



Chairman Don's Report

I am aware that many Rotarians are keen to contribute to the environmental work at Calperum. Many have been disappointed that we have not had the projects in the past 18 months needing the volunteers we have.

Revegetation has always been a popular activity for many at Calperum. For the last three winters we have had insufficient rain to ensure the survival of new plantings. The drought has been the restraining factor. As explained to me, it is pointless work in preparing and planting hundreds or thousands of plants only to have them die in the first summer.

Hopefully this winter, plus the continuation of recent spring rainfalls, will enable planting to resume in 2022. Winter months are the best times to get the seedlings established before summer.

We are at present planning environmental projects for the coming year with management at Calperum. Some Clubs have already advised they would like to be informed what tasks are required, and when.

I am pleased to share news of the success that Calperum is having with both Ecotourism and environmental education initiatives.

- Enquiries for ecotourism have increased. The property certainly has a very 'outback feel', with its history of indigenous habitation over thousands of years plus its 120-year history as a sheep station. Convenient walking and tag-along tours are being offered. Income generated from these activities will assist in improving the infra-structures and offerings.

In This Issue

- Chairman Don's Report
- Flooding at Calperum
- Request for Club Environmental projects
- Health of the River Seminar 2022
- Health of the Ocean
- Habitat Boxes
- Goolwa RC Centennial Project
- Revegetation Work at Calperum
- Project Listings

- Perhaps due to some Covid restrictions on travel, 2021 has been a great year for delivering educational programs at Calperum. So much so that plans are being developed to offer additional and more appropriate accommodation for schools using Calperum as an outdoor education centre for environmental subjects.

CALPERUM CONNECT is the new strategic plan that builds around Ecology, Education and Engagement. I direct interested Rotarians to the recently upgraded website www.alt.org.au to find out more. Those Rotarians seeking to experience the ecotourism aspects should contact Julie Robertson direct admin@alt.org.au or 8595 7359.

FLOODING AT CALPERUM



Suzette Coat and Don Will took to the water on the Calperum floodplain in October 2021 to measure observation bore levels in areas flooded by the high river levels.

CLUB ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN DISTRICT 9510

I hear of many new and different environmental projects being undertaken by Rotary Clubs in our District. I believe this is the result of the Environment being Rotary's new area of Focus throughout the world.

Our Committee has not compiled a complete list of what clubs are doing in this regard, but we are now very keen to do so. All we need is:

- Two or three paragraphs explaining what the project is, and
- Photos, a couple would be helpful.

And it would be great if these can be submitted by Friday, March 18th, ready for the next edition of this publication in March.

Simply email to our secretary jeffcluse@gmail.com and copy me in will4444sa@gmail.com.

It is intended that the list of projects when completed will be circulated throughout D9510 and become an idea-sharing exercise for other clubs.

I know that many Clubs are well engaged with their local councils. Often local councils can allocate funds towards projects enhancing club contributions.

Primary schools and scout groups are also become involved in many cases, with the Clubs being the facilitators - and getting some positive community publicity at the same time.

Don Will

HEALTH OF THE RIVER SEMINAR 2022.

Most Rotarians would be aware of the **Health of the River Seminar** that started some twenty years ago. The venue for the 2022 Seminar will again be Calperum, with the dates 4 - 8 July 2022. We already have around 9 applications on hand, so Clubs are encouraged to:

- Decide that you will send a suitable year 9 or 10 student, and
- Advise Jenny Phillips of your interest so that a spot can be allocated. Email healthoftheriverd9510@gmail.com

It is anticipated the five-day seminar coast will be around \$ 600 per participant.

HEALTH OF THE OCEAN

Our Committee is of the view that a Seminar for secondary students on the **Health of the Ocean** should be offered. We plan to host the first one in the July school holidays 2022, with students accommodated on the Le Fevre Peninsula. A very wide range of activities can be offered, the hardest decision will be to work out what cannot be included.

It is expected the cost, yet to be finalised, will be around \$ 850 for the five-day seminar. Students in years 9 and 10 are the target cohorts.

Those clubs seeking to sponsor a student should email us at healthoftheocean9510@gmail.com. We would also like to hear of any potential sponsorships that could help offset some of our costs.

Clubs should note that we have deliberately set dates to ensure these specialist seminars do not compete with other youth programs offered by the District.

HABITAT BOXES

Rotarians have constructed and installed hundreds of Habitat Boxes over the past 20 years.

Our stocks are now depleted to nil. We have:

- Funds in our account available to supplement the activities of clubs looking to work on the provision of boxes, and,
- Designs for boxes appropriate for a wide range of birds and small animals.

Let us know what you are planning and what assistance we can offer.

PS We discourage Rotarians installing boxes themselves. Work out in advance who will install them. Mature Rotarians and ladders are not necessarily a good combination.

GOOLWA ROTARY CLUB'S ROTARY CENTENARY PARKLAND PROJECT



The Goolwa Rotary Club has begun a visionary environmental project in recognition of the Centenary of Rotary Service in Australia, 2021. The project also acknowledges Rotary International's 7th Area of Focus, the Environment.

It will create a parkland on 10 acres of Reserve land along Beach Road, Goolwa South and will be implemented over a 10-year project with the support of the District Council of Alexandrina.

Although there are remnants of native bush on the reserve, extensive rehabilitation will be needed with additional plantings of native species to re-create an environment like its original state.

Removal of weeds and undesirable plants is the first task of the Club and is underway this summer. Ultimately there will be safe walking and mobility pathways, picnic areas, an exercise route, and areas of peace and tranquillity for people to sit and enjoy, and for the native birds and wildlife to flourish.

Di Keach

ROTARIAN REVEGETATION WORK AT CALPERUM IN 2021

A party of five Rotarian volunteers led by David Gooley and a group of TAFE students assisted Calperum Ranger Jeremy with new nursery plantings in the Exclusion Zone in July last. The zone is a fenced enclosure at Calperum protecting nursery vegetation from the ravages of hungry wildlife.

The volunteers initially removed the weeds along the four irrigation lines to reveal the deterioration of the polypipe irrigation lines following years of exposure to the sun and refurbished the system. The plantings were of *Hakea leucoptera* which will become a seed bank for future revegetation across the property.

Other activities included the planting of a *Callitris gracilis* advanced seedling grown at home by David. It was planted in a degraded area known as site 12. The water bag trial sites were also checked and the surviving plants, possibly only 12, watered. These trials incorporated special water bladders around each seedling to supply moisture to the seedlings during their establishment. The predation of goats, kangaroos and lizards is the main cause of the low survival rate. Another site originally planted in 2012 by David with 48 seedlings, was found to have only 14 viable plants, with one up to 3 meters in height. This is a typical survival rate in an arid climate landscape such as Calperum which need decades to recover.



This very experienced group of Rotary volunteers: Les Dennis, David Gooley, Russell Green and Reg Hutchinson tackled the weeding, irrigation system refurbishment and the planting of nursery stock *Hakea Leucoptera*.

The group also spent some time removing Match Head weeds from around the plant nursery and Rotary House.

Revegetation work at Calperum have been severely limited over the past three years by the low rainfall.

David Gooley

PROJECT LISTINGS

Task Categories and Designated Captains

Education/Youth Captain	Jenny Phillips	Murray Bridge
Water/Environment Captain	Bryan Harris	Adelaide
Fencing Captain	Dick Cuttle	Onkaparinga
Trees/Revegetation Captain	David Gooley	Mitcham
Plastics Pollution/Rotary House Garden	Di Keach	Goolwa
Communication Editor C.A.T.E News	Bryan Harris	Adelaide

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