



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

JANUARY 2003



I hope that you have all come through the festive season in good health and good humour. If not, may the new year be kind to you. A new year symbolises the possibility of a new start. Hence New Year's Resolutions. These trigger a host of reactions within us, resolve, determination, frustration, resignation and embody our hopes and fears, past present and future.

Whatever our personal wish list may be, for it to be effective it needs to extend beyond a wish list. If we are unable to visualise, and mean it, a situation where the desired result has been achieved, then we are unlikely to change anything. If we are unable to recognise when it's the right time to take action and take it, then it will all remain a dream. By the way, beware the sub-conscious. It's no use telling yourself one thing, if the subconscious means something else. The subconscious will always win.

I will be presumptuous and believe that we all share the desire for a future incorporating good health, tolerance and care for others, care for the environment and peace for all. These words however will translate into different visions for different individuals. I invite you all to create the world you wish for. My wish being that each world is one that can combine with the others for the benefit of all.

Ella Smith

XMAS PRESENT?

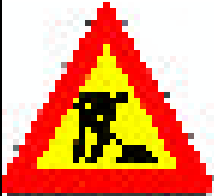
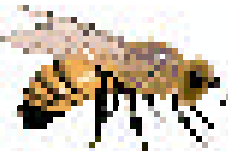
Normally, when vandalism occurs in the park, we do not publicise it in the media. This is a choice we have made, because we believe that those responsible for vandalism get a thrill out of seeing their stupidity recognised in the media. However, members need to know about this particular event.

Members will find that there is no water at the toilet, as some-one has drained the tank and stolen it along with the stand that it sat on. The tap from the hand-basin has been stolen, as has the cleaning gear that was stored in the room at the rear of the toilet.

This theft was a well organised effort as it required the cutting of the lock on the gate and the lock on the room in order to get to the tank. The thieves must have used a trailer or a utility to take our equipment away. Police felt that the theft happened two days before John Carter found out about it.



NO MEDIA PLEASE ON THIS ISSUE

In future working bees will be on the SECOND Saturday of the month.

RICHARD'S PIPIT

Another 'little brown bird'. The last one I promise for some time. The next bird will be more colourful. Look for this bird on the ground. It eats, sleeps and nests on the ground. Hence the nickname of Ground-lark, even though it is not closely related to larks. A little larger than a House Sparrow it superficially has similar combinations of varying shades of brown as the female of that species. It does stand out though, when you do manage to spot it, because it keeps mostly to open ground and has a definitive up and down tail flick which is easily noticeable.

Feeding mostly on grasshoppers, ants, beetles, caterpillars, in fact on whatever insects are available, Pipits run along the ground darting here and there to catch their prey.

They breed in spring and early summer with the nest being a grass-lined depression in the ground. Like most ground nesting birds their clutch of two to four eggs are coloured such as to be camouflaged, off white to light brown, spotted and shaded with darker grey and brown. As with most birds of their size incubation is about 14 days and a further 14 days for fledging of the nestlings.

Have you seen this bird? I would like to hear of it if you do. My impression is that the prevalence of the Richard's Pipit around Whyalla has decreased dramatically since 1995. Previously fairly common, it now seems to be hard to find.



Richard's Pipit – drawing by Peter Slater



MORE CARRION FLOWER

Another new outbreak of Carrion flower has been found in the park. This one is about 100 metres south of the northern boundary on the eastern power-line track. It comprises about 10 plants over an area of about 100 metres X 10 metres. Clint removed 48 kilos of plants from this location and an area near the southern boundary of the park.

These plants are seeding and one seedling was found on Tregalana Station. Please be alert for any other outbreaks. If you do find this plant, please let Clint know of its exact location.

MEMBERS WITH MANY SKILLS

The Friends group is lucky to have many members who are multi-talented. Their skills make it possible for us to achieve quite a lot.

Our newest member, Bob Hannan is no exception. Although he is now retired, he brings to the group skills in metal-working and fabrication. Bob also is keen to learn more about the natural environment.

Last week Bob and Clint reconstructed some fencing on the northern boundary. A vehicle had been driven through the fence because the adjacent gate was locked. The finished job is neat and will serve to keep sheep from Tregolana out of the park.



PLANT SALE 2003 TIMELINE

Major potting session
at 267 Landrace Road
Sunday 12th January 2.00 pm

Packing session
Friday March 21st 6.30 pm.

PLANT SALE
Saturday March 22nd 8.30 am

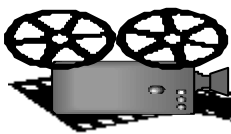
WESTLANDS DISPLAY

The Friends group will be having a display in the Westlands Mall Thursday, Friday and Saturday January 16th – 18th Thursday 5.00 pm – 9.00 pm Friday 9.00 am - 5.30 p.m., Saturday 9.00 am to noon

The display gives us an opportunity to tell Whyalla about our good work. We hope to encourage some new members too as well as having a raffle.

If you have an hour or two that you can spend on any of those days handing out Friends Information please give Denise Sharp a call on **8645-4442** After hours

JANUARY 16TH TO 18TH



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

Mailing Label

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Would you like to travel through the Great Victoria and Gibson Deserts???
You can - all you have to do is be at the Edward John Eyre High School Library on
January 30th at 7.30 pm.

Travel guides Marg and Clint will take you on a photographic journey to some truly
beautiful country in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Bring some supper and we are guaranteed to have a pleasant time

CALENDAR

January 12th Major Potting up Ses-
2.00 pm sion

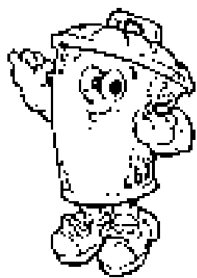
January Display at Westlands
16,17,18th Shopping Centre

January 30th General Meeting
7.30 pm EJ Eyre Library

February 8th Working Bee Wild Dog
9.00 am Hill

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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:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Jan 4th-5th | Fennells |
| Jan 11th- 12th | Nields |
| Jan 18th – 19th | Charlesworths |
| Jan 25th – 26th | Sharp/Poyner/Smith |