



Calperum And The Environment News



Calperum And The
Environment (CATE)

Chair Report

The Calperum And The Environment Committee (CATE) provides a voice for the environmental projects being undertaken by Rotary groups in the District. Did you know that environmental projects are a great way of attracting young people as helpers and possibly as members of your Club.

If you want to have your project advertised on the District 9510 website, please drop us an email with some details and we will place the information up on the District web page. You can visit the webpage by putting the following keywords [Rotary D9510 Calperum] into your favourite search engine or via the QR code shown here.



If you are reading this newsletter from outside of D9510 and want to be engaged, then please send me a message/phone. We are excited to be able to spread the message and increase the impact of Rotary.

Later in this newsletter we will talk about our HEALTH OF THE RIVER Youth Forum. Our 2025 campaign was the first in a few years and it was a great success. Details about the 2026 campaign are available on the CATE webpage.

Rotary has been a long-time partner with CALPERUM STATION. We have agreed to help provide a portion of the co-funding for a significant state government grant to make major sustainability upgrades. Check out the article later in this newsletter.

Chair: Ian Coat | 0428 642 572 | ian.coat.ri@gmail.com

Health Of The River (HOTR) Youth Forum

The Health Of The River program is designed to give Year 9/10 students an opportunity to experience the fundamentals of ecological science while being surrounded by nature at Calperum Station. The program aligns with the SA secondary school curriculum.

Last year, we welcomed 14 students, all of whom were amazing young people. There were several who were already engaged in environmental volunteering. It was fantastic to see that almost half of our participants were from Riverland or rural communities.



The program challenged the students to look at our environment with more clarity, more rigour and more consideration. The five-day program was packed from sunrise to beyond sundown. Our participants learnt about the scientific method from a practical perspective and how real science is not clean and predictable. Late one evening, our guest ecologist Kieran, was talking about what it is like to do ecology at Uni and then to transition into working as an ecologist. Everyone was super keen to ask many thought-provoking questions about his journey and his perspective on a career as an ecologist. Our students went home tired but very happy about their experience. It appears to have been a defining experience for several.



CATE will be running the Health Of The River 2026 program between 14-18 September 2026. Clubs who are interested in sponsoring a student should approach their local schools with the information pack that is available on the CATE website. This year the cost of Club sponsorship is \$800. The family will be required to pay an additional \$50 deposit. We will plan to pick up students at selected locations around Adelaide and along the route to Calperum. Members of CATE committee can help explain and work through the process with interested Clubs. Details and application forms are available from the CATE website at the QR code provided at the start of this newsletter

Questions email: healthoftheriver@rotary9510.org

Commitment to Calperum Infrastructure Improvements

CATE is seeking donations from your Rotary Clubs to support the co-funding commitment for a SA Government Grant.

Rotary District 9510 and its predecessors have had a close working relationship with Calperum Station (near Renmark SA) for over 25 years.

Calperum is operated by the Australian Landscape Trust (ALT). ALT is a non-profit organisation that has transformed the run-down sheep station into a hub for community engagement and capacity building, education, nature-based tourism, as well as international research into the science and practice of landscape management and restoration from both Western and Indigenous perspectives.



Over the last 25 years Rotary has invested over \$100,000 and 1000's of volunteer hours in supporting the three pillars of Ecology, Education and Engagement. Calperum has been a standout organisation in delivering environmental education and research, whilst also being recognised for its support to the local community.



Rotary Clubs have enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to all three of the pillars and will have many opportunities in the future. Staying in Rotary House and waking up to the sounds of the birds is magical. Calperum has developed their 2030 Master plan to upgrade many key infrastructure elements including the transition to solar energy, replacement of legacy water management and distribution systems, accessibility upgrades to toilets and increasing the range of the Internet availability to support educational research outcomes. Rotary has committed to support a portion of the co-funding for this grant.

We are looking to raise \$50,000 in both Rotary year 25/26 and RY 26/27 to support our commitment. We recognise that this is a significant amount but also recognise that Calperum has proven itself to be committed to its goals of Ecology, Education and Engagement. More information is available on the CATE web page (see the QR code shown earlier in this newsletter). Individuals seeking a tax-deductible donation can do so directly with ALT – but please advise the CATE Chair so that your donation can also be attributed to Rotary co-funding.

A CATE representative can come and speak to your Club to describe more detail about the commitment and about the ongoing relationship between Calperum and Rotary.

To book a talk from the committee please email the Committee Chair

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“HEALTH OF THE RIVER” 2026 ROTARY YOUTH FORUM

MONDAY 14th – FRIDAY 18th September, 2026

CALPERUM STATION, Renmark, South Australia

OPEN TO YEAR 9 and 10 STUDENTS

Are you curious about the Natural World ?

Are you interested in Ecology and the Environment?

Are you interested in protecting the Environment?



This 5 day forum provides hands on learning and mentoring from specialist ecologists and researchers on a working conservation and research property, with an emphasis on “River Health”

Supported by Rotary Clubs, the forum provides transport, accommodation, meals and exceptional learning experiences.

Activities will include a focus on sustainable water management and irrigation practices, salinity issues and environmental flows, conservation, land degradation and rehabilitation and more.

<https://rotary9510.org/sitepage/youth/health-of-the-river-forum>

Cost for local Rotary Club: \$800

Additional fee from student (family): \$50

Enquiries: Registrar Mary-Anne Hannay Ph: 0402 247 462

Email: healthoftheriver@rotary9510.org