



Newsletter of the
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600
 Web: www.fwcp.org
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

Myall Post

The



April 2007



President's Message

The birth of our first grandchild has made me think about the state of the world that he will inhabit. Resources are running down, soils are being lost into the ocean at a rate of billions of tonnes per year, water supplies are under severe pressure and climate change is a very real issue.

I think that I have been fortunate to live during a time when resources have been available at low prices and my standard of living has been good. I am almost certain that Joshua will not have such an easy life. For 40 years, I have worked to protect the earth and its systems. However the greed and short sightedness of corporations is much more powerful than individuals.

The American economist Eric Zimmerman summarized this accurately in 1933 when he wrote:

"One of the main points on which individuals, including business interests and the group, represented by government differ is in their concern for resources, especially the basic assets such as soil, water oil etc. Business as a rule is market minded, commodity conscious; its interests are largely limited to the short run. There is a natural tendency to think in terms of the here and now and to pass off warnings

about the hidden or patent impairment of basic assets.

*Frequently, the proper care of these assets - be they the soil, water and minerals or the health and education of the public - requires programs of unusual range in point of time, the results of which may not be visible for years, perhaps decades, and which in the meantime call for expenditures without corresponding returns. Under such circumstances, a business civilization is apt to neglect the care of its basic assets. Unless checked by deliberate interference on behalf of the public interest, it is likely to sacrifice them on the altar of immediate profits." Pg 3, Erich W Zimmerman **Introduction to World Resources. 1933***

Sadly our country and the USA have forgotten the lessons that we learnt from the Great Depression of the 1930's and we now seem set to repeat the experiment on an even grander and more disastrous scale.

Never has it been more important to "Think Globally and Act Locally". However, this year in Australia may also be the time to share your thoughts and your intentions with those involved at all levels of Government, local, State and Federal!

Clint Garrett



Busy labeling and packing plants on a wet Friday night were: Rodney and Bev Dunham, Margaret Garrett, Joan Nield, Hector Cavanagh, Alvin and Pam Charlesworth.

Important Dates

Make sure you put these upcoming dates in your diary:

Committee Meeting
Thursday 26th April @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

Working Bee
Saturday 28th April @ 9:00am
Wild Dog Hill

Working Bee
Saturday 12th May @ 9:00am
Wild Dog Hill

Mother's Day Walk
Sunday 13th May @ 2:00pm
Wild Dog Hill

Committee Meeting
Thursday 24th May @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

Trip To Dutchman's Stern CP
Saturday 9th / Sunday 10th June
Meet at location TBA

Park Roster

The following individuals or families have volunteered to empty the remaining bin, check the toilet, and check the Park on the weekend of:

April 14th & 15th - P & B Fennell

April 21st & 22nd - L & E Dean

April 28th & 29th - vacant

May 5th & 6th - J Waters

May 12th & 13th - C & M Garrett

May 19th & 20th - J & A Nield

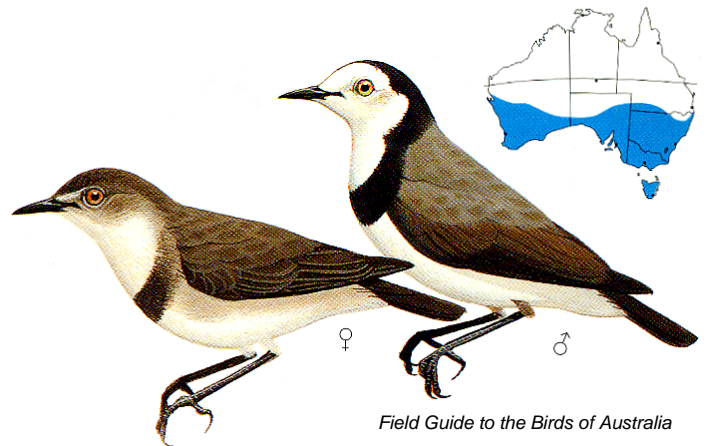
May 26th & 27th - P & B Fennell

June 2nd & 3rd - J Waters

Please remember to wear clothing which will identify you as a Friends member and NPWS volunteer if at all possible. **Don't forget to look out for syringes! Remember, if you are not a financial member, you are not insured and you should not be on this roster!**

If you would like to volunteer for the roster, please call Denise Sharp on 8645-4442

Bird Of The Month



White-fronted Chat

This finch sized bird can be found right across the southern third of Australia, from coast to coast, as well as Tasmania. It is a very neat looking little bird. White below with a wide black breast band, and combinations of grey and grey-brown above. With the male the black band extends up and around the neck and up onto the crown of the head. The female is a much duller bird than the male. They like open damp habitats, especially wetlands bordered by samphire or saltbush, and damp grasslands.

This is a mostly insectivorous species which will also feed on other invertebrates such as spiders. Its call is a distinct nasal twang which once heard is easily recognised.

They breed from late winter through into early summer, building a small cup shaped nest of thin twigs and grasses lined with finer materials, which is placed low in a bush such as saltbush or samphire. Like many small birds the 2 to 4 eggs are white blotched with colours and take 2 weeks to hatch. Judging by the number of young birds in the local flocks each spring they breed successfully around Whyalla. I have found them breeding in samphire at the Whyalla Wetlands.

Ella Smith

2007 Plant Sale

A big thank you to everyone that helped with the 2007 Plant Sale, from potting to labeling and packing to helping sell plants.

We took 1,234 plants to Nicolson Ave on Saturday 24th March and returned with 289 - of which some have been sold at the Fishy Fringe and on an individual basis.

There are still plants left, so if you are interested in buying any of the remaining plants, please give Ella a call on 8645-1704 to arrange a time to look at them.

April Working Bee



Members will recall that in the last edition of the Myall Post we asked for volunteers to help repair the damage to the walking trail (pictured above after the rain) at the next working bee.

Due to many members of the committee being unavailable on that weekend (Saturday April 14th), the working bee has been postponed and shifted to:

**Saturday April 28th @ 9:00am
Wild Dog Hill Car Park**

The group has also sent a letter to many of Whyalla's service clubs asking if any of their members could volunteer their time to lend us a hand, and we have had several positive responses.

If you are planning on attending the working bee and it is possible to do so, can you please bring your wheelbarrow, shovel and a rake.

As a thank you for everyone's hard work, the group will be providing a BBQ lunch for everyone that attends and lends a hand.

Many thanks to Brambles who are arranging to deliver some Metserv Fines to the Park at no cost. The fines will be used in the repair work to the trail.

Eremophilas

Most Of What You Ever Wanted To Know About Eremophilas.

Each year at our plant sale, we sell many different members of the family Myoporaceae – the Myoporums and Eremophilas. These hardy and beautiful plants are well suited to Whyalla and other dry regions.

Bob Chinnock has now published the results of his 32 years of research into the family Myoporaceae. It is a magnificent large format book which runs to 672 pages, with many colour photographs plus the beautiful line drawings by Ludwik Dutkiewicz and Gilbert Dashorst to show the intricate details of species so that they can be identified.

When I first started working with Eremophilas in the mid 1970's, there were 102 known species. This book now describes 215 species and maps their ranges. Most of the new species are the result of Bob's work. As well as the expanded number of Eremophilas, there are also 3 new genera to describe plants whose features place them outside of Myoporum or Eremophila.

At \$100, the book is relatively cheap considering its large size and the amount of research required to produce it. It is available directly from the publishers: Rosenberg Publishing: <http://www.rosenbergpub.com.au/>

Clint Garrett.

EREMOPHILA and allied genera

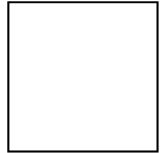
A Monograph of the Myoporaceae



R.J. Chinnock



Friends of the Whyalla
Conservation Park
PO Box 805
Whyalla SA 5600



The Way We Were (3)

Continuing the synopsis of 20 years worth of Myall Posts.

1993-94

Committee

President: Margaret Garrett (elected to Publicity Officer at AGM, seconded to President), Minute Secretary: Pam Charlesworth, Correspondence Secretary: Kathryn Hollingworth, Treasurer: Lance Dean, Publicity Officer: David Poyner (elected to committee at AGM, seconded to Publicity Officer), Committee Members: Alvin Charlesworth, Martin Hilton, Wendy Sysouphat, Eddie Hughes

Newsletter

Vol 7 No 1 – July 1993, 2 pages, Vol 7 No 2 – August 1993, 4 pages (inaugural meeting to write management plan held), Vol 7 No 3 – September 1993, 3 pages (Western Myall leaflet launched), Vol 7 No 4 – October 1993, 4 pages, Vol 7 No 5 – November 1993, 6 pages, Vol 7 No 6 – December 1993, 6 pages, Vol 7 No 7 – January 1994, 2 pages, Vol 7 No 8 – March 1994, 6 pages (group occupies a shed at SACON, group resolves to purchase its own tools), Vol 7 No 9 – April 1994, 4 pages, Vol 7 No 10 – May 1994, 2 pages (new Park general information leaflet attached, group resolves to purchase its own mugs), Vol 7 No 11 – June 1994, 4 pages

Plant Sale

March 26th 1994 – approx profit \$2,995

1994-95

Committee

President: Clint Garrett, Minute Secretary: Pam Charlesworth, Correspondence Secretary: Kathryn Hollingworth, Treasurer: Lance Dean, Publicity Officer: David Poyner, Committee Members: Alvin Charlesworth,

Yvonne Ayliffe, Eddie Hughes, Jean Pollard, Vaughan Moldenhauer, Wendy Sysouphat

Newsletter

Vol 8 No 1 – July 1994, 6 pages, Vol 8 No 2 – August 1994, 4 pages (a mounting post for astronomical telescopes has been erected in the Park), Vol 8 No 3 – September 1994, 4 pages, Vol 8 No 4 – October 1994, 4 pages, Vol 8 No 5 – November 1994, 4 pages (asked readers for a possible name for the newsletter), Vol 8 No 6 – December 1994, 4 pages (a draft of the management plan was distributed to members for comment), Vol 8 No 7 – February 1995, 4 pages (first appearance of the 'Myall Post' banner, a thunderstorm on the 14th January filled the dam and damaged roads and walking trail), Vol 8 No 8 – March 1995, 4 pages, Vol 8 No 9 – April 1995, 4 pages, Vol 8 No 10 – May 1995, 3 pages (David Poyner is Publicity Officer, Acting President and Acting Correspondence Secretary)

Plant Sale

There was no plant sale in 1995

Contacts

Postal Address

Friends Of The Whyalla Conservation Park
PO Box 805
Whyalla SA 5608
<http://www.fwcp.org>

President – Clinton Garrett

0417-854-887 (m)

Secretary / Treasurer – Denise Sharp

8645-4442 (h) 0411-098-363 (m)
denisharp@ozemail.com.au

Publicity Officer – David Poyner

8640-3444 (w) 8645-4442 (h) 0411-098-000 (m)
davidpoyner@ozemail.com.au