
EXPEDITIONS AND EVENTS – ON THE HORIZON – JULY 2026 ISSUE



Intertidal zone exploration at Hallett Cove in March 2026

RECENT EXPEDITION REPORTS

The report of the one-day expedition to Hallett Cove in March can be found [here](https://waterhouseclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Hallet-Cove-report.pdf) or paste this into your browser. <https://waterhouseclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Hallet-Cove-report.pdf>

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 lead-up 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.***

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. The evening events will continue to feature welcoming wine and canapés, and the morning events will be followed by lunch at the Art Gallery Café. Watch for the invitations in your inbox.

EVENTS IN 2026

Day Event. Thursday 30 July 10 am – 1 pm

- Royal Society Room

A Beachcomber's Bounty

Shirley Sorokin, Collection Manager of Marine Invertebrates, and Mike Burrell, President of the Malacological Society of SA, will reveal the wondrous extent of the Museum's Marine Invertebrates collection, dating back to 1802. This vast assembly now includes the collection from Mr Trevor Smith's estate, consisting of thousands of beach-cast shells, collected in the 1950s to 1980s.

This event will be an introduction to a beach survey expedition with Shirley and Mike on 27 August (see under Expeditions in 2026). You are not required to attend the expedition to be eligible for this event.

Evening Event. Tuesday 4 August 5 pm - Royal Society Room

Lord Howe Island expeditioners briefing

Evening Event. Tuesday 18 August – venue TBA

Ancient Egyptians and the Cosmos

Brenan Dew walks like an Egyptian. Before joining the Museum, he conducted archaeological fieldwork in Egypt and on his days off studied astronomy to understand how the Ancient Egyptians viewed the cosmos. He will enthral you with tales of uncovering Egyptian treasures and the role astronomy played in their conception and construction.

Evening Event. Monday 17 August 5.30 pm - Royal Society Room
Briefing for those attending the Nullarbor Caves Expedition

Evening Event. November – Date and venue TBA

The Curious Case of the Australian Cockroach

Dr Shasta Henry, the Museum's new 'Bug Doctor', is a passionate entomologist and science communicator. She is the manager of the Terrestrial Invertebrate Collections at the South Australian Museum and has a species of Amazonian beetle named after her. Her talk showcases the 'Curious Case of an Australian Cockroach', and she will enthusiastically prove why these creatures, and entomology itself, can be fun.

EXPEDITIONS IN 2026

Expedition. Thursday 27 August 9.30 am to 2 pm

Adelaide Suburban Beaches Marine Invertebrate Survey

This expedition is a follow-up to the Shirley Sorokin and Mike Burrell event 'A Beachcomber's Bounty' held on Thursday 30 July (see Events above). You are not required to attend the 30 July event to be eligible for this expedition. The expedition will include morning tea and lunch with wine.

Expedition. Tuesday 8 – Tuesday 15 September

Exploring the amazing world of the Nullarbor Caves (wait list only)

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, and as a bonus, Assoc Prof Diego Garcia-Bellido. Expeditioners will help the scientists document past and present biodiversity, record cave habitat features and identify 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.

Expedition leaders: Alastair and Rose Dow

Expedition. Late September (date to be finalised)

Behind the Scenes at the New Museum Storage Facility, Walkley Heights

The Museum is embarking on the relocation of around 5 million collection items, from fossils to indigenous artefacts to skeletons and more. This herculean task is due for completion in the second half of the year, and the Waterhouse Club will be one of the first groups to get exclusive access to it. This half-day occasion will be followed by lunch at a location to be decided.

Expedition. Saturday 3 – Saturday 10 October 2026

Where ancient knowledge meets living culture (two cabins remain)

The Paspaley Pearl is a luxury small ship scheduled to sail from Darwin to Yirrkala (Gove), stopping at remote indigenous communities with a focus on art centres, rock art sites, pearl farms, and other unique attractions seldom visited due to the remoteness and land access restrictions. Accompanying and informing us on this trip will be Dr Samantha Hamilton, SA Museum Director, whose research interests centre around Indigenous Art.

Expedition. Saturday 31 October – Saturday 7 November 2026

Lord Howe Island, World Heritage Area (wait list only)

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 several 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 current conservation activities. 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 30th October.

Expedition leaders: Gill Sneddon and Gary Sjoberg

EVENTS AND EXPEDITIONS IN 2027

Event February - date TBA

After the Kangaroo Island Fires. How DNA analysis has been able to distinguish frog and pygmy possum species

Professor Steve Donnellan, although officially retired, former Associate Director of Research and Collections at the SA Museum, continues to research the evolutionary biology of Australasian animals using DNA methods. He will give us the fascinating story of how DNA analysis has been able to distinguish frog and pygmy possum species affected by the 2019-20 KI bushfires from those on the mainland.

Event March – date TBA

Arkaroola Expedition pre-trip briefing for the April expedition (see below) and presentation of all things Arkaroola. Available to non-expeditioners.

Steve Hore, scientific lead of the April '27 Arkaroola expedition (details below), will join expedition leaders Trevor and Carol Ireland and **Dr Kieran Meaney**, Collection Manager, Mineralogy, to provide a scientific and logistic pre-trip briefing for participants, which will also be available for wider membership to attend.

Steve will provide an illustrated overview of Arkaroola geological history, and Kieran will explain a display of a stunning diversity of Arkaroola minerals from our collection. Our **President Phil** will enlighten us on the mysterious health benefits of radioactive radon-breathing hot springs, and we may touch on the very South Australian and SA Museum connections of Mawson and Sprigg with Arkaroola, amongst other presentations for an evening of all things Arkaroola.

Event mid April - date TBA

About the Yunta Petroglyph expedition mid-May

A long forgotten film by John Forrest about the Panaramittee petroglyph will be shown for expeditioners to the Olary Province. Club members will be welcome to come to the fascinating prelude to the Yunta Expedition in mid May 2027 (see below).

Event May – date TBA

The role of critical minerals in electrifying the world

Dr Kieran Meaney, Assistant Collection Manager, Mineralogy at SA Museum, and three of his PhD students will describe their research into the critical minerals essential for modern electronics and power systems.

Expedition Thursday 1 – Tuesday 6 April

Arkaroola: magnificently carved mountains and mysterious minerals

'Arkaroola' – just the name evokes images of mind-blowing rugged scenery, exotic mineral concentrations and a geological wonderland. For the first time in 15 years we're returning there for four action-packed days (and 5 nights) exploring scenic and geological highlights under the guidance of Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary Chief Geoscientist Steve Hore, our own Minerals Collection Manager Kieran Meaney and the Club's resident geologist Trevor Ireland.

Key destinations include the renowned and spectacular Siller's Lookout, the Radon-breathing Paralana Hot Springs and mineral concentrations featuring copper, radium-uranium, fluorine and gold (amongst others). Our goal is to wonder at these unique features, and learn about their formation and geological histories. This will be complemented by the Sprigg family's renowned

hospitality, the opportunity to experience Arkaroola's recognised 'dark sky' status and enjoy the astronomical observation opportunities available there.

The program envisages a mix of Arkaroola-provided and self-driven 4WD transport, with seats available for participants without their own bush wheels, and some significant (but not too arduous) bush-walking elements.

Expedition leaders: Trevor and Carol Ireland

Expedition. mid-May. Date TBA.

The Remarkable Yunta Petroglyphs -, mid north, SA.

With Dr Philip Jones and Dr Samantha Hamilton (tbc)

An expedition over 3 days is in the planning stages, looking at the magnificent array of petroglyphs and pictographs in the Olary Province of South Australia. This is a similar expedition to the expedition the Club ran 30 years ago. We will be staying in shearers' quarters with bush catering provided. There are interesting landscapes and rocky outcrops in the area which abound in Yellow Foot Rock Wallabies. Cave paintings and rock shelters will be visited along with exploring the Yunta Springs area. Here we will see the numerous petroglyphs of many circles, lines, animals, birds, and human tracks as intaglios and hopefully find the mysterious Panaramittee object that is full of history and intrigue...is it a crocodile? Come and help look.

Expedition leaders: Tim and Jen Tolley

Expedition. Early Spring

Searching for the mysterious Dinosaur Ant

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 Angus' fourth journey to Port Lincoln in 1845 that we hope to delve into.

Expedition leader: TBA

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 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 well-being of members and Museum staff, the Club strongly encourages all event and expedition participants to be fully vaccinated against Covid and Influenza.