



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

The Myall Post



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President's Message

FEBRUARY 2003



When watching the one day cricket it is obvious how much so many of us enjoy our sport both as participants and as watchers.

It also brings home the contrast with caring for the environment. With the exception of cretins, such as those who stole our water tank etc, most people do care to a greater or lesser degree.

But only a few are prepared to spend even a little time on it. Time it seems is too valuable or too pressured. Without wishing to interfere with anyone's enjoyment of sport, it would be of great benefit to the environment and the community in general, if each of the passionate sport watchers were to sacrifice one day per year in such activities as Friends of Parks undertake.

Take Whyalla for example with a population of approximately 22,000. Excluding those too young and those physically unable to contribute, I would presume perhaps at least one third of the total could contribute one day. This would provide the equivalent of 20 people per day available for environmental work. How easy it would be to maintain the Conservation Park. How easy to carry out the objectives of the Management Plan. And what social and community benefits, all from so little from so many.

Pity it's all just a dream.

THEFT TO BE REPAIRED

The January Committee meeting discussed what should be done about the theft of the tank and equipment from the toilet. It was decided that the need to provide a working toilet and hand washing facilities for the public was urgent.

The Friends group will fund the replacement of the stolen tank and equipment and then seek reimbursement from the appropriate NPWS fund.

Replacement work at the toilet will be done at the February 8th working bee. Alvin and Lance will weld up a suitable frame to support the tank, as there is no commercially available frame.

Other work to be carried out at the February working bee includes carrion flower removal, checking for the emergence of weed species such as Saffron thistle and rabbit control.

Please meet at the Wild Dog Hill



Construction work on the toilet 2000



WORKING BEE
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8TH
9.00 am AT WILD DOG HILL

MULGA PARROT



There are two predominantly green parrots resident in the park. The Mulga Parrot is much smaller than the larger Port Lincoln Parrot, being about one and a half times the size of a budgerigar. The male is a brilliant green with the female is a much duller brownish-green.

Easily noticeable features are a red patch on the back of the head, and the shoulder patches, yellow on the male, and red on the female. The male also has a yellow forehead and a red and yellow belly. Overall the male is sufficiently bright to have earned the species its old name of Many-coloured Parrot.

The habitat of our park is typical of that favoured by the species, drier areas having a reliable water supply within reach. Mulga Parrots are normally seen in pairs or family parties. They feed on the ground mostly on various seeds. They are most easily seen when the birds are foraging in the early morning or late afternoon.

They nest in tree hollows in spring. The clutch of four to six white eggs takes about 20 days to hatch. The young fledge in about four weeks. Probably due to the drought this year, Mulga Parrots have moved in close to housing on the outskirts of Whyalla. Nonetheless they appear to have bred successfully out in the scrub, as I have noticed a number of young birds among them.

Ella Smith

LOOK AFTER YOUR PUSSY

Keeping pets is a great source of pleasure for most of us. However when we use poisons in the garden, there is a very real danger that we will accidentally poison our companion animals.

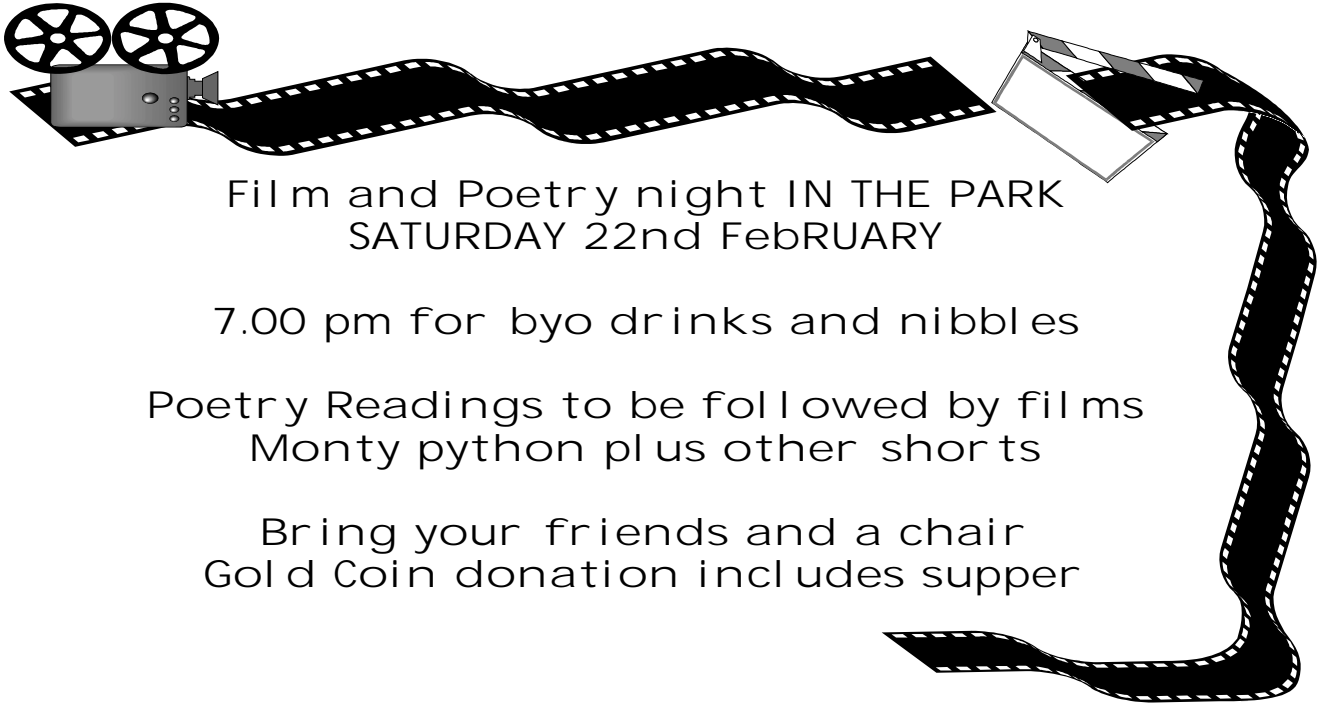
Snail baits containing Methiocarb and/or metaldehyde have been the cause of a number of pet deaths.

In an effort to overcome this problem, **Multicrop** have introduced a new snail and slug killer that does not contain either of these poisons. Their product contains Iron Chelate as the active ingredient and a taste deterrent that mammals find unpleasant.

The beauty of using Iron Chelate as the poison is that the soil is getting a feed of soluble iron at the same time that your pet is protected. In Whyalla soil pH is so high that most iron is insoluble and is not available to plants. This results in Iron Chlorosis – a failure to make chlorophyll.



Sample packs of Multiguard Snail and Slug Killer will be available at the February Working bee. The product is available from the Garden Section of Bob's Home Hardware.




Film and Poetry night IN THE PARK
SATURDAY 22nd February

7.00 pm for byo drinks and nibbles

Poetry Readings to be followed by films
Monty python plus other shorts

Bring your friends and a chair
Gold Coin donation includes supper



PLANT SALE 2003

Packing session
Friday March 21st 6.30 pm.

PLANT SALE
Saturday March 22nd
8.30 am

Land clearance is increasing
At a time when Australians are beginning to understand the importance of clean reliable water supplies, the Queensland government is allowing an increase in land clearing.

Three years ago, Queensland was clearing 490,000 hectares per year. Now nearly 650 000 hectares are being cleared. 94.6% of this clearance is being done legally with a government permit!

Rising salinity from cleared areas will effect the Darling River and hence effect our water supply. The loss of species is difficult to quantify, but is estimated at 100 million animals, birds and reptiles per year.

We know that it is cheaper to preserve ecosystem than it is to restore them. The longer the problem goes on, the harder and more expensive it will be to fix.

You can do something to reduce land clearance by writing to:

The Hon Peter Beattie MP
PO box 185 Albert street
Brisbane QLD 4000
thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au



Chained Poplar Woodland Western Qld
Photo Dr Barry Traill

Mailing Label

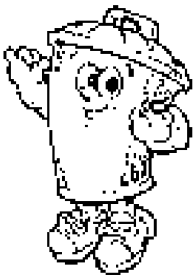
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOUR FOR FRIENDS MEMBERS

At the January 30th General meeting, about 25 Friends members and visitors toured South Western Australia via the medium of Clint Garrett's slides.

Clint and Marg have traveled to Western Australia many times since 1976 and have a great love of the flora of that state. Their photographs showed the beauty of some of more than 6,000 species of plants to be found in the South West corner of Western Australia. This compares with approximately 3,500 species for all of South Australia.

Some members were heard after the slide show saying they would like to travel to WA. That state still has huge areas that are largely un-spoilt and well worth visiting.

BIN



ROSTER

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, please let Denise Sharp know .

This months volunteers are:

8th –9th Feb – Garretts

15th – 16th Feb –Deans

22nd 23rd Feb – Charlesworths

1st –2nd March – Nields

8th – 9th March - Carters

CALENDAR

February 8th 9.00 am	Working Bee Wild Dog Hill
February 22nd 7.00 pm	Film & Poetry Night Wild Dog Hill
February 27th 7.30 pm	Committee Meeting
March 8th 9.00 am	Clean up Australia Day Working Bee

Editor

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