

# Leader's Report February, 2013/February 2014

**HISTORY:** Another year has passed and we are into our 25<sup>th</sup> year.

In the years since our inception in January, 1990 much has been achieved, probably far more than we could have imagined since the early days, when the woolshed was a woolshed, when we didn't have any equipment to speak of, but gradually over the years through persistence and lots of help from the Trust, private companies, local government and our enthusiastic members there have been vast changes to the landscape of the reserve.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Blue gum plantations around the reserve continue to deprive us of much needed flow into the reserve.

Students from Deakin University Aquatic Science Dept. visited the reserve again this year.

Some students have been impressed with our work and have volunteered their assistance.

Peter Bolte and Trevor Kennedy continue their own aquatic study. Bore readings are recorded every month. Peter Tyler is now testing the bore water as well as the surface water

**VOLUNTEERS:** We were fortunate to have the services of volunteers from Western District Employment Access again this year. Projects have included the removal of fences, seed collecting and the re-location of a bird hide were the projects carried out.

**SURVEYS:** The Basalt to Bay project lent our group 4 sensor cameras to help in monitoring wildlife at the reserve. These cameras along with our own cameras have been beneficial in seeing what is happening in certain selected areas. Trevor Kennedy is setting up a plan so that the whole reserve will be monitored. We are in the process of ordering four sensor cameras for our own use.

**REVEGETATION:** The Interpretive garden and understorey seed orchard (Ryan Garden) has produced large quantities of seed again which will be used in growing understorey plants this year (2014). Thanks to all the volunteers led by Elinor who have made this project a success

**WEED CONTROL:** Phalaris, Coast Wattle and thistles continue to be our most troublesome weeds. Coast wattles are regularly removed. We are still hopeful of having our fire brigade exercise after the fire danger has eased to control the phalaris SE of the woolshed. Firebreaks have been cut for the proposed burn off. In addition a firebreak will be ploughed around the proposed burn off area.

**HYGEINE:** *Members need to get into the habit of using the foot bath at the front door.*

*It's a very important tool in controlling weeds and pathogens.* An alternative is to bring additional clean footwear.

**MAINTENANCE:** The walking tracks have been kept in good condition, thanks mainly to Lance and Frank. Painting and roof repairs to the Woolshed have been successful. Machinery maintenance has to be kept up to improve safety and ease of use.

**THE FUTURE:** Financial members for the year totalled 51, down from 55 last year. This is in addition to the 20 plus supporters The reserve is going well and we have a small but dedicated core to keep things ticking along. We need more members available to carry out small tasks that suit their expertise and interests. We are all getting older and we certainly need some younger members. We have gained some new active members recently.

A new information brochure is being prepared to distribute in the hope we can increase our active membership

Finally I would like to thank all our office bearers and members and Sue and Adam from Trust for Nature for all their efforts and assistance through out the year. Thanks also to the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, Greening Australia, Landcare Australia, Powercor, Pacific Hydro and Portland Aluminium for their assistance and support over the year.

Peter Carrucan, Leader.