

## Expedition Report

### A Day at Yundi Nature Conservancy

**15 May 2025, 9:30 – 4:00 at Yundi Nature Conservancy, Yundi, Fleurieu Peninsula.**  
With John Fargher, Mark Koolmatrie, and Phil Weinstein

Blessed with reasonable weather (a light misting set in at 4:30pm!), we assembled in the designated carpark under the able direction of Henrik, who had joined us from Denmark for this specific purpose. Fortified by hot beverages and delicious lemon myrtle cake, we had some introductory talks from John about the swamp and a welcome from Mark, while Phil forced people into the anti-*Phytophthora* shoe-bath. We then dispersed into 3 groups, each with a designated location to report to.



Biodiversity sampling (eDNA) at Yundi Nature Conservancy.

At the swamp site, John led a walking tour focused on the conservation and restoration of the swampland; at the fire pit, Mark talked about the cultural heritage and traditional values of swamp biodiversity; and under the Druidic oak tree, Phil discussed the health benefits of biodiversity conservation and nature exposure.

The themes tied back to the Biodiversity and Aboriginal Culture galleries at the Museum, that many of us had visited beforehand, with some prompts to think about before the expedition. After about an hour, groups rotated to fit in one more iteration before lunch.









The catering at lunch can only be described as ‘above and beyond’, with a variety of Australian native ingredients in three courses of entrees, followed by three mains of fish, chicken, and kangaroo.

Deserts included a variety of locally grown fruit from the Yundi ‘regenerative horticulture’ garden, all consumed happily around the roaring fire pit.

We then dispersed again for the last rotation of presentations, and later reassembled around the fire for a final all-in discussion. All in all the day presented an outstanding synthesis of the inextricably connected biodiversity, cultural, and health values of conservation and restoration activities – as exemplified by the almost unbelievable efforts of a privately owned and operated conservation initiative. Our attendance helped promote and support the Yundi Nature Conservancy in its efforts to save the highly endangered ecosystems of the Fleurieu swamps, and brought to life some of the static displays at the SAM.



A big thank you to those who attended, and to John, Mark, and Phil for pulling together a unique program for the day!