

# THE WEEKLY

## COMMUNITY AT THE CENTRE

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Image: Tim Kelly from Conservation Council of SA, Mark Bachman from Nature Glenelg Trust and Greg Leaman at the NatureLinks website launch.

## NatureLinks launches new website

The NatureLinks team has launched a new website to help people connect with conservation projects being run across the state.

The website - launched at a breakfast event with partners on Tuesday - brings together conservation projects and the organisations running them. DEWNR NatureLinks Project Manager Stella Kondylas said the site would make it easier for people to get involved in conservation projects, while land managers, non-government organisations (NGO), government and community groups would be able to share information, knowledge and expertise.

"Whether you are organising a conservation project, already taking part in one or looking for one to join in your area, this website will be of great help," said Stella.

"Site users will be able to browse organisations and projects that they would like to be involved with or look for people doing similar work." The site allows people running conservation projects to create online listings that others will be able to find via a searchable map. Likewise NGOs, community groups, government agencies, university groups and even schools that are involved in conservation activities can also create listings.

“There are some fantastic projects under way around the state, from Bounceback - the long-running program that is protecting yellow-footed rock wallabies in the Flinders Ranges - to WildEyre’s restoration of sheoak woodlands on Eyre Peninsula,” said Stella.

The new website is a good example of DEWNR playing the role of a facilitator, creating a tool with the assistance of NGO partners that is able to be used by the community in carrying out conservation work. Partnerships was a theme that both Andrew Reilly, Chief Executive of the Nature Foundation SA and Greg Leaman, Executive Director People, Parks and Places, spoke about at the event, highlighting the working relationships between DEWNR, NRM boards, NGOs and other partners.

Stella, who also spoke at the launch, highlighted that the website was an intentional move away from a traditional focus on the negative aspects associated with biodiversity conservation such as species loss, to a more positive message aimed at promoting conservation activities, sharing success stories and identifying ways people could be involved.

“Seeing all these projects presented together in one place will help people realise that no matter how big or small the project, it is adding to biodiversity in South Australia,” said Stella.

Visit the NatureLinks website and create profiles for your projects at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/naturelinks>.