

Junior Field Naturalists SA

Field Trip - September 2023

Hi Junior Field Naturalists,

Bird Banding

Sunday 17 September 2023

Frahns Farm, Monarto; 10am to 2pm



Below are the details of this field trip. Please let me know if you will be coming, and how many children and adults will be attending.

Renowned ornithologist and BioR Director **Assoc Prof David Paton AM** is coordinating this field trip. He is a respected ecologist with a passion for conservation and restoration, and a strong commitment to long-term studies that help understand and manage the natural environment for future generations. He has won multiple awards for services to conservation, education and the environment. He also co-founded **Arid Recovery** which aims to restore arid ecosystems in Australia. His research expertise includes the ecology and behaviour of birds as well as vital conservation and revegetation programs and habitat restoration.



With the help of David and his field workers, we will collect birds from mist nets, identify, weigh and band them, feed them nectar and then release them back into the wild. All results are recorded to go on a central database for research purposes.



Directions to Frahns Farm

Attached are directions and a map to the banding site. The gate you will enter to reach the banding site may be closed, but it will not be locked. The site is accessible by 2-wheel drive vehicles.

Travelling time will be approximately 60 minutes from Adelaide to the rendezvous point. Please aim to arrive by 9.45am, ready for a 10am start.

Please bring along:

- Your own food and drink
- Hats, boots, raincoats or other appropriate clothing – depending on weather
- Sunscreen if needed
- Fold up chairs
- Insect repellent (mosquitoes might be active during the day)



Note: If the forecast is for light showers, this will not affect the bird banding.

Please have my mobile number with you and call me on **0419 827 723** if you are lost! David Paton's mobile number is also included on the attached instructions. Note that mobile reception can be patchy in the area.

Time Frame of Activities

10am to 12.30pm: Bird Banding

12.30pm to 1pm: Lunch

1pm to 2pm: Set off in convoy for tour of BioR's recent revegetation plantings



Habitat Re-Establishment Plantings

BioR's current major project is reconstructing woodland habitat on **Frahns Farm**, a 550-hectare property established in 2015 near Monarto. This project will provide much needed habitat for declining woodland birds.

David describes how BioR exists to go beyond traditional revegetation methods, aiming to reconstruct effective, self-sustaining and resilient habitats:

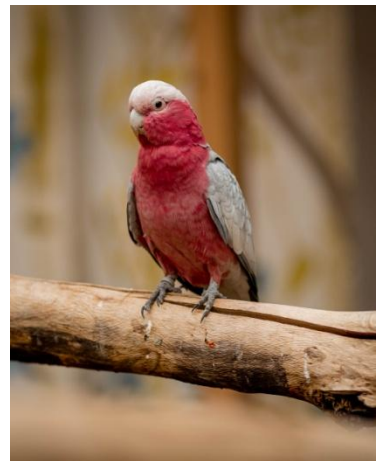
"Our revegetation methods are very different to the standard way people revegetate areas. We grade the top soil away, build deep planting bowls and plant over 100 species of plants. These include trees, shrubs and understorey groundcover, taking into account the need to build complex and structurally diverse systems for biodiversity outcomes that are also sustainable.

We exclude kangaroos using kangaroo exclusion fencing (the one at Frahns Farm surrounds 160 ha) which gets rid of any need to guard each plant individually.

We also direct-seed with a native grass mix and have the ability to water large numbers of plants efficiently using a water truck (like those that wet down gravel roads to reduce dust) whenever we need to.

We can also show you our recently established native grass seed orchard which will hopefully grow native grass and herb seeds for our direct seeding activities.

I think this tour will impress young and old."



Further information: www.bior.org.au

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Patron: Prof Chris Daniels