



Newsletter of the
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

Myall Post



Volume 16 No
 8
 August 2003

President's Message



The planning day has resulted in the production of a calendar of events for the year. The calendar will give you a quick reference to see what events are planned when.

As you will see there is wide variety of things planned. Our main focus is to support the NPWS staff in the management of the Whyalla Conservation Park. There are also educational events for the public such as the Father's Day and Mother's Day walks. Social events such as the trip to Munyaroo Conservation Park will give members a chance to see a different sort of park.

As usual our major fund raiser will be the Native Plant Sale in late March. The water wise plants that we will have on offer will be a good reason for the public to buy them.

However, if you can think of activities that you would like to see included, please let a committee member know. We can then plan for a special event.

You will receive a copy of the calendar to put on your fridge. This will be delivered separately from this newsletter.

The number of members in the group is increasing and I would encourage you to get others to join us.

Clint Garrett

Logs Branded

About half of the logs in the Car-park, now carry a NPWS brand. This should help deter theft of the logs. Ruth Steer, Rod and Bev Dunham worked on this project during the July Working bee.

Hans Sipsma and Lance Dean replaced the tap in the toilet and repaired logs that had been damaged by vehicle collisions.

Ella Smith and Yvonne Ward searched an area near Crux Rock for Carrion Flower and rabbit warrens. They found few active warrens, but did find a large Caustic Bush.

Denise Sharp made an inventory of the signs in the park, while Marie O'Shea and Clint Garrett replaced fence posts that had been snapped off in a car collision.



Rod Dunham – our blacksmith heating branding irons to red hot.

AUGUST 9TH
 WORKING
 BEE

**MEET AT WILD DOG HILL AT 9.00 AM
 DETAILS ON PAGE 4**

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR ALVIN & PAM

Alvin and Pam Charlesworth are foundation members of the group. Since they joined the group in 1987, they have taken an active role in the management of the group. Alvin has been Vice President, Treasurer and an active committee member. His practical skills and enormous range of tools have been a significant part of our ability to tackle projects. The building of the toilet, setting up of the depot and our work trailer would not have been possible without the hours of work that Alvin has put in and his practical skills.



Pam has been our Minute Secretary for most of her time with the group. Her attention to detail has meant that we have a thorough record of committee business, which in turn helps the functioning of the group.

There are very few working bees and events that Alvin and Pam have missed in the last 16 years. They have also both been regular participants in the bin roster since we introduced it in 1992. This has meant giving up at least one night a month to patrol the park, detect problems and do the routine removal of rubbish.



Alvin has been the organiser for both the Great Victoria Desert and the Simpson Desert trips that the group has undertaken. These are major events which require a considerable amount of pre-planning in order to be successful and safe. We have benefited from their knowledge of 4WD driving and the deserts.

Alvin and Pam Charlesworth's willingness to serve the community by giving of their time and their skills is greatly appreciated. The committee has decided to make Alvin and Pam life members of the Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the group.

The presentation of Life Membership Certificates will be made at a dinner at the Sundowner Hotel, on Thursday 11th September, 7.00m. We would like to see as many members as possible at this event.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

The planning meeting has mapped out the program for the year. Below is a summary of the work to be done at working bees

Works Program

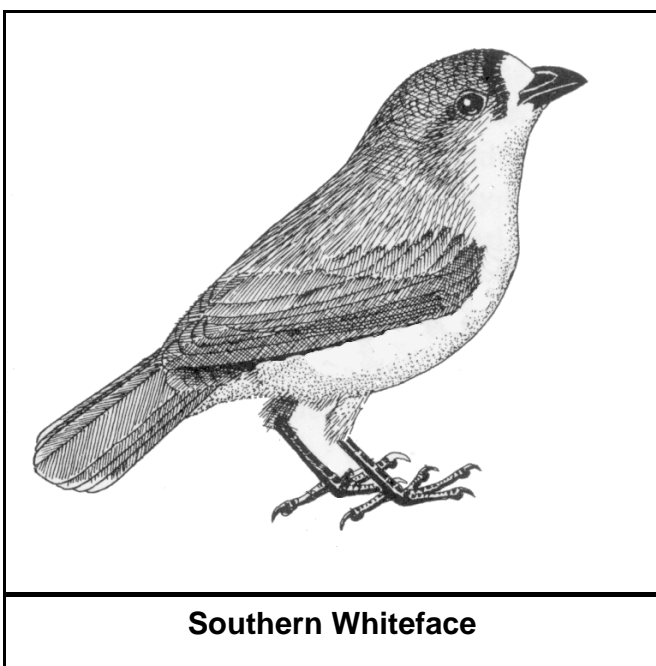
August – Rabbit Warrens to be fumigated
Car-park work completed

September Rip Re-Vegetation area
Replace plaque at base of Wild Dog Hill
Check for emergence of weeds such as Saffron Thistle
Remove box-thorns on east boundary road

October – Prune vegetation near gate
Follow up on weeds from September
Rabbit warren fumigation
Clear Eastern fence-line to allow vehicle movement

November
Move gate from Central Roadway to North boundary
Tour of new area to look at management issues
Commence construction of new parking bay at eastern entry

December
Construction of new parking bay at east entry
Any other maintenance as required



BIRDS OF THE PARK

SOUTHERN WHITEFACE

This month I have chosen a bird I haven't seen for sometime, probably for three reasons. It is a very small finch like bird; it can only be found out in the scrub, not around the city; and I have not recently gone looking for it in those areas where it should be found.

The most likely place to find it within the park is the area between the dam and the Lincoln Highway fence. This little bird is predominantly a grey-brown colour and has a noticeable white face made more obvious by a darker band going across the top of the face from eye to eye.

The Southern Whiteface frequents the better watered areas of fairly open shrubby woodland across most of the southern half of the continent except the southwestern corner of W.A. Feeding is preferably done on the ground, as their diet is mostly seeds although they will also take insects and shoots.

You may first notice the presence of Southern Whitefaces by their twittering call. This usually happens before you can visually identify the source of the call, which is likely to be a foraging party of about a dozen birds. Their breeding is influenced by rain and they will breed from winter through spring. The nest is an untidy feather lined grass dome that can hold up to five eggs. Although more closely related to thornbills the Southern Whiteface is more like a finch in appearance and habits.

There are approximately 80 species of bird that have been sighted in the Whyalla Conservation Park. The Southern Whiteface is one of our regular inhabitants.

Ella Smith

Mailing Label

WORKING BEE AUGUST 9 TH



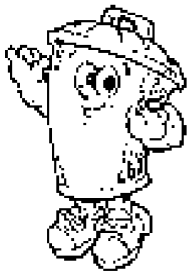
The following tasks are scheduled for the August working bee.

Fumigation of rabbit warrens – bring a spade and water in 2 litre or similar sized bottles.

Complete branding of logs in car-park

Install traffic counter on Western Boundary

BIN



ROSTER

2nd August
9th August
16th August
23rd August
30th August

On weekends, members of the Friends group volunteer to visit the park and record any offences, as well as checking the toilet and emptying the bins.

If you wish to be a roster volunteer, let Denise Sharp know. This month's volunteers are:

Garretts
Fennell

CALENDAR

August 9th	Working Bee
August 28th	Committee Meeting
September 7th	Father's Day Walk
24th	
September 11th	Life Membership
	Dinner
September 13th	Working Bee

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Have you paid your 2003 –2004 membership?

