



## WILDCARE MONITORING RESOURCE KIT

*(A work in progress)*

### What impact are Wildcare Groups having on conservation issues?

We see the value in generating data on the impact of Wildcare, whether this be in writing outcome based stories (Stories of Impact') or in employing various methods to assess and measure on-ground effectiveness/change/outcomes - all approaches boost the ability to tell of the value of Wildcare to potential partners, funders and donors - as well as to demonstrate the value to ourselves and maintain a high level of satisfaction and motivation amongst the volunteers.

We are seeking to build the capacity, skills and confidence of groups to embark on a monitoring outcomes journey from wherever they are at and to see the value in doing so.

Leaders from Friends of GIS, SPRATS, Friends of Maatsuyker Island and Friends of Bass Strait Islands, are helping to build this toolkit of resources, tools and educational opportunities to assist groups to measure and report on outcomes and tell stories of impact.

We aim to build the momentum of adoption of best practice standards for various approaches - knowing that it is an evolving space.

In [this](#) 35min video, Friends of GIS President, Phil Wyatt presents some simple ways to collect and use data to tell the story of your group's impact. The key points are outlined below:



WHY BOTHER WITH MONITORING

Monitoring can assist you in

- understanding how things are changing
- understanding how you are performing
- determining if you are getting the desired results
- determining how long future works may take
- providing feedback to donors



Discussion points

- How do you decide what to collect
- What might you collect
- Ways to collect and the pro's and con's of each method



## HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHAT TO COLLECT AND BY WHAT METHOD?



### UNIQUE

Each group is different so there is not a single solution that fits all groups in Wildcare



### LOCATIONS

What works in a local urban environment may not work in the wilds



### USERS

Different volunteers will have different skills that you will need to match to your solution



### DEVELOPMENT

You need to consider what is best for you and then develop and test your solution to make sure it works



## WHAT MIGHT YOU COLLECT

### NUMBERS

- Number of weeds pulled
- Number of volunteers used
- Number of hours involved
- Number of locations inspected
- Number of public interactions

### SPATIAL DATA

- Weed locations (point or area)
- Lengths of track maintained
- Area surveyed by volunteers
- Location of artifacts

### IMAGES

- Photos can be very quick

### NOTES

- Good old notes

### REPEATABLE

- Whatever you do must be **repeatable, consistent** and **have value** to your group



## DIFFERENT WAYS TO COLLECT INFORMATION

### PEN AND PAPER

There is nothing wrong with just the good old pen and paper!

### IMAGES

Photos can be very effective and quick to record changes

### FORMS

Consider using a 'standard' form to collect the same information every time

### GPS POINTS, LINES, AREAS

GPS data can be used to collect individual points, tracks where volunteers have walked, as well as areas.

### PHONE OR TABLET APPS

Can be great if there is a suitable app for your specific need



## PEN AND PAPER

### PRO'S

- Everyone can do it
- Cheap and easy
- Minimal skills required

### CON'S

- Data collected might be inconsistent
- Text can be very boring!

### KEEPING IT ALL TOGETHER AND PRESENTATION

- Maybe a single notebook or folder for a location
- Easy to pass on to new leader
- Collation and presentation can be difficult





**Friends of XYZ Track Clearing**

Standard data to be collected at every track clearing event

Date	Hours	# of sites	Location	Length (km)	Notes
21/02/2017	5	6	Mount Hobart to the carpark	2	Some scrubby bits but generally very good. Relieved day with plenty of time. Debris only.

## STANDARD FORMS

**Friends of XYZ Weed Survey**

Standard data to be collected at every weed survey

Date	Volunteer Hours (Total)	Location	Area (ha)	Notes
21/02/2017	50	Koolberran Island	37	First visit. Survey done recorded with GPS. Lots of weeds noted and recorded with GPS. Only about XYZ treated on this trip. Volunteer has completed several requests also. Single file for future use.
18/02/20	50	Koolberran Island	32	Continued island including areas around last line on southern part of island plus started treatment of Shrub ABC.

### PRO'S

- Everyone can do it
- Cheap and easy
- Minimal skills required
- More consistent data entry

### CON'S

- Need to get the right form from the start!

**Friends of XYZ Burrow Survey**

Standard data to be collected at every burrow survey

Survey Date: 30/12/2017

Surveyor Name: David and Mary

Burrow number	Occupied Yes/No	Notes
1	Yes No	Burrow collapsed - suspect will no longer be used
2	Yes No	Wedge-tailed shearwater nesting site as we approached!
3	Yes No	

### KEEPING IT ALL TOGETHER AND PRESENTATION

- Standard forms in a folder that gets filled in at the event
- Easy to pass on to new leader

#### PHOTO MONITORING SEQUENCES

**Photo sequence 1: Vegetation monitoring, Sandy Bay boardwalk.** In 1990, there was full tussock cover and the condition of vegetation was healthy. By 2005, the vegetation was heavily over-grazed by rabbits and dead tussocks were common. By 2007, the tussocks appear to be dead and only lichens, liverworts and algae can be seen growing. The situation remained similar in 2010 and 2012, although here the vegetation has recovered well in the rabbit enclosure plot in the background. The 2011 photo shows the new boardwalk surrounded by dead tussocks with no sign of regrowth, however small understorey plants including mosses are colonising the tussock stumps. By 2014 tussock regrowth was clearly underway.

Photos: PWS/Jenny Scott (LRT)



## PHOTO MONITORING

### PRO'S

- Everyone can do it
- Cheap and easy
- Minimal skills required
- Easy historical record

### CON'S

- Data collected might be inconsistent
- Different camera settings
- Photo from different locations

### KEEPING IT ALL TOGETHER AND PRESENTATION

- Good instructions on where and how to take the photo
- Post collection – photos into a document/folder for each location
- Easy to present in documents or presentations
- Easy to pass on to new leader







## GPS & SPATIAL DATA

### PRO'S

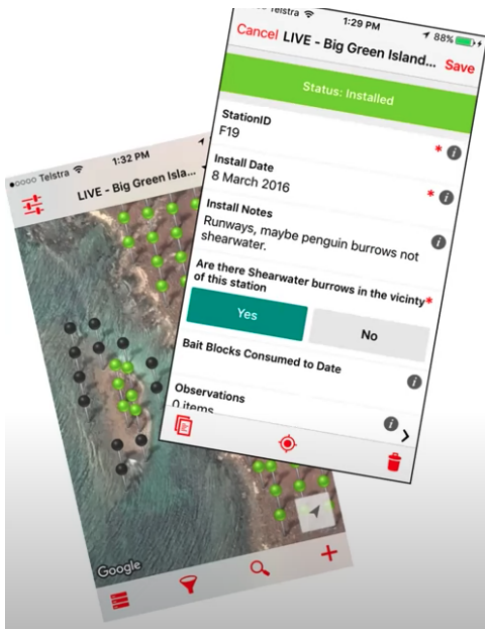
- Relatively easy to collect
- Supports making maps
- Easy if only a couple of people collecting
- Maps can convey great messages

### CON'S

- Requires devices \$\$
- More technical skills required
- Need extra software to make maps
- Data formats

### KEEPING IT ALL TOGETHER AND PRESENTATION

- Need extra technical knowledge to download data
- Technical skills required to make maps
- Need a long-term plan about how to deal with digital data
- Maps can present complex data over large areas



## PHONE AND TABLET APPS

### PRO'S

- Sophisticated forms with validation, calculations
- Can easily have multiple people collecting
- Online portal for results – some apps only

### CON'S

- Requires devices \$\$
- Need 3G to sync data between devices
- Often have subscription costs \$\$
- End data may not be yours
- Need longer lead times

### KEEPING IT ALL TOGETHER AND PRESENTATION

- Need extra technical knowledge to download data
- Need a long-term plan about how to deal with data
- Possibility of an online portal to show off data



MONITORING ESSENTIALS



TAKE YOUR TIME

Think long and hard about what you are collecting and why. Don't collect anything of no value to the group. Keep it simple

DESIGN AND TEST TEST TEST

Ask around to find out what has worked for others. Develop your system and then test from collection to presentation.

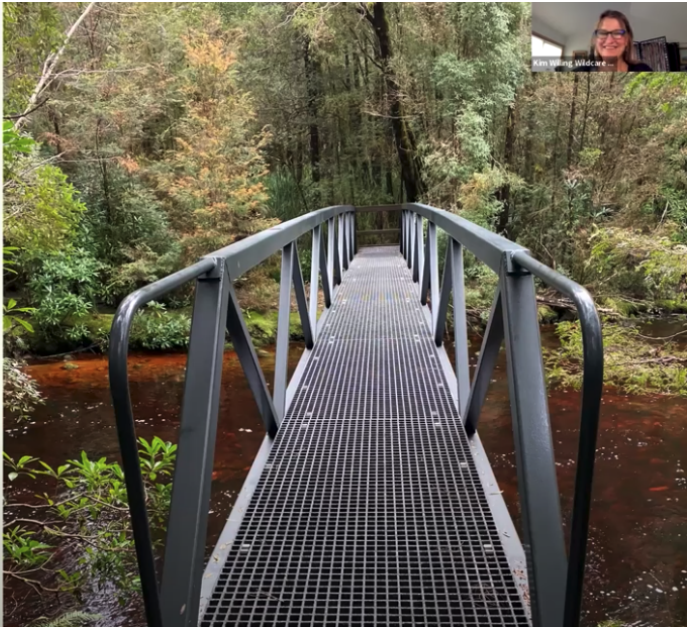
LONG TERM

Regular consistent data will provide the best returns.



THANK YOU

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## FURTHER INFORMATION:

### **Photo Monitoring**

#### [Photopoint Monitoring | NRM South](#)

- Easy photo points
- How to set them up
- How to best show changes in reports
- Phone software

### **Basic GPS data Collection**

#### [Wildcare Pool GPS Devices](#)

- Collecting point data
- Collecting area data
- Sharing data with others
- Showing data on a map