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## Calperum Committee Expands its Environmental Role

Rotary in South Australia has now been involved with Calperum Station for almost twenty years, with a much more focused and expanded role over the last five. Indeed, Calperum has become the major joint District Committee within Districts D9500 and D9520.

With the world RI President Ian Riseley's initiatives to demonstrate that our organisation and members have a concern for the environment and the future of our planet, District Governors Bob Cooper and Peter Schaefer have renamed the joint committee **Calperum and The Environment**. Its mandate is to handle the full range of our environmental projects in an efficient and clearly defined manner.

(Continued P2)

## Message from Chairman Dick

Our last committee meeting was very productive, with a lot of time spent looking towards the future. Thank you to DGs Bob Cooper and Peter Schaeffer, who both attended and participated with us. I would also like to



welcome Bruce Cole to his first meeting of the committee, particularly when he volunteered to promote student and school activity at Calperum. Over the next few years, as the merger of our two districts develops, input from our district leaders will be very important, and involving a wider range of committee members will be necessary.

A lot of discussion was around how we could support the ROBIN and ACRE committees into the future. These have been active at Calperum over the years, and I know from personal experience that both have struggled to maintain membership and activity more recently. I thank Don Will for his work in looking at options for us to work together into the future, both at Calperum and more widely.

As a committee we have been active in seeking government funding to help our work at Calperum. Unfortunately, we have not been successful at this stage. We have now decided

to change the way that we seek this in the future. We will be working with Peter Cale and ALT (Australian Landscape Trust) to help develop their plans for the future, both in terms of programmes and facilities. Within this larger plan, we will then select, with Peter, areas or programmes that we are best suited to follow up. We are told that groups like ours, working with larger organisations like Calperum and ALT,

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## Calperum News

Is issued periodically and is intended to provide up to date information about Rotary at Calperum. Please let us have the stories and photos of your times at Calperum

*(From P1)*

To meet Ian's vision, the **Riseley Forest** has been conceived to be planted at Calperum, with over \$6,000 already committed by around a quarter of the local Rotary Clubs. Our budget is a minimum of \$12,500. Further club contributions should be directed to Don Will (RC Eastwood) at will4444sa@gmail.com

Clubs are also encouraged to explore local areas for plantings, possibly in conjunction with local schools.

The previous activities of ROBIN, ACRE and Preserve Planet Earth, in the future, fall within this new committee structure under the District Community Chairs.

Some of the lesser known Rotary activities managed under **Calperum & The Environment** are:

- **Camp Calperum.**

A number of 'Camp Calperum' weeks are held during each year. Each group has a different outcome in mind. One group uses the week and its activities as a basis of a SACE (South Australian Certificate of Education) unit. This unit is then followed up during the next year at school, giving these students a head start when they enter year 11. In addition, there are positive outcomes of social and personal development for each student. Many have not spent time in the country before, and few have any experience in understanding or participating in community service. Working with Rotarians encourages this, and having an experience at Calperum

*(Continued P3)*

*"The time is long past when environmental sustainability can be dismissed as not Rotary's concern. It is, and must be, everyone's concern. And so I am asking every Rotary club to plant at least one tree for each member, some- time between the beginning of the Rotary year and Earth Day, which is 22 April 2018. It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring, which is itself most worthwhile. I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognises our responsibility, not only to the people on our planet — but to the planet itself on which we all live and on which we all depend."*



RI President,  
Ian Riseley

*(From P1)*

have a greater chance of success in getting money. Part of this is based on Rotary's general reputation, but it needs to be enhanced with a strong record of activity. We have this at Calperum, and I look forward to future success.

One area that we will continue to pursue at Rotary House is the provision of a new bathroom. Several ideas have been developed, and are being looked at in terms of what we need, ensuring that the new bathroom has access for those of us getting older, and has direct access from inside the house. Once we have decided on a design, we will be seeking support from clubs to build it. Our current handyman programme has a number of people who have the skills to contribute, and hence keep costs to an absolute minimum. Success in this small project will also enhance our chance of gaining funding for other building ideas that come from the overall development plan.

Our volunteers continue their work, and I thank Elliott again for the great organisation that manages this for us, and for Calperum.

Don Will continues to promote the Riseley Forest at Calperum. \$12,500 has been set as a target for 2,500 trees, grown from Calperum seed and then planted in Calperum. So far we have over \$6000, so are still looking for club support. A number of Rotarians have commented that \$5 is an expensive tree. However, this funds not just the tree, but follow up in terms of irrigation as needed, and tree guards for both animals and sun protection. This care significantly increases the chance of survival of each tree. Donations can be made by contacting Don Will at will4444sa@gmail.com

I encourage you to make a contribution such that it will remain a very long term reminder of Ian Riseley's Presidency.

*Dick*

Please contact me, at 0418106673 or [dickcuttle@gmail.com](mailto:dickcuttle@gmail.com) for more information or to arrange a guest speaker about Calperum

(From P2)

can have a positive impact. Other groups have different aims including leadership development. Students take part in exercises, both practical and group discussion, to improve their understanding of leadership and develop skills and ideas that can be used at school or in the wider community.

Rotary participation and involvement at Camp Calperum is highly recommended and if you would like further information, contact our committee and we will be pleased to assist you.

- **Project and Club Opportunities** Being a former sheep station Calperum has hundreds of kilometres of now superfluous fencing, which have become obstacles in reverting the property to its former natural state. Rotarians in working groups are removing much of this infrastructure. As Calperum is administered by the not-for-profit Australian Landscape Trust, there are often more items on the wish-list than funds available. Many thousands of dollars have been given by Rotary Clubs for upgrades to Rotary House, the water filtration system for the complex, and items such as water trailers to ensure adequate irrigation for our tree planting.
- **Student Experiences.** Instead of going to Schoolies Week at the end of November, the Long Term Exchange students have a great outback experience at Calperum.

The new **Calperum & The Environment Committee** is firmly of the belief that Rotary's best work for the environment is still before us. Simply contact any member on the committee to find out more how you can be involved.

*"The most important matter was to establish an appropriate mechanism for all joint D9500 & D9520 district environmental projects to be handled in an efficient and clearly defined manner"*



*Spring at Calperum after good  
winter rains*

## The Revegetation Project at Calperum Station

David Gooley (RC Mitcham)

This is the fifth in the series of articles, in which Site 4, called Rosie's Dam will be discussed. This site holds special significance to me because I was involved in the initial planting at this site during 2011 and 2012 and then in an extensive replanting program in 2013 and again in 2014. The site is large with initially 7 shuttles and 5 dripper lines which were supplied with water via a 40mm pipe from a pump in Ral Ral Creek. There are 908 plants in the system. A



*This is the fifth in a series of articles, written by David Gooley of the Rotary Club of Mitcham, covering the revegetation program of the Floodplain and the Semi Arid Woodland at Calperum Station. The author went to Calperum Station in 2009 on a weekend visit where he was introduced to the diversity of the restoration and conservation project at the station. He was particularly enthused regarding the revegetation part of the project. The success of the planting of the seedlings is not only determined by the seedlings themselves and the weather (rainfall and temperature) but also flooding, grazing by animals, both native and introduced, and introduced weeds among other things.*

number of individuals and groups were involved in the initial planting, including my wife, Helen, a number of Rotary Clubs and other people.



The site is centred around the dam between 2 parallel sand ridges which run east/west. On the southern ridge, shuttles 1, 2 and 3 were positioned, with irrigation lines running down each side of the ridge. Shuttles 4, 5 and 6 were positioned on the northern ridge with irrigation lines running down that ridge. Each of these 6 shuttles had four irrigation lines. Shuttle 7 was positioned on a high point in between the two ridges to supply three irrigation lines.

The 40mm irrigation line ran from a pump in Ral Ral Creek to supply the five 19mm lines.

The species planted were the same as the other sites.

Native Pine *Callitris gracilis* and Sugarwood *Myoporum platycarpum* as canopy species. *Acacia Oswaldii*, *Hakea leucoptera*, and *Pittosporum angustifolium* as sub-canopy species. *Acacia ligulata*, *Acacia nissophylla*, *Enchylaena tomentosa*, *Olearia pimeleoides*, *Rhagodia spinescens* and *Senna artemisoides* as shrub species.

The *Callitris gracilis* was the most common species planted at 21.5% of the total, followed by the *Myoporum platycarpum* at 15.1%. These two species were the upper storey species.

Helen and I first planted at the site in Sept 2011, planting shuttle 2. In April 2012, we planted at the site with other members of the Rotary Club of Mitcham, planting shuttle 4. During this visit, Dr Cale pointed out the Match Head weed, *Psilocaulon granulicaule* growing under the canopy of the remaining trees and the need to remove it. We spent a few hours removing some of the weed. The

majority of the planting was completed by other Rotary Clubs and other groups during May and June 2012.



Shuttles 1, 2, 3 and 7 were removed for recycling at other sites in early 2013. These lines were then watered by connection to the 40mm irrigation line and the pump.

In April 2013, I completed a survey of the Rosie's Dam site. At that stage, five shuttles and the five lines watered by the pump had been planted.

Shuttles 6 and 7, on the northern sand ridge were yet to be planted. 748 seedlings had been planted.

My survey found 362 seedlings had either died or were very stressed, so they looked dead, resulting in 52% surviving.

After evaluating my survey and inspecting the site, Dr. Cale suggested I make this site a priority. A replanting program was prepared, starting with replacing some of the dead Native Pines, *Callitris gracilis* followed by some of the Sandhill wattle, *Acacia ligulata*. The Sandhill Wattle limits the erosion of sand by the wind by dropping leaves. A concentrated planting of them had been done on the windward side of two extensive blow outs at the top of the southern dune and watered by shuttle 3.

After planting the *Acacia ligulata*, a full replant of the site was begun. This was completed by the end of August 2013, planting 362 seedlings, with the help of Helen and the Rotary Club of Berri on some weekends. Some of the guards had been removed in late 2012 resulting in a number of the plants, especially the *Callitris gracilis* being eaten, some resulting in a short stem less than 50mm high being all that remained. New guards were installed around all new plants and any plant I felt would benefit from a guard. Around four badly eaten plants, I installed a large guard to keep the animals away. I look forward to seeing these plants during each subsequent visit to Calperum. To date, (May 2017) they all have not been eaten again and are growing well.

The spring of 2013 was dry and cool and watering was reduced to encourage the plants to develop deeper and stronger root growth. While this is beneficial in the long term for plants that survive, unfortunately many plants did not.

The summer of 2013/14 was hotter than usual and in January 2014, a large bushfire burnt approximately 25,000 hectares of the mallee in the southern area of the property. Luckily no revegetation sites were burnt but the oppressive heat was taking its toll. In late February, a large frontal system crossed South Australia, resulting in 68mm falling at Calperum, assisting in the regeneration of the burnt mallee and a fantastic watering for the plants of the revegetation sites. A survey I conducted of Rosie's Dam site, after the rain, found 172 very stressed or dead plants. 146 were replanted from the end of Feb to the end of May in a trial to be discussed later in this article.

One weekend in May 2014, members of the Rotary Club of Flagstaff Hill helped me plant Shuttle no 6, followed by members from the Rotary Club of Berri planting Shuttle no 5 in June. All of the 908 plant locations had now been planted.



Surveys in May 2015 and 2016 showed 55% and 48% alive respectively. The plants from the original plantings in 2012 are now growing strongly, some Native Pines and Sugarwoods are 1.5 to 2.1 metres tall. The plants that were re-guarded after being eaten are also growing well.

I have observed natural regeneration occurring at the site. An old dead *Callitris gracilis* dropped seeds in the past. During 2015, I noticed a small plant growing near the dead tree. I have placed a guard around this plant to prevent it being eaten. There are ten *Myoporum platycarpum* trees growing from seeds dropped by old trees.

#### **Trials conducted at Rosie's Dam.**

##### *• Water Bag Trial.*

Dr. Cale asked for 12 *Acacia Ligulata* to be planted in the two blow outs. These plants were to be watered by water bags of 25 litre capacity with a slow dripper outlet, requiring refilling every month. Although these bags were not designed for use in the Semi Arid environment, Dr. Cale thought a trial was warranted. Guards were installed around the plants and the bags.

This planting was done in May 2013. After approximately 15 months, the bags were not refilled and were removed. The twelve plants were all growing well. During the subsequent dry periods, they have been stressed to varying degrees, sometimes losing leaves, but remaining alive. Currently, in 2017, all twelve plants are alive to varying degrees. I would like to re-use the bags at another location in the future.

##### *• Planting during late summer trial.*

This trial was the only planting done in 2014. After the rainfall in late February 2014, I decided to replace 25 dead plants in a little trial. I based this decision on two factors,

1. There was significant moisture in the ground following the rain and
2. The soil was warm to hot, hopefully aiding plant development.

I also thought I should water each of these plants weekly with ten litres. This was done by bringing the water in jerry cans from the office area and hand watering each plant. This watering would be on top of the watering done on the whole site. I mentioned this trial to Dr. Cale expecting a "roasting" for "wasting my time", but to my surprise he was pleased because he wanted to do a trial of planting in late summer but had not yet organised it. After that discussion, I decided to plant more, the number being limited by the watering by hand. I planted 146 plants by the end of May. All of these were watered (10 litres) by hand once each week for a month and then fortnightly for a further month. The normal watering of the whole site followed.

A lower success rate than previously experienced at other sites resulted. As stated the spring and summer weather conditions were not ideal for plant growth. The low success rate could be caused solely by this, but more likely the result was a combination of the greater watering for the first 8 weeks followed by the dry conditions for the next nine months. The greater watering possibly caused the root development to be poor so that the shallow roots were not able to sustain the plants in the drier conditions which followed.

A trial similar to this may be repeated if the conditions present themselves.

David Gooley

## Calperum Rotary Bookings and Availability as at 27 July 2017

“Free” indicates other dates available to Rotary

Other dates have already been allocated to researchers, universities, community groups, Calperum programs, or maintenance

Month	Dates	Rotary Club	Activity
2017		<i>Remember to write an article for Calperum News on your experience</i>	
Aug	3-5	Free	
	6-9	Mobilong	Private
	11-13	Eastwood & Uni students	Water & Tree Health surveys
	14-18	Coromandel Valley	Maintenance
	28-31	Onkaparinga & students	Camp Calperum
		<i>Include photos with names and descriptions</i>	
Sep	4-8	Flagstaff Hill	Club Activity
	11-15	Onkaparinga & Modbury HS	Student Leadership
	22-24	Free	
		<i>Nominate your scribe to write up your experience</i>	
Oct	5-8	Stirling	TBA
	15-19	Blackwood	TBA
	30-31	Noarlunga	With Christies Beach HS, Special Unit
Nov	1-4	Noarlunga	With Christies Beach HS, Special Unit
	10-12	Rotary Long Term Youth Exchange	International YES Activities
	17-30	Free (maybe hot)	
		<i>Include photos with names and descriptions</i>	
Dec	1-16	No Activity - Too hot	
2018			
March	9-12	Murray Bridge & Students	Student Leadership

Please contact Elliot Dwyer ([eadwyer@hotmail.com](mailto:eadwyer@hotmail.com)) for booking and related information

## Campbelltown Members Enjoy a First Visit to Calperum

*By David Fenton (RC Campbelltown)*

In January, this year a small group from the Rotary Club of Campbelltown travelled to Calperum to gain an understanding of how, and in what capacity, the club could volunteer. We met with Dr Peter Cale who provided an overview of the work he and his team are doing and a short tour of part of the property.

As a result of this, a working group of four (Mal Hansen, Lee Aldenhoven, Chris Gascoigne and David Fenton) returned to Calperum in early June to complete Campbelltown Rotary's first lot of volunteering. Following a recommendation from Peter we repaired and refurbished 1.2kms of perimeter fencing. Over two and half days, we worked mainly on ramming approximately 130 droppers into the ground and 'twitching' the fence wire to the droppers.

"The weather was very kind to us, although the -4 degree mornings were a bit brisk. We had a great time doing the work, although we all discovered muscles we had forgotten about!!"

The weather was very kind to us, although the -4 degree mornings were a bit brisk. We had a great time doing the work, although we all discovered muscles we had forgotten about!!

This working visit will, hopefully, be the forerunner of Campbelltown's involvement at Calperum and to that end we have purchased 200 trees as part of the Riseley forest project.



## From “Sea to the Country”

By Briony Casburn (RC Seaford)

### The Rotary Club of Seaford’s Calperum Experience.

Being a new Club with a lot of members who are still learning about Rotary, I wanted them to know about Calperum.

Our meetings are twice a month and the agenda is full, so I felt Calperum was the place for our Club to have some time out and enjoy each other’s company. Secondly, I wanted them to know Rotary has an Environment agenda and that we can continue and develop a relationship between Calperum and our Club for years to come.

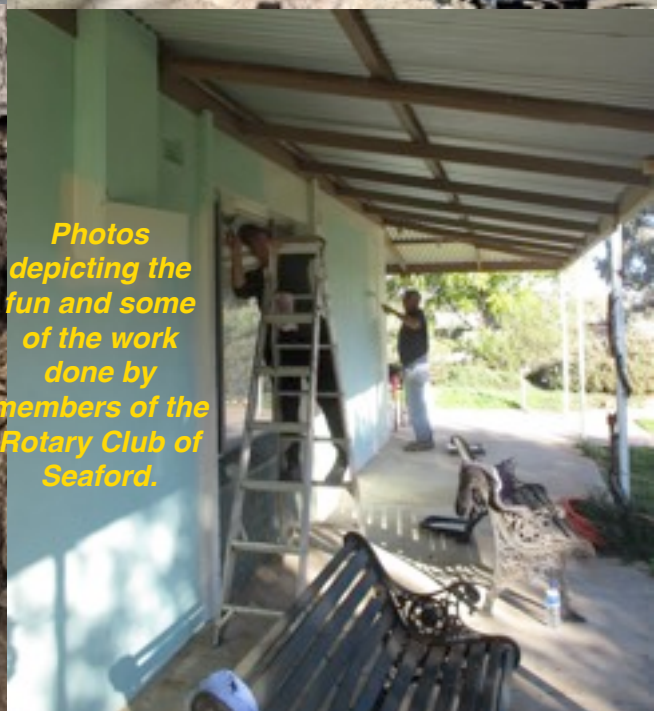
*“It was great networking with other members, to experience the property and wildlife. We are looking forward to the next trip and to camp next to the river.”*

We were very fortunate to have, Grant Whiteman and Judy Hare, who not only worked beside us the whole weekend, but also helped put together a coordinated program, that made our visit very worthwhile for us and Calperum. We painted Rotary House, Tree tagged, collected old watering systems and so on.

Michelle and Stephen said of their trip “It was great networking with other members, to experience the property and wildlife. We are looking forward to the next trip and to camp next to the river.” Our future plan is to coordinate a Project, connecting Calperum Station to the Seaford Railway Stations, by planting trees at both sites. Bringing “Country” to “Sea”!



*Photos depicting the fun and some of the work done by members of the Rotary Club of Seaford.*



## Calperum Rotary Activities

- Rotary Club Work Parties
- Health of The River Forums
- Camp Calperum Programme
- RYWELL - Rotary Youth Wellbeing
- Youth Exchange Schoolies Week
- International Student's Group
- RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
- ROTARACT
- District Management Committee meetings
- PETS - President Elect Training Seminar
- Rotary Training Seminars

## Contacts

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