

**Don Will**

## Chairman Don's Report

### PROJECT BASED CLUB ACTIVITIES

I am very pleased to report that the transition in focus for Environmental activities in D9500 & D9520 to be project based under a nominated Captain is already showing some success as Rotarians contact those listed on **page 9** to express their interest in projects.

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- House 4 Upgrade

The upgrading of House 4 (Eramophila) has been achieved by the efforts of:

- The Rotary Clubs of Unley and Morphett Vale (providing paint and labour to repaint most of the house, with completion expected shortly).
- The Rotary Club of Campbelltown with additional furniture and homewares from their shed
- RC Onkaparinga looking at fencing ready for garden upgrade.

This transformation has given Calperum an additional unit of accommodation to rent out, with potential for \$100+ per night towards their revenue stream, and will also give Rotarians on site for work programs an alternative place to stay if Rotary House is already booked.

Similarly the environmental monitoring now involves further Rotarians from a number of Clubs.

### News in Brief

#### ✱ New Garden Design for Rotary House

Plans are underway for the design and implementation of a new garden at Rotary House. The design work is being carried out by Di Keach and the local Rangers at Calperum.

#### ✱ Eramophila House (House 4)

Most Rotarians are aware of Rotary House where visiting teams stay when at Calperum, but nearby is Eramophila which is needing care and attention to bring it up to an acceptable standard. With little fuss, the Rotary Clubs of Campbelltown and Unley along with DiK have assembled furniture and kitchen ware along with good quality bedding, as well as carrying out painting of the house. When completed, this will provide another income stream for Calperum.

For more, see Jerry Casburn's report on page 7.

### AWARD TO DICK CUTTLE

At the Volunteers Appreciation Dinner in October our past CATE Chair Dick Cuttle was recognised for his untiring efforts at Calperum, but in particular the educational programs he has created, developed and run over the last several years.

Whilst most Rotarians are aware of the HEALTH OF THE RIVER FORUM (see report on the 2019 event in this issue), many would not be aware of our CAMP CALPERUM program. Disengaged kids



*Chairman Don accepting an award on behalf of Dick Cuttle from ALT Chair Peter Daly*

from a number of schools are now taken each year for a week-long program of out-door education coupled with some subtle mentoring by

Rotarians. Many of these kids lack appropriate role models in their family situations, but after a week away have a better focus on where they are at and a better path ahead. As a past school principal, Dick knows first hand the benefits to these young lives with just a little guidance in the right direction. We now have a template on how to run these events, so please contact Dick if you need to find out more.

#### **LIDS 4 KIDS**

Earlier in the year a number of Rotary Clubs heard of a project run in

Victoria by an organisation called ENVISION which takes soft drink and milk bottle tops, recycles the plastics into a filament that is used to 3D print components for prosthetic hands. The printing is done by unemployed people, mainly youth, who as well as being usefully occupied are building up their self-esteem by learning new skills.

The CATE Committee is tackling this as an environmental project, but other areas of Rotary will be engaged getting hands to kids whose lives will be transformed by giving them some dexterity. We are now exploring how specific RAWCS projects can get the hands to the right kids overseas. How many Rotary projects help the environment, the unemployed and kids in the third world?

With some great media coverage they have been inundated with hundreds of thousands of plastic bottle tops, at present more than they can physically handle. However the proof of the concept stage is now completed, and a large increase in capacity management



*Chairman Don examining a prosthesis in Melbourne*

needs to be put into action.

Whilst still run as a pilot program, I had the pleasure to meet the Envision Manager in Melbourne recently and see first hand the quality of prostheses they can produce. (See picture above)

Following our discussions we will be seeking a wider collection network in early 2020, and an efficient means of getting the tops to Melbourne devised. The criteria to bear in mind are:-

- Only plastic tops which are category #2 and #4 are appropriate (most tops have a stamp on the inside)
- All liners need to be removed, and the tops washed. (if you have a big quantity, put them into your washing machine).
- Tops need to be sorted by colour, as different colours can't be mixed in making the filament.

Clubs or Rotarians may register their interest with myself in the first instant. I am also seeking one or two Rotarians who would be interested in 'Captaining' this project which is likely to grow quickly. Please email or phone me if you wish to be involved.

### ROTARY HOUSE GARDEN

Those of you who have recently visited Calperum would have seen a deterioration of the garden due to the drought conditions, but mainly with kangaroos which are desperate for something to eat coming into the enclosure.



Our Committee has resolved to remedy this by:

- Creating a kangaroo proof fence around Rotary House Garden, and to:
- Redesign the plantings to reflect plants native to the area, and integrate this garden into a 'BUSH TUCKER TRAIL' being created at CALPERUM. We already have the quandong orchard which this year produced a good amount of fruit and used as an income earner for the property.

Many thanks to Di Keach who has worked with the

indigenous interns at Calperum developing a great garden design, to be implemented after the Rotary Club of Onkaparinga has completed the kangaroo proofing.

Whilst over the years a number of Rotarians have undertaken work in the garden - some without conforming to an overall plan and undoing work and removing plants that other volunteers had planted. Once this new planting is commenced, any intended work in the garden at Rotary House must be discussed prior to commencement with Di Keach and/or the CATE Chair. Let's work together to create something special.



All the plantings will be germinated in the Calperum nursery (no external plants are to be brought onto the property), but there will be some costs associated with appropriate irrigation to augment what is presently in place. If Clubs wish to financially contribute to this project please contact the CATE Secretary, Jeff Cluse.

Don

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY HAILED AS GREAT SUCCESS

The 2019 Volunteer Appreciation Day held at Calperum on 19th October was hailed an enjoyable and successful event by all who attended. The day and evening was attended by all of the ALT Trustees, as well as volunteers from Rotary, Lions, paddock managers and many others.

Julie Robertson and the whole Calperum team did an exceptional job in organising the day with plenty of great food ably cooked and provided by ALT, volunteers and the Calperum staff.

Awards were presented to various volunteers including immediate past chair of Rotary's Calperum District Committee (now C.A.T.E.), Dick Cuttle, for his time, devotion and work, particularly with the education aspect of Calperum.



Julie Robertson, General Manager, Education & Business Development with Ranger, Kyle Payne. Kyle's main role is with feral animal control.



Chair of Rotary's CATE committee, Don Will, accepting an award from Peter Daly (Chair of ALT Board) for Dick Cuttle in his absence.

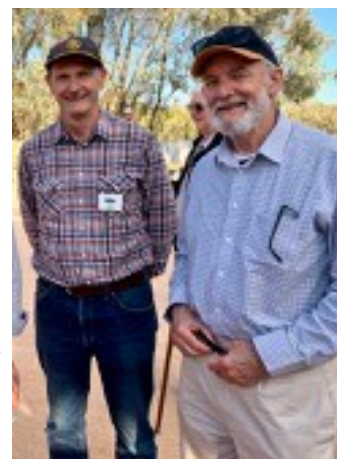


Caitlin Pollock, Education/Ecologist in discussion with Don Will (CATE Chairman)



Jeremy Sumner, Ranger, Education and cultural tour guide. Jeremy spoke about and promoted the "Calperum Heritage Walk" of which he is one of the guides.

Rotarians, Ian Coat (Magill Sunrise) and Elliot Dwyer (Eastwood) enjoying the day and evening



## Report: 2019 Health of the River Forum

*By Bruce Cole (HOTR 2019 Convenor) R.C. Blackwood*

The 2019 HOTR Forum held from the 28<sup>th</sup> October to November 1<sup>st</sup> at Calperum Station, near Renmark, has just been completed and I'm very pleased to announce that the week's educational activities were very well received by the 13 students involved.

The weather was very hot on most days, which meant the day's activities were re-arranged to enable us to get most of the field work done before 1 pm but this didn't stop us having full and interesting activities, follow-up studies and discussions.

The program of educational activities run by the experienced team of Calperum education officers and ecologists, included an extra day this year and enabled the students to experience an even broader range of 'river health' tasks.

One of the great features of this special research and science based camp is that it enables students to do many 'hands-on' tasks with very qualified personnel and to experience first-hand, the sorts of conditions and challenges researchers face in their studies.

This year, students were involved in the following studies:

- River system restoration
- Erosion and habitat rehabilitation study (Branching)
- Tree Health (salinity issues)
- Healthy Ecosystems (Macroinvertebrates study)
- Cultural use of the environment
- Fauna survival (Pit-fall Trapping)
- The History of Local Irrigation (Olivewood)
- Salinity Issues and Control and the role of environmental flows in sustaining a healthy river system

A whole range of skills that are important for achieving credible research and the reasoning behind the science of managing and maintaining a 'healthy' river system were continually emphasised by the Calperum team and it can be well affirmed that the "Health of the River Forum" met its goals of assisting in the development of future young scientists through this special Water Study and through this special Rotary opportunity.

The camp is not all about science though because another important focus of the HOTR Forum is the development of young people's outlooks and character. There were a whole range of activities that had these students from a range of different schools, mostly unknown to each other, involved in group tasks, leisure time, fun and games. The Quiz Night and Calperum's Got Talent were again successful in bringing students together and our night of fun, clowning and balloon animal making was a real winner with all! I'd like to thank all the



*A Pit-fall Trapping Specimen*



*Conducting a Water Study*



*A Group Planning Session*

people involved in this year's program. Without going into great detail they are – the staff of Calperum, the parent supporters, the school liaison teachers, our excellent caterer, the local volunteers who provided great insight to regional issues, the Rotarians and clubs that facilitated and supported this unique experience, and my small band of helpers who attended and backed up all the student experiences.

I very much recommend the Health of the River Forum as a thoroughly worthwhile program for our future generation to be involved in and hope that even more students and clubs will support future events.

**Student Feedback** – Just a few excerpts from the students who took part.

*I really enjoyed this experience and it's not one I will forget soon!*

**Alex R** *It was an amazing experience learning about the different ways we can help our environment.* **Lucy** *Even people who don't enjoy science would like this experience.* **Zoe** *It is a great opportunity to learn about the ecology and conservation work.* **Cherie** *It has been an awesome camp!* **Rachel** *I would recommend this camp because it is something totally different from anything else. You also help with the research that is being done here.*

**Sara.** *It is a great opportunity to learn about the ecology and conservation work.* **Cherie** *It is great to go to a remote area and learn about the environment from ecologists, the real deal!* **Harmony** *Everyone got on really well and the ability to make friends was very easy. I would 100% recommend this experience to other students.*

**Ava** *I would recommend this to other students because they could learn a lot about themselves, science and our home.* **Dylan** *It's been very hands on and fun. It's an amazing experience and there should be more young people getting into this stuff.* **Owen** *The activities were very fun and I really enjoyed handling the lizards and spiders.* **Alex F** *I have really enjoyed my time and have liked meeting new people and also learning and growing my knowledge on the river and flood plains and how the salt is influencing the river and land around it.* **Skye** *I absolutely loved the time I had. It opened my eyes up to new things that we really need to be addressed.* **Shanti**



*Students Conducting Field Surveys*



*Health of the River Students 2019*

**Alex F** *I have really enjoyed my time and have liked meeting new people and also learning and growing my knowledge on the river and flood plains and how the salt is influencing the river and land around it.* **Skye** *I absolutely loved the time I had. It opened my eyes up to new things that we really need to be addressed.* **Shanti**

# The Malleefowl of North Calperum

by David Wells (Calperum Volunteer)

I have been volunteering with ALT (Australian Landscape Trust) for the past 25 years.

Majority of my involvement recently has been with malleefowl research and monitoring and vertebrate surveys. All of the malleefowl research has been carried out at North Calperum in three 2km by 2km grids. During the breeding seasons between 2012 and 2018, motion cameras were installed on nests that were being occupied and operated by various pairs. The choice of a nest site by the birds is made quite simple as there are 19 existing nests in each grid. The 13 nests which were photographed produced thousands of images and 40 second videos which provided valuable information on the work of both the male and female around the nest. The images shown give an overall indication of behaviour and actions carried out by both partners.

The method of checking the temperature in the egg chamber is quite unique. The male, when he exposes the egg chamber, inserts his beak and head into the sand and checks the incubation temperature. This seems to occur each morning.



*The male checking the temperature of the nest*

The male (pictured above) has just arrived at the nest and will shortly uncover the eggs and check the temperature or the female may be present and ready to lay.

The arrival of chicks into this world can be preceded by 15 arduous hours of extreme effort. It can take this time for the egg to work its way from the egg chamber and arrive at the surface of the nest. The surviving chick may be lucky to join the 1% of predatory survivors.

The laying of an egg involves opening the nest [which may take up to 2 hours], 8 seconds to lay the egg and 2 hours to rebuild

the mound..The female is very particular where she places the egg. and much of the time taken with the laying process is dependant on the age of the bird.

An active part of the day is what we call the greeting. This is more prevalent with particular pairs and only occurs once at the first meeting of the new day.

Another important part of the incubation process, is the collection of litter. The male (mainly) will drag the mallee leaves into a line leading back to the nest. This line of litter can extend out to 30 metres from the nest and then with his 2 claws he must fill the cavity made in the nest, At the completion of collecting litter the formation of an egg chamber within the nest is finished.

The maturity of the pair is obvious and the more mature, the more time they spend working together, and it seems they enjoy each others company.

In closing, it is important that we acknowledge the value of this unique Australian bird and work together to ensure its survival.

David Wells

CW



*The morning greeting*

## Painting of House Four

**M**embers of the Rotary Clubs of McLaren Vale and Unley visited Calperum over the weekend of October 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. This was pre-arranged with both Karen Brown and Julie Robertson and the task was to paint House 4. We were also accompanied by David Gooley who undertook some work of his own, with assistance from some of our members.

The house painting was a full-on occupation for the weekend and we succeeded in painting the entry foyer, small toilet and bathroom, the kitchen and adjoining lounge, plus the large lounge.

Time ran out on us and we still need to complete painting the three bedrooms, which we are trying to line up for January. The result was a dramatic change and I believe well received.

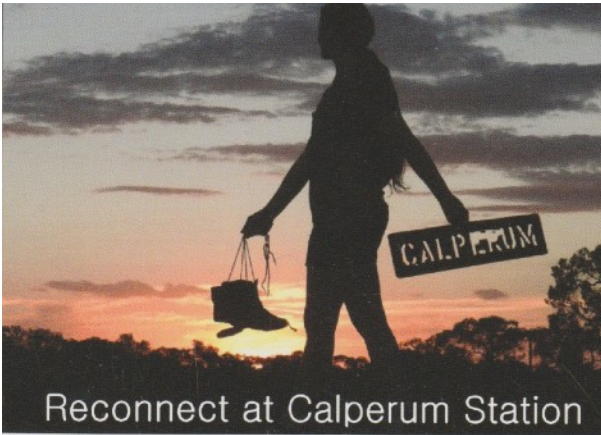
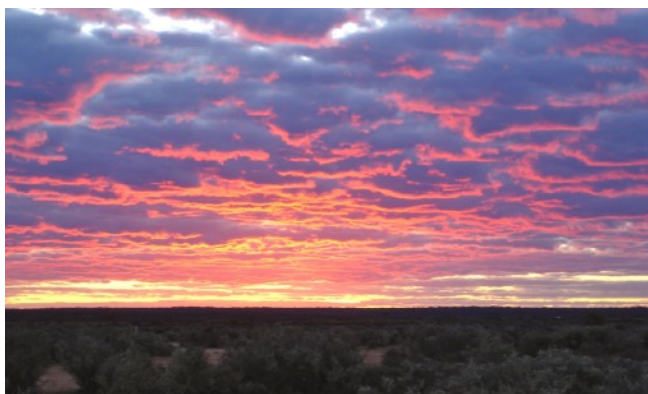
The paint was bought and donated by Unley Rotary club at a cost of nearly \$700. There is sufficient paint left to complete the three bedrooms and Karen, I understand, has made arrangements to store the paint until it is required again.

A good weekend of fellowship and we had four of the group's children/grand children with us which was a good experience for them to see Calperum. We also had some Rotarians with us who had not previously visited Calperum and we were able to take them around parts of the property to get an idea of the scale.

***Jerry Casburn,  
RC Unley***

### Special Note

It is important to note that any activities regarding this project are to be made through the direction of Julie Robertson



**Reconnect at Calperum Station**


Disconnect from technology, and reconnect with family and friends with a visit to Calperum. Enjoy the tranquility, explore creeks and wetlands, birds and wildlife. Only 15 mins from Renmark, accommodation options include:

- Secluded Waterfront Campsites
- Calperum Homestead (up to 10 people)
- The Dorm Complex (larger groups)

**SHORT STAY SPECIAL OFFER**

**Book 2 nights and stay the third night on us.**

Offer excludes public holidays and is subject to availability. For more information or to book your stay at Calperum, call 8595 7359

  
**CALPERUM STATION**  
*where culture meets ecology*

[www.alt.org.au](http://www.alt.org.au)

**The table below indicates the tasks of the C.A.T.E. committee and the responsible personnel for those tasks.**

### **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 Pollution:	Di Keach	Goolwa
Communication Editor C.A.T.E News:	Rodger Hedley	Norwood
Lids 4 Kids - The "Hand" Project	<b>Reserved for YOU!</b>	

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

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