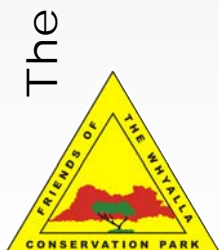




Newsletter of the
Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park
PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600
Web: www.fwcp.org
Volunteers Working For Conservation

The Myall Post



February 2007



President's Message

Back in September 2006, Treasurer Kevin Foley put out a press release under the heading, "**Budget Backs SA Environment**". In that statement there is some good news and some bad news. Yes there is extra money for the River Murray – politicians are just starting to appreciate how important a secure water supply is. Yes there are going to be 20 extra rangers appointed. These people are being employed to help co-ordinate volunteers.

But there are also approximately \$20 million dollars worth of cuts to the DEH budget. Some of the most significant of these cuts are as follows.

- \$3 million reduction in information technology, data collection and mapping.
- \$1 million because of reduced koala management on Kangaroo Island
- \$2 million from reducing nature conservation programs
- \$3.7 million from savings within EPA (An organisation that is already under severe cost pressures)

To top it off there is "In addition the **following efficiency dividend** will be delivered over the next four years - \$1.7m within the Department for Environment and Heritage" <http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news.php?id=634>

What these changes mean is that there will be less ranger support as jobs are reduced in the regions. An analysis of infrastructure shows that DEH has at least \$300 million of infrastructure and probably much more. In industry it is normal to put aside 5% of budget for maintenance. In the case of DEH, this would mean spending at least \$1.5 million per year on maintenance. DEH does not have anywhere near this amount. Facilities will not be maintained or will need to be removed, as there is not enough money for maintenance. Funding will go to those parks with high levels of visitation and features that are not duplicated in other areas.

So far as ranger support is concerned, a suggested solution is for groups in an area to hold regional meetings, so that ranger staff, only have one meeting to attend rather than 3 or 4. Some groups in our region have volunteered to try this approach to see if it is viable.

For the Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park, this seems an unlikely situation as there are no other groups close by, except for Friends of Kimba and they are administered as part of the Eyre District. We will continue to be a largely self sufficient group, for as long as you keep working for the group as you have done over the past year.

Clint Garrett



The last time the Dam looked like this was in 1995! This picture was taken by Clint two days after the heavy rain on January 19th. The rain gauge in the Park recorded that 181mm had fallen during that week. Significant damage has occurred to tracks and the walking trail.

Important Dates

Make sure you put these upcoming dates in your diary:

Committee Meeting
Thursday 15th February @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

Film Night in the Park
Saturday 24th February @ TBA
Wild Dog Hill Car Park

Display / Plant Sale Advertising
Friday 9th March - Saturday 10th March
Westland Shopping Centre

Committee Meeting
Thursday 15th March @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

Plant Label Cutting
Tuesday 20th March @ 7:00pm
267 Landrace Rd

Plant Labelling & Packing
Friday 23rd March @ 6:00pm
267 Landrace Rd

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:

February 17th & 18th—Fennell

February 24th & 25th—Dean

March 3rd & 4th—Waters

March 10th & 11th—Dean

March 17th & 18th—Garrett

March 24th & 25th—vacant

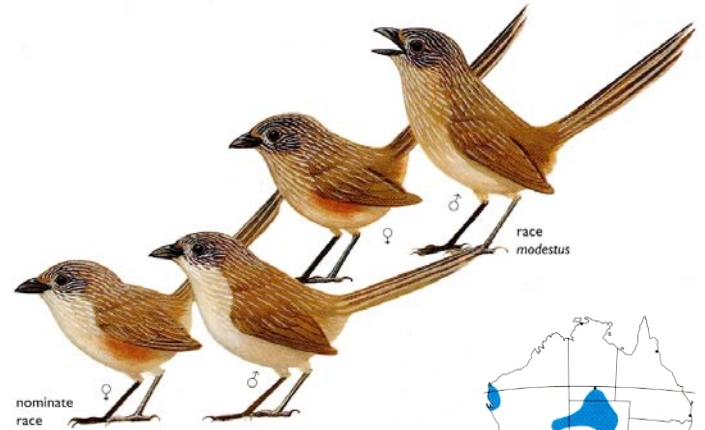
March 31st & April 1st - vacant

April 7th & 8th - 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



Field Guide to the Birds of Australia

Thick-billed Grasswren

This small wren, only 17cm long, is rarely seen due to its size, colouration, and habits. It is dressed in shades of brown, darker above and lighter below, and finely streaked with white.

They forage mainly on the ground in pairs or small groups, dashing across open ground from the base of one bush to the next, thus largely keeping out of sight.

This species has quite limited distribution, mostly in South Australia in two areas. One area stretches from Whyalla to Pt Augusta and out to the Gawler Ranges and Pimba. A second area is from northern Flinders Ranges near Leigh Creek out to William Creek and Coober Pedy. There is also an isolated population around Shark Bay in WA. In our Park I have found them at the eastern end of Crux Rock.

An omnivorous species it will feed on seeds, fruits, insects, and other invertebrates. They are known to breed in winter and early spring, apparently in response to rainfall. The wrens make a nest of grasses, twigs, and bark strips very close to the ground in a low shrub such as saltbush. There are usually two eggs, creamy coloured blotched with reddish-brown. Chicks hatch in about 2 weeks and take another 2 weeks to fledge.

Ella Smith

Westland Display

We have scheduled a display in the Westland Shopping Centre on Friday the 9th and Saturday the 10th of March. The display will be a general promotion for the group and will also be advertising our Plant Sale on Saturday March 24th.

If you can volunteer a few hours to staff the display, please call David or Denise on the numbers on the back page.

Film Night

The Friends' Film Nights in the Park are becoming increasingly popular and the next one is scheduled for Saturday February 24th at 8:00pm.

The films that will be shown are:

- **Doggone Bone & Senor Droopy** - 15 mins cartoon
- **Deputy Droopy** - 10 mins cartoon
- **Making Shelter** (Canadian Survival) -15 mins approx meant to be serious but is very funny
- **I Wanna Hold Your Hand** - 104 mins - slapstick comedy about girls who will do almost anything to get to the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show

The first three films are rated "G" and the feature is rated "PG".

Supper will be provided for a gold coin donation. The audience should bring their own chair.

Friend's members who would like to help in setting up should arrive from 6:00pm.

Due to the flood damage, the main track into the Park is only accessible to 4WD vehicles, so anyone attending the night should enter the Park via the Speedway entrance.



Damage to the section of the walking trail leading up Wild Dog Hill caused by the recent heavy rain.

The Way We Were (2)

You might be aware that it is the group's 20th anniversary later this year. As a consequence, I have begun "cataloguing" our newsletters for our records. As I've been reading them, I've also been recording any interesting information from them. I thought that current members may find the information interesting, so I'll publish it sequentially each edition.

1990 - 91

Committee

President: Clinton Garrett, Minute Secretary: Pam Charlesworth, Correspondence Secretary: Derek Marchant (not elected at AGM, but seconded later), Treasurer: Nigel Smith, Publicity Officer: Margaret Garrett, Committee Members: Alvin Charlesworth, Ruth Lee-Bowie, Paul Marchant, Vaughan Moldenhauer, Peter Smith

Newsletters

Vol 4 No 1 – July 1990, Vol 4 No 2 – August 1990, Vol 4 No 3 – September 1990, Vol 4 No 4 – October 1990, Vol 4 No 5 – November 1990, Vol 4 No 6 – December 1990 (first mention of group hosting 1992 Friends Forum), Vol 4 No 7 – February 1991, Vol 4 No 8 – March 1991, Vol 4 No 9 – April 1991, Vol 4 No 10 – May 1991, Vol 4 No 11 – June 1991 (first mention of a stall at the Whyalla Show for August 1991)

Plant Sale

March 16th – profit approx \$1,700

1991-92

Committee

President: Clinton Garrett, Minute Secretary: Pam Charlesworth, Correspondence Secretary: vacant, Treasurer: Alvin Charlesworth (not elected at AGM, but seconded later), Publicity Officer: Margaret Garrett, Committee Members: Vaughan Moldenhauer, Ruth Lee-Bowie, Richard Fox, Karen Strawbridge

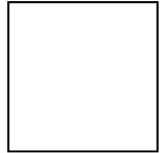
Newsletters

Vol 5 No 1 – July 1991, 6 pages, Vol 5 No 2 – August 1991, 6 pages (mention of whole of Park rabbit survey August 4th 1991, display boards completed by Vaughan Moldenhauer), Vol 5 No 3 – September 1991, 4 pages (mention that group to be awarded "Most Outstanding Friends Group" award at 1991 Friends Forum, Vol 5 No 4 – October 1991, 6 pages (Vaughan Moldenhauer awarded "Outstanding Volunteer in Parks" award at 1991 Friends Forum, mention of Park to now be closed from sunset to sunrise), Vol 5 No 5 – November / December 1991, 6 pages, Vol 5 No 6 – February 1992, 4 pages, Vol 5 No 7 – March 1992, 4 pages, Vol 5 No 8 – April 1992, 4 pages (Megan Lewis agrees to become group's patron), Vol 5 No 9 – May 1992, 2 pages, Vol 5 No 10 – June 1992, 4 pages

Plant Sale

No plant sale was held

(Continued on page 4)



Committee Report

At the last committee meeting on Thursday January 25th, the following matters were discussed:

- Clint reported on the damage to the Park following the heavy rain on Friday January 19th. Clint visited the Park on Sunday January 21st and removed 181mm of rain which had fallen over the past two days from the rain gauge.

The main track into the Park from the Lincoln Highway has been severely eroded and is now only accessible via 4WD vehicles. Clint has put up signs to indicate this.

Sections of the walking trail going up Wild Dog Hill on both sides have been washed away. The section near the top of the hill that is paved with natural rock and concrete has shown no damage at all.

Ranger Michael Wigg has visited the Park and assessed the damage and is looking to find some funds to commence repair work.

- Preparations were made for the film night on February 24th. Clint read out a selection of films that our supplier had suggested, however the committee asked Clint to ask for a different selection.
- An assessment was made of the potting on day on Saturday January 13th. It was felt that the potting went well and was completed easily.
- Clint reported on a meeting that he had attended at Kadina with other regional Friends groups regarding rationalisation of NPWS assets and staff time. The committee members thought that the continual eroding of resources to NPWS by State Governments was disgraceful.

(Continued from page 3)

1992-93

Committee

President: Clinton Garrett, Minute Secretary: Pam Charlesworth, Correspondence Secretary: Kathryn Hollingworth, Treasurer: Alvin Charlesworth, Publicity Officer: Margaret Garrett, Committee Members: Lance Dean, Richard Fox, Martin Hilton, Eddie Hughes, Vaughan Moldenhauer, Wendy Sysouphat

Newsletters

Vol 6 No 1 – July 1992, 5 pages, Vol 6 No 2 – August / September 1992, 4 pages (Friends of Parks Forum held in Whyalla August 1992), Vol 6 No 3 – October 1992, 6 pages, Vol 6 No 4 – November 1992, 4 pages, Vol 6 No 5 – December 1992, 2 pages, Vol 6 No 6 – February 1993, 2 pages, Vol 6 No 7 – March 1993, 3 pages, Vol 6 No 8 – April 1993, 5 pages, Vol 6 No 9 – May 1993, 4 pages

Plant Sale

March 26th 1993 – approx profit \$3,000

Contacts

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