



## CITIZEN SCIENCE & ACTION ON KANGAROO ISLAND

**Our community loves our island and works to protect our home. While you are here you can help build our understanding of this amazing environment and help us protect it by getting involved in Citizen science and on-ground action. Become an Island Guardian, it's a great way to give back to the Island and add something special to your visit.**

Citizen science differs from other forms of volunteering; a citizen scientist assists with the collection and/or analysis of data. For example, recording observations of animals or plants, identifying animals or plants in photographs, sampling water quality and assessing air quality. As a citizen scientist, you collect valuable scientific data that can make a meaningful impact on scientific research and environmental decision making. Citizen action supports on ground activities associated with research and environmental projects.

Citizen science and action can provide a great way of getting together with like-minded people and have fun picking up and sharing new skills. You don't need a science background or technical know-how to take part. All you need is an enquiring mind.

By working together with the wider community, we can gather robust data to make more informed decisions about how we manage our environment.

### How do I get involved?

There are a number of ways you can participate in citizen science and action activities here on Kangaroo Island. Some activities involve getting out into the field and participating in organised on ground activities such as wildlife surveys, tree planting, and habitat protection.

If group activities aren't your thing, you can help us learn more about our flora and fauna by recording your observations as you travel around the Island. And for those looking for an indoor activity when the weather isn't conducive to being outdoors, you can still make a contribution by getting online and reviewing camera trap footage to help identify which animals are present.

Come and join us as a citizen scientist. There's a citizen science project for you, whatever your age or background.

### iNaturalist

iNaturalist is an online community for naturalists. Observations submitted here are added to the global iNaturalist database and shared with the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility to help scientists find and use your data. All you have to do is observe and record your encounters with other organisms. You can help scientists and resource managers understand when and where organisms occur and connect with experts who can identify the organisms you observe.

iNaturalist also lets you know what has been observed in different locations across the Island.

To record your observations and view others', download the iNaturalist app on your smart phone.

### Wild Orchids

Are you a keen orchid enthusiast or bushwalker? Then Wild Orchid Watch (WOW) is the citizen science project for you! You can install the Wild Orchid Watch (WOW) app on your mobile device, simply by typing in your internet browser: [app.wildorchidwatch.org](http://app.wildorchidwatch.org) and follow the prompts.

Always make sure you tread carefully, for your safety and also for the native orchids. They can easily be trampled by accident.

The observations you collect will be directly used by scientists researching how native Australian orchids can act as indicators of ecosystem and biodiversity change.

### Echidna CSI

We want to learn more about Echidnas! Where they are, what they are doing and if they are healthy - so we can work towards their conservation. How can you help? By taking photos and collecting scats (i.e. poo).

To get involved, download the app called EchidnaCSI. Upload your photos of echidnas to the EchidnaCSI app in real time, and the app will submit the GPS location, date and time along with the photo.

Many aspects of Echidna biology remain a mystery, even what they eat. You can collect and submit Echidna scats

so scientists can investigate the molecules such as DNA and hormones within the scats to learn more about Echidna biology. From DNA within the scats we can look at diet, their genetic diversity and microbiome. From hormones we can identify highly stressed populations and investigate their reproduction.

## Dolphin Watch

Kangaroo Island / Victor Harbor Dolphin Watch is an award-winning community volunteer project in partnership with Whale and Dolphin Conservation, monitoring dolphin populations on Kangaroo Island since 2005.

A partner of Dolphin Watch, Kangaroo Island Marine Adventures runs regular surveys allowing local volunteers the opportunity to get out and study these amazing animals. Images and video footage are collected, identifying individual dolphins by distinctive dorsal fins and body markings. Vital data is recorded on movements and habitats, creating a sustainable, longitudinal study of extraordinary international significance.

## Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program

Now extinct on mainland Australia, the nationally endangered Glossy Black-cockatoo subspecies *Calyptorhynchus lathami halmaturinus* has its last refuge on Kangaroo Island.

The Kangaroo Island Glossy Black-cockatoo Recovery Program started in 1995 with less than 160 Glossy Black-cockatoos in existence and has nursed the population back from the brink of extinction, doubling the population of glossies on Kangaroo Island to over 360 birds and helping them to spread eastwards across the island. The 2019-2020 summer bushfires significantly impacted the habitat of this species, and work is continuing to ensure they continue to thrive.

At times during the year there are volunteer opportunities available. In winter there are planting days to help plant sheoaks for glossies, and for one week in Spring the annual population census is run. To find out more about the program and volunteer opportunities contact the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board.

## Kangaroo Island Dunnart Recovery Program

The Kangaroo Island Dunnart (*Sminthopsis fuliginosus aitkeni*) is only found on Kangaroo Island, South Australia and is listed as endangered. Prior to the 2019-20 summer bushfires, the population of Kangaroo Island Dunnarts was thought to be less than 500 and was entirely restricted to the western end of the island. Approximately 96% of their known habitat was then destroyed by the fires.

The Kangaroo Island Landscape Board's Dunnart Recovery Program aims to better understand where these native rodents are found on the island, identify immediate and long-term threats to their survival, and manage key threats to the species.

As part of a joint initiative between National Parks and Wildlife SA and the Atlas of Living Australia, all of the camera trap photos from the Kangaroo Island Dunnart survey sites are now available on-line for citizen scientists to help look through and identify which animals are present.

If you would like to help out and get involved with a bit of citizen science input, please head on over to DIGIVOL Bushfire Recovery Projects and help us ID some animals.

## Kangaroo Island Feral Cat Eradication Program

Feral cat predation is a major threat to the island's valuable and endemic native animals, many of which are threatened on mainland Australia, including the Kangaroo Island Dunnart, Kangaroo Island Echidna, Southern Brown Bandicoot, and Hooded Plover.

Feral cats also spread livestock diseases (Sarcocystis and Toxoplasmosis) that have a huge impact on primary production and profitability, causing substantial economic cost to the Kangaroo Island sheep industry.

The Kangaroo Island Landscape Board is committed to removing feral cats from the whole of Kangaroo Island, starting with the 38,000 ha Dudley Peninsula on the eastern end of the island.

You can contribute to the project by recording any sightings of feral cats on the Dudley Peninsula. An app called the 'Feral Cat Scan' has been created to help our community record sightings of feral cats anywhere on Kangaroo Island. You can record sightings, impacts (such as predation on native animals) or control activities in the Feral Cat Scan app or by emailing the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board at [ki.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au](mailto:ki.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au).

This information will help identify hot-spots for feral cats and solutions to the feral cat problem.

## Roadkill Research

While looking out for roadkill might not be high on your holiday activity list, dead animals provide an incredible source of information for researchers and scientists that they otherwise wouldn't be able to access. Local researcher Dr. Peggy Rismiller is particularly interested in gathering information and specimens for Echidnas and Rosenberg's Goannas. If you come across a dead echidna or goanna on your travels we encourage you to report your find to Peggy via email [echidna@kin.on.net](mailto:echidna@kin.on.net) providing details of the location and an image.

If you're feeling particularly committed to the Citizen Science cause, you can collect specimens and drop them off at the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board office on Dauncy Street in Kingscote. They will pass it on to Peggy for examination.