL**

will be held on Friday 23rd October at Gumeracha, between 8.45 am and 11.45 am, in front of no 22 Albert Street.

This is between the Op Shop and the Hub café, and opposite the medical center - in a different place than in previous years, but it should be easily seen.

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Lions update



What lovely weather we have been having!

Torrens Valley Lions Club members have been busy and will continue to be for the next few weeks.

Our 2020 raffle is now all set to go.

Tickets are \$2 each, with 1st prize a \$500 Bunnings gift card!

Lion Butch will be

at Birdwood Fuel on Saturday 17th and Lion Pauline will be at Kersbrook General Store on Saturday 31st selling raffle tickets and Lions Christmas cakes.

Call by and say hello while purchasing a raffle ticket or two.

For the next 3 weeks Club members will be cooking and

serving a sausage sizzle for Torrens Valley Little Athletics in Birdwood.

Planning for the 2nd Happy Paws Dog Show is progressing well and should be a fun day in the park at Gumeracha.

Our 5c & 10 drive continues as does the selling of Christmas cakes and puddings.

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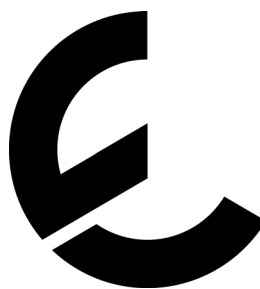
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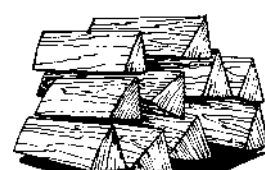
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- ★ Alignment Correction Kits
- ★ Suspension & Steering Repairs
- ★ 4WD Suspension and Lift Kits
- ★ Horse Float & Trailer Brakes
- ★ Under Car Repairs
- ★ Clutch Repairs
- ★ Disc & Drum Machining
- ★ CV Joint & Shaft Replacement
- ★ Shock Absorbers, Struts & Coil Overs
- ★ Re-sleeved Cylinders, bonded Shoes



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