



Update from the Chair – Mary Lou Simpson OAM, April 2023

The Nilpena Ediacara National Park (Park) is to be Officially Opened by the Deputy Premier on 27 April 2023

Everyone involved in the creation of the new Park is very excited that the Hon Susan Close MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate, Environment and Water will be officially declaring the Park open on 27 April. This SA Government event will host a small gathering and within a month of the opening there will be two free Community Open Days.

Tours of the Park

Bookings can be made for the new Park from 28 April at parks.sa.gov.au – [click here](#)

There will be two experiences:

1. Guided tour of the Nilpena Pastoral Precinct including the Audio-visual experience in the Blacksmith's Shop and a tour of the Woolshed where the Ediacara story began, cost \$80 per person
2. Tour of the Nilpena Pastoral Precinct as described above plus a guided tour of the fossil fields, cost \$160 per person.

There will be family packages and concessions available.

FREF Donors have raised \$970,000 for the Park

Entrance Gate - \$5,000

Blacksmith's Shop - \$300,000

Land purchase - \$400,000

Audio Visual experience, Blacksmith's Shop - \$110,000

Woolshed - \$25,000

Revegetation - \$10,000

Oral History Project and First Nations Stories - \$10,000

Educational resources - \$5,000

Fossil Bed Stabilisation - \$5,000. \$100,000 has been raised for the stabilisation of 6 beds to be completed this year.

Significant developments at NENP

The historic Nilpena pastoral buildings, the Blacksmith's Shop and the Woolshed have been transformed. A new kitchen has been installed in the Shearers' Quarters. Fossil bed stabilisation works are progressing, and the revegetation program has been a great success.

The Department of Environment and Water (DEW) is making progress towards engaging a new ranger to manage day to day operations at the Park. Importantly DEW has defined after consultation with a range of interested parties including the previous owner, Ross Fargher, a visitor access model which will commence on 28 April.

The Work of the Foundation

This year we continue our campaign to raise money for the much-needed stabilisation of the fossil beds and support of educational resources for our schools. Through your contributions six of the 40 excavated beds will be stabilised by July 2023 and much needed support has been given to the production of Ediacaran resource material for our teachers.

The South Australian Science Teachers Association this July is running a national STEM conference at the University of Adelaide and FREF has been involved in organising presenters on the topic of Ediacara. Professor Mary Droser will deliver the Key Note Address, *Bringing the world-famous half billion year old fossils of the Ediacara Biota to South Australian students: In the classroom and in the field*. Associate Professor Diego Garcia-Bellido will demonstrate how Ediacara can be taught to Year 6 through to Year 10 science students, following the national curriculum guidelines.

Blacksmith's Shop - Before and After



Dust storm, 2019



2023