



Annual Report 2012-13



As the peak environment body in SA, the Conservation Council of South Australia (CCSA) provides leadership, environmental advocacy and runs projects to achieve positive environmental change.

CCSA was formed in 1971 as a non-profit and strictly non-party political organisation and is now governed by some 50 of the state's environment and conservation groups.

This has been done by supporting and working with its member groups to strengthen and broaden the state's environment movement and to engage communities in general. CCSA's peak state role has been recognised by its recognition in all major state acts as the peak environment body.

In summary CCSA has achieved its outcomes by:

- **facilitating and supporting its affiliated groups** and other community groups in their work on conservation
- **advocating for environmental health** by promoting ecological, economic and social/cultural practices founded on ethical principles of protection and conservation
- **implement environmental projects** that deliver both community education and on-ground works to protect and repair the environment
- **contributing to state and federal policy and program development** by coordinating and preparing detailed submissions on Government policies, programs and discussion documents, as well as through participating in working groups and forums.

President & Chief Executive's Message



Rob Fowler, President



Tim Kelly, Chief Executive

We are pleased to present this Annual Report to members for the 2012-13 financial year. The Annual Report provides highlights of our work during the year and presents a summary of our financial position, as audited by Clarke & Brownrigg.

The 2012-13 year saw CCSA seek to engage, empower and advocate on existing and new environmental threats and opportunities. The range of our campaigning and advocacy work is outlined in this report and we are pleased to have helped achieve some important outcomes – including the new state marine parks system.

However, a serious threat to federal environmental protection arrangements and serious funding reductions to the state environment department underline the serious challenges to be faced in even maintaining existing levels of environment protection. These come at a time when South Australia is promoting the expansion of mining activities, and the massive accompanying infrastructure, and the government is reviewing the state's planning system. The year ahead will be challenging for the sector on a number of fronts and will require renewed vigour and determination.

The delivery of our new Constitution in August 2012, and the development of another two key governance tools demonstrate the ongoing reform of governance arrangements within CCSA. The second edition of our policy Blueprint took the full year to develop and preparation of our new Strategic Plan commenced in the final six months of the 2012-13 year. All three documents have had considerable input from members and are the stronger for it.

Financial management has remained an important focus this year, and we are particularly pleased to report a surplus end-of-year result due in particular to a magnificent donation and strong oversight of expenditure. During the year, concerted efforts to secure additional support for previously unfunded work were successful, as were a range of initiatives to make expenditure savings throughout the organisation. It remains a continuing high priority to diversify income streams for CCSA, particularly through the expansion of our fundraising efforts. The adoption of a strong fundraising plan, the development of CCSA's Warren Bonython Bequest Trust and work with major donors have each reflected this priority.

Targeted engagement with other stakeholders in the sector, parliament, agencies and industry has also been a priority over the past year and helps to ensure that CCSA is consulting widely and effectively as it advocates for conservation and sustainability.

Nationally, we have continued to play a role with our sister Conservation Councils to provide a greater collective voice and influence on a number of national environment campaigns, in particular as an active member of the Places You Love alliance.

As always, our achievements could not have happened without the support and encouragement of the many arms of our organisation – our representatives/nominees on government committees, Environmental Standing Committees, member groups and their councillors, Executive Committee and its sub-committees, staff, volunteers and our many donors and supporters. Our thanks to you all.

Supporting SA's conservation movement

Through its role as SA's peak environment group, CCSA continues to **facilitate informed and articulate community input** into local, state and Commonwealth processes via its representation on a range of government committees such as the:

- Essential Services Commission of SA Community Advisory Committee
- SA Marine Parks Council
- SA Strategic Plan Audit Committee
- Giant Cuttlefish Working Group
- Premier's Climate Change Council
- Planning Reform Reference Group.

Nineteen (19) **government committees** include members that were nominated by CCSA or have CCSA representatives as part of their make-up. These individuals report to each Annual General Meeting and a copy of their reports for 2011-12 can be found on CCSA's website. Our thanks go to these individuals for their considerable efforts on behalf of the environment sector and the Conservation Council.

Over the past 12 months, the organisation has also presented **sector, community and scientific views to government policy processes via 60+ submissions**, mostly to state and federal government agencies, on a large variety of topics across our six policy areas.

Details of the submissions can be found on the CCSA website, and include:

- Draft Roadmap for Unconventional Gas Projects in South Australia
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act changes
- Water Industry Act consultation
- Bight Petroleum EPBC Act referral
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (measurement) Amendment Determination
- AFMA Trans-shipment and use of the Supertrawler
- Draft National Parks & Wildlife (Reserve Categories & other matters) Amendment Bill
- Management Plans for 19 South Australian Marine Parks
- Inquiry into the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Exposure Draft Bills
- Inquiry into Container Deposit Schemes.

In 2009, CCSA published its **Blueprint for a Sustainable Future** document following an extensive consultation process over a period of 18 months. Since that time the document has been used as the basis for Conservation Council policy positions, advocacy and campaigns.

In 2012, it was decided to produce a second edition of the Blueprint to update the various policy recommendations contained therein. In addition, it was decided to add an extra, over-arching chapter on the drivers of environmental destruction and outlining the necessary policy changes to address this. After twelve months of effort, co-ordinated by our tireless volunteer, Peter Croft, the revised document was adopted by Council in August of this year for publication in the last quarter of the 2013 calendar year.

CCSA's **Environmental Standing Committees** (ESCs) for each of the policy areas in the Blueprint (Biodiversity, Coast and Marine, Water, Planning and Development, Energy, Waste) met during the year under the leadership of an elected Chair, with membership coming from member groups and the wider sector. The ESC Chairs meet quarterly with

the Environment Minister, which provides a valuable opportunity to present and discuss environmental issues of concern with the Minister.

The ESCs contributed significantly to the review of the relevant sections of the CCSA Blueprint over the past 12 months.

Member Engagement is a vital aspect of the Conservation Council's work. This year has seen a more targeted approach to engagement through linkages with members on issues of shared interest. Members have played an important role in the development of many of our submissions this year.

Examples of overarching work with members this year have been the Blueprint revision and the development of a new Strategic Plan for the organisation. Our NRM Facilitation Project (full report below) demonstrates the range of our engagement work particularly through relationship building and the fostering of networks. The facilitator project focuses on building relationships across government and the conservation sector, fostering environmental NGO networks for dissemination of a range of NRM related information and bringing stakeholders together to ensure the conservation sector have every opportunity to contribute to a range of NRM processes at the policy/planning and delivery level.

Workshops of note this year included CCSA's Grant Writing Bootcamp in March; an Aquaculture Forum in August 2012; a Forum on Dredging presented by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) in September 2012; and (with the Environmental Defenders Office) a briefing on the COAG Agenda to change the EPBC processes and create bi-lateral agreements with states to cover EPBC triggered project approvals in October 2012.

CCSA continues to run **the Conservation Centre** at 157 Franklin Street, Adelaide, which includes a free information, advice service, public meeting rooms, free access to IT and internet to students, campaigners member groups and the public. In an average year, over 250 meetings are held in CCSA meeting rooms (daytime, night time and weekends).

Campaigns and projects that deliver CCSA's conservation priorities

Campaigns and Advocacy

In 2012-13 the Conservation Council SA has worked on numerous fronts, and achieved important wins in some areas.

Planning

Over recent years it has become increasingly clear that there are some fundamental problems with South Australia's planning system. It lacks transparency, fails on meaningful community engagement, allows ad-hoc development to occur, and has too many loopholes allowing environmental commitments to be meaningless or unenforced.

Many members of the community have been outraged by undemocratic decisions to develop land in areas such as Mount Barker, but for the Conservation Council recent problems have been manifesting around infrastructure developments in regional areas.

The State Government is actively pursuing a huge expansion in mining activity, for both minerals and unconventional fossil fuels. As well as the impact of the mining itself, this has led to a large number of infrastructure development proposals, including new port facilities in extremely environmentally sensitive locations such as the upper Spencer Gulf.

The Conservation Council is arguing against ad-hoc infrastructure development designed primarily to suit individual proponents, in favour of a strategic approach that identifies and protects important environmental assets (our natural infrastructure).

We welcomed the announcement that the government is now undertaking a review of the state's planning system. We are actively participating via membership of the Planning Reform Reference Group and are also building alliances with other community organisations seeking a better system.

Climate Change

We have been shining a light on the state government's steady retreat from policies to reduce emissions in favour of policies to simply adapt to climate change. The extent of the government's abdication of responsibility seems to come as a surprise even to many in government, and it has not been communicated to the public at large.

We have been working hard to persuade the government that it is not acceptable to give up on climate change action, and that it will most certainly need credible policies for the 2014 state election. We are extremely disappointed that the state government has abandoned its 50% GreenPower commitment from 2014 and call upon the government to reconsider this position in light of its commitment to lead by example.



A solar thermal plant in Spain.

In the Repower Port Augusta alliance, we are building the case for Port Augusta to finally be freed from the burden of burning coal, with its associated health and environmental problems and job losses. We know that solar thermal technology would be a perfect replacement; we know the Port Augusta

community overwhelmingly supports it, and we know that with appropriate support from all levels of government and a serious proponent, we can make it happen.

Mining

As noted above, the state government is actively pursuing the growth of South Australia's unconventional coal and gas reserves, in spite of the poorly defined emissions implications of this. While we do not support any expansion of fossil fuels, we have participated in the government's Roundtable for Unconventional Gas to insist the industry adopts the highest possible standards and that its roadmap is defined to sit within a transition to a clean energy future.

We have met with individual mining companies, identifying ways they can improve their practices and increase the transparency of their environmental reporting. We commend those companies who are genuine in their efforts to be more accountable to the public.

As a result of our efforts in 2011-12, the federal government has been reviewing its methods for calculating the emissions from unconventional gas, which are likely to be far higher than the current assumptions. We have been contributing our expertise to this important process, because a change here could have big ramifications.

We have been increasing our networks with citizens and groups across the nation concerned about coal and gas mining and have supported the development of a local movement in South Australia. We are pleased to welcome new community group and member, Clean Land, Air and Water (CLAW) SA.

Places You Love

This national campaign to protect Australia's federal environment laws was embryonic at the start of 2012-13 but ramped up with enormous speed over the course of the year. We played a formative role in the campaign, initially bringing the NGO groups together and then helping forge a strong web and social media presence. While the campaign had a significant victory with the Rudd Government committing to maintain the Federal Government's role in approving developments affecting matters of national environmental significance, a new government means new battles to face.



Environmental spending

We continue our watchdog role when it comes to the state government's ever-declining environment budget. Savings measures are not being distributed equitably across government; instead the environmental agencies (particularly the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources) have been the target of unusually dramatic cuts, with many programs now so under-resourced they are barely viable.

We were also shocked to learn of the plans to disband the small but extremely successful government agency Zero Waste SA in 2015-16. Zero Waste has been driving world-class innovations to reduce waste in SA. As waste is economically inefficient, it makes no sense for a cash-strapped government to cut this agency, and we are working to see that it doesn't.

Marine

We have continued to support the implementation of the state's marine parks with representations to the Parliamentary Select Committee and work with other NGOs.

The Northern Spencer Gulf population sub species of Giant Australian Cuttlefish has collapsed steadily over the past 10 years. We urged that a comprehensive protection and recovery plan be established immediately and called for a complete halt to fishing. As a result the government announced a fishing moratorium in 2013, which removed an avoidable pressure on the species. We have also advocated for the cuttlefish to be protected under Australia's national environmental laws, but this work is ongoing.



Photo (Paul MacDonald): Great Australian Cuttlefish

National Parks and Wildlife Act amendments

In 2012-13 the state government proposed amendments to this Act to progress a longstanding plan to align the categories in its protected area system with those of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and use nomenclature that reflects the activities allowed in each park category.

The Conservation Council and some of its member groups were concerned that some of the amendments could have adverse consequences, such as downgrading the status of some iconic national parks by changing their name, and parks having management objectives such as mining and fire management. A strong response from the groups and some useful meetings with DEWNR staff led to satisfactory changes to the amendments.

Murray Darling Basin Plan

The Murray Darling Basin Plan campaign built on success in 2011-12 garnering a strong response from the state government and SA community, which led to a commitment to return 450 GL more water to the river. The outcome of 3250 GL was still a compromise on what the river needs, but it was without doubt a better outcome than would have occurred without the strong South Australian response.

CCSA Projects

CCSA's project efforts are being targeted toward filling gaps in the sector and collaborating with member groups and partners to attract more funding opportunities for the environment sector in South Australia.

Our existing projects fall under four categories

- Natural Resource Management
- Terrestrial Biodiversity
- Marine Biodiversity, and
- Energy and Sustainability

and they

- support and reflect the organisation's environmental policy positions
- play a key role in developing key stakeholder relationships
- foster partnerships
- provide opportunities for volunteerism
- build community capacity and knowledge
- deliver on-ground environmental protection outcomes
- develop resources and
- link to natural resource management plans and outcomes within the State.

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

Through our **NRM Facilitation project**, now in its seventh year, we continue to work hard to support the involvement of CCSA member groups and other environmental non-government organisations (eNGOs) in a range of NRM processes in the State and, in some cases, federally.

Over the life of this project there have been a range of changes in how the state government manages NRM. One of the most significant was last July when the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) was created by amalgamating the Department for Water and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This change marked the intention to manage natural resources by landscape-scale approaches linking across both public and private lands. The aim is a more holistic approach to NRM issues. CCSA will continue to work with NRM bodies and the sector to ensure this approach has every opportunity of succeeding.

Our Facilitation project focuses on building relationships across government and the conservation sector, fostering environmental NGO networks for

dissemination of a range of NRM related information, and bringing stakeholders together to ensure the conservation sector has every opportunity to contribute to NRM processes at the policy/planning and delivery levels.

The breadth of work encompassed by this project includes: facilitating sector meetings on NRM; fire management and water allocation plans (WAP) such as the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges and Lower Limestone Coast; ensuring early input into the development of park management plans such as Yellabinna Reserves, Flinders Ranges and Mt Remarkable National Parks, Eastern Eyre Peninsula and South Para Parks; early engagement with the Native Vegetation Council in areas such as amendments to the Native Vegetation Act and Native Vegetation Significant Environmental Offsets and also with other government agencies in areas such as Regional Mining and Infrastructure Plans.

There has also been a strong emphasis on building partnerships between government and the conservation sector wherever possible. This has included advocating an NRM perspective in regular meetings with the Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy (DMITRE) and SA Water.

It has included supporting the eNGO NRM Alliance partnership with NatureLinks, a program that connects people and projects to restore SA's natural environment, and has provided the perfect vehicle for collaboration across landscapes. The NRM Alliance¹ co-hosted (with DEWNR) the NatureLinks website launch (October 2012), which also included the official signing-up of Nature Glenelg Trust and the National Trust (SA) as new partners. The Alliance advocated strongly (and successfully) for NatureLinks to be recognised in the National Wildlife Corridors Plan and has been working on an engagement strategy and gap analysis as a result of a subsequent federal grant. There has also been considerable work done on developing a Community Reference Group to promote shared ownership of NatureLinks across the broader community to increase support and investment for the program.

The ongoing challenge is to keep advocating for greater investment in this program and other landscape-scale restoration programs which protect and restore wildlife and natural habitats.

¹ The Alliance consists of eleven environmental NGOs that signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NRMBoards re valuing each other's role in managing natural resources and making a commitment to collaborate to achieve better environmental outcomes. This was facilitated by CCSA and CCSA continues to provide secretariat support through the NRM Facilitator. The NRM Alliance includes Conservation Council of SA, TWS, NCSSA, CVA, NFSA, GA, TFL, ZoosSA, FOP's, NTSA and Nature Glenelg Trust.



Work has also progressed on the MOU Action Plans with the Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board in particular. These Action Plans provide the foundation for *continuous collaboration* and the aim is to continue working with the other seven NRM Boards in SA to progress Action Plan development.

This project also worked with Ag Ex Alliance to enable CCSA's Chief Executive to present to the Ag Ex Alliance State Forum March 2013. This has resulted in subsequent meeting between CCSA's CE and the President of Ag Ex Alliance to discuss opportunities to work together, resulting in a joint State NRM Community Grant proposal: '*Linking biodiversity and sustainable production*' with Greening Australia. CCSA will be furthering work in this area in 2014 with the new group, Primary Producers SA, that has replaced the SA Farmers Federation.

The project has also focused on calling government to account in consultation practices. At every opportunity we advocate for meaningful public participation which has included frequent reference to the government's *Better Together: principles of community engagement* guide, launched in 2012.

Terrestrial Biodiversity Program

Mt Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren and Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps Recovery Program (MLRSEW & FPS)

Now in its 19th year, the program seeks to protect and recover important habitat for the endangered MLRSEW and the critically endangered Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps, both listed under the EPBC Act. The program approaches conservation and natural resource protection from a landscape-scale perspective, with protection of the swamps and emu-wrens extending to considerations of land-use, management, existing and potential threats, soils, hydrology, landform elements, topography and the interaction between these variables.

One of the strengths of the program is its longevity, which has allowed the team to develop expert knowledge and skills and to develop excellent relationships with landholders, so as to achieve a range of environmental outcomes.

Since 2005:

- 38% of swamps received on-ground works
- 28% of swamp landholders have been engaged
- 21% of swamp landholders have undertaken on-ground works

Given that there are approximately 4,000 hectares of swamps spread between about 815 landholders, these are significant achievements.

There has been decline in the area of occupancy by MLRSEW, a loss of site populations and a decline in the number of individuals to fewer than approximately 400 birds.



Photo: Tim Vale, CCSA Habitat Protection Officer - 3rd from left - on a Field Day organised by the Parawa Agricultural Bureau to visit swamps and discuss the day-to-day issues of managing a property containing a swamp.

The program undertook a significant technical workshop about the emu-wrens in March 2013, including numerous bird conservation specialists, during which a major change in the direction of recovery activities was put forward. The recovery program continues to work closely with fire management staff within DEWNR, particularly with reference to emu-wren habitat that may be involved in controlled burns.

There was a change of staff in the recovery program and a previous staff member has returned to take up the post of Ecological Research Officer.

The recovery program continued to work on policy issues such as planning, water allocation and native vegetation, and met with two of the three relevant local councils about planning issues.

An online herbarium of swamp plant species is now complete and includes more than 160 plant species. It can be accessed here:

<http://www.conservation.sa.org.au/fleurieu-swamps/1319-herbarium.html>

The recovery program worked closely with the Goolwa to Wellington LAP to develop a new series of four fact sheets about swamps and wrens. We continue to work closely with the GWLAP on swamp issues in the SAMDB NRM Region.

Marine Biodiversity Program



Photo (James Brook): Western Blue Groper (females)

Reef Watch

Our multi-award winning, flagship marine citizen-science program Reef Watch uses scientifically proven and non-destructive survey methods to collect data on temperate reef health.

The **sub-tidal** monitoring program trains recreational divers to undertake ecological surveys of temperate reefs located in SA's coastal waters. A total of 42 sub-tidal surveys involving 115 volunteers were undertaken during 2012-13.

The **intertidal** monitoring program, which commenced in 2006 and monitors intertidal rocky reefs, is critical to providing further information on these environments, about which little is known. In 2012-13 the program completed 51 intertidal surveys involving more than 220 volunteers (including more than 100 trainees).

The intertidal program was successful in obtaining funding from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation to fund a data analysis of all the intertidal data from 2006-12. This involved more than 100 hours of volunteer time to enter the data into a database, then an independent marine scientist analysed the data. The final report provides some excellent recommendations for improvements to the program, which will be implemented in 2013-14. The report is now available here: <http://www.conservation.sa.gov.au/reports.html>

Reef Watch gained funding to produce a series of fact sheets about temperate reefs. There is a dearth of information available for the general public, so these fact sheets are a short snapshot of general information about temperate reef fish, algae, invertebrates and threats to reefs. They provide a colourful, useful and accessible source of information and are readily available on the Reef Watch website: <http://www.conservation.sa.gov.au/reefwatch-home/about-temperate-reefs.html>

New safety regulations relating to diving released in early 2013 have significant implications for Reef Watch activities and the program has done a lot of work

researching the consequences for the program and its diving volunteers. This work continues and will be completed by December 2013.

The Feral or In Peril Program

This program encourages recreational divers, fishers and boat owners to identify and report on introduced marine pests ('ferals') and native marine ('in peril') species. The program is continuing to spread its influence and grow relationships with recreational boat owners to prevent the spread of marine pests through good boat hull husbandry.

The program undertook 44 marine pest dive surveys this year, involving more than 100 dive volunteers and was involved in eleven events to raise awareness of marine pests. The program was invited to present at the National Marine Pest Sectoral Committee, which met in Adelaide this year, to showcase the program's success.

The program's "Boat Owner's Guide" continues to be popular and distribution has reached nearly 20,000 copies in the last two years.

The program obtained funding to undertake a series of surveys for western blue groper during the summer of 2012-13, following up a previous set of surveys in 2002-05. Surveys were done at 25 sites across SA with 190 volunteers. The data analysis will be available in 2013-14.

Monitoring Seas and Inspiring Communities (MOSAIC) Pilot

This new program is a collaboration between CCSA, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and local communities to facilitate citizen science activities specifically related to monitoring South Australia's new marine parks.

In 2012-13 CCSA produced a comprehensive report identifying the opportunities for citizen science contributions to monitoring the performance of the sanctuary zones, and now we have successfully attracted funding and entered the next phase, which is the establishment of two pilot projects. The report is available here: <http://www.conservation.sa.gov.au/coast-and-marine-projects/mosaic.html>

The community of Robe, in the south east of the state, is supporting a pilot project related to their local sanctuary zone. They will be conducting snorkel fish surveys, and other activities to measure how different species respond to the protection offered by sanctuary zones.

Another pilot project is in partnership with Rodney Fox Shark Expeditions at the Neptune Islands, where video monitoring by crew and guests (while shark cage diving) and research rock lobster pot deployment will help to shed light on what species are there, and how this changes over time with the introduction of sanctuary zones.

The pilots are due to be completed in June 2014.

Energy and Sustainability Program

Green Hubs Energy Efficiency Program

2012-13 has seen the successful launch of the Green Hubs Energy Efficiency Program, the new phase of our long-running sustainability program Green Hubs.

The Green Hubs Energy Efficiency Program is funded through the federal government's Energy Efficiency Information Grants Program and assists South Australian community organisations to lower their carbon footprint and energy costs.

Community organisations can book one of our energy efficiency presentations and then apply to become a 'Green Hub' and receive a free professional energy audit, funding for behaviour change initiatives, assistance with funding applications and ongoing energy efficiency advice.

Since our launch in January 2013 we have conducted two training sessions for Community Energy Efficiency Volunteers, delivered 18 energy efficiency presentations at community organisations across SA, and welcomed eight community organisations as new Green Hubs. Our hub partners include Common Ground, Uniting Communities and Community Food SA. We have also distributed our Green Hubs energy efficiency guide to hundreds of community organisations across SA. The Green Hubs Energy Efficiency Program will run until June 2015.



Photo (Kathy Whitta): Jake Bugden (L) undertaking the energy audit at Community Food SA

Strengthening organisational capacity to support conservation outcomes

CCSA's new constitution was adopted at the 2012 August Council meeting and provides the organisation with a number of improved and streamlined processes, perhaps the most important of which was the removal of some barriers to membership. We have gained a number of new members during the year and welcome the new ideas, experience and initiative that this always brings.

Our participation in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission reforms process was undertaken to preserve our ability to speak freely about environmental issues without fear of losing our classification as a not-for-profit group for taxation purposes, and to ensure that any conditions placed upon the Conservation Council or our member groups was not excessively onerous.

Generating funds to create security for conservation advocacy

CCSA continues to be heavily reliant on government for the income required to support its operations. In 2012-13 our Chief Executive commenced negotiation with DEWNR to seek a grant-extension to fund our (previously un-funded) advocacy work in relation to mining, shale gas and energy-related matters, and was successful in securing an additional \$60,000 for this work.

In 2012-13 the Conservation Council has maintained its regular communication channels with its financial supporters (donors), and also connected with a large number of potential supporters using social media. We experimented with distilling complex environmental information into web-friendly forms such as infographics. Our following on both Facebook and Twitter has continued to grow, allowing us to engage a very different demographic in South Australian environmental issues.

We have transitioned to a new contacts database that provides far greater functionality and also initiated a major overhaul of our website that will be launched in 2013-14.

We developed the new **Warren Bonython Bequest program** with an associated Trust to provide a secure nest-egg for the Conservation Council into the future.

Fundraising income exceeded budget due largely to support of our donors. We are grateful for this support and hope this trend will continue in 2013-14.

Financial Report

The overall result for the 2012-13 financial year is an operating surplus of \$61,615, which is a considerable improvement on the budgeted deficit of \$46,885. At year-end, organisational reserves were at \$415,736.

This improvement on budget was largely attributable to the receipt of unanticipated income from a private donor, which added to support from other donors and regular givers. The organisation also continued to improve its control of operational expenditure.

Since 2010, CCSA has faced a number of financial challenges and there is a clear understanding within the organisation that CCSA needs to put itself on a sustainable financial footing. The organisation adopted a new "Reserves Policy" during 2011-12, which safeguards CCSA's cash reserves from being depleted below the amount required to maintain operations for at least six months.

CCSA continues to be heavily reliant on three sources for the income required to support its operations: first, general operating grants from both the South Australian and Commonwealth governments, second, income for administrative services generated from our management of program grants (ie conservation projects - most of which are also funded via contracts with government agencies) and third, membership fees and donations. We sincerely thank all our financial supporters (non government and government) for enabling the Conservation Council to fulfil its role.

Whilst CCSA's role as the peak environment organisation in South Australia clearly justifies the level of support it attracts from government grants, it is abundantly clear that there is a risk attached to the current level of dependency on this source of funding. There has therefore been a high level focus on diversifying the Council's income streams, particularly by expanding our fundraising efforts.

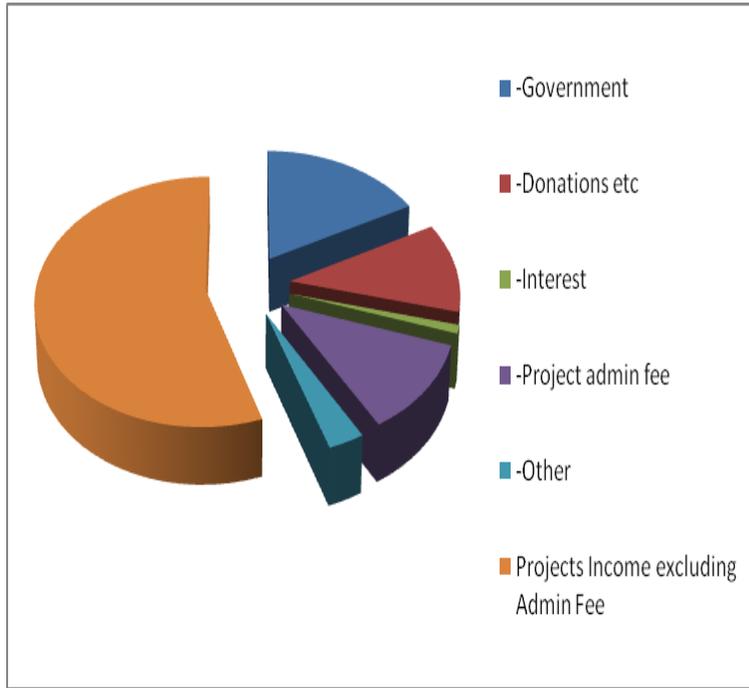
The next two years will be a critical phase in attempting to reorient CCSA's financial situation through the pursuit of a number of extra fundraising initiatives in a climate of government cost-cutting.

A review of CCSA's chart of accounts was undertaken in 2011-12 and this has streamlined our accounting processes and the way in which financial information is prepared and presented. This new structure is reflected in the audited accounts for 2012-13.

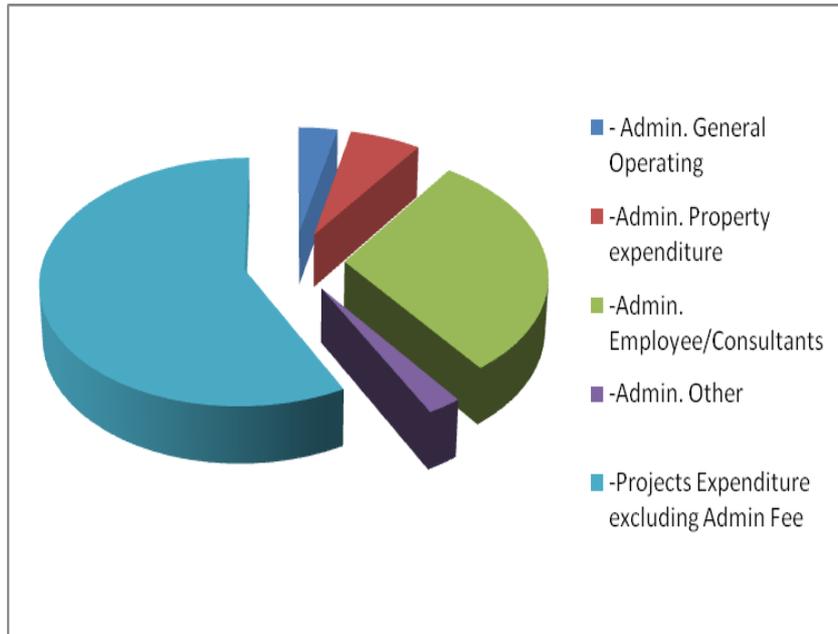
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT		
2012-13		
	2012-13	2011-12
INCOME		
ADMINISTRATION		
-Government	\$245,555	\$183,604
-Donations etc	\$166,052	\$185,612
-Interest	\$15,613	\$23,572
-Project admin fee	\$164,742	\$149,668
-Other	\$44,087	\$11,815
Total Admin Income	\$636,048	\$ 554,271
PROJECTS		
Income excluding Admin Fee	\$785,384	\$633,701
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,421,433	\$1,187,972
EXPENSES		
ADMINISTRATION		
- General Operating	\$47,095	*
-Property expend	\$86,467	*
-Employee/Consultants	\$408,310	*
-Other	\$33,237	*
Total Administration	\$575,108	\$583,096
PROJECTS		
Expenditure excluding Admin Fee	\$784,401	\$657,229
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,359,603	\$1,240,325
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$61,615	\$(53,353)

* The change in CCSA's chart of accounts at start of 2012-13 means a change in the components of CCSA's financial reports between the years 2011-12 and 2012-13.

INCOME 2012-13



EXPENDITURE 2012-13



CCSA BALANCE SHEET

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	672,639	575,578
Accounts receivable from operations	67,934	15,842
Prepayments	7,336	6,669
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>747,909</u>	<u>598,089</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Financial assets	29,906	26,894
Property, plant and equipment	9,638	19,423
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>39,544</u>	<u>46,317</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>787,453</u>	<u>644,406</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and other payables	54,437	107,341
Grants received in advance	223,360	93,395
Provision for annual leave	31,281	39,403
Provision for long service leave	43,716	45,137
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>352,794</u>	<u>285,276</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provision for long service leave	18,923	5,009
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>18,923</u>	<u>5,009</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>371,717</u>	<u>290,285</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>415,736</u>	<u>354,121</u>
ASSOCIATION'S FUNDS		
General reserve	-	1,646
Building reserve	-	-
Retained surplus	415,736	352,475
TOTAL ASSOCIATION'S FUNDS	<u>415,736</u>	<u>354,121</u>

Community Conservation Awards

CCSA continues its ongoing recognition of the environmental work of communities and individuals through its annual Awards. In August 2013, the awards for 2012 were presented at the Santos Conservation Centre at the Adelaide Zoo.



Photo (Peter Anderson): Anne Daw (L) and Emie Borthwick (R) at the Awards event

Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection

Emie Borthwick and **Anne Daw** were announced as joint winners of the Jill Hudson Award for Environmental Protection. The award recognises South Australians who have made outstanding contributions to environmental protection over the past 12 months.

Emie Borthwick is the founder and spokesperson of the Saving Our Sustainability (SOS) group in Eyre Peninsula, and has been at the forefront of the group's work towards setting higher standards around mining on agricultural land in areas of high population and diverse ecosystems.

Anne Daw has extensively campaigned to change laws to exempt prime agricultural and cropping land, and land of environmental significance, from mining and unconventional gas mining in South Australia.

CCSA Unsung Hero Awards

Ann Prescott and **Andrew Winkler** were jointly honoured as Conservation Council of SA Unsung Heroes, for their sustained contributions to protecting South Australia's environment.

Ann Prescott is a scientist and botanist and has dedicated her life and talents for communication and creativity towards the conservation and the promotion of Australian native plants.

Andrew Winkler has an impressive history of community activism and community engagement and education in environmental and social justice issues, in particular for the protection of local natural assets.

CCSA Volunteer, **Peter Croft**, received a Premier's Certificate for his Outstanding Volunteer Service in support of the conservation sector.

Member Groups for 2012-13

<p>Aldgate Valley Landcare Group Inc Aldinga Bay Coastcare Inc Association of South East Field Naturalists Societies Australian Civic Trust Inc Australian Conservation Foundation Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (SA Group) Australian Plants Society (SA Region) Inc Bicycle Institute of South Australia Inc Bird Care & Conservation Society Inc Birds SA (SA Ornithological Assn) Cheltenham Park Residents Association Inc Coastal Ecology Protection Group Inc Community Alliance SA Inc Echidna Care Inc Eco-Action Kangaroo Island Inc Economic Reform Australia (SA Division) Inc Field Naturalists Society of SA Inc Fishers for Conservation Inc Friends of Parks Inc Friends of the Earth Adelaide Inc Friends of Willunga Basin Gawler Environment & Heritage Association Inc Greening Australia (SA) Limited Landscape Partnerships Inc</p>	<p>Marine Life Society of SA Inc Mt Barker & District Residents' Association National Trust of South Australia Natural History Society of South Australia Inc Nature Conservation Society of SA Inc North East Hills Environmental Conservation Assn Orienteering SA Inc People for Public Transport SA Inc Permaculture Association of SA Inc River, Lakes & Coorong Action Group Inc SA Genetic Food Information Network Inc Scientific Expedition Group Inc South Australian Herpetology Group Inc Southern Eco-Alliance Inc Spencer Gulf Environmental Alliance St Agnes Bushwalking & Natural History Club Inc Sustainable Population Australia SA Branch The Wilderness Society (South Australia) Inc Toyota Landcruiser Club of Australia (SA) Inc Vegetarian Society of SA Inc Trees For Life Inc Walking SA Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Assn Inc Zoos SA</p>
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CCSA Representation on Government Committees

- Duck and Quail Open Hunting Committee
- Environment Protection Authority Board
- Essential Services Commission of SA Community Advisory Committee
- Kangaroo Management Reference Group
- Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee
- Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan Reference Group
- Native Vegetation Council
- Natural Resources Management Council Committee
- Planning Reform Reference Group
- Powerline Environment Committee
- Premier's Climate Change Council
- Regional Bushfire Management Committees:
 - Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges
 - Kangaroo Island
 - Fleurieu Peninsula
 - Limestone Coast
 - Lower Eyre Peninsula
 - Murray and Mallee
 - Outback
- SA Marine Parks Council
- SA National Parks and Wildlife Council
- SA Pastoral Board
- SA Strategic Plan Audit Committee
- State Bushfire Coordination Committee
- Technical Working Group of the GHG Protocol Power Accounting Guidelines Project
- The Giant Cuttlefish Working Group

Committees and Staff: 2012-13

Executive Committee

Rob Fowler - President
Fraser Vickery – Vice-President (to February 2013)
Trisha Drioli – Vice President (to April 2013)
Simon Habel – Vice President (from April 2013)
Sean Habgood - Treasurer
Eric Nicholson - Secretary
Neville Bebee
Alison Rimmington (to March 2013)
Greg Ogle
Jasemin Rose
Graham Paterson (from November 2012)
Trisha Drioli (Ordinary Member from April 2013)
Jill Woodlands (staff representative)

Sub-committees of the Executive Committee

Finance and Audit: Rob Fowler, Sean Habgood, Graham Paterson, Neville Bebee, Tim Kelly, Hadyn Hanna

Human Resources: Rob Fowler, Julie Holloway, Tim Kelly, Hadyn Hanna

Fundraising: Rob Fowler, Simon Habel (from April 2013), Tim Kelly, Julia Winefield, Ignacio Senese

Environmental Standing Committees

Biodiversity – Joint-Chairs, Anthelia Bond and Georgina Mollison

Coast and Marine – Chair, Stephen Madigan

Energy – Chair, Matthew Curnow

Planning and Development – Chair, Iris Iwanicki

Waste – Chair, Wil van Deur

Water – Chair, Paul Leadbeter

Staff & Consultants(*)

Executive Officer - Tim Kelly

Business Advisor - Hadyn Hanna*

Campaign Coordinator - Julia Winefield

NGO- NRM Facilitator - Jill Woodlands

Biodiversity Program Manager - Alexandra Gaut

Biodiversity and NRM Adviser - Vicki-Jo Russell*

Community Conservation Officer – Kathryn Warhurst

Policy and Communications Officer - Noriko Wynn (to June)

Sustainable Communities Coordinator - Kathy Whitta

Fundraising Officer - Ignacio Senese (to June)

Office Manager - Virginia Swan

Executive Support Officer - Peta Montgomery

Membership and Conservation Centre Support Officer - Robyn Gardner

Website and Database - Lesley Parton

IT - Hilary Miller, Malcolm Griffith*

Mt Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-Wren and Fleurieu Swamps Recovery Program Team

- Marcus Pickett, Ornithologist
- Tim Vale, Works/Extension Officer
- Naomi Rea, Environmental Research Officer (to June)
- Rebecca Duffield, Ecological Research Officer (from June)
- Julie Schofield, Policy Officer

Reef Watch and *Feral or in Peril* Team

- Steve Leske*
- Carl Charter*
- Neville Hudson*



Photo (Brydie Hill): Uncommon Fleurieu Peninsula Swamp plant
Patersonia occidentalis (common name: Long Purple-flag)



Conservation
Council SA

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