



# WildEyre

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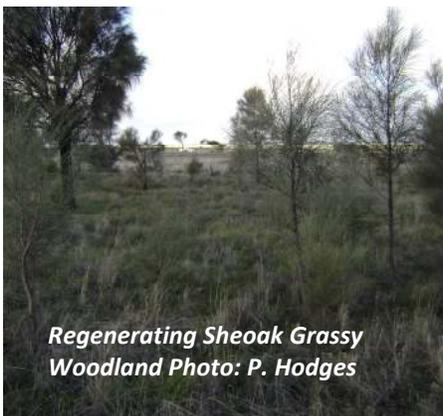
## A 'wild' twelve months for WildEyre

Welcome to another edition of WildEyre: an eNewsletter put together by the WildEyre Working Group. It's been a long time between editions! WildEyre is a landscape-scale conservation action planning project located on Western Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. The WildEyre project aims to bring together government agencies, non-government organisations and other stakeholders to plan for the future of Eyre Peninsula's natural environment in a sustainable and collaborative approach to conservation.

Please have a browse through our newsletter and feel free to contact one of the partner organisations (listed on the back page) for more information on any of the projects detailed here.

Thanks and we hope to hear from you!

The WildEyre Working Group



Regenerating Sheoak Grassy Woodland Photo: P. Hodges

## Rejuvenating Sheoak grassy woodlands on Western Eyre Peninsula

Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) grassy woodlands have long been regarded by many as a significant vegetation community under threat on the Eyre Peninsula. As a consequence, the WildEyre Conservation Action Plan addresses a number of threats to this ecosystem, including over-grazing and low recruitment rates.

A study conducted in 2010 into landholder attitudes and perceptions on the role of sheoak grassy woodlands in a productive system revealed that some landholders felt a strong sense of responsibility in protecting them. They felt that restoring these landscapes to their former, more productive and sustainable state was important. One of the prohibitive

factors was the loss of production income when de-stocking previously productive land and the cost of other activities associated with ongoing management.

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As a result, the WildEyre team developed a project with the aim of supporting farmers who would like to undertake voluntary de-stocking and management of sheoak grassy woodland systems on their property, with the aim to reintroduce a sustainable level of grazing in the future.

The project was successful in obtaining funding for 10 years in late 2010 from the Native Vegetation Council, and in early 2011 a market-based instrument was developed to undertake large scale restoration of sheoak grassy woodlands on private land. Landholders interested in conserving these woodlands on their property were asked to submit a tender for the financial cost of de-stocking and managing a remnant patch of sheoak grassy woodland for a period of up to 10 years; a site inspection with NRM Officers was undertaken and a management plan produced. Successful landholders will receive ongoing funding subject to annual site inspections and implementation of management plans.

The sites selected will not be revegetated but allowed to regenerate from remnant vegetation already present. Once the sites have regenerated and young Sheoaks have grown to a stage when the project manager is happy that they are not at threat from stock, sustainable grazing will be allowed. It is quite possible this could occur earlier than the funded 10 year period but the landholder will still receive the agreed payments right to the end of the contract.

The WildEyre working group would like to thank all landholders who have been involved in the project to date, as well as Patrick O'Connor from O'Connor NRM Consulting for assisting in the development of this MBI process. We would also like to thank the Native Vegetation Council for providing funding, advice and feedback during the development of this project. Stay tuned for more updates as the project progresses!



Sheoaks  
Photo: L. Mortimer

### Tackling soil erosion on Eyre Peninsula

Erosion is a significant problem in some areas of Eyre Peninsula, particularly in areas where the soils are already fragile and skeletal, such as inland dune-swale systems. In these kinds of systems, vegetation is the key to stabilising soils and preventing them from eroding away however this can sometimes be difficult to manage on a working farm, where most of these vulnerable sites are located amongst cropping or pastoral lands.

The Australian Government recognised the threats posed by soil erosion to biodiversity in recent funding opportunities through the Caring for Our Country program. This enabled Greening Australia, in collaboration with the EPNRM Board, to obtain funding to run projects specific to this issue in 2010/11. This program has been funded for another two financial years, and it is expected that many more projects will be funded during this time.



Wind Erosion on cropping land Photo: P. Hodges



Wind Erosion on cropping land Photo: P. Hodges

Natural Resources Management Officer for Western Eyre Peninsula Paul Hodges of EPNRM says it's important to balance biodiversity conservation with sustainable farming practices, because the two go hand in hand in many instances. "This project aims to help landholders mitigate wind erosion on their property, providing benefits to soil health, as well as biodiversity benefits such as creating habitat for flora and fauna, and providing corridors for wildlife movement."

If landholders would like more information about wind erosion management or would like to find out more about this project, please contact either Paul Hodges (08) 8626 1108 or Simon Bey at Greening Australia (08) 8683 1076.



## Calling All Photographers!

Lake Newland Conservation Park Photo: L Mortimer

Recent weather conditions have the WildEyre region looking spectacular!

We encourage any local photographers to add their images to the WildEyre 'Flickr' site so we can spread more of these beautiful images across the globe!

Just go to the 'Flickr' website - [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) - type in 'WildEyre' and follow the links to check out other images.

You can also tag your photos with 'WildEyre' to add them to the gallery!

### Work on woodlands starts on Central Eyre—State Complimentary Project 2010—2011

Two significant revegetation projects started recently in the Central Eyre region as part of a focus on works that preserve and enhance diversity in four key assets within the WildEyre region. These projects – part of the project Implementation of High Priority Wild-Eyre Conservation Strategies – were undertaken in priority areas of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy property 'Dakalanta' and Lake Newland Conservation Park.

The sites chosen were the first stage in multi-stage Site Restoration Plans compiled for these properties in 2009 by Greening Australia scientists. The Lake Newland project aims to create



Revegetation works at Lake Newland Conservation Park Photo: L. Mortimer

a buffer zone of vegetation to help reduce any effects surrounding land use may have on the biodiversity of the system as a whole. The Dakalanta revegetation project aims to restore a pastoral lease by improving the quality of vegetation and filling gaps in the landscape that have been historically cleared for grazing.



Revegetation works at Lake Newland Conservation Park Photo: L. Mortimer

Both projects focussed primarily on revegetation using sheoak grassy woodland species, and were undertaken using direct seeding.

These projects contributed towards four priority WildEyre conservation assets – sheoak grassy woodlands, sub-coastal wetlands, coastal cliffs and rocky shores, and sandy shores and dune systems.

For more information on these projects, please contact Andrew Freeman (08) 8682 7555 or Louise Mortimer (08) 8626 1108.



**Landholder profile:**  
**Rob Nunan and**  
**Chris Porter, Carawa**

In 1992, Rob Nunan and Chris Porter purchased their property in the Carawa/Smoky Bay district. The property, historically a cropping/ grazing enterprise, was in fair condition and in a good location, but that wasn't what attracted Rob and Chris to the property. What interested them was an almost 3000 hectare block of remnant vegetation contained within it (see red marked area on map). Much of this was found in an almost square block measuring 4.45km east-west and 4.6km north-south, and it is arguably one of the most significant area of remnant vegetation, outside national parks, on western Eyre Peninsula.



Acraman Creek Conservation Park *Pic: L.Mortimer*

**Their Vision**

Rob and Chris' vision sees this block as being integral to a lattice-work of remnant blocks and shelterbelts that could eventually link Pureba Conservation Park north of Mudamuckla to Acraman Creek Conservation Park, on the coast near Smoky Bay. This proposed linkage would run north-east to south-west and is approximately 40km in length (See Map).

A key part of vision is to engage landholders to protect existing native vegetation and establish and protect new native vegetation windbreaks where gaps in the corridor exist. A continuous corridor would provide habitat and corridors for native animals and birds to use; as the effects of climate change increase these types of linkages may prove pivotal to the survival of many of these species, as well as many flora species.

**On-farm Land Management Strategy**

Far from simply being theorists, Rob and Chris realise the importance of running a profitable farm whilst pursuing their environmental goals. Over the past 20 years they have divided 400 hectare paddocks into more manageable 80 hectare paddocks. Each 80 hectare paddock has a watering point, meaning that they can be used individually to cell-graze sheep. This reduction in paddock size helps Rob and Chris manage the pasture more effectively; they also have established laneways across their farm to allow ease of movement of sheep.



Track in Pureba Conservation Park *(Pic: DENR)*

These smaller paddocks have had windbreaks established around them to help prevent wind erosion. The windbreaks' they have established have also importantly included low, middle and upper storey native vegetation species. This prevents the windbreaks from developing "holes" as the plants grow, allowing wind to tunnel through. These windbreaks have systematically been fenced to exclude stock, allowing the flora to thrive and become important habitat for native



Cropping and Pastoral Land at Carawa (Pic: Google Earth)

fauna, especially smaller animals and birds. The windbreaks create a lattice work of corridors and pathways between major pieces of remnant vegetation.

Regular pest plant and animal control is standard practice on the Nunan/Porter property. Rob and Chris believe there is no point protecting native habitat from stock if you don't control other threats to the native plants and animals that live there. Rabbits and foxes and feral cats are regularly trapped and baited and pest plants, such as African Boxthorns, are also controlled.

Rob and Chris believe the strategies they use on their farm, can be replicated on other properties in the region to help achieve ecological sustainability across the landscape. They have floated their idea with other landholders in the region and encouraged them to become involved. Actions required include fencing off existing shelterbelts and areas of remnant vegetation from stock, establishing shelterbelts in strategic locations and carrying out pest animal and plant control. Landholders that are keen to be involved may be eligible for incentive funding through the various avenues available for land management activities in the region.



**Figure 1** — Map of proposed vegetation corridor between Acraman Creek and Pureba Conservation Parks (Map by: P. Hodges via NatureMaps (DENR).)



*Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike Streaky Bay*  
*Photo: L. Mortimer*



WildEyre

## WildEyre Partner Organisations

**The partner organisations in WildEyre create, manage and participate in projects that contribute to achieving broader conservation and land management outcomes at a landscape scale**

Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board  
Port Lincoln: (08) 8682 7555  
Elliston: (08) 8687 9330  
Streaky Bay: (08) 8626 1108  
[www.epnrm.sa.gov.au](http://www.epnrm.sa.gov.au)

Department for Environment and Natural Resources  
Port Lincoln: (08) 8688 3111  
[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

The Nature Conservation Society (South Australia)  
Adelaide: (08) 7127 4630  
[www.ncssa.asn.au](http://www.ncssa.asn.au)

Greening Australia (South Australia)  
Adelaide: (08) 8372 0100  
Port Lincoln: (08) 8683 1076  
[www.greeningaustralia.org.au](http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au)

The Wilderness Society  
Adelaide: (08) 8231 6586  
[www.wilderness.org.au](http://www.wilderness.org.au)

### What's on in WildEyre?

**Get involved! Give us a ring to find out how!**

#### Current Projects -

- *Sheoak Grassy Woodlands - Sustainable Grazing MBI program*  
**Contact:** Rob Coventry, EPNRM Board Elliston
- *WildEyre State Complementary Project - Management of Coastal and Sheoak Ecological Communities*  
**Contact:** Louise Mortimer, EPNRM Board Streaky Bay
- *Protecting Dunetop Remnants using Windbreaks*  
**Contact:** Paul Hodges, EPNRM Board, Streaky Bay

#### Partnership Programs -

- *Indigenous Partnerships in the Chain of Bays (with Friends of Sceale Bay)*  
**Contact:** Andrew Freeman, EPNRM Board Port Lincoln
- *Engaging Coastal Communities on Eyre Peninsula (with Conservation Volunteers Australia)*  
**Contact:** Louise Mortimer, EPNRM Board Streaky Bay

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**We are always on the look out for great local photographers and artists who would like to donate their works to help showcase our beautiful region to a wider audience. If you would like to have your work displayed at one of our offices, in one of our posters or newsletters, please contact one of the partnering organisations for more information.**

