

**Waterhouse Club Ediacara Expedition
3rd - 6th September 2025
Expedition Leader's Report**

Fourteen expeditioners joined the Ediacara Expedition. Four were on their first expedition. A non-member expeditioner now plans to join our club.

Expeditioners drove to Parachilna arriving on Wednesday 3rd in the afternoon. Further driving in the area was with car-pooling or in the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) bus.

The Prairie Hotel accommodation and meals were exceptional with happy hour drinks on the verandah watching the sunset each evening topping off the day's activities perfectly.



On Thursday 4th, Professor Rob Saint, Chair of the Board of the SA Museum joined us for breakfast and shared good news about the current activities at the Museum.

The day was then spent in Nilpena Ediacara National Park. In the morning we visited Mickey Ridge. We were the first visitors to obtain permission from DEW to view this site. Associate Professor Diego Garcia-Bellido has been working this fossil field worksite twice a year with help from university students and Waterhouse Club members.



Diego showed us the progression of fossilised life appearing on the sea floor around 550 million years ago. Expeditioners then enjoyed the packed lunch from the Prairie Hotel which was eaten in the shearers' quarters.

In the afternoon we were taken on the regular bus tour by DEW ranger Dylan Koener to view the Tennis Courts fossil beds, the heritage shearing shed and blacksmith's shop. There we watched a ground-breaking audio-visual journey that takes you back in time. In the evening Diego joined us for dinner and shared a PowerPoint presentation on his history as a fossil scientist.

Friday 5th was very windy as the convoy travelled through Brachina Gorge in the morning. Retired exploration geologist Trevor Ireland guided us through the Gorge with five stops showing us the changing geology trail over 800 million years.



Blinman was very busy with tourists in cars, on bikes or towing caravans but by lunchtime the wind dropped. The Blinman Hotel preordered lunch worked well. I had booked the Blinman Heritage Mine tours for 1PM and 2PM. Expeditioners made their way back to the hotel once they had finished checking out the town.

Saturday 6th after breakfast we said our farewells and the very happy expeditioners drove independently back to Adelaide.

Our very special thanks go to Associated Professor Diego Garcia-Bellido, Trevor Ireland and Carol Ireland, Waterhouse Club secretary Sue McCoy and Membership Liaison Officer Natalie Rollinson for their untiring and exceptional input into the making this Ediacara Expedition a great success.

Gaye Fischer
Expedition Leader

