



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

03 February 2017

Lake Eyre Basin

This week, **Friday 03 February 2017**, at Friday Environment Forum: *Bob Tooth* will discuss the Lake Eyre basin; this fascinating part of Australia, and share some images of the lake and surrounding desert when it comes alive in a kaleidoscope of colour. Bob will explain the biogeography of the Basin, with its cyclic trend of colonisation and proliferation during and after flooding, followed by the subsequent onset of aridity and extinction, which is a source of continuing research.



View of Lake Eyre

When Edward John Eyre first sighted (what we now know as) Lake Eyre South in 1840, he is said to have stared in horror at “one vast, low and dreary waste”. On completion of his exploration of the northern shoreline of the lake in the summer of 1874-75, JL Lewis noted “I sincerely trust I may never see it again. It is useless in every respect, and the very sight of it creates thirst in man and beast”.

But today we recognise the Lake Eyre Basin not only as the largest internal drainage system in the world, but also a source of wonderment for visitors to the region. At various times in the past, this area was covered by shallow seas, forests, lakes and peaty swamps; but the onset of aridity with climate change caused lakes and floodplains to dry.

The contemporary landscape of dunefields, gibber plains, and playas, spread across the six deserts of the Basin, are the result of the most recent depositional and erosion cycles of the Cainozoic Period.

Much of the South Australian portion of the Basin is now afforded various measures of protection under a system of National Parks, Conservation Parks, Regional Reserves and a wildlife sanctuary.

Everyone is welcome to the first forum of 2017, 03 February, at Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre, Wallace Park Noosaville this Friday 03 Feb. Friday Environment Forum commences at 10.30am although everyone is welcome to arrive at 10am when coffee and chat are on offer. For those interested in an interpretive birding walk before the forum, meet Valda in the Environment Centre car park at 8.30am.



The desert comes alive when conditions permit

All welcome.

