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## **EXPEDITIONS AND EVENTS – ON THE HORIZON – JULY 2025 ISSUE**

### **READ MORE ABOUT RECENT EXPEDITIONS**

#### **NUKUNU, PEOPLE OF THE SOUTHERN FLINDERS RANGES**



**TRAVIS THOMAS MAKING  
FIRE**

#### **A DAY AT THE YUNDI NATURE CONSERVANCY**



**MADI HOGG BIODIVERSITY  
SAMPLING**

The richly diverse Nukunu Expedition was rated very highly by the participants. Read the full report with photographs [here](#).

A very successful Yundi expedition helped promote and support the Yundi Nature Conservancy in its efforts to save the highly endangered ecosystems of the Fleurieu swamps. Read the full report with photographs [here](#).

### **IMPORTANT NULLARBOR CAVE DISCOVERY**

Friend of the Club and renowned invertebrate scientist Dr Jess Marsh's discovery of a previously unknown eyeless wasp featured in the media. Jess, with Dr Liz Reid, will be the lead scientists in the Nullarbor Cave expedition in October this year. ABC report at the following link.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2025-06-25/eyeless-wasp-that-lived-in-pitch-black-cavefound-in-nullarbor/105451112>

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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 EVENTS IN 2025**

#### **Event. Thursday 21 August**

Adelaide Zoo Conservation Program with Mark Smith from Zoos SA.

#### **Event. Tuesday 11 November**

Collembolla (Springtails) and Collecting in Micronesia with Mark Stevens of the South Australian Museum.

### **EXPEDITIONS IN 2025**

Several expeditions have been organised for this year and into the next. There should be something for everyone.

#### **Expedition. 3-6 September 2025**

##### **Ediacaran fossils uncovered.**

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 under the guidance of Associate Professor Diego Garcia-Bellido from the SA Museum and the University of Adelaide spends a week or two excavating new fossil beds. This year, Club members will have an exclusive opportunity to see such 'dig' in progress, with a two-day expedition to this region of the Flinders Ranges. Also 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 drive narrated by geologist Trevor Ireland through the aeons depicted in Brachina Gorge, and a visit to the old Blinman mine.

**Organiser:** Gaye Fischer

#### **Expedition. 5-16 September 2025 Wait list only**

##### **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. Confirmed to proceed.**

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. In addition, there will be two expert cavers, Dr Steve Milner and Andrew Stempel, who will assist with cave access and expeditioner safety.

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 will not 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. 30-31 October 2025**

##### **In the footsteps of George French Angas on the Fleurieu Peninsula.**

An overnight expedition in the popular GF Angas series. Angas expert Dr Philip Jones will guide us through Angas's journey across the Fleurieu in 1844. We will try to identify George French Angas' painting sites used for his magnificent watercolours of the Fleurieu area that he visited, such as Yankalilla, The Bluff and the Murray Mouth. The expedition will overnight in Victor Harbor.

**Expedition Leaders:** Tim and Jen Tolley

#### **Expedition. 14-17 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

### **EXPEDITIONS IN 2026**

#### **Expedition. Early Spring 2026**

##### **Port Lincoln and Coffin Bay.**

A proposed expedition with Dr Ben Parslow and Dr Philip Jones to search for an elusive forebear to the one and only Dinosaur Ant held in a jar at SAM that was recently recovered from the depths of the SAM collection.

The ant's parentage is apparently from the Coffin Bay Area where we hope to look for any of his family that has hidden from the scientists for many years. Philip Jones has some interesting stories on GF Angas' fourth journey to Port Lincoln in 1845 that we hope to delve into.

**Expedition Leader:** TBA

#### **Expedition. 31 October - 07 November 2026**

##### **Lord Howe Island, World Heritage Area.**

A week of fauna, flora and geology on this beautiful Island. Activities will be orchestrated by resident naturalist and conservationist [Ian Hutton](#) OAM. He has a 45-year relationship with the island and has been involved in the initiation of a number of conservation projects, including weed eradication, rodent eradication and studies of climate change. He is currently the Director of the LHI museum.

Activities will include walking to explore the plant and bird life, snorkelling or a glass bottomed boat experience and a boat trip. We have offered to be involved in any conservation activities that are current. There will also be some spare time just to enjoy the atmosphere and be involved in other activities such as golf, or very fit walkers may like to make private arrangements to walk up Mount Gower, which requires an accredited guide and will take a full day.

The expedition will start and end in Sydney. The flight from Sydney is early so expeditioners will need to arrange accommodation for the night of 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**Expedition Leaders:** Gill Sneddon and Gary Sjoberg

**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](mailto:waterhouseclub@samuseum.sa.gov.au) or by telephoning the Club office on 8273 9114. Early expressions of interest assist the Club to plan with confidence.**

Where there is 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.