

# Liz Milner



Liz has travelled the world and developed a passion for protecting native flora and fauna. She was awarded the Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award in 2021 for South Australia which acknowledged her as 'one of the most highly regarded volunteers in the region producing remarkable bushcare work that spans over 1,464 ha of high quality native bushland, all the while engaging, encouraging and inspiring the community'.

## Early Life

Liz was born in Queensland and went to school and University in Brisbane. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Queensland and followed her mother's advice to work in the information technology sector. This led to many successful career pathways in a range of government and other agencies around the world. Liz has been an inveterate traveller, beginning with a trip to the UK with her parents when she was 16, 'exploring her roots'. She describes her travel to almost every continent as 'travelling then looking for work'. Liz retired from paid work in 2008 travelling to Alaska to celebrate!

## Connection to Campbelltown

Liz and her life partner Garth moved to Adelaide in 2009 and she joined the Friends of Black Hill and Morialta (FOBHM) in 2010. She was also the treasurer for the Climbing Club of South Australia 2012-2014.

## Friends of Black Hill and Morialta

The Friends group is dedicated to conservation in Morialta, Black Hill and Horsnell Gully Conservation Parks. Liz believes that joining the group was pivotal to her decision to become more deeply involved in bushcare activities and what began as a volunteer activity soon became the equivalent of a whole new career. She was a Committee member from 2012-2022, Treasurer from 2013-2021 and President from 2016-2021. Liz was responsible for coordinating three project sites and sees her main role as facilitating restoration of vital native habitat. As President she reviewed and changed work priorities, raised community awareness, coordinated fundraising campaigns, supported all 15 project sites and applied for grant funding. She secured over \$170,000 in funding for high quality contractors works on the ground. Under her leadership the FOBHM membership increased from 50 to 116 members in 2021, resulting in over 3000 volunteer hours on the ground, and FOBHM was added to the Register of Environmental Organisations as a tax deductible charity.

She has been a facilitator, mentor, educator and provided inspiration to other volunteers and local community members. She implemented strategies to involve the local community, including school children, and together with environmental professionals improved habitat areas which are critical refuges for threatened flora and fauna. During 2015, Liz coordinated the Morialta Conservation Park Centenary events curating exhibitions, hosting themed events, facilitating community presentations and displays and a two day citizen science BioBlitz event documenting the flora and fauna of the park.

Her partner introduced Liz to outdoor rock climbing and mountaineering turning their travel into adventures. They have summited peaks in Nepal, Yosemite National Park, USA and Kenya. These adventures strengthened her passion for caring for the environment and protecting wild places, and she created and coordinated the climbing community's Crag Care project around the cliffs in Morialta Conservation Park.

Liz acknowledges that her landcare journey would have been quite different without the full support of her partner, her mentor Ann Taylor (an inaugural member of the group), the team of passionate FOBHM volunteers and dedicated National Parks and Wildlife Service staff. Liz and her partner moved to Jervis Bay, NSW in 2022, where she is planning to become involved in local restoration projects.

#### **Words of Wisdom**

Liz believes that every child needs a wild place to grow. Maintaining her physical and mental wellbeing is important while being in nature nourishes her soul. Her engagement with bushcare and environmental activities motivates her to 'keep moving' with the added bonus of improving the chances of long term survival of our irreplaceable native species.

***"Believe in yourself and follow your dreams"***