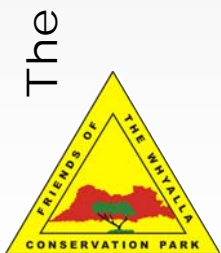




Newsletter of the  
Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park  
PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600  
Web: www.fwcp.org  
Volunteers Working For Conservation

# The Myall Post



February 2006



## President's Message

It was pleasing to see that Denise Sharp's contribution to the Whyalla Community was recognised with a Community Service Award from the Whyalla City Council on Australia Day.

There is no doubting Denise's commitment to creating a better environment both in our community and beyond. Her involvement with our group began in 1996, when she shifted from Adelaide to take up a position with the Council as a Policy and Environmental Planner. At that stage, Council was involved in the preparation of its Local Environment Plan. Denise had a major role in the preparation of that plan. She was the secretary/organiser, who made sure that the project kept on making progress.

At our 1997 AGM, Denise was nominated for the position of secretary, a position that she has held since that time. Her contacts with environment groups have proven to be of great benefit to the group in many ways. Similarly, her contacts within Council have made it possible for us to carry out projects more quickly. As secretary, she has written hundreds of letters and made many phone calls to organise events and working bees.

For each meeting, she has prepared a detailed agenda, to guide us through the work that needs to be done. These are time consuming activities and they have been done well.

Many of our committee meetings have been held at Landrace Road. All of our committee members are better fed as result of the suppers that Denise has prepared for these meetings. At Plant Sale time, there are potting days and label cutting nights that she has catered for too. As well as taking part in working bees, Denise has taken on the role of caterer for these events. This involves work for her both before and after the working bee.

Her willingness to give so freely of her time to the Friends group is appreciated.

In the near future she may not be able to give the group the attention that she has in the past, as she will become a mother in late April. We wish her and David well for the impending birth of their first child.

Clint Garrett



*Lance Dean, John Carter and Clint Garrett working on repairing a section of fence in the north west corner of the Park during the December Working Bee.*

# Important Dates

Make sure that these dates are entered into your diary!

**Working Bee**  
**Clean Up Australia Day**  
**Saturday 4th March @ 9:00am**  
**Pt Augusta Road**

**Film Night**  
**Saturday 4th March @ 8:00pm**  
**Wild Dog Hill**  
*See separate article next page*

**Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday 23rd March @ 7:30pm**  
**Location TBA**

**General Meeting**  
**Guest Speaker**  
**Thursday 23rd March @ 8:30pm**  
**Location TBA**

**Working Bee**  
**Saturday 8th April @ 9:00am**  
**Wild Dog Hill**

# 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:

**March 3rd** - Hughes / Hollingworth

**March 10th** - Sharp / Poyner / Smith

**March 17th** - vacant

**March 24th** - Nields

**March 31st** - vacant

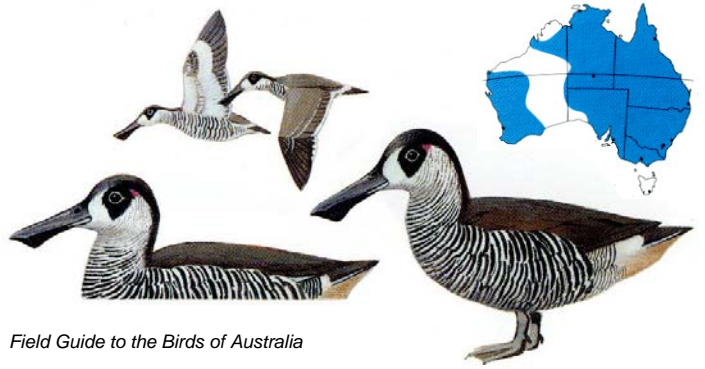
**April 7th** - vacant

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*

## Pink-eared Duck

It is difficult to know when we may ever see this pretty little duck in the park again, as it is some years since we have had water in the dam. It gets its name from the small pink patch behind the eye, and has also been called the Zebra duck by some in reference to the Zebra like dark on white barring of the plumage of the front of the neck and the underbody. The distinctive shovel bill and striped plumage make it an easy duck to recognise.

A wandering nomad, the Pink-eared Duck follows the unpredictable floodwaters across Australia, feeding on plankton in the shallow ephemeral stretches of water. They rarely leave the water except to roost at the edge, and will fly mostly at night when necessary to find new feeding grounds.

Because of their nomadic habits they breed at anytime of the year if the conditions are right. Their nest can be found from a few centimetres to several metres over water, in any situation that will support it adequately. Tree hollows, logs, bushes, or old nests of other water birds may provide a platform for their nest of a mass of down which surrounds or may cover their eggs. The clutch is of up to eight whitish eggs which hatch in approx. four weeks.

You may from time to time find this duck at the Whyalla Wetlands and other bodies of water around the city.

Ella Smith

## BEER SALE



**15 STUBBIES**  
**BEST OFFER ACCEPTED**  
**SEE CLINT GARRETT**

As any good beer drinker knows, you can't leave it too long before you drink it (apparently!)

The beer that Clinton has is left over from the Friend's Xmas function.

## Film Night

Unfortunately, the last film night in November last year was very cold, so hopefully the upcoming film night on Saturday March 4th will be a bit warmer.

The Committee noted that members and the public who were attending our film nights seemed to enjoy the comedies more than the feature films, so this time we have picked out five films that are all comedies and/or satires:

- **All In Good Time** - The patrons of a pub in a small English town eagerly await the return from holidays of the voluptuous Irish barmaid. *United Kingdom, 1964, 1 film reel (25 min.) colour*
- **The Hat: Is This War Necessary?** - An amusing treatment of the serious matter of world peace. Two sentries are patrolling the border between hostile countries; one drops his hat and it falls across the line; when he tries to retrieve it, war becomes imminent. Dialogue and music are improvised by Dizzie Gillespie and Dudley Moore. *United States, 1964, 1 film reel (18 min.) colour*
- **Motor Mania** - Uses rich satire to reveal the appalling change which takes place when an average man takes the wheel of an automobile. *United States, 1953, Walt Disney Productions, 1 film reel (8 min.) colour*
- **The Dentist** - Written by W.C. Fields, 'The dentist' begins with a rather placid breakfast, a run in with the ice man and then on to the golf course where Fields, to the dismay of his companions, makes a hole-in-one on a ball drop over his shoulder. In all, a typical Fieldsian comedy. *United States, 1932, 1 film reel (29 min.) black & white*
- **Barney Oldfield's Race For Life** - A rather comical melodrama starring Mack Sennett and the Keystone Kops in which a lovely girl is abducted by a dastardly villain who chains her to the railway tracks. Barney Oldfield and her bashful suitor, Mack Sennett, race to beat the train whilst the Keystone Kops follow behind on a railway trolley. *1 film reel (16 min.) black & white, silent*

The films will be shown once it is dark enough, but please be at Wild Dog Hill by 8:00pm to ensure that you are seated and comfortable before dark. You will need to bring your own chair.

As usual, there will be supper supplied and guests are asked to make a gold coin donation per person for the evening.



## Reminder

Clean Up Australia Day is Sunday March 5th. The Friends Group will clean up the section of the Port Augusta Road in front of the Park at their working bee on Saturday March 4th.

## Weed Of The Month



Horehound is one of the more common weeds in the Park—it is most common in areas where water lays after rain. It has burry seeds that stick to anything soft and as a result has spread over much of Australia's pastoral country, being spread by sheep.

Horehound was originally introduced into Australia as a garden and medicinal herb and was first noticed in South Australia in 1841. It has a bitter taste and is generally not palatable to animals, and can taint the meat of stock with a strong flavour and odour.

## Landcare Group

Interested in the environment & being involved in local projects?

Looking for volunteers to form a new Whyalla Landcare Group

The group is looking for people who are interested in hands on activities, including maintaining & replanting areas, working with schools, learning more about the local environment; assisting Council in organising national events like Clean Up Australia Day & National Tree Day & being advocates for the environment in our city

## Public Information Session

Wednesday, 1 March 2006

7.30pm

Whyalla Hockey Club Rooms

(cnr Nicolson Ave & Searle St)

Tea, coffee & light supper will be provided

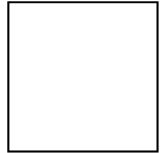
For more information phone:

Gerry Gillen 8644 0041

Denise Sharp 0427 188 546



Friends of the Whyalla  
Conservation Park  
PO Box 805  
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## Meeting Report

At the committee meeting on Thursday 31 January, the following items were discussed:

- Trail header sign: Clinton presented to the committee a design for the information board shelter following discussions with Normco representatives. The agreement with Normco is they will supply the materials to build the unit with the Friends group paying a fee of \$200.00 for design work. It was agreed that a proper plan design document is required for reporting purposes and Clinton will follow this up. Expected erection date is to be confirmed.
- Film Night in the Park, 4 March: Further planning for this event took place with a decision to show the following short movies – The Hat (18mins), The Dentist (29 mins), Motor Mania (Disney cartoon) (8 mins), All in Good Time (25 mins) & Race for Life (16 mins). All of the movies are available from PLAIN at no cost. A further discussion was held regarding the weight issue of the movie screen and its handling and it was agreed that a series of handles be installed, Clinton to organise.
- NACAP Plant Order: It was reported that 33 Myall seedlings have struck with 20 going to NACAP for revegetation work along the new pipe line to Iron Duke in March with the remaining 13 available for the group in its revegetation work in the Park.
- Pink Forms Reporting: A fairly lengthy discussion was held following the latest correspondence received from CLB and the completion of pink reporting forms to the Department. In the past the group has completed these forms in a fairly general sense and estimation of volunteer time. The Department is now seeking clarification as to the accuracy of the figures provided for reporting purposes and the need for the group to not only identify working bee volunteer time but to also

report on other activities including meetings, administration, public events (eg; films nights, displays, general meetings), bin roster patrols etc. A quick estimation is that for all of these activities members spend approximately 1400hrs per year organising and completing these activities.

- Onesteel Native Vegetation Agreement funding: The group has finally received the reimbursement money for the works completed on the new western fence for a total of ~ \$5,500.00.
- Weed Problems: It was reported that a recent drive through the new section of the park unveiled a couple of disturbing weed areas including a large patch of saffron thistle and horehound. It was agreed to take action at the next working bee held on Sat, 11 February.

## Contacts

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