



JUNE PLUSH

1926 –

"Passion for Plants"

A few days before June's 90th Birthday she was honoured with a Certificate of Recognition by The Riverland Natural Resources Management Group Chairman, Ken Stokes.

On this occasion Kevin Smith, treasurer of The Friends of Riverland Parks Inc. read the following citation;

"June was an active volunteer for the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) before she became a founding member of the Friends of Riverland Parks, 25 years ago. Her involvement with SGAP included establishing a number of revegetation projects around the Riverland. During her 25 year involvement with the Friends of Riverland Parks she has attended almost all of the activities organised by our group. She has been a staunch supporter of all the activities we have conducted including revegetation, biological surveys, weeding, establishing and maintaining walking tracks, to name a few.

You can never contact June during daylight hours as she is always out somewhere getting involved with some group as a volunteer, especially if it involves plants. Plants are her passion. She has an astounding knowledge of native plants, and willingly and enthusiastically shares her knowledge with anyone who shows the slightest interest.

There are many large and small areas of plantings that June has had a part in establishing all over the Riverland, but to demonstrate her passion and determination one has to go no further than the small plantation at the entrance to the main section of the Katarapko National Park. In the island between the in and out roads is a pile of very poor soil that any plant would have difficulty growing in. June has propagated, planted and nurtured those plants for a number of years, and she can be seen there regularly with her boot full of 2 litre plastic bottles, watering her plants. She is truly an inspiration to all volunteers."

June was born in Adelaide, the fifth of six children of Ross Anderson and wife Sesca (nee Somerville) and attended Unley Primary School and Methodist Ladies College (Annesley). After graduating she was employed as a laboratory assistant by the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. She married Don Plush in 1948 and has three children.

June's knowledge has benefitted the publication of Berri's history; 75th and Centenary books and she compiled the Riverland component of the State Register of Significant Trees. In 1963 she was a foundation member of the Berri branch of the National Trust and in 2008 assisted the National Trust in the identification of native plants growing on The Zelling Reserve, Kangaroo Island. This property of pristine bushland was gifted to the Trust by June's sister Sesca and husband Howard Zelling CBE, AO. Sesca Zelling OBE (1918-2001) was a lawyer and her husband was a barrister, University lecturer in law and Supreme Court judge. June was honoured to unveil the plaque commemorating her late sister and brother-in-law's gift on 17th May 2008.

Her knowledge of plants was evident when the Puddletown area had to be researched and revegetated with salt-tolerant plants. June was employed as Librarian at Glossop High School for 13 years and in her retirement years she enjoyed volunteering to listen to children reading at Winkie Primary School.

The Friends of Riverland Parks newsletter is a delight to read. June contributes to every issue, alerting members to what her sharp eyes have seen in the plant world and also birds that visit her extensive garden. June often shares philosophies about our changing environment that she gleans from her great love of books.

1. June Plush (nee Anderson)
2. June (Anderson), laboratory assistant aged 20, 1947, Waite Agricultural Research Institute.
3. June Plush and Ross Stockdale planting trees near Berri Evaporation Basin 1991.
4. Revegetating Puddletown near Berri – June second from right 1992.
5. Puddletown Project – June second from right 1992.
6. Berri 75th Anniversary Committee – June second from right 1986.

