



Calperum News

A Joint Rotary District 9500 and 9520 Project

Special Joint District Conference Edition

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Message from Chairman Dick

As a committee, and as working Rotarians, we have continued to add to the environmental value of Calperum, the value and condition of



the buildings, particularly Rotary House, and have increased our contribution to the educational programmes that Calperum does so well. I would like to acknowledge the work of both Elliott Dwyer and David Gooley for their almost daily commitment to organising most of our work parties and bookings. I am particularly looking forward to a new research initiative that David and Peter Cale are starting using bladders to irrigate new plantings.

Our working relationship with the management and staff, and particularly with the Australian

Landscape Trust Board continues to strengthen. I thank Grant Whiteman, Peter Cale and Peter Daly for the way in which they have welcomed our ideas and contributions, even if at times there is the need for a little help and explanation.

Over the next few weeks you may meet some new staff at Calperum, and many of you will be happy to welcome Caitlin Polack back from her work and travel in England and beyond. I look forward to asking them to write some introductory notes about themselves in coming newsletters.

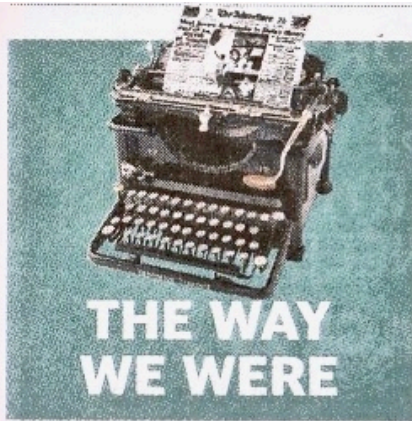
Continued P2.



Chairman, Dick Cuttle and Gordon Brice drilling post holes for the birdwatching screen on Lake Merritee,



Student from Modbury High School working with Chairman Dick



What was making news in The Advertiser 25, 50 and 75 years ago. Compiled by Andrew O'Grady

Biologist cheers world-first reserve



1993

Biologist cheers world-first reserve

It has taken more than a year of wheeling and dealing, but Illinois biologist Dr Pamela Parker is just days away from signing a world-first deal which will protect a large slice of the State's Riverland forever.

The project, near Renmark, will see Dr Parker's employer, the Chicago Zoological Society, inject \$400,000 into a new "biosphere reserve". Combined with more than \$1.2 million from State and Federal Government coffers, the funds will be used to buy the 242,800ha Calperum pastoral lease. The reserve will become the first in the world to mix the two traditionally opposed issues of farming and conservation.

The "biosphere reserve" will be one of only 12 in the world which aim to protect and enhance endangered species.

Extract from The Adelaide Advertiser (23/1/18) brought to our attention by Elliot Dwyer

Chairman's Report from P1.

The Health of the River Forum was stopped a few years ago due to cuts in Federal funding to both LaTrobe University and the Murray Darling Freshwater Resource Centre. We have been working towards establishing the programme again this year, and plan to do so in November. Bruce Cole has taken on the leadership of this for 2018, and we have had ongoing discussions with Peter Cale about how we can work with the Calperum staff to present the educational materials. It is likely that costs to clubs for the new programme will rise a little from past forums, but as presenters and mentors will not be travelling from Wodonga, this cost will be significantly lower. Without pre-empting what we might do, discussions have taken place about asking RYLA graduates to attend as mentors. I am confident that this will be available this year.

Over the last 2 years or so the committee has been talking about adding another bathroom to Rotary House. We finally have some plans available, but

obviously the final decision about the bathroom rests with the ALT and Peter Cale. We have committed to funding and building this to cater for the growing number of Rotarians using the house. You will note that all options include full access facilities. I like to think that we are just adding insurance for those of us who are fortunate to keep growing older! When the final decision is made, we will be seeking support from clubs, both financially and with time to enable this to happen. We will all benefit, as will the other commercial guests and researchers.

Please come and talk to us about them. You will also be able to view the entries in the photographic competition, or just talk with us about your ideas for our future with Calperum.

Dick

Please contact me, at
0418106673 or
dickcuttle@gmail.com
for more information
or to arrange a guest speaker
about Calperum

Health of The River Forum To be held early November 2018

The forum is held at Calperum Station, the Australian Landscape Trust property. Calperum Station is located just north-west of Renmark in South Australia and is managed for conservation and research of the landscape and to facilitate community involvement in innovative land-management practices.

This forum is for year 10 students with an interest in the challenges and complexities of managing freshwater resources for successful and sustainable environmental, social and economic outcomes.

Get in touch with your schools now

So, What and Where is Calperum?

A Very Brief History

Situated on one of the oldest historical sites in the Riverland, the site formerly being known as Ral-Ral. As early as 1838 European drovers bringing livestock into South Australia used Ral Ral as a watering point and camping place.



The property became known as Chowilla, then Chowilla-Bookmark. In 1896 the property was divided into two separate properties: Chowilla and Calperum.

In 1993 Calperum was purchased using funds provided by the Chicago Zoological Society and the Commonwealth Government. In 1996 the Australian Landscape Trust was established by the Ian Potter Foundation to extend the focus of natural resource

management issues. In 1998 the Australian Landscape Trust negotiated a management agreement for Calperum Station and in 1999, with the assistance from the Natural Heritage Trust, it purchased the adjoining 92,000 hectare Taylorville Station.

In 2002 the Australian Landscape Trust, with the assistance of a number of organisations and individuals, built the McCormick Centre for the Environment in Renmark to be a resource and education centre for schools, the public and the local community. It is always worth a visit.

A Very, Very Brief Rotary History The Rotary Club of Blackwood first became involved with Calperum in 1996/97. Coincidentally this was the year club member John Jackson was the District 9520 Governor. Blackwood was one of the first Rotary Clubs involved and is the club that has maintained contact from the beginning, remaining a major supporter, financially and by providing logistic support and organisation. Member, Bob Arnold has been a pivotal force during this time.

The first ten years were difficult and beset with management problems until the appointment in 2007 of Dr. Grant Whiteman as General Manager of Australian Landscape Trust operations in the Riverland. The Rotary Club of Blackwood commenced regular trips to the Station in 2003 and in the period 2006/7 to 2009/10 all of the seven clubs in Group 5 were motivated to join in on a regular basis. Many other clubs from District 9520 and District 9500 have become involved and the joint district management committee is now known as CATE (Calperum And The Environment).

Why Rotary?

Calperum's permanent staff consists of five people that includes the manager, a senior ecologist, an administration manager and two field officers. It is impossible for this group to physically maintain such a large property, and the successful operation of the Station depends entirely on volunteer support. Rotary has the resources of **people, energy, and enthusiasm**, all creating opportunity for **great fellowship and service**.

Typical Rotary Tasks

Seed collection, plant propagation, salinity checks on the creeks and lakes, monitoring of flora and fauna, protecting native plants and animals, re-vegetation, track clearing and mapping, fence removal, building maintenance and arid zone garden development. New tasks are being added frequently.

Accommodation

Calperum has given Rotary the priority use of the "Homestead", now known as "Rotary House".



To help increase the understanding about Calperum Station and Rotary's involvement with it, on this page we are reprinting segments from previous issues of Calperum News

(Continued P4)

(From P3)

This provides comfortable accommodation for up to 10 people with five large bedrooms. The "Leader's Room" contains a double bed with an en-suite bathroom, and the other bedrooms each contain two single beds. A fully stocked kitchen along with dining and lounge areas makes every working party visit a memorable social occasion. Additional accommodation is available for larger parties.

To learn more, why not seek out Chairman PDG Dick Cuttle. There is **so** much more to Calperum.

Update on Riseley Forest Donations

Rotary Club donations to date

District 9520 as at 3/10/17

Eastwood	\$3000	Renmark	\$1500	Campbelltown	\$1000
Onkaparinga	\$500	Magill Sunrise	\$500	Nomads (eClub)	\$500
St. Peters	\$500	Mitcham	\$235	Eastwood	\$200
Brownhill Ck	\$200	Noarlunga E.	\$200	Irymple	\$195
Mt. Barker	\$165	Norwood	\$120	Strathalbyn	\$120
R/vale/Euston	\$100	Flagstaff Hill	\$90	Berri	\$65

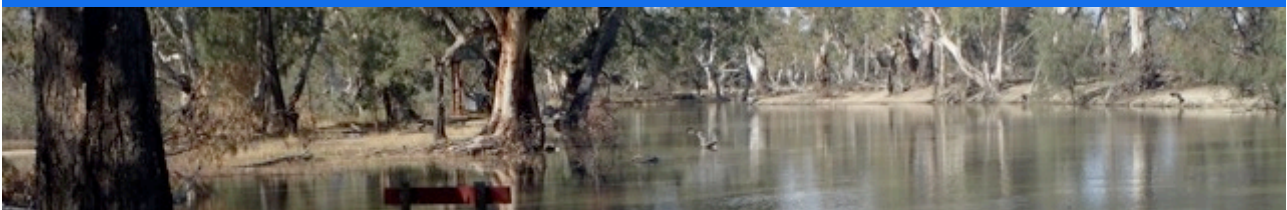
District 9500 as at 20/2/18

Adelaide	\$1000	Whyalla	\$500	Whyalla Norrie	\$500p
Mawson L.	\$500	Sturt	\$500	Gawler	\$300
Kidman Pk.	\$300	Adelaide Lt.	\$200	Largs Bay	\$200p
Pt. Adelaide	\$200p	Gawler	\$110	Rotaract	\$50

Many thanks to the clubs who have already donated or who have made a commitment - but we need to go further

Calperum Station

provides a wonderful opportunity for a valuable Community Service project for your club. Has your club given consideration to becoming involved in Calperum, either through the working bees or by direct donation? Please do not overlook this opportunity for a community service project with tangible environmental benefits.



Contacts

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