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MEDIA RELEASE

DEDICATED SA WATER VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED

More than 70 SA Water volunteers across metropolitan Adelaide will today be formally acknowledged for their significant contribution to the organisation's revegetation and land management programs.

Since commencing its volunteer programs in the late 1990s, more than 1000 volunteer hours have been dedicated to SA Water projects each year.

SA Water Chief Executive John Ringham says he is moved by the efforts of the volunteers.

"Volunteers contribute significantly to the well-being of the State and have been invaluable to SA Water in ensuring the continuation of important programs such as Trees for Life," Mr Ringham said.

"One dedicated group, led by Pat and Peter Clark of Hillcrest, has turned up every Tuesday for over 15 years to work at restoring an important piece of grassy woodland," he said.

"Around the same time Roy Pearce, wife Betty and daughter Amanda of Banksia Park, started conducting bird surveys at the Barossa Reservoir. Their interest then progressed to include growing trees with Trees for Life and subsequently to becoming Bush carers with Bush for Life," he said.

Their site in the Barossa Reservoir currently has around 100 boneseed control sites. Boneseed is a weed of national significance – control in native vegetation involves hand pulling seedlings or careful chemical spot spraying to reduce the weed extent while protecting native species.

The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Hunting and Conservation Branch), the Threatened Plant Action Group and the South Para Nursery are also active volunteer groups for SA Water.

Over the past ten years SA Water has secured over \$250,000 in grant funding and in-kind contributions for volunteer managed projects on SA Water landholdings, for projects such as the construction of infrastructure to improve water quality at the Millbrook Reservoir.

Today's event marks the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers.

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