

# Calperum And The Environment News

Projects of  
D.9500/9520

Rotary



**Don Will**

## NEW CHAIRMAN FOR C.A.T.E. COMMITTEE (CALPERUM AND THE ENVIRONMENT)

After almost four years, Chairman, Dick Cuttle has handed over the reins to Don Will. Don is well known around the District 9520 as a past Assistant Governor, Charter President of RC Eastwood (and President once again in 2019/20), and the Rotarian who took Rotary to the Maldives. Having grown up on a sheep and viticulture property in the Barossa, Don considers himself to be a practical person when it comes to the environment.

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## Chairman Dick's Final Report

I am not sure whether I am happy or sad to write my last report as the chair of the Calperum and the Environment Committee. It has certainly been interesting, joining the committee to work

on Health of the River at Calperum, instead of at Lake Cullulleraine. Then, a few years later, assuming the chair following Bob Arnold. And now, handing the position to Don Will, who has been a wonderful secretary/treasurer, but more importantly, a strong advocate for Rotary's involvement in environmental programs generally, and Calperum in particular. I am remaining on the committee, working with Bruce Cole in developing, promoting and supporting the educational opportunities that Calperum provides.



**Dick Cuttle**

## Change of Name to Newsletter

The Calperum News will now be known as *Calperum And The Environment* (CATE) News to represent the incorporation of our other environmental projects under one Environmental Committee. Our new chairman, Don Will outlines some of these changes in his contribution to this issue,

During the last few years we have seen a change in our role. Initially it was all physical work which included weeding, planting, watering, removing and building fences, building maintenance, and so on. All of this activity was basically organised on a club basis albeit with a roster developed by the committee. In response to Calperum's needs, we are

now moving towards a more task/project involvement. We have also been working more with the staff of Calperum and the Australian Landscape Trust in looking to the future, and how we can support them as they continue to develop their plans for Calperum. While this is a developing role for us, our committee members have a wide range of skills and experience to ensure that our input remains positive. I would like to acknowledge and thank firstly Grant Whiteman for starting this change, and now Peter Cale and Julie Robertson for not just including us, but making us welcome in every way and I am sure that this will continue under the leadership of our new chairman, Don. This change in role has enabled us to understand the challenges facing the A.L.T. board and Calperum's management. Not just drought or coping with increased feral creatures, but a whole range of issues including day to day management, long term planning, and securing funds to make it all happen. My respect for their collective efforts remains very high and continues to grow!

On a personal basis, I would also like to thank Caitlin Polack, for her support and leadership for the education programs that occur at Calperum. While some of these are Rotary supported, Caitlin is making Calperum more attractive to schools and other groups, and whilst education is of my own personal interest, I believe that this particular aspect of Calperum is the most important, and one that will define its future and the future of our community generally.

The role of the Calperum Committee has changed and now includes the addition of other Rotary environmental committees. This is reflected in the name change from Calperum Committee to Calperum And The Environment Committee (C.A.T.E.) with the expectation that this will give a boost to our other general environmental activities, and with the amalgamation of our two Rotary districts, the opportunities are continuing to expand. With this in mind, I was pleased that we were able to help the Adelaide Hills Council with the provision of bird nesting boxes to be placed along the Amy Gillett Bikeway.

We have been asked to support a second Health of the River (HoR) program for a group of students from Roma Mitchell College. Such financial support we have been able to offer is the result of very kind donations from the the Rotary Clubs of Blackwood and Prospect. A date has not been set at this time, but the College request indicates just how highly this program is valued by schools. Our own HoR will be run in late October (28th October to 1st November, 2019), and clubs will be asked to nominate students shortly. Please approach your local high schools, and nominate early as we are limited to only twenty eight participants this year. We are also happy to receive offers of Rotarian help for these student programs. Please contact Bruce Cole or me for more information about how you can help, and the steps you need to take to meet Rotary's and Calperum's youth protection requirements.

Finally, I would like to thank all committee members over the last 3 years for their support, both in meetings, but more importantly for their commitment to, and involvement in Calperum and its programs. I have mentioned Don already, and I would like to acknowledge Elliott Dwyer for his work group organisation during the last few years, and David Gooley for his ongoing restoration work and the way in which he has been able to involve other clubs in this work.

*Dick*

## And now, it's "In With the New" with Chairman Don



After many years on the Calperum Committee, under the superb leadership of initially Bob Arnold and then Dick Cuttle, I am proud to take on the Chairmanship. Dick, thanks for handing over such an engaging program on environmental projects with so many enthusiastic Rotary volunteers.

In recent months a transition is occurring as to how we manage the various environmental activities of Districts 9500 and 9520. In the past we have been very "Club focused" where members of individual Rotary Clubs work independently in specific areas of activity - either at Calperum or within their local community. Following recent discussions with Calperum management we have agreed that our activities can be better managed with a *project focus* under a Project Captain. The Captain will invite Rotarians from any Club who seeks to be involved in that activity to register their interest and be kept informed when work is to be undertaken. For instance, under the Environmental Monitoring Captain, a work team from three different Clubs visited Calperum in the last week of July to do the winter monitoring activities.

The Project Captains will be the direct link with Calperum staff to establish when visits are planned, how many volunteers are required and for how long, and book accommodation for volunteers. All communication for projects is via the Captain. Whilst some Clubs may wish to continue to visit Calperum as a complete group, this will either be:

1. Under the direction of the Project Captain who oversees the volunteering they seek to undertake (in which case there is no charge for accommodation for any volunteer) or
2. As a 'holidaying guest' at Calperum - to enjoy the superb environment of this unique property - at the standard daily rate of \$22 per person.

Such clear differentiation has become necessary due to:

1. Rotarians and Rotary Clubs booking a stay and cancelling at very short notice, resulting in nil revenue for the accommodation which could have been booked by other people seeking to stay, and
2. Instances of a large group of Rotarians staying, but without prior arrangements for their volunteer work, or plans to only work for a small portion of their stay.

Rotarians, be assured that our efforts over many years, and those into the future are very much appreciated by the A.L.T. Board and management at Calperum. And such work is rewarded with no charge for accommodation. Calperum is seeking to expand what is becoming a good and steady source of revenue for its operations, and as an organisation I would like to think that we can assist by managing our visits well.

To date, we have divided our Calperum activities into six categories with designated Captains which are detailed on Page 10. In addition, Rodger Hedley continues to keep communications happening and Di Keach has joined our Committee as a result of the wonderful work she is pioneering regarding plastics in the environment.

Jeff Cluse of Prospect Club is serving again as the secretary and Elliot Dwyer and David Binks continue as general committee members. Thank you all for taking on these tasks. Contact details of committee members are also published on page 10 of this issue of C.A.T.E. News.

If any Rotarian has any potential project that they wish to undertake, particularly one based at Calperum, might I suggest that you contact either Julie Robinson ([julier@alt.org.au](mailto:julier@alt.org.au)) or myself in the first instant to discuss. If it has merit, project status can be established.

We look forward to Calperum's further expansion as Australian Rotary's largest environmental activity.

*Don Will - Chair C.A.T.E. Committee.*



## Rotary Club of Goolwa Environmental Project

*Diana Keach*

In 2017-18, the World Rotary President, Ian Riseley, made the environment a focus for his term as president, urging every Rotarian in the world to plant a tree, and to also increase awareness of the environmental issues facing our planet.

As incoming president in that year, with the support of club members, I decided that the environment would be a major focus for my term, with the first initiative being the replanting and subsequent care of an area allocated to us at the Bristow-Smith reserve in Goolwa.

We also assisted the Hindmarsh Island Land Care Group in the planting of about 700 trees and shrubs. It was then decided to take our environmental initiative further by putting together an environmental display highlighting the disastrous effect of plastic, especially "one use plastic" on our environment and with marine wildlife.



*The devastating effects of plastic on marine life*

We were given free-standing, easy to assemble panels which are ideal for the project, allowing us to display graphic pictures and short videos of affected wildlife, accumulations of plastic in oceans and waterways and also written information. Tables are also set up to display information sheets, and a variety of cutlery, cups plates, paper straws, paper bags etc that can be used as an alternative to plastic. When visiting schools, we also include a talk, and then a discussion and question time. We began by offering this presentation to the schools in our local area, then to a wider area, so far totalling nine schools with invitations to visit more in the near future. The engagement, understanding and enthusiasm of the young people to whom it has been

presented has made this such a worth while project.

This last year has seen the continuation of emphasis on the environment with World President Barry Rassin reminding Rotarians around the world to make a contribution to the sustainability of our planet. In my second term as president of our club I was gratified to receive support to expand and improve upon our existing environmental initiative with our "Bag Project". This consists of buying suitable material and members making bags of similar size to replace the thin plastic bags used for fruit and vegetables. These bags are then stencilled "Rotary Club of Goolwa" and, with the continued support of the owner of the Goolwa Shopping Mall, placed on a purpose-built stand, on which there are also a few graphic pictures of wildlife affected by plastic waste. The gold coin donation box is proving satisfactory, and we are now making a small profit. Materials for bags cost about 70c per bag. We plan for this to be ongoing and have been invited to extend it to the Wharf Market.

We have made the following presentations at:

- Goolwa Mall January, 2018.
- School visits.
- Meeting of the Environmental Committee of the Alexandria Council.
- Victor Harbor Cinema when "Plastic Oceans" was screened.
- The Council's "Sustainable Spring" workshop.



*RC Goolwa's award winning display at the D.9520 conference in Broken Hill*

- The Victor Harbor Youth Street Party.
- The function at Murray Bridge to welcome R.I. President, Ian Riseley.
- The District Assembly.
- The Joint District Conference in Tanunda and the 9520 Conference in Broken Hill, winning the Best Displayed Club Project Award.

The club also hosted an environmental workshop at the Community Hub in Goolwa on 31st May, where we presented the full display, had a guest speaker on the environment, demonstrations of cutting, sewing and stencilling the bags and served afternoon tea.

Our objective is to involve members of the community in this ongoing project and we are accepting invitations to visit schools as far away as Lenswood and Birdwood.

Our club has been involved in the KESAB (Keep South Australia Beautiful) program since 2002, carrying out regular local roadside cleanups.

Last year we introduced an environmental committee to our board. I am director of this enthusiastic committee and we look forward to continuing our program with schools, provision of alternative bags for fruit and veg, roadside care, and tree planting programs. Last week we assisted Hindmarsh Island Landcare in planting shrubs and ground cover., Earlier in the year the club contributed \$2000 towards the purchase of a utility for their conservation program. In the last planting season Hindmarsh Island Landcare have planted 17,200 trees, shrubs and plants, (grown in their nursery by volunteers) and have collected over 200 tons of plastic and rubbish and taken it to Fleurieu Waste Authority. This organisation will have our continued support.



*Diana Keach  
Rotary Club of Goolwa*

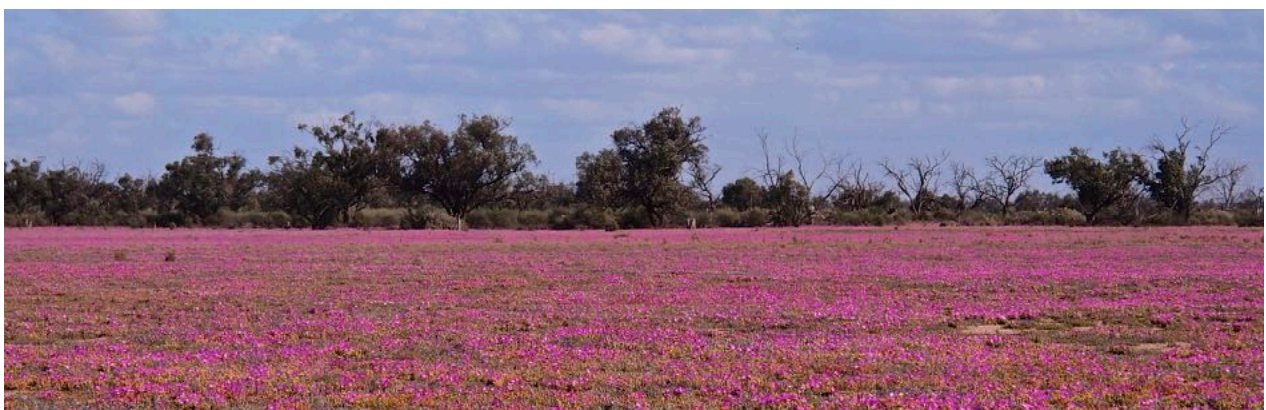
## Have Your Say!

C.A.T.E. News will now include a segment where you, our readers, are invited to submit letters, suggestions or comments regarding environmental projects, along with any of your ideas. Please send in your contribution.

**Please send mail to:**  
**Rodger Hedley, Editor C.A.T.E. News**  
**[rghedley@adam.com.au](mailto:rghedley@adam.com.au)**

## C.A.T.E. News

**C.A.T.E. News is issued periodically during the year and is distributed widely throughout Rotary Districts 9500, 9520 and to the Australian Landscape Trust community and as well to a number of "Friends of Rotary" and "Friends of Calperum"**





## There's no place like Calperum

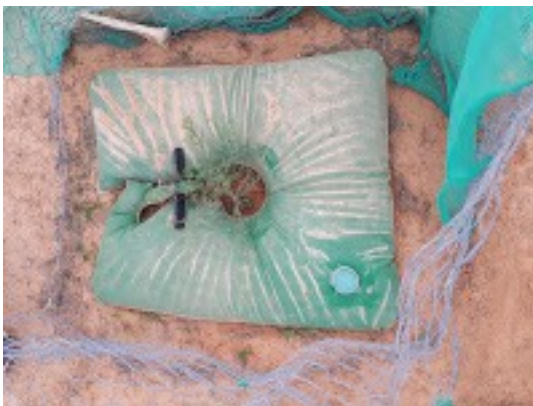
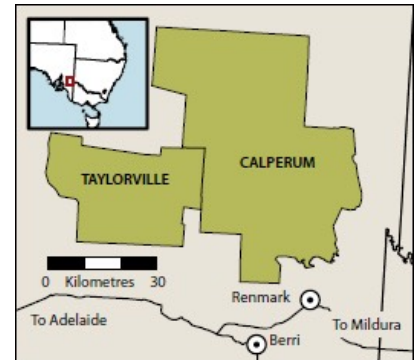
*Rotary Club of Seaford*



The Rotary Club of Seaford held its third annual weekend away at Calperum Station during the June long weekend. A group of nearly thirty volunteers including Rotarians and family, plus Rotaractors from the Adelaide City Rotaract Club participated in a number of environmental conservation projects during their stay, but also had plenty of time to relax and breathe in the crisp Calperum air.

Situated north of Renmark, the 2,386km<sup>2</sup> former sheep station is now a site for habitat and

species conservation, scientific research and education. Many Rotary clubs visit the site annually to participate in efforts to help return the site to its former habitat. Previous activities undertaken by the Rotary Club of Seaford include tree health surveys, the removal and disposal of disused irrigation pipe, gardening projects including mulching, planting and weed removal. Volunteers also undertake general maintenance on the property such as oiling of decks and painting of buildings. Rotarians are fortunate to be accommodated in "Rotary House" (which provides a high level of comfort in the outback setting), or in the comfortable dormitory building.



This year's activities included weeding of a vegetable patch and other garden beds, and the maintenance of the watering bladders for recently planted trees. These bladders (left) have a capacity of 25 litres, to keep the trees watered for about one month. Therefore, volunteers need to check and refill them



regularly. The trees are also protected against wind, wild goats and kangaroos by wire mesh guards.

But a visit to Calperum is not all hard work. There is always plenty of time to relax or explore the beautiful landscape. A visit to Calperum Station will usually involve an encounter with the local wildlife including emus and other bird life, kangaroos and goannas. There are many great stories to be told over dinner or by the fire pit after a hard day's work.

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### **Volunteers Appreciation Event**

to be held at Calperum on

**Saturday, 19th October 2019**

***This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Trustees of the Australian Landscape Trust and fellow volunteers***



**Club Alert**



## ***'HEALTH OF THE RIVER'***

ROTARY YOUTH FORUM

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October—Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2019**



**CALPERUM STATION  
Renmark, South Australia**

***WHERE SCIENCE, THE ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY  
COMBINE***



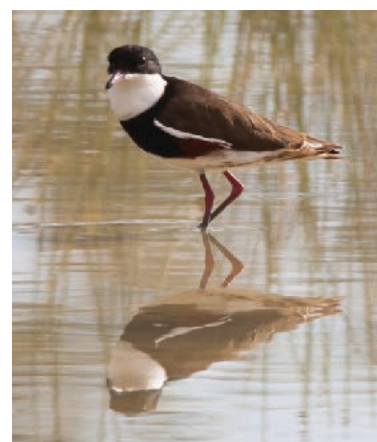
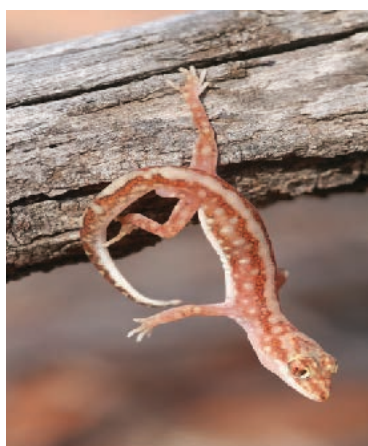


## Rotary Youth Forum - Health of the River

The 2019 Health of the River Forum will be held at Calperum Station, Renmark from 28<sup>th</sup> October to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The forum is for Year. 9 & 10 students interested in science, protecting the environment & natural resource management. It provides hands on learning and mentoring from specialist ecologists on a working conservation and research property. Supported by Rotary Clubs, the program provides transport, accommodation, meals, a wonderful learning experience and lifelong memories.

## Calperum Station

Calperum Station is a large property which extends from Mallee country to the banks of the Murray River. An internationally significant wetland system, Calperum is home to several rare and threatened species and makes up approximately one third of the Riverland RAMSAR site. Managed by a team of ecologists and Aboriginal rangers, Calperum hosts several significant scientific studies and environmental projects, and is regularly visited by universities, schools and international students.



## Field Study Program

Students will rotate through diverse and interesting activities during the program. They will work alongside Calperum ecologists and rangers learning about and participating in environmental research and management projects. These may include:

- Black box tree health surveys
- Small mammal and reptile trapping
- Wetland degradation restoration
- Cultural and environmental walks
- A regional tour of significant 'river related' places of interest.

## Skills and Knowledge

Throughout the program participants will be exposed to challenges and scenarios which help develop a range of skills essential for not only science work, but also everyday life.

These include:

- Team work
- Analytical thinking
- Scientific research methodology
- Data collection



## Program Inclusions

Whilst at the Forum, students will be surrounded by nature, and all they need to do is make the most of the opportunity to become involved in protecting our magnificent river environment.

We cover the rest, including:

- Transport to and from Calperum station
- Comfortable dormitory style accommodation
- All meals, beverages and snacks are provided

For more information contact:

**Bruce Cole**

Rotary C.A.T.E. Captain

E: [brucecole@gmail.com](mailto:brucecole@gmail.com) Phone: 041 482 5454



## **‘Health of the River’ Forum - A Joint District 9520 / 9500 Program**

At a cost of \$590 all-inclusive for this five day program year 9 and 10 students will enjoy a special experience that will engage them in sound activities to extend their knowledge, skills and understanding of ecosystems, the environment and water management.

***Applications are now open. With only 28 places this year, early registrations of club interest is recommended.***

<https://www.rotary9520.org/page/health-of-the-river-forum>



**The table below indicates the tasks of the C.A.T.E. committee and the responsible personnel for those tasks. (From Chairmans Don's message P. 3)**

### Task Categories and designated Captains

Education/Youth Captain:	Bruce Cole	Blackwood
Water /Environmental Monitoring Captain:	Bryan Harris	Adelaide
Fencing Captain:	Dick Cuttle	Onkaparinga
Trees / Revegetation Captain:	David Gooley	Mitcham
Mapping & Signage Captain:	David Fenton	Campbelltown
Handyman Projects Captain:	Russell Camens	Onkaparinga
Plastics Polution:	Di Keach	Goolwa
Communication Editor C.A.T.E News:	Rodger Hedley	Norwood

### C.A.T.E. Committee Members

Don Will	Eastwood	<a href="mailto:will4444sa@gmail.com">will4444sa@gmail.com</a>	0414645402
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Bruce Cole	Blackwood	<a href="mailto:brucegcole@gmail.com">brucegcole@gmail.com</a>	0414825454
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Elliot Dwyer	Eastwood	<a href="mailto:eadwyer@hotmail.com">eadwyer@hotmail.com</a>	0427397536
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