

# FRIENDS of VULKATHUNHA-GAMMON RANGES NATIONAL PARK Inc.

**NEWSLETTER No.32**

Balcanoona Shearing Shed

**MARCH 2025**

Edited by Graeme Oats

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**At Fullarton Park Community Centre**

**Guest Speaker: - Mr Doug Sprigg.**

**“The conversion of Arkaroola from a pastoral lease abounding with feral animals, to a wilderness sanctuary, a tourist destination, a hub for learning about science, and a dark-sky astronomy observatory.”**

Doug has lived at Arkaroola since soon after his father bought the lease in 1968. He now runs it but somehow stays out of management. As a child he crossed the Simpson Desert 3 times with his parents and slept tentless under the stars. This stimulated an interest in Astronomy; hence they installed their first telescope in 1986 in time for Halley's Comet. Arkaroola is now a dark sky sanctuary.

He was a refrigeration mechanic, but is now a commercial pilot, a bus driver, an electrician and mechanic. He is keen not to be known as a public speaker, yet speaks incessantly to Arkaroola visitors about YFRW, short-tail grass-wrens, 96,000 goats, foxes, geology, native pines and mulga, remote area electricity supply, viewing Arkaroola from the air, mining exploration, the synergy between Arkaroola and Vulkathunha NP, and to school children about science in general.

## **GRANT NEWS**

We have been successful in gaining a grant through the Friends of Parks & Nature 2024/25 Small Grants Program to enable us to commence work on stabilising the Idninha Outstation in the remote northern region of the Park.

Dennis Jury has agreed to lead the project. More information will come from Dennis in coming weeks.

## **2025 WORKING BEES & MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

The Friends have full program again this year with six working bees planned during the coming months –

- **Weetootla** – **23-30 April** and **9-16 Sept.** Contact Martin ([m.caon56@gmail.com](mailto:m.caon56@gmail.com)) to express your interest.
- **Balcanoona** – **8-15 June** and **17-24 Sept.** Contact Roger ([roger\\_mathers@yahoo.com](mailto:roger_mathers@yahoo.com)) to express your interest.
- **Idninha** – **Week beginning 12th May and first week of Sept.** Final dates TBC. Email Dennis ([dennisjury1@gmail.com](mailto:dennisjury1@gmail.com)) to join the team.

To participate in the working-bees members must be financial, so you are reminded that your 2025 membership subscription is due and payable.

The Bank Account is: -

Bank SA - BSB 105-078 Acc. No. 053063140.

Please include your last name as reference, or post a cheque payable to the Friends of Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Inc. to 2/17 Waite Street Blackwood SA 5051.

*To be covered by our insurance whilst participating in our working bees members must be financial. The Friends constitution does not provide a Family Membership, so if both members (spouses/partners) from the same household intend to participate in the working bees it is necessary that a payment of \$30.00 so that both members are covered by our insurance. Our membership fee is \$20.00; to enable the second person from the same household to participate a discounted amount of \$10.00 will cover that person.*

Individual membership fee is \$20.00 per annum.

### **Update on the 2021 translocation of Flinders Ranges Gudgeon to two new sites in the Flinders Ranges.**

In mid-February, five of our members (Wayne, Libby, Mike, Janet & Martin) joined DEW in a survey of fish numbers at the translocation sites in Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park and Yappala Indigenous Protection Area. Recall that The Friends were involved in the translocation in May 2021 and that its purpose was to establish two self-sustaining “insurance” populations of the fish to ensure that the fish survived in the event of something untoward happening to the Vulkathunha populations. We stayed at Wilpena shearer’s quarters and ate at the Wilpena Chalet restaurant on two nights. There are a LOT of kangaroos and some enormous gums at Wilpena. Mike also saw a metre-long sand goanna. On a night walk near the resort we saw quoll, echidna, Yellow-footed RW, microbats and yabbies! On the third night we were treated to a delicious BBQ dinner at Hawker put on by the Yappala community.

We can report that after nearly four years, to date the fish translocation has been successful. At both



sites, we trapped/caught more than the number of fish (300) that were in the initial release. We confirmed that the fish had extended their range well beyond the initial release pools, and given that we caught small fish including some fry that were only 1cm (!) long that breeding had occurred to increase the size of the population.

Martin Caon February 2025

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## **Introducing the many Land-owning Conservation Organisations operating in South Australia and making sense of Government Protected Areas.**

In South Australia, the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is responsible for establishing and managing "Protected Areas". They cover more than 21% of the State. National Parks are just one of the different sorts of government-owned protected land areas. There are nine categories of Government-owned Protected Areas which have varying degrees of protection and conservation value. But how do they differ? We will find out by describing the gazetted categories listed below. The extinction of species, loss of bushland and the disappearance of native animals from their previous ranges, not to mention the degradation of pastoral land from overstocking, has prompted a response from private organisations. The conservation of land, and native flora and fauna is no longer the exclusive preserve of government instrumentalities. There are now (2025) lots of different non-government organisations (NGOs) that privately own or lease and/or manage land in South Australia for conservation purposes. These also are presented below.

### **Government Protected Areas (for a list of the names of land areas and an explanation, see:**

**[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protected\\_areas\\_of\\_South\\_Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protected_areas_of_South_Australia) )**

**National Parks** are areas of major scientific or ecological value that are open to the public. They are a primary marker of conservation and are known for their large populations of wildlife. National Parks are "areas considered to be of national significance due to wildlife, natural features of the land, or Aboriginal or European heritage". There are 30 National Parks in South Australia. *The Gammon Ranges National Park (The Yankaninna pastoral lease's former Arcoona Block) was declared a National Park in 1970. Most of the Balcanoona pastoral lease was added to the Park in 1980, and in 1984 the Station's "Plains Block" between Balcanoona homestead and Lake Munda, was added to the National Park. In 2003, the name was officially changed to Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. The Park protects Mogurnda clivicola as well as Quoll and Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby (YfRW). Most National Parks have a "Friends of" volunteer group like ours to support the activities of the Park.*



**Wilderness Protection Areas** (The Wilderness Protection Act 1992) provide for "the protection of wilderness and the restoration of land to its condition before European colonisation". Exploration and mining are not permitted in these areas. There are 14 in SA.

A **Conservation Park** is an area that is not necessarily of national significance, but is of particular scientific or ecological value. Conservation parks permit camping and other recreational activities, but these are

not encouraged. Conservation parks are "areas protected for the purpose of conserving wildlife or the natural or historic features of the land". 270 in SA.

A **Regional Reserve** is an area where conservation takes place alongside other uses, such as mining and grazing. Regional reserves in South Australia allow for mineral exploration and mining. Are "areas proclaimed for the purpose of conserving wildlife or natural or historical features while allowing responsible use of the area's natural resources" (ie mining). There are only five of these but they make up more than 6% of the area of SA. *Lake Frome Regional Reserve, which adjoins Vulkathunha NP, was proclaimed in 1991, was named Munda-Lake Frome in 2004 and upgraded to Lake Frome National Park in November 2021. Many reptiles such as the Lake Eyre Dragon, Sand Goanna and Bearded Dragon as well as Dingo can be seen here.*

**Conservation Reserves** are parcels of "land set aside for conservation of natural and cultural features under the Crown Land Management Act 2009". 16 in SA!

**Recreation Parks** are "areas managed for public recreation and enjoyment in a natural setting". 13 in SA.

**Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs)** are areas of land and sea Country managed by First Nations groups in accordance with the traditional owners' objectives. Some areas of IPA land are recognised as part of the National Reserve System, for protection of the nation's biodiversity and cultural heritage. South Australia has 10 IPAs that cover 6.19 million hectares. They are:

Antara-Sandy Bore IPA, Aparra-Makiri-Punti IPA, Kalka-Pipalyatjara IPA, Oak Valley rangers, Watarru and Walalkara IPA (all in the north-west of SA); Mount Willoughby IPA (80km north of Coober Pedy), Nantawarrina IPA (adjacent to Vulkathunha NP), Wardang Island Sea Country IPA, Walalkara IPA (in the Great Victoria Desert), Yalata IPA (from Eyre Peninsula to the WA border), Yappala IPA (near Hawker). *In 1998, the Adnyamathanha people of the Nipapanha Community created Australia's first Indigenous Protected Area on the old pastoral station of Nantawarrina which is adjacent to Vulkathunha GRNP. Mount Serle is a pastoral lease - held by an Adnyamathanha organisation - to the west of Nepabunna and abuts Vulkathunha. It hopes to become an IPA.*



**Game Reserves** are "areas set aside for conservation of wildlife and the management of game for seasonal hunting". SA has 10.

**Native Forest Reserves** (The Forestry Act 1950) allows for the declaration of forest reserves for "purposes relating to the conservation, development and management of land supporting native flora and fauna ....". Native forest reserves, SA has 60, are administered by the South Australian Forestry Corporation (ForestrySA), a wholly owned state government business.

If you are interested, the names of 484 conservation areas in South Australia may be found on the World-Wide Flora and Fauna site here: <https://www.wwffaus tralia.com/south-australia-vk5.html> (then scroll down). Not intentionally included in the list are private properties with a Heritage Agreement of which there are more the 1500.



## Non-Government Protected Habitat Areas

From the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, there arose many non-Government organisations that aimed to own, manage or rehabilitate areas of natural habitat in South Australia. They are mostly located on land where arid pastoral activities have failed or on land unsuitable for agriculture. Many have facilities for tourists to stay overnight, eat, walk and drive on the areas. Their management usually involves controlling feral cats, foxes, rabbits, goats and weeds, (and sometimes, mice, rats, pigs, camels, donkeys and deer). They often have areas surrounded by feral-proof fences to protect (often reintroduced) native animals and plants. Their income comes from corporate sponsors, Government grants, tourist fees and donations from private individuals. Summaries of 23 NGOs and collaborations of land holders, are alphabetically listed below (zoos are not included).

(FYI: Units of area: 1 are (pronounced "air") = 100m<sup>2</sup>; 1 hectare = 1ha = 100are = 10,000m<sup>2</sup>; 1km<sup>2</sup> = 100ha; Area of South Australia: 98,251,136ha )

### 1 Arid Recovery

Commenced in 1997 by John Read and Katherine Moseby, Arid Recovery is an independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to advancing conservation science for Australian threatened species such as Kowari, Stick-nest Rat, Quoll, Bettong, Bandicoot, *Pseudomys*, Dunnart, *Notomys* and Bilby. Their reserve, adjacent to the Olympic Dam mine site, spans a total of 12,300ha across six large enclosures. Arid Recovery is currently Australia's largest feral-proof fenced reserve.



Western Quoll

### 2 Arkaba Conservancy (Wild Bush Luxury)

**Arkaba** is a private wildlife conservancy of 25,500ha in the Flinders Ranges located on the southern edge of Wilpena Pound and the Ikara -Flinders Ranges National Park. Previously a sheep station, Wild Bush Luxury purchased the property in 2009 and transformed it into a wildlife conservancy. They provide guided "immersive wilderness experiences", high-end (expensive) accommodation, food and hosted walking. Like National Parks, there are abundant Western Grey and Red Kangaroo, Common Wallaroo (Euro), YfRW, Emu, Echidna and Wedge-tailed Eagle.

### 3 Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary

Lies about 600km north of Adelaide in the northern Flinders Ranges and *adjacent to Vulkathunha GRNP*. This 610km<sup>2</sup> Wilderness and Dark Sky Sanctuary was founded by the Sprigg family in 1968. The Village has camping, motel accommodation, a swimming pool, a restaurant, fuel, vehicle tyres, telescopes, walking and conducts air and 4WD tours. They have all the usual large native animals including YfRW, but also Spidery wattle, Iga and Quandong and now probably Quoll. The Arkaroola Protection Act 2012 was created to "establish the Arkaroola Protection Area; to provide for the proper management and care of the area; and to prohibit mining activities in the area". The protection area includes the Arkaroola Pastoral Lease and the adjoining Mawson Plateau part of the Mount Freeling Pastoral Lease.



Capparis Mitchellii - Iga Blossom

## 4 Australian Landscape Trust

Manages the former pastoral leases **Calperum Station** purchased by the Chicago Zoological Society in 1993, and **Taylorville Station** purchased by the Australian Landscape Trust in 2000 - both with assistance from the Australian Government. Together they comprise part of the Riverland Biosphere Reserve (previously known as the 'Bookmark' Biosphere Reserve). It covers 337,000ha of Mallee country, just north of Renmark. The reserve contains stretches of creeks, rivers and wetlands that provide habitat for a wide range of native flora and fauna including Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), the regionally vulnerable Bush Stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*). The reserve's many component properties include protected areas, pastoral leases and privately owned land such as the following: Calperum Station; Chowilla Regional Reserve; Chowilla Game Reserve; Cooltong Conservation Park; Danggali Conservation Park; Danggali Wilderness Protection Area; Gluepot Reserve; Loch Luna Game Reserve; Moorook Game Reserve; Murray River National Park; and Taylorville Station.

## 5 Australian Wildlife Conservancy:

Began on August 2, 1991 by Martin Copely (but founded in 1995) in Western Australia. It has since grown to become the largest private owner and manager of land for conservation in Australia, having acquired many of John Walmsley's Earth Sanctuaries after the publicly listed Earth Sanctuaries Ltd company went broke. They translocate animals that have become locally extinct, to their five fenced SA sanctuaries:

**Yookamurra Wildlife Sanctuary** (formerly a John Walmsley Earth Sanctuary) protects over 5,000ha of habitat in the Murray Darling region north west of Swan Reach and contains stands of old growth and unburnt mallee Brush-tailed Possums and Numbats.

**The Western River Refuge** at 395ha within a feral-proof fence on Kangaroo Island is a joint project between Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Kangaroo Island Land for Wildlife (see below) and private landholders. Contains KI dunnart.

**Dakalanta Wildlife Sanctuary**, 13,618ha, located on the Eyre Peninsula between Lock and Elliston, protects a diverse range of ecosystems and supports a large population of the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat and some Western Pygmy Possum and the Little Long-tailed Dunnart.

**Buckaringa Wildlife Sanctuary** conserves over 2000ha of the central Flinders Ranges in South Australia, 30km north of Quorn. Contains YfRW and Short-tailed Grasswren (formerly a John Walmsley Earth Sanctuary).

**Kalamurina** protects 679,666ha of desert in the heart of Australia, on the shores of Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre. It contains Crest-tailed Mulgara, the Dusky Hopping Mouse, and the Eyrean Grasswren. Open for camping.



KI Dunnart

## 6 BirdLife Australia

Acquired **Gluepot Reserve** in 1997. Gluepot Reserve is located about 64km from Waikerie, and about 200kms from Adelaide. This 54,390ha area of virgin scrubland contains 18 nationally threatened bird species including the Black-eared Miner (*Manorina melanotis*), 53 species of reptiles and 12 species of bats –some of which are also nationally threatened. Gluepot also has the greatest number of permanent biodiversity sites (200) of any Australian land area.



Black-eared Miner

## 7 Bush Heritage Australia:

Begun in 1991 after Bob Brown bought two properties in Tasmania. BHA is a not-for-profit conservation organisation protecting ecosystems and wildlife across the continent. They own properties that have been bought, gifted or bequeathed. Their 45 reserves cover over 1.4 million hectares, and are on the way to doubling this area by 2030. In South Australia their reserves are: **Boolcoommatta** established in 2006 (63,000 ha, 100km west of Broken Hill), with Plains-Wanderer, YfRW, Tree skink (*Egernia striolata*), Dusky Hopping Mice, Narrow-nosed Planigale; **Bon Bon** (216,700ha, north of Glendambo), with Stripe-faced Dunnart, was bought in 2008 with funds from the Commonwealth's National Reserve System Program; **Evelyn Downs** established in 2024 is 235,000 ha, 150km north of Coober Pedy, with the Fat-tailed False Antechinus (*Pseudantechinus macdonnellensis*).

## 8 Ecological Horizons



Ecological Horizons (commenced by John Read and Katherine Moseby in 2007) owns the **Secret Rocks Nature Reserve**. This is a 25,900ha area (4,000ha fenced) of mallee scrub near Kimba on Eyre Peninsula (abutting the Ironstone Hill Conservation Park) which has been placed under a conservation covenant. It contains Mallee Fowl and the Sandhill Dunnart. They operate a remote camera monitoring program for goats and foxes and use aerial baiting in partnership with DEW's Bounceback program to control foxes. Foxes, traps and

eradicant cat baits are used to control feral cats.

## 9 Field Naturalists Society of South Australia Inc.

Own and manage the **Manning Flora & Fauna Reserve** in McLaren Vale. This 45ha reserve is pink gum woodland and was established in 1955 after Sydney Manning bequeathed the land to the Society. **Forest Range Reserve** is 15ha of sclerophyll woodland of the higher Mount Lofty Ranges; **Tookayerta Marsh** - a section of natural swamp near Mount Compass on the Fleurieu Peninsula; **Nicholls Reserve** is 58ha of coastal scrub at Carpenter Rocks in the South East.

## 10 Kangaroo Island Land for Wildlife

This private land conservation program has been running since 2018, and protects almost 25,000ha of remnant bushland across 80 member properties on Kangaroo Island. A focus is on the removal of invasive predators (feral cats & pigs). Feral goats and deer have already been eradicated from the island.

## 11 Marna Banggara (Great Southern Ark) Southern Yorke Peninsula:

An ambitious project that aims to restore southern Yorke Peninsula's landscape by re-introducing locally extinct species such as Tamar Wallaby and Phascogale. Mallee Fowl are already there. In 2020 a north-south 25-kilometre predator control fence with 30 gates and open at major roads, was erected across the peninsula to prevent/deter the migration of foxes and cats from the north of the peninsula into the project area. The area includes Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park and all farmland west of the fence. Feral cats are controlled via baiting, shooting and trapping, while foxes are baited with *Foxoff* 1080 meat baits.

## 12 National Trust SA

National Trust SA manages 28 Natural Heritage reserves totalling over 1,500ha. Read about them here:

[https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/explore/?place\\_type=nature-reserves&content=places&state=sa](https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/explore/?place_type=nature-reserves&content=places&state=sa)

The reserves have been gifted to the National Trust and are mainly small (<20ha) in area. The largest are: **D. B. Mack Reserve** comprises an area of 265ha; **Lenger Reserve**, 95ha in size is just to the west of the River Murray corridor near Mannum; The 92ha **Wilabalangaloo Reserve** is located on the western bank of the River Murray on the outskirts of the Berri township; **Overland Corner Reserve** surrounds the historic Overland Corner Hotel downstream from the township of Barmera. It is 300ha in size.



## 13 The Nature Conservancy Australia

They are not a land-banking organisation but during 2017 & 2018 have built Australia's largest (20ha) restored shellfish reef (**Windara**) in the Gulf St Vincent near Ardrossan. Also "installed" and seeded with Australian flat Oysters (*Ostrea angasi*) are the 2ha reef west of Glenelg in 2020, and in 2021, one 500m off O'Sullivan Beach. In addition, in 2022, Nepean Bay in Kangaroo Island also had an oyster reef restored over a 3ha area. They are "helping to protect the southern stop-off point of many transcontinental migratory birds at the 85ha Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary" (north of Adelaide). They "established the Murray-Darling Basin Balanced Water Fund to provide water security for farmers, while protecting culturally significant wetlands that support threatened species and ecosystems. The Fund invests in permanent water rights in the Southern Murray-Darling Basin and allocates those rights in a smart way."

## 14 Nature Foundation

Began in 1981, it manages nine nature reserves for conservation comprising over 500,000 ha (5,000km<sup>2</sup>): They include **Witchelina** with Thick-billed Grasswren and Spinifex Hopping Mouse (purchased in 2009) and **Hiltaba** (purchased in 2012) – both open for tourism. **Watchalunga** (on Fleurieu Peninsula), **Para Woodlands** (3km south-east of Gawler), **Tiliqua** (10km north-east of Burra), **Murbpook Nature Reserve** (between Blanchetown & Morgan), **Geegeela Nature Reserve** (20km from Frances in south-east SA), **Bullock Bridge Nature Reserve** (east of Kingston) and **Mongolurring Nature Reserve** (east of Mt. Bryan).

## 15 Nature Glenelg Trust

Nature Glenelg Trust is a mission-driven, not-for-profit organisation publicly launched in 2012. "Native fish conservation and aquatic ecological projects are a major ongoing priority for NGT. We contribute to on-ground recovery actions; research and monitoring, the development of resource documents and ongoing education and awareness activities that aim to protect and restore populations of threatened species." "We operate a regional community nursery in Mt. Gambier (SA) to grow plants for biodiverse revegetation projects. Our specialist wetland ecologists undertake wetland restoration investigations and works across all land tenures in southern SA".

They own 3 NGT restoration reserves in SA. **Mount Burr Swamp restoration reserve; Hutt Bay Wetland restoration reserve; Eaglehawk Waterhole restoration reserve;**

Their Fleurieu Peninsula projects include consulting at Aldinga Washpool, the Southern Bell Frog breeding facility at Clayton, breeding Southern Purple-spotted Gudgeon, Glenshera Swamp and other Fleurieu Peninsula swamps.



## 16 Raukkan Community

**Mount Sandy** conservation project is 200ha of coastal shrublands and saline wetlands, south of Meningie and between the Princes highway, Narrung Road and the Coorong. Owned by the Ngarrindjeri community based at Raukkan, the area is being revegetated with seedlings grown at the Raukkan Community nursery.

## 17 Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary

At Mylor near Adelaide. Established by John Walmsley 1969 and fenced to provide a feral-free area for Bandicoots, Potoroos, Bettongs etc. It includes a café, campground and gift shop. Once owned by Adelaide Zoo, then abandoned. It is now reduced to about 17ha in area and home to Platypus sourced from Kangaroo Island.

## 18 Wetlands and Wildlife:

Founded by Tom Brinkworth in 1993. **Warraweena Station Conservation Park** 540 km north of Adelaide in the northern Flinders Ranges of South Australia is a former sheep station, 355km<sup>2</sup> in size and destocked since 1996. The reserve is known for its scenic 4WD tracks. **Watervalley Wetlands** about 250 km south-east of Adelaide, comprises over 27,000 hectares of wetlands and heritage scrub land in the Upper South East. From 2008, it has been re-vegetated and is open to duck shooters in season.



## 19 Wildlife Land Trust (Humane Society International):

The WLT has affiliated 52 small-acre sanctuaries in SA. They belonging to individual landholders and encompass a variety of land uses. "The WLT supports a vast range of landholders, from wildlife carers, eco-accommodation providers, to regular landholders, who each share a desire to take conservation action through preserving their land. Through on-the-ground restoration, regeneration and conservation, landholders can help maintain their local biodiversity and contribute to broader ecosystems."

<https://hsi.org.au/australian-wildlife-and-habitats/wildlife-land-trust/find-a-sanctuary/?type=&state=sa&feature=>

## 20 Wombats SA (formerly Natural History Society of SA)

Manages and maintains six sanctuary reserves: **Moorunde** (established in 1968), **Wombat Camp, Nardoo, Lake Short, and Malurus Reserves**, all between Swan Reach & Blanchetown. They have an area of 7770ha within which reside ~2000 Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats. They also manage the 29ha **Cullen Reserve** near Robe for Bare-nosed Wombat.

## 21 The Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby Preservation Association Inc.

The YFRWPA own **The Bunkers Conservation Reserve**. It is a private reserve, situated adjacent to Ikara-Flinders Ranges NP within the traditional lands of the Adnyamathanha aboriginal people. It is approximately 140km<sup>2</sup> in area and was purchased from Willow Springs Station in 2001. It boasts of having the highest self-drive 4WD track in the Flinders Ranges – the Caernarvon track. Permission is needed to access this land, and may be granted by contacting the secretary.

## 22 Developing News 1: Flinders Island Safe Haven

**Flinders Island** is a privately owned (by the Woolford family) 4000ha off-grid island located 35km south west of Elliston Eyre Peninsula, in the Investigator Group Islands. The Australian Government and the SA Government (DEW) will together invest \$4.8M for rehabilitation to create a safe haven for threatened species. In 2025, the island will be closed to visitors for the eradication of mice, rats and cats, after which reintroductions of Banded Hare-wallaby, Shark Bay Bandicoot, Dibbler (*Parantechinus apicalis*) and Nuyts/Southern Brown Bandicoot will occur.

## 23 Developing News 2: The Koala Sanctuary Limited

The charity announced it has purchased a 530-hectare property in the north-west of Kangaroo Island from plantation company *Kiland Limited*. Known as **Kellendale**, the property is planned to be home to KI's chlamydia-free Koalas. Currently the property is mainly covered by introduced Tasmanian Blue-Gum trees, but *Kiland* will help the sanctuary with the gradual and staged removal of the trees and replacement with vegetation native to the island.

## Other NGOs

The following are four conservation-based tourist ventures and commercial enterprises on pastoral leases, rather than dedicated reserves. They may or may not still run stock on the lease (there may be others):

**Banrock Station** is near Kingston-on-Murray, and owned by Accolade Wines. It grows grapevines and has wetlands with boardwalks and surrounds of over 1000ha, as well as a wine cellar-door and restaurant. A RAMSAR site.

The **Hanson Bay Sanctuary** is a 2000 hectare, privately owned sanctuary adjacent to Flinders Chase National Park (FCNP), located about 110 kilometres from Kingscote. Reopened after being extensively damaged the Christmas 2019 bushfires.

**Martins Well Rangeland Reserve** (currently closed for accommodation & camping and is/was currently For Sale). It is located approx. 95km North East of Hawker, 50km due East of Ikara-Wilpena Pound and 386km from Adelaide. It consists of approx. 105,000ha or 1050km<sup>2</sup> of land. ?Runs cattle & sheep? It contains extensive bodies of water fed by the Artipena Springs, in their section of Wilpena Creek.



**Rawnsley Park Station** was formerly a sheep station but has transformed to a 12,000ha tourist business with a campground, lots of accommodation, some walking and a restaurant. It still runs 2000 sheep. A Heritage agreement covers the Rawnsley Bluff.

**Martin Caon, 26 February 2025**