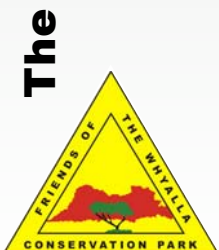




News letter of the  
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park  
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600  
 Web: www.fwcp.org  
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

# The Myall Post



May 2005



## President's Message

Three articles from 3 very different sources in recent weeks should sound a significant warning to the Australian government.

The British Antarctic Survey reported the results of analysing aerial photographs and satellite images from 1940 to the present. In the last 5 years, 87 % of the 244 glaciers that they have been monitoring have begun shrinking. Melt-water from this ice contributes to sea-level rise – water in icebergs does not, because the iceberg has to displace its weight in water in order to float. When people express concern about melting of ice at the poles it is important to think of the ice on land not the ice already in the water.

Jay Hansen and 14 other scientists from NASA, the Columbia University and the US Department of Energy used 1800 small floating robots over the last 5 years to measure the temperate of the ocean at the surface and at 1500 below surface. From this data the scientists were able to calculate the amount of energy being absorbed by the oceans compared with the amount of energy being radiated. They found that on average the rate of heat absorption was 0.85 watts/sq metre greater than the rate of radiation. This raises the temperature of the ocean and hence the temperature of the atmosphere.

"There can no longer be genuine doubt that human-made gases are the dominant cause of observed warming," said Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies at Columbia University's Earth Institute.

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has reviewed the pattern of temperature for April 2005. They found that the average of maximum and minimum temperatures was 2.79 degrees C above the norm for April. Not only were the April days warmer, but the nights were too. This fits with the NASA data.

For some time some governments and companies have tried to deny that there is such a thing as an accelerated Greenhouse Effect due to human activity. There is an increasing amount of hard data to say that there is a human induced Greenhouse Effect and that it is already having an impact on climate.

You only have to go out to the park to see that we are in a significant drought. We cannot rule out the strong possibility that this drought is related to the Greenhouse Effect. For people living in this part of the world, the long term picture is warmer and drier.

Clint Garrett



*John and Rosemary Carter and Alvin and Pam Charlesworth prepare for the influx of customers at this year's Native Plant Sales. Further details inside.*

## Important Dates

Make sure that these dates are entered into your diary!

**Mother's Day Walk**  
Sunday 8th May @ 2:00pm  
Wild Dog Hill

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

Committee Meeting  
Thursday 26th May @ 7:30pm  
267 Landrace Rd

**Working Bee**  
(Roadwatch Cleanup)  
Saturday 18th June @ 9:00am  
Lincoln Highway Entrance

Committee Meeting  
Thursday 23rd June @ 7:30pm  
267 Landrace Rd

**Working Bee**  
Saturday 9th July @ 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:

**May 6th - Hughes / Hollingworth**

**May 13th - Sharp / Poyner / Smith**

**May 20th - Dean**

**May 27th - Garrett**

**June 3rd - Nield**

**June 10th - Vacant**

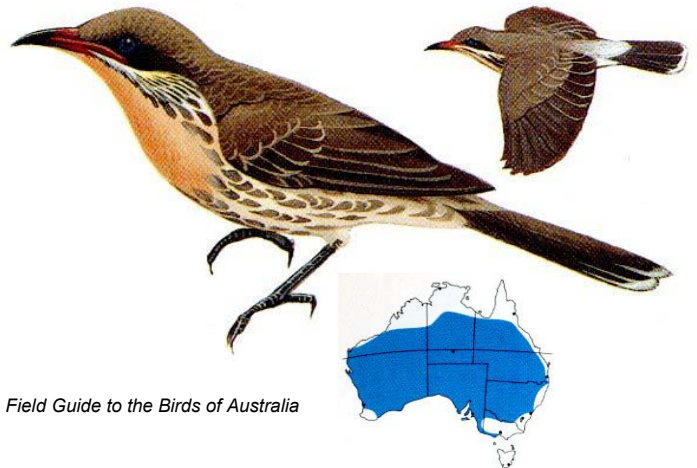
**June 17th - Sharp / Poyner / Smith**

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



Field Guide to the Birds of Australia

### Spiny-Cheeked Honeyeater

Larger than the Singing Honeyeater and smaller than the Red Wattlebird, it is a bird dressed in shades of streaked and mottled grey. If seen from the front the cinnamon chin to upper breast is a noticeable feature. The most easily distinctive feature is the base half of the bill which stands out as a splash of pink.

Widespread west of the Great Dividing Range, it is absent from Tasmania, the top of the continent, and the southwest tip of WA.

Nectar is the staple diet, but it is also fond of fruit, and will feed on insects. They prefer to feed from within the cover of the foliage of a tree or shrub rather than hanging onto the outside.

Their song is distinctive brief trilling which once heard is easily remembered, their presence thus often heard before seen.

Breeding is from mid-winter to summer. The nest is a somewhat flimsy affair. A cup of grasses and spider web slung in the foliage of a tree or bush. The two cream-brown speckled eggs hatch in two weeks with a further two weeks to fledging.

Ella Smith

### Watch out for those Bustards!

No, I'm not referring to either the Tax Department or the Federal Government - and I'm sure that they are extremely nice people anyway.....

Recently, several people in Whyalla have reported seeing Australian Bustards. Bustards are large, stately birds that could be mistaken for small emus. Ella Smith, who spotted them recently in town thinks that they may have moved into areas that they would not normally be seen in as a response to increasingly dry conditions inland.



# Meeting Report

At the committee meetings on Thursday 30th March and 28th April, the following items were discussed:

- The committee discussed the recent plant sale. It was thought that the weather on the day was not really conducive to attracting customers (it was close to 40 degrees later in the day). It was suggested that the group try and sell some of the remaining 300 plants at the Fishy Fringe Festival on Easter Saturday.
- It was also suggested that the group not hold a plant sale in 2006 based on the fact that the group was in a reasonably strong financial position and that Clint would be out of town when cuttings would need to be prepared. The committee resolved not to hold a sale in 2006.
- The committee resolved to purchase two UHF hand held radios for use at working bees and any other function in the Park where members may get separated.
- Clint relayed the information that Normco and Stratco had offered to build the steel sign shelter for our group's trailhead project at Wild Dog Hill. David will produce two draft signs for the project.
- Preparations were made for both the Mother's Day Walk and the May working bee.
- There was a large amount of discussion about members needing to adhere to safety procedures and to scope out work at working bees before beginning. It was generally felt that volunteering in the Park was becoming too much like being in our workplaces, however all agreed that following proper procedures was important and necessary.
- A car has damaged around 300m of the new western boundary fence. Clint has organised for the fence to be repaired



*The Friends' stall at the Fishy Fringe in late March. We sold over \$400 worth of plants that were unsold from the Plant Sale a fortnight previously.*

## Mother's Day Walk

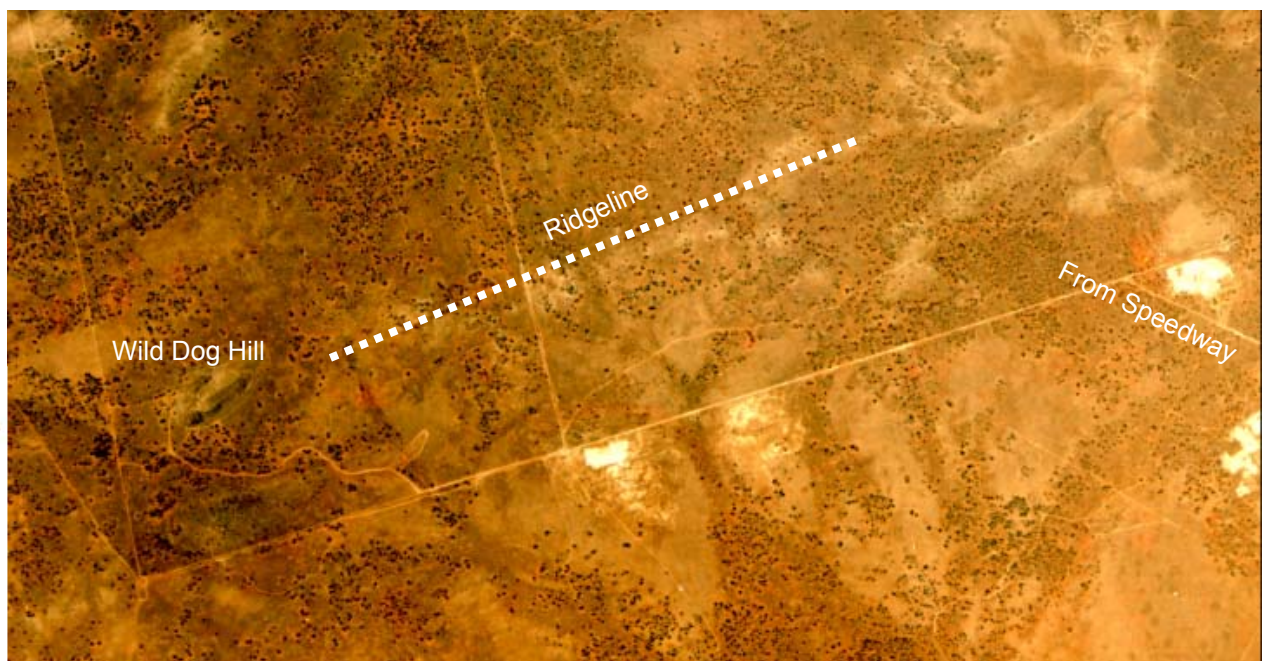
The Friends will once again be holding a guided walk this Mother's Day, Sunday May 8th.

The walk will leave from the Wild Dog Hill car park at 2:00pm and travel south past Wild Dog Hill and along a ridge line into the new southern section of the Park (see map below) before returning at approximately 4:00pm.

Interesting features of local plants and animals (if any are encountered) will be explained along the way.

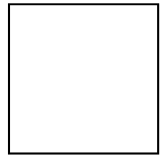
Participants are advised to wear sturdy shoes and a hat, and sunscreen if appropriate (depending upon the weather). Participants should also take a drink for themselves.

Upon return to Wild Dog Hill, afternoon tea will be available for a gold coin donation.





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



## Park Visitors

On the weekend of April 9th and 10th, a group of UniSA students and their lecturers (above) stayed at the Middleback Research Centre at Middleback Station as part of a field trip for their subject Marine and Arid Environments.

On Saturday they spent the morning in the Middleback Ranges with Clint and Marg Garrett, investigating the surroundings. The planned bird banding never eventuated with temperatures of close to 40 degrees posing too much of a stress on caught birds.

On Sunday, the group followed the walking trail around Wild Dog Hill while David Poyner and Denise Sharp spoke about the adaptations of the native plants and animals to their arid environment.

## Contacts

### Postal Address

Friends Of The Whyalla Conservation Park  
PO Box 805  
Whyalla SA 5608  
<http://www.fwcp.org>

### President – Clinton Garrett

0417-854-887 (m)

### Publicity Officer – David Poyner

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

### Correspondence Secretary – Denise Sharp

8645-4442 (h) 0411-098-363 (m)  
[denisesharp@ozemail.com.au](mailto:denisesharp@ozemail.com.au)