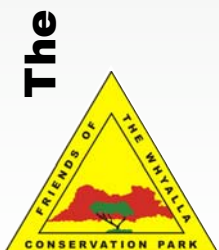




Newsletter of the
Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park
PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600
Web: www.fwcp.org
Volunteers Working For Conservation

The Myall Post



March 2005



President's Message

Whenever the Friends group has a stall in Westland's to promote the group, I enjoy the opportunity to help with staffing it. Not only is it a great opportunity to meet people and to talk to them about our group, it is also an opportunity to observe shopping behaviour.

Plastics are generally made from hydrocarbons such as ethane or other oil industry products. The raw material is finite and oil companies acknowledge that humanity has already past the peak of production for oil. Plastics have a long life in the environment and the negative effects of plastic litter have been well publicised. Logic would suggest that consumption of plastics for transitory purposes should be on the decrease.

My observations of shopping behaviour over a period of five hours during our recent stall, tell me that nine out of every ten shoppers still use throwaway bags for their shopping. Woolworths had "green bags" hanging over every aisle and at every checkout. As a company, they had made an effort to change shoppers' behaviour. In that time, only one person used the bin at the front of the store to recycle plastic bags.

Maybe the only way to change the use of plastic bags is to charge for each bag, so that shoppers become more aware of the costs associated with their use. This strategy has worked well in other countries – maybe it is time that we tried it here.

Many members will have noticed that at each Plant Sale, we encourage buyers to recycle the plastic plant pots that they buy from us. These pots go into the yellow bin at 71 Jenkins Ave. We get all sorts of pots brought to that bin. Many of these are useful to us after they have been washed and sterilised. The remaining pots and other plastics are taken to Adelaide for recycling.

The Omnipol plant at Kilburn shreds the plastics and then uses a combination of heat and pressure to form the plastic into posts and other similar uses. Useful long lasting products are created from what would have probably gone into the rubbish stream.

The 3 R's of waste reduction are: Reduce – Reuse – Recycle

Clint Garrett



Part of the tremendous turnout at the recent Film Night in the Park on Saturday February 26th. Over 100 people turned out for what was an extremely pleasant evening.

Important Dates

Make sure that these dates are entered into your diary!

Plant Sale Label Cutting
Tuesday 8th March @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

Plant Sale Labelling and Packing
Friday 11th March @ 7:00pm
267 Landrace Rd

Plant Sale
Saturday 12th March @ 6:30am
Cnr Hincks and Nicolson Aves

Committee Meeting
Thursday 17th March @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

Committee Meeting
Thursday 28th April @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

Mother's Day Walk
Sunday 8th May @ 2:00pm
TBA

Working Bee
Saturday 21st May @ 9:00am
Wild Dog Hill

Park Roster

The following individuals or families have volunteered to empty the bins, check the toilet, and check the Park on the weekends beginning Friday:

March 4th - Perc Penzel

March 11th - vacant, please ring

March 18th - vacant, please ring

March 25th - Garretts

April 1st - Deans

April 8th - vacant, please ring

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

2005 Plant Sale



This year's sale is on **Saturday March 12th at 8:30am**, and will be held at the usual location at the corner of Hincks and Nicolson Avenues. There are over 1,600 plants available for sale, from over 130 different species. All plants will be sold for \$4.00.

Prior to the sale, there are several events that will require help from members.

Firstly, the labels for the plants require laminating, cutting, hole-punched and sorted. This will occur on **Tuesday 8th March at 7:30pm** at David and Denise's house at 267 Landrace Road. Around 4 -6 members are need for this.

Then all the plants require labeling and packing into trailers for transportation to the sale site and many hands make light work! The labeling and packing occurs the night before the sale, on **Friday 11th March from 7:00pm** (at 267 Landrace Rd). Due to good member turnout in recent years this once onerous four hour job has been easily completed in around two and a half hours.

Finally, we need help on the day, unpacking plants from 6:30am and helping with the sale from 8:30am. There are plenty of jobs for people to be able to help with, and you don't need to know anything about plants!



Bird Of The Month



Field Guide to the Birds of Australia

Red Wattlebird

One of our largest honeyeaters, the Red Wattlebird is named after the red lobes of skin hanging from their cheeks like earrings. Overall they are a grey-brown bird streaked with off-white. From front on it can be seen that their generally drab plumage is varied with a yellow belly.

They are common and widespread across a southern, largely coastal band from east to west coasts. If sufficient year-round food supply is available they will stay in an area, otherwise they are nomadic as they follow the flowering of trees and shrubs. It is noticeable in Whyalla that they are easily found anytime in the urban area, where we have obligingly planted a good array of vegetation providing a year round food supply, whereas they are much less common in the scrub away from the housing.

They are quite aggressive in defending food sources from other birds, and can be quite noisy with a variety of calls, the most distinctive I have heard described as like a 'choking chook'. Primary food is nectar but they will also happily feed on insects and fruit. They breed mostly in spring, but if conditions are suitable will also breed in autumn. They have 2 or 3 young hatched from pinkish-buff speckled eggs which are placed in a very rough, sometimes quite flimsy, nest of twigs and bark lined with grass. The young which hatch in just over two weeks, continue to be fed on insects by the parents for some weeks after fledging.

Ella Smith

Display & Films

There were two recent events that were well received and achieved greater results than we anticipated.

Firstly, there was a good response to our display in Westland Shopping Centre. Many passers-by stopped and took information about the Film Night and the upcoming Plant Sale.

Our raffle of a large framed print of Red Rock raised \$168. The print was donated by local photographer Anne

Rosewarne and was framed for us by Albert's Custom Framing. The winner was Linda Carpenter from Whyalla Jenkins.

The attendance at the Film Night was nothing short of amazing. We estimate that over 100 people turned up to watch the films. The group raised \$267 from the evening.

Unfortunately, the combination of a blown fuse and a wrong film being sent from Adelaide cut the evening short, but everyone enjoyed the three films that were shown.

Many thanks must go to the members that contributed to the supper which everyone thoroughly enjoyed (and ran out), and to Clint for his effort in screening the films.

Below: Denise Sharp at the display in Westland Shopping Centre



Affiliations

Just a reminder to members that the Friends Group is a member of, or affiliated with, several other organisations. As such, we regularly receive copies of their newsletters and journals and these are available for members to borrow and read if they would like.

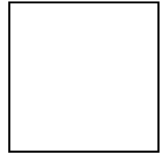
We receive from:

- Friends of Parks Inc - the "Community Chain", a quarterly broadsheet with information from all Friends of Parks groups in SA.
- Tandergra Craft Village - their monthly "Newsletter" which details what is happening at Tandergra.
- Australian Plants Society - the Australian Plants Society SA Region quarterly "Journal" and the full colour quarterly national magazine "Australian Plants"
- Weed Management Society of SA - their quarterly newsletter "WeedWise"

All of these items are available from the Correspondence Secretary, Denise Sharp, using the contact details on the back page.



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



Meeting Report

At the committee meeting on Thursday 24th February, the following items were discussed:

- David, Denise and Clint reported that University of South Australia lecturers David Lloyd and Richard Smith have been in contact with the group to arrange a field trip to the Park by their teaching students during April. David and Richard had visited with students previously and thought that it was a rewarding experience for the students. Unfortunately, the weekend that they are to visit (8th & 9th April) is scheduled in the Friend's Calendar as a possible trip away. The committee agreed that as no organisation had yet been made for our trip, we would postpone it to enable David, Denise and Clint to interact with the students.
- A large majority of the meeting was spent organising the Film Night and the Plant Sale.
- The committee discussed the quotes that Denise had received from street furnishing manufacturers Landmark for a pre-fabricated Information Shelter. This would form the basis of a new trail-header at the start of the Wild Dog Hill walking trail. It was agreed that the committee would investigate if one could be made from scratch locally for a cheaper price.
- There was general discussion about the recent spate of open camp fires that someone was having in the Park. Several members have removed large piles of ashes from the car-park in an effort to discourage other Park visitors from assuming that open fires are acceptable. David will write a media release condemning the practice and making it clear that open fires are illegal in the Park.
- The group received correspondence from Katrina Pobke, the Eyre Peninsula Threatened Flora Project Officer, who offered to make a report on the Park's lichens available to the group.

10 Years Ago.....



Remember a thing called rain? This photo was taken in 1995 when a summer thunderstorm filled the dam and washed out the main southern boundary track.

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