

Estuary Care Foundation

Annual Report 2016-17

Overview

2016-17 has been a busy period for the Estuary Care Foundation, with members devoted to getting the Foundation up and running, and initiating some projects. There have already been a number of community education events and much effort has been put into developing networks and relationships with community, government, and business interests.

The Foundation is committed to the protection and restoration of the ecology and shores of the Port River and Barker Inlet in South Australia – an area referred to by the Kurna people as Yerti Bulti.

The key objectives of the Foundation are to:

- Enhance the ecology of the estuary,
- Safeguard shores against rising sea levels,
- Facilitate research and education, and
- Achieve the above through collaboration with the local community.

Major Activities

Formation

The idea of a Foundation was first considered as a means to marshal community resources in support of a 'Living Shorelines' trial, using native vegetation and other structures to help stabilise the shore, at the Mutton Cove Conservation Reserve. It soon became evident that a similar need existed if proposed shellfish reef projects were also to get underway – a body to handle funds and insurances, represent the community, help oversee health and safety measures, and coordinate volunteers.

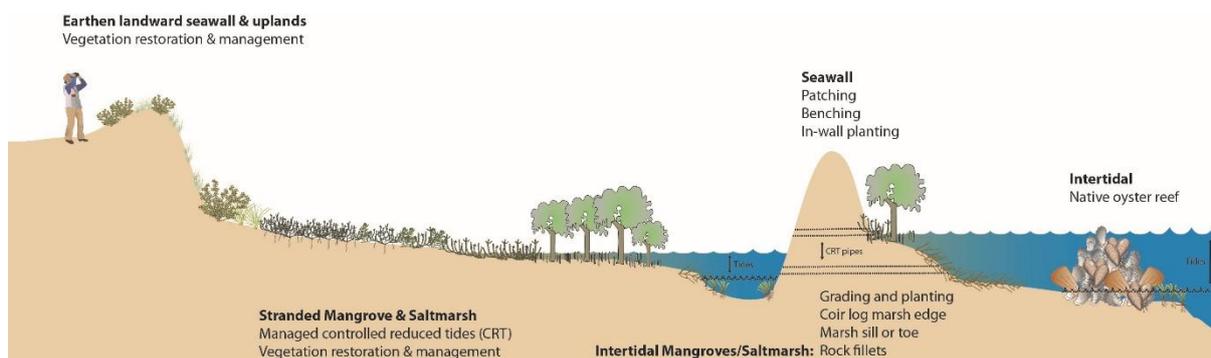


Figure 1: Indicative design for Living Shoreline at Mutton Cove Conservation Reserve by Peri Coleman June 2015

Once the idea got traction, the Estuary Care Foundation was registered as an incorporated body on September 1st, 2016. It is a not-for-profit organisation and is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission. It is governed by a Board (the members of the Foundation) with the power to establish advisory panels or project based Committees. Insurance cover for Estuary Care Foundation volunteers has been organised via the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board.

Estuary Care Foundation is able to act as the lead community body when appropriate and to provide support and encouragement in other circumstances.

Projects

Shellfish Restoration

The first major activity involving the Foundation has been the Port River Shellfish Restoration project. It is part of broader efforts to restore shellfish reefs, which once existed along 1,600 kms of the South Australian coastline.

Supported by a \$5,000 Community Action grant from the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, a trial has commenced at six sites to see if native oysters - *Ostrea angasi*, which were once prolific in the estuary - can survive in oyster baskets, and if there are spat (baby oysters and mussels) in the River that can seed new reefs. The trial is already yielding promising results with excellent growth occurring.

The project is part of the national [Shellfish Reef Restoration network](#), and has support from The Nature Conservancy, PIRSA, SARDI, the University of Adelaide, SEAPA and Pacific Estate Oysters, as well as trial site owners. It relies upon volunteers from the Foundation, [PAREPG](#) and the [SA Malacological Society](#).

In recognition of the sterling start that has been made, the Port River Shellfish Restoration project was awarded an Australia Day Award by the City of Port Adelaide-Enfield in January, 2017.



Figure 2: Members of the Shellfish Restoration project with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, January 25th 2017.

Living Shorelines

An application to the National Disaster Resilience Program for funds to trial 'living shoreline' techniques was unsuccessful, but the planning behind it will drive further proposals as opportunities arise.

Seagrass Restoration

The Foundation is seeking to establish baseline data for the distribution and quality of existing seagrasses in the estuary, to guide future efforts for the monitoring and restoration work.

Preliminary contact has been made with the national seagrass restoration network, [Gardeners of the Sea](#).

Community Education

The Foundation has been exceptionally active in communicating the importance of the Port River and Barker Inlet Estuary, the challenges and opportunities present, and the opportunities to be involved in restoration projects. Foundation representatives have initiated, exhibited, or spoken at the following:

- Tennyson Dunes Open Day, September 2016.
- Port Adelaide Rotary Club, September 2016.
- Public workshop on marine environmental issues, October 2016.
- Marina Division of Boating Industry Association of SA, October, 2016.
- Public Meeting on Coastal Resilience, with The Nature Conservancy, supported by the Australian Coastal Society and SA Coast Protection Board; November 2016.
- Field trip, UniSA coastal ecology students January 2017
- Field trip, [Urban Ecosystem-design Lab](#) students April 2017
- World Environment Fair, June 2017.



Figure 3: Exhibiting at World Environment Fair

The Coastal Resilience meeting was a real coup for the Foundation, with members delighted that The Nature Conservancy agreed to bring two visiting US experts to Adelaide, enabling the Foundation to convene the 'Resilience of Gulfs, Coasts and Estuaries' meeting. Eighty people attended to hear Dr Christine Shepard, Director of Science for TNC's Gulf of Mexico Program speak about [Building Coastal Resilience with Nature](#) while Dr Mark Dumesnil, Associate Director of Coastal Restoration, shared his experiences with reef restoration projects. The Foundation was also grateful to the Australian Coastal Society and SA Coast Protection Board for their support in staging the event and to Vitalstatix who provided the venue.

A temporary web presence has been arranged through the Lefevre Community Noticeboard at http://lefevre.noticeboard.net.au/?page_id=901. News and event information is posted there.

Community Engagement

Estuary Care Foundation has been very well received by, and is building strong relationships with, a broad spectrum of interests, ranging through:

- Community groups,
- Conservation and environmental groups,
- Local businesses,
- Government agencies, at local, state and national levels,
- Research and tertiary education institutions, and
- Schools and education programs.

Governance

Board

The current Board of the Estuary Care Foundation is:

- Chair – Vanessa McCluskey
- Deputy Chair – John Watson
- Secretary – Catherine McMahon (Founder and Hon. Executive Officer)
- Treasurer – Karina Albanese
- General Board members – Len Stephens, Dennis Steffensen, Sam Taylor, Mitch Bacon.

During 2016-17, resignations were received from Mike Bossley and Cath Duncan. Both are thanked for their contributions in getting the Foundation established and operational.



Figure 4: Catherine McMahon, Vanessa McCluskey, Karina Mignone, John Watson, Sam Taylor, Mitch Bacon and Dennis Steffensen

Financial Statement

Estuary Care Foundation

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

ABN: 91585122553

Income	2017
Government and other grants	\$5,300
Donations	\$100
Interest received	\$4
Total Income	\$5,404
Expenditure	
Marketing & events	\$740
Inventory purchases	\$901
Equipment hire	\$99
Service fees	\$220
Honoraria	\$150
Total expenditure	\$2110

Excess grant funding carried forward to next year	(3219)
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Operating surplus/(deficit)	\$74
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Note: Income and Expenditure recognised on an accrual basis