

Friends of Belair National Park 'Emerging Environmental Steward' Award

The Friends of Belair do lots of fund raising and get generous donations, and we have always been conscientious to see these funds go back to help the Park.

This award was a bit of lateral thinking about what will really benefit the Park. The aim of this award is to inspire interest from young, motivated, enthusiastic, educated people, who can help promote us and our aims. So hopefully the award raises awareness to us, and that awareness will spread and lead to more people coming to care for Belair National Park.

The criteria for the *'Friends of Belair National Park: Emerging Environmental Steward Award'* is:

- completed a Certificate 3 Conservation and Ecosystem Management, possibly (but not essentially) progressing to Diploma studies,
- a demonstrated commitment to conservation industry,
- a conservation ethic, passion, and enthusiasm for environmental issues.

In consultation with the Lecturers at Urrbrae TAFE, a shortlist was developed, and from that, a winner selected.

The Winner for 2023

We are pleased to announce of the 2023 Friends of Belair National Park: Emerging Environmental Steward Award is **Maisie Brown**.

Maisie completed her Diploma in Conservation and Ecosystem Management in 2022. She is an Upper Sturt local and has done volunteer work with the Native Orchid Society of South Australia and the SA Seed Conservancy. Her citation for the award is as follows:

"Maisie is a dedicated conservationist and is keen to pursue a career in teaching. She is currently acting as a tutor for some Urrbrae students with disabilities and teaching in Aboriginal communities as part of their Certificate 3 in CEM, while also studying her Certificate 4 in Teaching and Education."

Maisie was presented with the award, much to her surprise, at the TAFE Graduation Ceremony on Thursday May 4th, 2023, by President David French, following a great introduction by Vice-president Craig Boulderstone.

Maisie is going to use the prizemoney for the purchase of equipment for a vegetation survey of Mound Springs in northern region of South Australia.



Emerging Environment Steward Award winner Maisie Brown being presented with the award by David French (P. Raine)



The Certificate Presented on 4th May 2023 (P. Raine)