



Rotary
District 9510



Calperum And The
Environment (CATE)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to first time readers of this Newsletter. My guess is that ‘The Environment’ is important to you and has piqued your interest. Some of you may be thinking, “**What is CATE or What is Calperum?**” On the former, CATE seeks to raise awareness of needs and opportunities for Rotary Clubs to engage in hands-on projects that build community through improving the environment. On the latter, we will refer you to several webpages that describe Calperum Station and the work that Rotary has been doing for decades now to support this environmental research operation. Your support on both these items is most welcome.

CATE has been a decades long JOINT venture across the old Districts 9500 and 9520 that have ultimately joined to be D9510, before regionalisation. CATE now can expand its exposure across the zone and influence the creation of environmental projects more broadly. Regionalisation across Australia has raised many challenges for Rotary. Communications is but one of these. Rotary is developing strategies to communicate within Communities of Interest. As a Rotary Area of Focus, the Environment is a worthy community of interest across the zone. We look forward to opening these new communications channels across the Zone.

Calperum Station is a unique world environmental research facility for decades. It has developed a three-pillared program of “Environment | Education | Experience” to engage community to support their environmental research. Their webpage is:

<https://alt.org.au/evidence-based-landscape-restoration/>

Clubs within D9510 have supported all three pillars of the Calperum objectives. Most recently, we have been involved in renovation to accommodation facilities at Calperum, to improve the “experience” aspect that is related to eco-tourism. Revenue from eco-tourism helps fund the

research and education programs. Refer to past newsletters available on the link above, for more information about our activities. We will be seeking support from Clubs over the next few years to fund essential sustainability upgrades to Calperum including water, power and internet access.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

Meanwhile we are putting together our list of local Club projects. We are actively seeking Clubs to submit their environmental-related projects, so we can add your project to the webpage. Our webpage link is:

[Calperum & The Environment Committee | District 9510](#)

A key additional piece of information that we need to know is the location (latitude and longitude) of the project. That way we can add your project to the online map which can be accessed via instructions on the web page.

HEALTH OF THE RIVER (HOTR) PROGRAM

This is a youth education program aimed at engaging and educating young people about the River Murray ecology and water management. It is an on-site program delivered by dedicated and qualified educators at Calperum Station. This year we will be running the program on 15-19 September 2025. The details are available on the website below.

HOTR Webpage Link: [Health Of The River Forum | District 9510](#)



MORPHETT VALE SUPPORTS CAMP CALPERUM (by Dini Whyte)

Since 2014 Morphett Vale Rotary Club has supported the Christies Beach High School Inclusive Education Centre (IEC) to provide a learning opportunity for some of their students with special learning needs by attending Camp Calperum.

The camp typically runs for 3 days/2 nights. The Club pays the accommodation, food and excursion expenses and members cater for the group throughout. Total cost is typically \$3000.

Christies Beach High School provides the bus, petrol and teachers. IEC teachers liaise with Calperum on the activities program including arrangements with local SAPOL officers to pay a visit in a patrol car. This has been found to be a very positive experience for the students, as some have had only negative experiences with police officers.

Of note this year was the opportunity for fellow Rotarian Marion and I to participate in an interview to help support a grant application by Julie for improvement of the Calperum facilities, including the upgrade of the camp kitchen. Having used the kitchen on the many camps with Christies Beach High School students, we are excited by the prospect of an industrial kitchen at Calperum!

Below is a report the club received from IEC after the 2023 Camp Calperum:

IEC Camp Calperum 2023

The Inclusive Education Centre (IEC) went on a camp to Calperum Station near Renmark on 1st to the 3rd November. When we arrived, we spent time walking around checking out the local wildlife and ecosystem.



We made boomerangs and learnt how to throw them. The police came for a visit and chat. We went on the Ferry and had fun at Monash adventure playground. Unfortunately, the fire ban started the day we arrived so we could not have a campfire however, we were given the opportunity to help release five possums back into their homes at night. Morphett Vale Rotary sponsored us to attend and fed us during the camp. Everyone who attended had a fantastic time.



NEW VOLUNTEERS JOIN ROTARY FENCING PROGRAM

After four and a half years the Rotary Club of Onkaparinga is attracting new volunteers for its successful ongoing fencing program in the Cudlee Creek fire area.

The Club has been working in the fire area since January 2020, replacing fences lost through that fire. Work has moved on to internal fences for property owners to better manage stock and fuel loads. This has been important for the environment as the fire has impacted on the balance of native flora and noxious weeds, in turn affecting both fauna and stock. This has led to damage to low lying wet areas by cattle along water courses.

A partnership has been formed with Landscape SA and property owners to protect and restore these water courses.



Landscape SA negotiates with the landholders and provides funding. Changes or extensions by landholders are funded by them. The Club is well experienced in developing fencing plans and its advice helps to improve outcomes. Additional funding is applied for through the RAWCS Bushfire Fund, if required.

The Rotary Club of Onkaparinga has taken on a number of environment projects over the years. In recent times much of this has been at Calperum, removing noxious weeds, tree planting, supporting student camps at Calperum, removing unwanted fences and building five km of new boundary fence along Wentworth Rd.



If any club, near or far, would like to know more about our work, please contact Dick Cuttle, dickcuttle@gmail.com or 0428106673

ASSISTING THE ENVIRONMENT & FELLOWSHIP GO HAND IN HAND AT WEST LAKES

The RC of West Lakes recently took to hammers, drills and nails to build “Air Bee N Bees”, that is Bee Hotels. The hotel building assignment was held at the home of past presidents Ros and Andrew, followed by a fun BBQ lunch and fellowship.



It was a great team building project to help encourage pollinating bees into our gardens which are vital to the production of fruit and vegetables.

And what are Bee Hotels? They are artificial shelters to solitary bees, who don't live in hives like honeybees, but in tunnels or hollow stems.

A little on bees: Solitary bees are vital pollinators for many plants, but they face threats from habitat loss, pesticides, and parasites.

Bee hotels attract different types of bees, each with their own nesting preferences and behaviours.

Providing food and water in the garden attracts native bees to visit. By making them a hotel, they may be encouraged to stay!

There are more than 1500 species of native bees in Australia, and they play an important environmental role pollinating plants.

Positioning the Bee Hotel

The native bee hotel should face between the north and east, in a sunny to semi-shaded position that is sheltered, between 1 and 2 meters off the ground., Make sure it does not get too hot in summer. And remember to provide lots of food and water for your bees.

The Bee Hotels were later donated!



For further information, please contact:
Rosie Erasmus, Rotary Club of West Lakes, 0400 164 419

BLUE BANDED BEE NAMED INSECT OF THE YEAR

The ABC has announced that a cute, vividly coloured native bee with a very distinctive buzz, the Blue Banded Bee, is the ABC's first Australian Insect of the Year.

Botanist and beekeeper Anna Carrucan nominated the blue-banded bee. Dr Carrucan said she was hopeful the charismatic bee's victory would translate into greater interest and awareness in all six finalists, and in native insects more generally.

"I'm delighted by the result, and I would love to thank those who voted for this bee but also those who voted for any of these finalists. They are all deserving of more interest," she said. "I think the win by the blue-banded bee serves to highlight all other native bees and insects that are just as important to the ecosystem."



"The blue-banded bee isn't just cute and attractive but also crucial with its special type of buzz pollination for food crops and native plant species.

(ABC News Saturday 9th Nov 2024)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CATE, CONTACT US AND CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



D9510 CATE Web Page



FACEBOOK CATE