



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

The Myall Post



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President's Message



Our Friends group differs from many of the other Friends groups in the state in that most of our members (in particular, committee members) are in full time employment. If you went to a Friends Annual Forum, you would see that retirees form the bulk of Friends membership in other groups.

There are many members of our committee who have given long service to the group and to our community.

Lance Dean has been our treasurer for the last 11 years and has expressed a wish to relinquish that task and move to being a committee member. We will need a person who is organised and who can keep track of our finances to replace Lance. His replacement does not have to be an accountant - they just need to be organised.

Denise Sharp has been our secretary for the last 7 years - her contacts with people who have an interest in the environment and with City Council have been valuable for the group. Denise has indicated that she would like to move to a committee position in 2004-2005.

John Carter has been a committee member for 8 years and also serves our community as a JP and with the State Emergency Service. He would be happy to have a rest from his committee position.

The AGM will be an opportunity for you to add your skills to our committee.

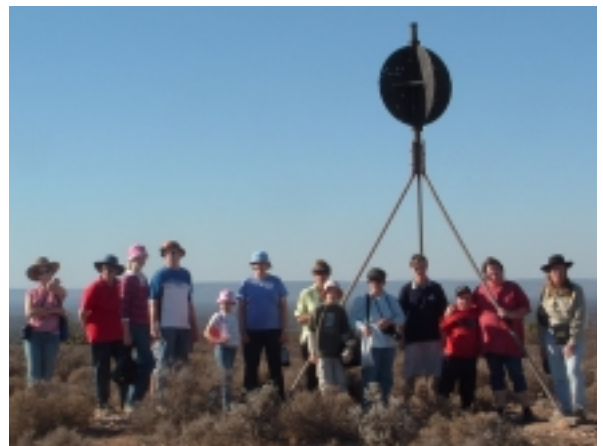
Clint Garrett

A GREAT DAY FOR A WALK

The weather on Mother's day made for perfect walking. This was in marked contrast to the 2003 walk, when the walk had to be curtailed due to rain.

This year we had nearly 30 people take part in the walk. The reaction of those who took part in the walk was overwhelmingly positive.

The walkers traveled from Wild Dog Hill, along the Northern boundary of the park to Trig Hill. As we walked, Clint pointed out how the plants of the area had adapted to the climate.



Some of the walkers at the Trig Station

The return route was via Crux Rock, where a pair of Kangaroos provided entertainment for the group.

When we arrived back at Wild Dog Hill, David and Denise had afternoon tea prepared and waiting. This was much appreciated by all who took part in the walk.

A common reaction from those who took part was that it was a very worthwhile activity and they were pleased that they had taken part.

12TH JUNE
WORKING
BEE

**MEET AT SOUTH WEST GRID
AT 9.00 AM DETAILS ON PAGE 4**

DE-FENCING WORKING BEE



Rod Dunham, Robert Vonow and John Carter working on the removal of the old fence

The May Working Bee saw another good turn-out of members to continue work on the removal of the posts from the century old western fence that marks the boundary of the park extension. These posts are being put into storage and will be used in Friends projects and sold as antiques.

The final part of the removal work will be done at the June 12th Working Bee

Quotations have been sought from fencing contractors for the replacement of this fence.

These quotations will be finalised in June, with the re-fencing work to follow shortly after.

One un-welcome discovery during the work, was that we found another patch of Carrion Flower. This was found growing in among shrubs on the fence line. Bev, Dunham, Yvonne Ward and Clint dug the plants out and sifted the area to make sure that no fragments were left to re-grow.

2004 AGM SATURDAY JUNE 19TH 5.00 PM

Our Guest speaker at the 2004 AGM will be the former District Manager of NPWS, Brenton Arnold.

Brenton had many years with the Park service and had been the senior officer in the district for almost all of the time that our group has existed.

He has traveled widely in the north of South Australia and should have much to tell us his time in the area.

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

Meat, drinks Xmas pudding and ice-cream 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. The library is at the rear of the school, enter via the eastern roadway.

BIRDS OF THE PARK COMMON STARLING

Maintenance of biodiversity demands that a species becomes successful enough to ensure it's own survival but not so successful as to threaten the survival of other species. No wonder that most other species would regard man as a pest species.

So it is in the local bird world with the Common Starling. This European invader is omnivorous, aggressive, adaptable and consequently highly successful. Some of our corporate citizens would be proud of it. But to a caring conservationist the starling has to be the enemy. It has succeeded so well that it is one of the few birds that all South Australians are familiar with.



In spring the starling crams it's messy nest of straw and feathers into any convenient hollow. Starlings will not only occupy any human-built roof space that it can access, but, they will also nest in the countryside, taking over tree hollows and reducing available suitable nest sites for native birds.

The starling is generally a successful breeder and averages four or five pale blue eggs per clutch further swelling the ranks of this pest. In autumn the starlings gathers into flocks of hundreds.

Western Australia and Northern Australia have yet to be colonised by starlings. The wheat-belt of WA has ideal habitat, but the WA government has put in considerable resources to reduce the chances of starlings becoming established there.

It probably does some good in reducing pest insects in some areas, but this does not compensate for damage to fruit crops and intimidation of native species.

A classic example of the wrong species in the wrong place at the wrong time. Its numbers need to be reduced by whatever methods are appropriate.

Ella Smith

FROM THE COMMITTEE

At the May Meeting, the committee discussed the following:

Fencing of the western boundary – we have two written quotes and a verbal quote for this work. It was suggested that a large front-end loader would be the most efficient method of clearing the fenceline.

The remaining plants left over from the Plant Sale have been sold to City Council. This is very positive as it means that Ella is freed from the daily watering of these plants.

David Poyner has done the replacement/maintenance on our First Aid Kit. He has suggested a different style of carry box that could be placed in a member's vehicle.

Preparations for the June Working bee and for the AGM were made.

Mailing Label

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF WHYALLA CONSERVATION PARK PO BOX 805 WHYALLA SA 5600

WORKING BEE JUNE 12TH 9.00 am

Meet at South West Entry to the Park.

14 Myall trees to be planted near Wild Dog Hill – this will need two people
Removal of the remaining posts from the old western fence line
Bring gloves and large pliers or small bolt cutters if you have them.

BIN



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.

ROSTER

This months volunteers are:

- June 5th Carters
- June 12th Deans
- June 19th Holds
- June 26th Poyner/Sharp/Smith
- 3rd July Volunteer needed

CALENDAR

June 12th Saturday 9.00 am	Working Bee
June 19th Saturday 5.00pm	AGM E.J. Eyre High Library
June 24th Saturday 7.30pm	Committee Meeting
?	Depends on next committee

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