



BUSH HERITAGE AUSTRALIA

Dunnarts & Dragons - 2018 South Australian Species Survey **Fauna survey at Bon Bon Station Reserve investigates the effects of feral predator control**

Annual small vertebrate trapping at Bush Heritage's Bon Bon Reserve in South Australia's arid rangelands has turned up 35 species of native animals, indicating the good health of the reserve.

Spanning 216,700 hectares - roughly the size of Sydney – Bon Bon is one of Bush Heritage's largest reserves.

The 176 animals observed over the five day pitfall trapping event included Giles's Planigale; a Spinifex Hopping Mouse; a Painted Dragon and Burton's Legless Lizard. Download high res species images [HERE](#).

The Giles's Planigale (*Planigale gilesi*), a small carnivorous marsupial that weighs about five grams, is the first time this species has been observed at Bon Bon Station Reserve.

The recent monitoring comes amidst a long-term and large scale restoration push at the reserve which aims to reduce feral cat, fox and rabbit numbers to ensure better habitat for native species.

Bush Heritage Project Officer Kate Taylor, who lives at Bon Bon with her Reserve Manager husband Clint, said the 2018 results are a good sign that conservation efforts are taking root.

"In a year of low rainfall, it was great to see the diversity and number of animals captured," Kate said.

"Through these monitoring events, we hope to start detecting the positive effects of our feral cat and fox control program on Bon Bon Station

Reserve and see the bush returned to good health."

Recently Bush Heritage reviewed Bon Bon's management plan, drawing on a decade of monitoring data. The eradication of invasive Buffel Grass and the advancement of collaborative research partnerships such as those with nearby Arid Recovery, are key priorities for seeing this landscape thriving with native wildlife.

About Bon Bon:

- Located in South Australia, approximately 188 km from Coober Pedy.
- Bush Heritage bought Bon Bon in 2008. It was previously used for sheep farming for 130 years.
- Bon Bon sits between the Stony Plains and Gawler bioregions - an area that features boom and bust cycles typical of arid, inland Australia.
- Rainfall is highly variable and averages about 150mm a year.
- The Traditional Owners of Bon Bon are the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people.
- Bon Bon helps protect animals like the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat, Stripe-faced Dunnart, Kultarr, Central Netted Dragon, Mulga Snake and Australia's endemic Chestnut-breasted White-face.

