



Newsletter of the
Friends Of Whyalla Conservation
Park
PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600

The Myall Post

The



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President's Message

JUNE 2003



Once again we have been the victims of people who think that theft is OK. During the week May 13th-May 19th, thirteen horizontal barrier pine logs were stolen from the Wild Dog Hill picnic area. In the process of stealing the logs, those responsible did considerable additional damage to the uprights that supported the logs.

Anger at this behaviour tempts me to launch into an abusive tirade towards the culprits. However that's pointless. You don't need to read it, the cretins responsible wouldn't get to read it and it would contribute nothing to understanding why they did it.

What sort of beliefs do they hold to believe that it's OK to steal?

Do they believe that it's OK because the theft is from a Conservation Park?

Would it still be OK to do it to their neighbours, or their family? The bottom line is that if it is not yours, it is theft. This is wrong not only in a moral sense, but our society cannot remain functioning if too many people tell themselves some excuse to thieve.

The big question with any human action is what would be the result if well all did whatever I am about to do? Obviously much is undesirable,

and some things would lead to anarchy. Fortunately most people have an automatic sense of this and generally behave decently and cooperatively.

Finally I draw your attention to the AGM. I encourage you to attend what should be an enjoyable social meeting as well as fulfilling a mandatory function.

Ella Smith

SOLSTICE CELEBRATION JUNE 21ST

June 21st is the winter solstice. This is the day on which the earth reaches one end of its elliptical path around the sun. In the Southern Hemisphere, this is our shortest day. For people living in Whyalla, we will have 9.5 hours of daylight and 14.5 hours of dark.

You will notice that in the Northern Hemisphere, Christmas is celebrated just after the northern winter solstice. This was the Roman feast of Saturnalia - a feast to mark the return of the Sun. We will celebrate mid-winter's day with our own event.

The AGM of the Friends group coincides with the solstice and we will be celebrating this at Edward John Eyre High Library at 4.00 pm.

Our guest speaker will be Mr Jeff Wright, the new CEO of the Whyalla City Council. Before coming to Whyalla, Jeff has managed the EPA in Victoria, Sydney Water Board as well as other councils.

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**WORKING BEE
SATURDAY JUNE 14TH**

REPAIR VANDALISM

MOTHER'S DAY WAS A RAINY DAY.

The Mother's Day walk was well supported by the public, with 25 people arriving for the walk to Cheese-board Hill.

Before we started walking, a mass of cloud began to build up in the South Western sky. About 20 minutes into the walk, light rain began. We were able to reach a view-point near the crest of the hill before turning back to the shelter of the cars. As the rain became heavier, it was decided that afternoon tea would be more pleasant if it were under shelter.

Most of the walkers returned to Garrett's where we had a pleasant time talking, eating and listening to the sound of rain on the roof of the verandah.

It has been suggested that any time that Whyalla needs rain, the Friends Group should organise a public event. That seems to be quite a reliable magnet for rain.



MISSING BRAND

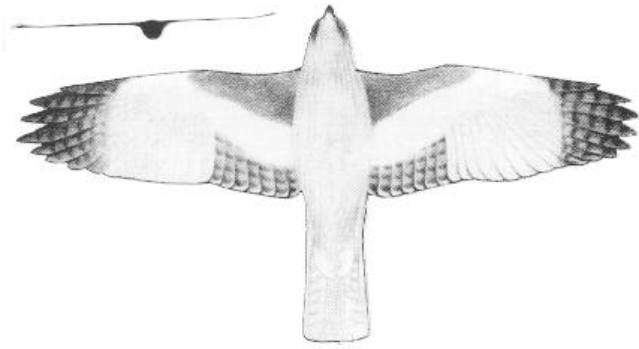
Has anyone seen this logo lately. A well established brand for more than 30 years. The logo has high recognition factor and is the symbol of an organisation that is much appreciated by the people of South Australia.

The familiar Sturt Pea logo seems to have disappeared. Can you imagine Coca Cola getting rid of its brand and logo?

Where has the logo gone?
Why would anyone remove it from the website and other materials???



Some of the walkers dry out and have a chat over afternoon tea



LITTLE EAGLE

Those members who were at the last working bee were fortunate enough to see a juvenile Little Eagle gliding over the park. Although this species is not often seen in Whyalla, it can occasionally be seen hunting over areas such as the park.

A solitary species Little Eagles can be found across most of Australia, favouring open wooded country. There are two colour morphs, the light one being most common. I would recommend referring to a field guide to get an idea of the combinations of brown in it's plumage.

The Little Eagle is about the same size as an Australian Raven. It has fully feathered legs and a rather stocky build.

When gliding the wings are held almost straight and sometimes an **M** pattern can be distinguished in the plumage when viewing it overhead. A leisurely hunter it's prey is mostly small mammals including baby rabbits, reptiles, and large insects. You may hear their whistling call as they fly over.

They nest in spring building a large stick nest which is lined daily with fresh leaves. Old nests of a suitable size will also be reused. The clutch is only one or two eggs which take up to 35 days to hatch. If two chicks are hatched it is usual for only the stronger to survive to fledge in about 2 months. The bird most easily confused with the Little Eagle when seen in flight, is the Whistling Kite. This species can also be seen occasionally around Whyalla.

WORKING BEE INSTALLS NEW GATE.

The May working bee saw two main activities undertaken. The newly planted Myall trees were watered. About 50% of these are actively growing while a further 25% are surviving.

A new swinging gate was installed at the Lincoln Highway entry. This will allow us to close the central road when weather conditions make the road liable to being damaged by traffic.

A second gate is being built by NPWS and will be installed at the Wild Dog Hill Carpark.

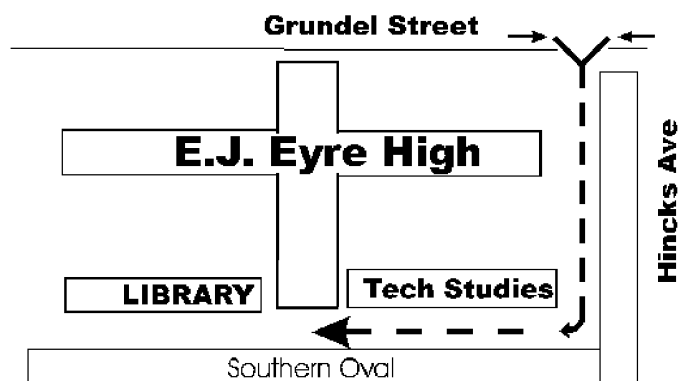
MD WINTER FEAST 4.00 p.m JUNE

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Following the 2003 AGM of the Friends group we will celebrate the work of the year with a feast.

Meat, drinks Xmas pudding and icecream and brandy sauce will be supplied. We ask that you bring yourselves and friends and a salad to share.

Our celebration/meeting will be at the Edward John Eyre High School Library and will start at 4.00 pm.



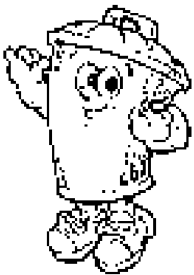
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WORKS PROGRAM 2003-2004

The May committee meeting listed the following as works to be done in the next year.

- ◆ Improve safety at the Lincoln Highway entry – remove some bushes, widen entry.
- ◆ Provide visitor facilities – parking bay and signage near main entry.
- ◆ Improve main access road – resurface and re-align in some places.
- ◆ Prevent stock entry to park – fence western boundary of new section.
- ◆ Upgrade signage at Wild Dog Hill – new sign shelter near the visitor area.
- ◆ Upgrade walking trail information – replace the existing information plaques.
- ◆ Rip revegetation area to encourage seed deposition.
- ◆ Weed and rabbit control to continue.

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:

June 7/8th	Deans
June 14/15th	Garretts
June 21/22nd	To be filled
June 28/29th	To be filled
July 5/6th	Nields

CALENDAR

June 14th	Working Bee
June 21st	AGM Mid Winter Feast
June 26th	Committee Meeting
July 12th	Working Bee
July 24th	Committee Meeting

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