



indulge in the luxury of nature

The history of 'Sweet Water Sanctuary'

'Tanonga' has the aboriginal meaning 'sweet water' which refers to the permanent springs and billabong on the creek running through the 500-acre historic property

On early settlement maps 'Tanonga' was an established homestead and farming property in this area.

In 2002 Michael and Jill Coates purchased the Tanonga property with the grand vision of re-establishing and restoring the land to create luxury tourism experiences for visitors to the Eyre Peninsula.

Soon after moving to Tanonga, Michael and Jill become aware of the lack of luxury accommodation in native bush surroundings on Eyre Peninsula, and were successful in receiving an Australian Tourism Development Program grant in 2006 to assist them with building the two Tanonga luxury eco lodges.

Well experienced travellers, Michael and Jill recognise exceptional and superior quality tourist accommodation and made an ongoing commitment to service excellence to ensure that staying at Tanonga 'sweet water sanctuary' luxury eco lodges will be an experience to remember.

Restoring the natural beauty of Tanonga

'Tanonga' is a small working farm of 500 acres, 250 acres of which is regenerating native forest with deliberate plantings of over 25,000 native trees, shrubs, understorey grasses and sedges. This revegetation, conducted over a series of years, aims to recreate the sheoak grassy and sugar gum woodlands that once dominated the local landscape.

There are over 100 recorded bird species in the area and specific attention has been paid to plantings to encourage birdlife, particularly for endangered, vulnerable and rare species such as the Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoo.

Michael and Jill have renovated the farm house and re-fenced the property with a vision of creating wildlife corridors within and across the property.

The watercourse zones within the property were deliberately de-stocked and regeneration projects were undertaken in the adjacent riparian areas. The impact on the property has been remarkable with over 90% success rate on tube stock plantings and significant improvements in water quality.

Tanonga receives regular rainfall of approximately 600mm a year. Consequently, the flora and fauna are diverse and robust, unlike harsher coastal environments.