

EXPEDITIONS AND EVENTS – ON THE HORIZON – JANUARY 2025 ISSUE

RECENT EXPEDITIONS



READ MORE ABOUT RECENT EXPEDITIONS

Bees and Trees on Peramangk Country – In October, Expeditioners travelled to Kitticoola near Palmer to spend time with native tree legend Neville Bonney, Peramangk/Kaurna Elder Uncle Ivan Tiwu Copley, and Drs Remko Leijds and Katja Hogendoorn learning about trees, bees and local First Nation's history. The Expedition Leader's report with photographs can be found [here](#).

Nocturnal Insects of the Adelaide Hills – In November Dr Ben Parslow delighted an Expeditioner group with his presentation on insects' responses to light, and then attracted a large variety of insects to screens which were observed and photographed using equipment previously funded by the Club. The Expedition Leader's report, including Ben's high-quality photographs can be found [here](#).

The Mysteries of the Underground – In November Expeditioners travelled to Tasmania for a multifaceted expedition including caving and cave-dwelling invertebrates, gems, wooden boats, an alpine walk, great food and fascinating talks from local experts. The Expedition Leader's report with photos and summaries of the talks can be found [here](#).

EXCITING WESTERN PYGMY POSSUM NEWS!

Under the leadership of Professor Steve Donnellan and Expedition Leaders Gaye and Tim Fischer, the Club ran four short expeditions to assist the spread and survival of the Western Pygmy Possum in the face of climate change. Members built about 160 nesting boxes, distributed to locations across South Australia. Aimee Linke and other Mid Murray Landcare officers have been working with landowners and volunteers to assemble and erect the boxes. This heartwarming video tells the story of the results.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0dD4b8I0pc&t=5s>.

Further information about the project can be found here:

<https://www.midmurraylandcaresaustralia.org.au/index.php>

Thanks to Steve, Gaye and Tim for their vision and leadership of this important project.

EXPRESSING INTEREST

Note: If you are considering taking part in any of our expeditions, please express interest by email at waterhouseclub@samuseum.sa.gov.au or by telephoning the Club office at 8273 9114. In the leadup to the expedition, the Club will send an invitation to those on the expression of interest list. The invitation will only be circulated more widely if there are spaces available.

2025 EVENING EVENT SERIES

Your Club runs a series of evening events, held approximately every three months, usually on a Tuesday night at the Museum, as well as some other special events, evening and morning. These events will continue to feature welcoming wine and canapes - a great opportunity to socialise with Club members and colleagues. Watch for the invitations in your inbox.

Evening Event. March 2025 (date to be announced)

Repatriation of Ancestral Remains

The Museum Board cares for almost 5,000 ancestral remains, both Australian Aboriginal and from overseas nations. About 3,700 are from South Australian burial sites. A small number of ancestors are from interstate and there are another 400 Aboriginal ancestors whose original burial location is completely unknown. John Carty, Professor of Museum and Curatorial Studies at the University of Adelaide, and Head of Humanities at the South Australian Museum will lead the presentation.

Event Organisers: Mark Mussared and Natalie Rollinson.

Evening Event. May 2025 (date to be announced)

Why are we getting so many pandemics?

Pandemics, the global spread of infectious diseases, seem to be making a comeback. In the Middle Ages we had the Black Death (plague), and after the First World War the Spanish flu (influenza). Tens of millions died. Then science began to get the upper hand, with vaccination eradicating smallpox from our planet, and polio nearly so. But then we had HIV/AIDS, and now COVID (no, it is not over yet!). Why is this happening?

Our President Professor Phil Weinstein will explore how our triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution helps to drive pandemics. He will discuss how healthy ecosystems keep people healthy through 'ecosystem services', and how the loss of these services can turn a localised outbreak into a pandemic. Fortunately, a new 'Planetary Health' approach being applied to research, teaching, and policy promises to reduce the risk of disastrous pandemics in the future.

Event Organisers: Mark Mussared and Natalie Rollinson

EXPEDITIONS IN 2025

Several expeditions have been organised for the coming 12 – 18 months. There should be something for everyone.

EXPEDITIONS IN 2025

Expedition. Late April 2025

Nukunu, the people of the Southern Flinders Ranges

This is a repeat of a very popular expedition. It will be an introduction to the lands of the Nukunu people of the Southern Flinders Ranges. Dr Jared Thomas, Nukunu man, SAM anthropologist and scientist will interpret the history and culture of the Nukunu people. Based in Melrose, with ensuite cabin accommodation, there will be some walking on undulating pathways along creek beds and optional hill climbs interspersed with good food, wines and company.

Expedition Leaders: David Cox and Jan Paterson

Expedition May 2025 (date to be announced)

Ediacaran fossils uncovered. To be confirmed

The Ediacaran fossil fields are a unique feature of the South Australian landscape, featuring exquisite fossils of the first multicellular life on earth, over 542million years ago. Every year a team of scientists and volunteers from the SA Museum and the University of Adelaide spends a week or two excavating new fossil beds. This year, Club members will have to opportunity to see such 'dig' in progress, with a two-day expedition to this region of the Flinders Ranges. Included

will be a visit to the renovated blacksmith shop to see the audio-visual display on a spectacular fossil bed, a tour of the existing fossil beds, a staged, narrated drive through the aeons depicted in Brachina Gorge, and a visit to the old Blinman mine.

Organiser: Gaye Fischer

Expedition. 5-16 September 2025

Fire and Spice. Banda Sea – Ring of Fire and Spice Islands.

This intriguing expedition follows in the tradition of Club expeditions in the waters north of Australia, but will be aboard a traditional Indonesian vessel with local crew and thus more immersive, both culturally and environmentally. We will sail with SeaTrek, an Indonesian company with its head office in Bali, which has many years of experience in the islands of the Banda Sea, east and north of there.

Highlights of the voyage will include sailing through the area known as Wallacea, and learning more about the history and implications of Wallace's discoveries. We will also view several active volcanic islands, snorkel on healthy coral reefs, visit remote villages, and learn of the latest archaeological and anthropological research throwing more light on the history of human migration through the archipelago, as well as visiting the Banda Islands, the home of nutmeg.

Expedition Leader: Mark Mussared

Expedition. 17-24 October 2025

Exploring the amazing world of the Nullarbor Caves

The Nullarbor Caves are internationally famous places where you can find evidence of past and present biodiversity, including highly specialised insect species which are the particular interest of Dr Jess Marsh, the co-lead scientist of this expedition. We will also be accompanied by cave fossil expert Dr Liz Reed. Expeditioners will help the scientists document past and present biodiversity, record cave habitat features, and record threats, such as the presence of foxes.

Expeditioners will help collect and examine material, such as invertebrate specimens, bones and remains of vertebrates, and sediment samples. These specimens will allow the scientists to investigate recent historical changes to biodiversity, learn more about the climate when they occurred, and help predict future changes.

You won't need to abseil or don an aqualung for this expedition, but you will need a good level of fitness and agility. It will be a self-drive expedition with motel accommodation and catering. The Expedition will start and finish at the Nullarbor Roadhouse west of Ceduna.

Expedition Leaders: Alastair and Rose Dow

Expedition. October – November 2025

Naracoorte Caves in Depth - A Weekend of Palaeontological Discovery in the World Heritage-listed Naracoorte Caves

A repeat of a very successful expedition, this expedition will give members access to key fossil sites and caves, and hands-on fossil sorting experience. Expeditioners will meet research scientists including Dr Liz Reed, Researcher and Senior Lecturer at Adelaide University who is a vertebrate palaeontologist specialising in Quaternary-aged cave deposits. The expedition will include a visit to the Bat Observation Centre Cave to observe the southern bent-wing bats which reside in Bat Cave and an opportunity to taste some local wines.

Expedition Leader: Geoff Neumann

All of the above dates and arrangements may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Expressions of interest for any of the above events and expeditions are invited by email to waterhouseclub@samuseum.sa.gov.au or by telephoning the Club office at 8273 9114. Early expressions of interest assist the Club to plan with confidence.

Where is there a high level of interest expressed when invitations are distributed we will hold bookings open for at least one week and if more requests for bookings are received than the number of places available a ballot will be held to determine participants, with a wait list created to fill any cancellations.

Please note the Club's Vaccination Policy

In the interest of protecting the health and wellbeing of members and Museum staff, the Club strongly encourages all event and expedition participants to be fully vaccinated against Covid and Influenza.