

THE BABBLER



News from Gluepot Reserve Winter 2025

Thanks to Sims Metal Management for removal of scrap metal from Birdlife Australia Gluepot Reserve. Ian Falkenberg

In late June, Sims Metal were engaged to assist Gluepot to remove vast amounts of old metal items. In all, three high-sided 10-ton trucks were filled over two days, prior to being transported back to Adelaide for recycling. Much of their loads were coils of old fencing wire that had been stored for many years following the efforts of volunteers to remove fences constructed during the pastoral phase of Gluepot's history. By manoeuvring a huge "claw", Sims Metal employees Alex and Mario, grabbed, lifted then deposited bundles of items into waiting trucks. At regular intervals the claw tampered the collected load before more was added.

This is a significant contribution by Sims Metal Management to assist with a conservation program and support community and volunteers through the removal and recycling of scrap metal from Gluepot Reserve. Whilst Sandy Dam no longer holds water, the scrap metal material deposited in the dam over many years prohibited this site from being rehabilitated. The removal of scrap metal is the first stage of restoration which will be followed by bulldozing the banks and backfilling the dam and revegetation sometime in the future.

A total of 63.7 tons of scrap metal were removed from Sandy Dam which means Gluepot Reserve has made a profit of nearly \$3,000. A big thankyou to Jamie Reich of Sims Metal Management for organising the removal in such a professional manner.



Alex and Mario during their lunch break



Three 3-ton loads were removed from the old dam site

We would like to acknowledge the many Gluepot Volunteers who, over the years, removed the original pastoral fences. The generous support from Sims Metal is the final chapter in this endeavour.



Alex at the controls for each “grab”



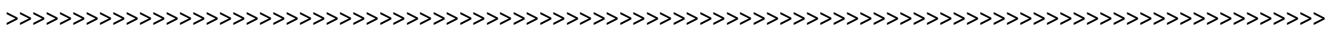
Teasing out metal from sand.



The “claw” capturing old fencing wire



Last load passes the Ranger Residence



FREE Pitfall buckets

There have been 440 20- Litre buckets buried along 44 pitfall lines at Gluepot as part of a study that was completed about 20 years ago. At the conclusion of this University study, these buckets were closed safely according to the recognized standards.

We are in the process of removing these buckets as they will not be used again. 110 buckets have already been removed.

We are hoping to find ways to reuse them, if possible. If you have a need for large buckets, with lids, or can think of a way to reuse them, please contact the Editors.

Gluepot will still have 50 pitfall lines, each with only 6 buried buckets, available to open for further study.



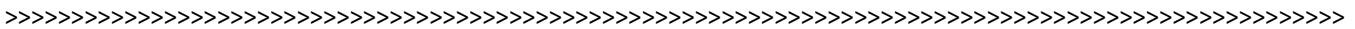
Gluepot’s fire truck – “On its last legs.”

A recent mechanical service of Gluepot’s Fire truck, a 1990 Nissan ute has indicated that years of ongoing repairs are coming to an end. Volunteer Ranger, Martin Toland fondly recalled that the fire truck was Gluepot’s only vehicle during his first stint in 2001.

Records indicate that the ute’s first service occurred in March 1990, with Gluepot’s initial service in January 1999. Its odometer has not moved from 300,480 km for many years, but most importantly the fire-fighting equipment has been well maintained including an upgraded about six years ago.

Martin described how our fire-fighting ute “rattles and shakes even on smooth ground” and when driving it is “like you are dancing”.

As most good things come to an end, let’s celebrate our Nissan ute while we can.



Birds at Gluepot



The Fight. Grasswren Hide.



Pink cockatoos and a Falcon at the Whistler Hide

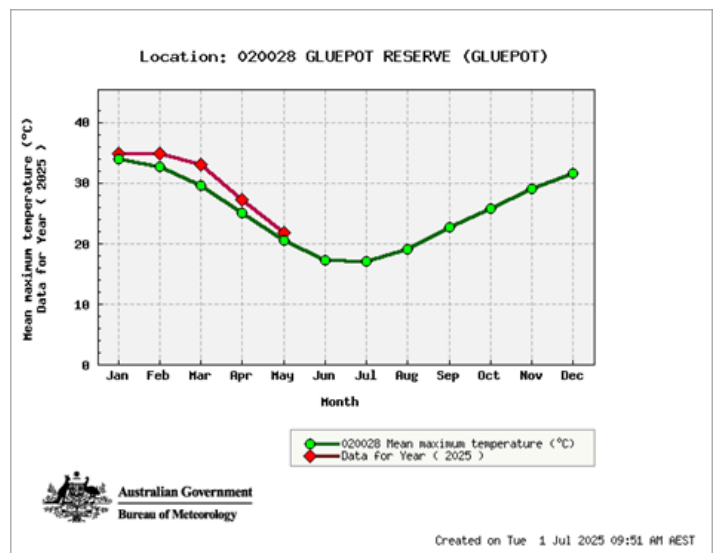
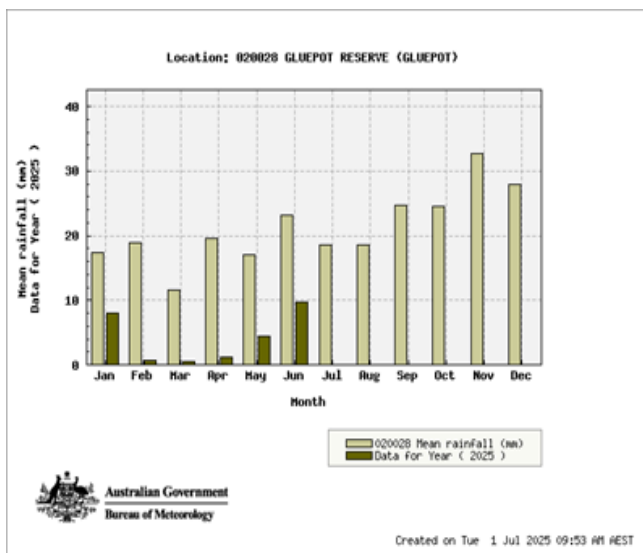
Lowest Rainfall since Gluepot declared a Reserve.

During the first six months of 2025, Gluepot has received the lowest rainfall since 1998 when records were then shared with the Bureau of Meteorology. Monthly totals from January of 8.0, 0.8, 0.6, 1.2, 4.4 and June's 10 mm echo the continuing drought in South Eastern Australia.

As a consequence, Gluepot's two dams within the Enclosure Fence are technically dry. The Household Dam's surface is crusted clay while Quinn's Dam (pictured) has a shallow layer sitting in its depression.

Exacerbating these dry conditions has been higher than average temperatures in each of the first six months.

During July, however, Gluepot received 23.8mm which was just above the July average.



Goats at Gluepot

Although goat numbers have significantly reduced since early summer, their presence remains, seen while driving on tracks and also close to the Ranger Residence. Looking for moisture they are aware of surfaces that retain dew and will lick the solar panels early in the morning (photo below).

The same pair stopped to reassess their options when walking past the Ranger's Office door (photo on R).



The Visitors' Centre

This is the first contact you make with Gluepot as it is here that you need to book in and pay any fees. Having done that, you will find that you can easily spend a good half hour browsing.

There is much interesting information about the history of Gluepot and the many people who have contributed to the success of the Reserve.

There is a range of monogrammed clothing, in a variety of colours, to purchase— hats, caps, T-shirts, vests and jackets.

As well there are many books for sale that relate to the ecology and history of the Reserve, as well as a cook book produced by Gluepot Volunteers.

A white board is provided to encourage visitors to record their interesting bird sightings. These recent observations will assist others to plan their stay at Gluepot.



Cancelled Working Bee.

We had 11 volunteers happy to help with the recently planned working bee to remove buried pitfall buckets.

Having had no significant rain for months, the forecast for the first days of this working bee was for up to 23mm rain.

While the amount of predicted rain varied almost daily, it was thought prudent to cancel this working bee.

In the end, Gluepot received just over 10mm on that weekend. More would have been nice, but any rainfall is welcome.

As the photo below shows, there are large puddles on the tracks. Vehicles constantly driving over these areas cause considerable damage.



BoM weather data is collected in all weather conditions.

Here we see Ashleigh, our current Uni Intern, instructing assistant Rangers Sharon and Scott. *Photo on R*

