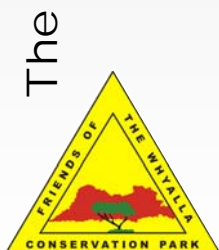




News letter of the  
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park  
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600  
 Web: www.fwcp.org  
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

# The Myall Post



January 2007



## President's Message

While working in the park recently, I noticed that a number of the very oldest trees in the park had been ripped apart by the winds that came with the December 22<sup>nd</sup> storm. Some of these trees were in the 500 year plus age group. Their deaths caused me to think about the value of trees and their ability to survive hard times.

Trees (and all plants for that matter) act as nutrient pumps, as their root systems reach deep into the ground and absorb various minerals. These minerals become part of the tissues of the plant. When leaves and twigs fall to the ground, these minerals become part of the compost that carpets the ground. The minerals are also passed up the food chain to all of the animals that eat the plants. 500 years worth of improving the environment is a fine effort which we should appreciate when we look at the trees in the park. They may not be tall and straight like the Karri trees of Western Australia, but they are amazing survivors in a very tough environment.

Economists at the Chicago school of Economics have put a value on a tree. They calculate that over a period of 50 years, that a tree in a North American forest will produce \$31,250 of oxygen, absorb \$62,500 of Carbon dioxide, contribute

\$31,250 to soil fertility, recycle \$37,500 of water. They did not include the value of the timber or of fruit from the tree. Nor did they have a way of calculating the value of the ability of trees to control soil erosion, to create habitat or to provide beauty. Their conservative estimate is that each tree was worth at least \$196,250. ( This is in 1995 US Dollars)

Assoc. Prof. Tina Offler, University of Newcastle and Bill Nethery, State Forests of NSW did a calculation for the value of oxygen produced by a Red Cedar ( *Toona australis*) over 50 years they came up with a figure of about \$6 million worth of oxygen. I don't know what the value of our trees is, but these figures are cause for thought.

The trees and other plants for the March Plant Sale have now been propagated. Some of them have been potted on already and are doing well thanks to Ella's care. The big potting day for in preparation for the Friends Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January – see the notice in this newsletter for details. We will be potting approximately 800 plants, so the more people who can come to help, the faster the job will get done. I look forward to seeing you there.

Clint Garrett



*Marg Garrett and Bev Dunham recently potted on some cuttings grown by Clint for the Friends' 2007 Australian Native Plant Sale. There are 800 plants that need potting on soon and we need your help - see page 2 for details*

# Important Dates

Make sure you put these upcoming dates in your diary:

**Working Bee - Potting On**  
**Saturday 13th January @ 2:00pm**  
267 Landrace Rd  
(Lots of help required -  
please see article this page)

Committee Meeting  
Thursday 25th January @ 7:30pm  
267 Landrace Rd

**Working Bee**  
**Saturday 10th February @ 9:00am**  
Wild Dog Hill

Committee Meeting  
Thursday 22nd 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

# 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:

**January 6th & 7th** - Lance & Elaine Dean

**January 13th & 14th** - Poyner / Sharp / Smith

**January 20th & 21st** - Clint & Marg Garrett

**January 27th & 28th**

**February 3rd & 4th** - Jo-anne Waters

**February 10th & 11th**

**February 17th & 18th**

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



## Peregrine Falcon

The Peregrine Falcon is the supreme avian hunter. It is widespread across the world but is nonetheless uncommon to rare. Light underneath and dark above, with a black hood, it is a handsome raptor.

The Australian Hobby, also found across Australia, is quite similar but is smaller, about the size of a feral pigeon. The Peregrine is one of the swiftest and deadliest birds of prey, being able to swoop on its prey at speeds of more than 300km/h.

Pigeons are commonly on the menu, in fact any bird in the open when it is hunting is in peril, even if they are larger than the Peregrine. They will also take rabbits and other mammals if the opportunity arises.

They breed in spring but build no nest. The eggs are most often laid in hollows on cliff ledges, sometimes on building ledges, in tree hollows, or stick nests of other birds. Usually 3 eggs buff coloured with darker blotches. Young hatch in about 32 days and take 5 to 6 weeks to fledge.

Ella Smith

# Potting On

On Saturday 13th January at 2:00pm we would appreciate as many helpers as possible to pot on the young seedlings and cuttings into the larger pots that our plants are sold in. We will have over 800 plants to pot.

You don't need any experience - we'll give you a quick lesson in potting. You just need a few hours spare and some enthusiasm.

If the forecast temperature for the day is over 38 degrees Celsius, then the start time may be delayed, or we may even move the potting to the Sunday depending upon the forecast. Please ring David or Denise on 8645-4442 for advice.

# Xmas BBQ Report

Seventeen members turned out to celebrate the past year and Xmas at the Friends' Xmas BBQ on Saturday December 16th.

Held at Clint and Margaret Garrett's house, there was plenty good cheer amongst the attendees: - Rodney & Bev Dunham, Denise Sharp & David & Hayden Poyner, Ella Smith, Clint & Marg Garrett, Alan & Joan Nield, John, Rosemary, Ellen and John Carter, Gerry Gillen & Bob, and Lance Dean.

John Carter (jnr.) won the competition for throwing a paper plane the furthest (photo, bottom). After dessert, the remaining members played "Man Bites Dog" - a card game where contestants try to create humorous tabloid newspaper headlines - that generated considerable laughter.



# The Way We Were (1)

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.

## 1987-88

### **Committee**

President: Daine Burden, Secretary: Shaune Fox, Treasurer: Pam Charlesworth, Publicity Officer: Clinton Garrett, Committee Members: Richard Fox, Geraldine Anderson, Alvin Charlesworth

### **Newsletters**

First newsletter – not numbered or dated, November 1987, December 1987, February 1988, March 1988, April 1988, May 1988, June 1988

## 1988-89

### **Committee**

President: Daine Burden, Secretary: Clinton Garrett, Treasurer: Nigel Smith, Publicity Officer: Clinton Garrett, Committee Members: Deb Adams, Richard Fox, Nigel Gillett, Vaughan Moldenhauer

### **Newsletters**

Vol 2 No 1 – July 1988, Vol 2 No 2 – August 1988, Vol 2 No 3 – September 1988, Vol 2 No 4 – October 1988, Vol 2 No 5 – November 1988 (first mention of a plant sale), Vol 3 No 1 – February 1989, Vol 3 No 2 – March 1989, Vol 3 No 3 – April 1989, Vol 3 No 4 – May 1989, Vol 3 No 6 – July 1989

### **Plant Sale**

May 27<sup>th</sup> 1989, 8:30am – profit of \$837

## 1989-90

### **Committee**

President: Clint Garrett, Secretary: Vacant, Treasurer: Richard Fox, Publicity Officer: Margaret Garrett, Committee Members: Daine Burden, Nigel Gillett, Ruth Lee-Bowie, Vaughan Moldenhauer, Nigel Smith

### **Newsletters**

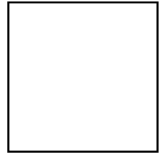
Vol 3 No 7 – August 1989 (first mention of a management plan for the Park), Vol 3 No 8 – September 1989, Vol 3 No 9 – October 1989, Vol 3 No 10 – November 1989, Vol 3 No 11 – December 1989, Vol 3 No 12 – February 1990 (opening of walking trail February 25<sup>th</sup> 1990), Vol 3 No 13 – March 1990, Vol 3 No 14 – April 1990, Vol 3 No 15 – May 1990, Vol 3 No 16 – June 1990

### **Plant Sale**

March 31<sup>st</sup> 1990, 8:30am – profit of approx \$1,100



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



## Working Bee Report

At the working bee on Saturday November 11th, John Carter, Lance Dean and Rodney Dunham (pictured below) began construction of a new windbreak to shelter the growing plants for the 2007 plant sale.

The previous windbreak was constructed of treated pine logs and had lasted for three years before blowing down in a storm. While the windbreak was being built, other members potted on plants that Clint had propagated.



## WWW Sites

Here are some websites that I have in my favorites and that you may find useful or humorous:

- Darwin Awards: [www.darwinawards.com](http://www.darwinawards.com)
- IgNobel Prizes: [www.improbable.com](http://www.improbable.com)
- Urban Legends: [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)
- How Stuff Works: [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)
- Useless Information: <http://home.nycap.rr.com/useless/>
- Mr. Smarty Pants: <http://www.austinchronicle.com/mrpants/>
- Fun With Words: [www.fun-with-words.com](http://www.fun-with-words.com)
- Encyclopedia Mythica: [www.pantheon.org](http://www.pantheon.org)
- DVD Rewinder: [www.dvdrewinder.com](http://www.dvdrewinder.com)
- Engrish: [www.english.com](http://www.english.com)

## Contacts

### Postal Address

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<http://www.fwcp.org>

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[denisesharp@ozemail.com.au](mailto:denisesharp@ozemail.com.au)

### Publicity Officer – David Poyner

8640-3444 (w) 8645-4442 (h) 0411-098-000 (m)  
[davidpoyner@ozemail.com.au](mailto:davidpoyner@ozemail.com.au)