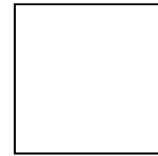




Friends of the Whyalla  
Conservation Park  
PO Box 805  
Whyalla SA 5600



## Meeting Report

At the committee meeting on Thursday 27th January, the following items were discussed:

- There was some discussion about the group's financial position caused by the continuing delay in receiving money from OneSteel (as per Clint's President's Message). As we have already spent the group's funds on the fencing, our investments have had to be withdrawn to use as operating revenue.
- There was general discussion about the upcoming Wetlands display. It was agreed that the group should hold a raffle to attract passers-by to the display. David to organise display materials and appeal for volunteers.
- Clinton read out the list of films that were available from Filmart. Clint raised the possibility of needing to begin screening VHS tapes or DVDs via a data projector as suitable films for the type of event the group holds were becoming scarce. The committee agreed that part of the atmosphere is the whirring of the projector and to continue with this format for as long as possible. Committee members volunteered for providing supper.
- There was much discussion about preparations for this year's plant sale. The usual list of things that have to be organised was gone through and jobs allocated.
- The jobs for the February working bee were discussed and organised.
- Denise reported that she was waiting on a quotation for a steel version of the interpretive shelters that are part of the new walking trails within Whyalla. When it is received the group can look at erecting one as a trailhead to the Wild Dog Hill walking trail.

## Working Bee

The last working bee was held on Saturday December 11th, and consisted of members potting on some seedlings and cuttings at Landrace Rd.

The next working bee is this coming Saturday, the 12th of February at 9:00am at Wild Dog Hill.

Good progress has been made on the large patch of Carrion Flower that the scouts found last year, but some more spraying needs to be carried out to finish it off.

Some maintenance work also needs to be carried out on the toilet to keep it looking good. Some painting needs to be done and Clinton is going to try and find a more forceful door closer to keep the door closed and the birds out.

## Contacts

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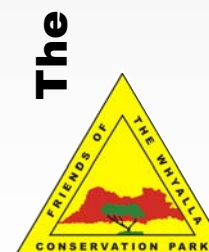
### Correspondence Secretary – Denise Sharp

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Newsletter of the  
Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park  
PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600  
Web: [www.fwcp.org](http://www.fwcp.org)  
Volunteers Working For Conservation

# The Myall Post



February 2005



## President's Message

We appear to be due to receive a long awaited Christmas present. A recent telephone call from Environment Minister John Hill's office confirmed that negotiations between OneSteel and DEH were progressing again and that we should have a favourable result on the Native Vegetation agreement before Christmas. Well Christmas has come and gone and still no result.

When the agreement is in place, DEH will receive \$10,000 for the purpose of fencing the park and a further \$2000 per year for the next 10 years to undertake pest plant and animal control in the park. This money will then be passed from DEH to our group to allow the work to be undertaken.

This agreement has seen more than 12 months of negotiation/inaction over what is a relatively simple matter. While the negotiations have been going on, we used our own funds to fence the western boundary. This means that we have drawn down our cash reserves and have also lost the interest that would have been on the \$4,800 that we paid out for the fencing. We have also lost one year's spring weather, which is the best time to do pest control, as weeds are at their greenest and rabbits are most likely to be breeding.

One piece of good news is that the spraying of Carrion Flower that was done at the October working bee appears to have been quite successful. Council provided a mix of Roundup, Horti-oil and blue dye for the work. The oil allows the herbicide to penetrate the waxy skin of the Carrion flower, while the blue dye allows the spray operator to see where they have sprayed. A follow up inspection showed that most plants that had been sprayed were dead or dying. It remains to be seen whether there will be any regeneration of the Carrion flower. We will do some follow up spraying at the February working bee.

The calendar for the next two months is very busy and I look forward to seeing you at several of the events.

Clinton Garrett

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Members at last years' Xmas BBQ. From top left: Ella Smith, David Poyner, Marie O'Shea, Jacky Vonow, Denise Sharp, Ross Vonow, Rodney Dunham, Bev Dunham and Marg Garrett.

## Important Dates

Make sure that these dates are entered into your diary!

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

Committee Meeting  
Thursday 17th February @ 7:30pm  
267 Landrace Rd

**Display**  
**Friday 25th, Saturday 26th February**  
Westland Shopping Centre

**Film Night in the Park**  
**Saturday 26th February @ 8:00pm**  
Wild Dog Hill

**Plant Sale Label Cutting**  
**Tuesday 8th March @ 7:30pm**  
267 Landrace Rd

**Plant Sale Labelling and Packing**  
**Friday 11th March @ 7:00pm**  
267 Landrace Rd

**Plant Sale**  
**Saturday 12th March @ 6:30am**  
Cnr Hincks and Nicolson Aves

## Park Roster

The following individuals or families have volunteered to empty the bins, check the toilet, and check the Park on the weekends beginning Friday:

**5th February** - Garretts

**12th February** - Carters

**19th February** - Sharp / Poyner / Smith

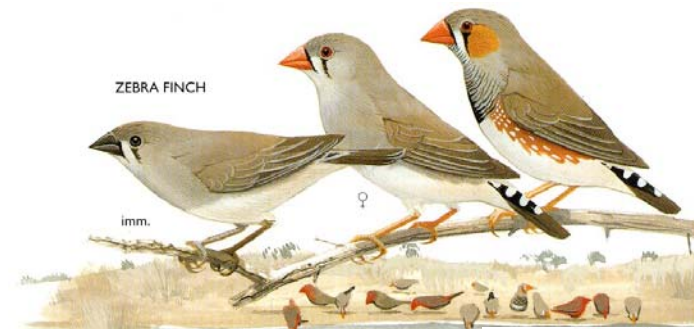
**26th February** - Garretts

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



Field Guide to the Birds of Australia

### Zebra Finch

This is a bird that most people are probably familiar with, but perhaps have only seen in a cage. Males are easily distinguished from the females by their orange cheek patches. In aviary populations there are a number of colour mutations, including the white birds which do not have the orange patches.

It is Australia's smallest finch, it's most abundant, and most widespread, absent only from Tasmania, Cape York, the SW tip of WA and a coastal belt of SE Australia. They are quite at home in the arid interior and live in small flocks up to 100 birds wherever there is a nearby source of water. Their metabolic rate is lower than other finches which is a great advantage in reducing water loss.

Their call is a nasal twang and in the bush may well be heard before being seen. Food is mostly grass seeds but they will also take insects especially when breeding. This can occur at anytime of the year and in good conditions almost continuously, being halted only by drought and the coldest weeks of winter.

They build a closed in spherical nest of grass stems lined with feathers, and often build a number of nests communally in the same bush. The four or five white eggs take 2 weeks to hatch, and the young 3 weeks to fledge. By 10 weeks the young are in adult plumage, sexually mature, and able to breed.

Ella Smith

## Aust. Plants Society

As mentioned in the last Myall Post, the Friends have joined the Australian Plants Society. As a consequence, we now receive copies of both the Australian and SA Journals.

The Society is also looking to form a Regional group at Port Augusta - a meeting will be held on Tuesday February 8th. For more information, or if you'd like to borrow the Journals, please contact Denise Sharp.

## 2005 Plant Sale

Arguably the largest event on the Friends' calendar is the annual Australian Native Plant Sale. The sale is the group's largest fundraiser, but also demands the greatest involvement from members.

This year's sale is on Saturday March 12th at 8:30am, and will be held at the usual location at the corner of Hincks and Nicolson Avenues. There are over 1,600 plants available for sale, from over 130 different species. All plants will be sold for \$4.00.

Prior to the sale, there are several events that will require help from members.

Firstly, with this newsletter, you will find some posters advertising the sale. Please place these up in your neighbourhood or at work (please don't forget to ask permission, and remove them after the sale!).

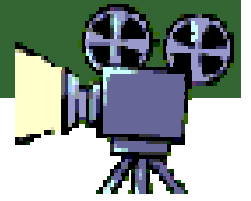
Secondly, the labels for the plants require laminating, cutting, hole-punched and sorted. This will occur on Tuesday 8th March at 7:30pm at David and Denise's house at 267 Landrace Road. Around 4 -6 members are need for this.

Then all the plants require labeling and packing into trailers for transportation to the sale site and many hands make light work! The labeling and packing occurs the night before the sale, on Friday 11th March from 7:00pm (at 267 Landrace Rd). Due to good member turnout in recent years this once onerous four hour job has been easily completed in around two and a half hours.

Finally, we need help on the day, unpacking plants from 6:30am and helping with the sale from 8:30am. There are plenty of jobs for people to be able to help with, and you don't need to know anything about plants!



## Film Night



The Friends' film nights in the Park are always popular, and another one is scheduled for the night of Saturday February 26th.

The audience should arrive at 8:00pm and bring their own chairs. Supper will be available prior to the films being screened and the audience is asked to contribute a gold coin to cover costs for the evening.

The following 16mm films will be screened:

- **The Unloading Of The Sea Slug.** Unloading of a missile system for testing at Woomera. Apparently the first ten minutes of this film are good for showing how small Whyalla was in 1954
- **3 Stooges G.I. Want To Go Home** An early 3 Stooges (1946) - they are discharged from the army and as there is no housing available, they set up home in a vacant lot with their girlfriends. 20 minutes of 3 Stooges madness
- **Storm Boy** - The Colin Thiele classic edited down and one opinion rates it a better film than the original. 33 minutes
- **The Rudd Family Comes To Town.** Dad inherits a women's fashion shop in the city, so Dad & Dave have to move into town to manage it. See what was in fashion in 1938 and have a good laugh. 85 minutes.

In addition to the Plant Sale posters, there are also posters advertising this function that are included with this newsletter.

## Westland Display

### Volunteers wanted!

Friends' members may remember that for many years, the group put a lot of effort into a display at the Whyalla Show each year. The committee decided a couple of years ago that it didn't think that the group was getting it's money's worth and that we would get just as much exposure by erecting a display for a few days in the Westland Shopping Centre - and its free!

You may have noticed on your calendar that Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th of February have been allocated for a display this year. We will be using the display to advertise the Film Night and the Plant Sale.

We have some members whom have already volunteered to be present to answer questions and sell raffle tickets, however it would be great if a few more members could volunteer to look after the display for an hour or so at a time. Please give David a ring on 8645-4442 and let him know if you can spare an hour or so on Friday or on Saturday morning.