



Newsletter of the
Friends Of Whyalla Conservation
Park
PO Box 806 WHYALLA SA 5600

The Myall Post



Volume 16
No 11
Nov. 2003

President's Message



How much time do people have to give to the community?

It seems to me that we are in a situation where there are some people who are in fulltime work, some in part time work and many more who are either retired or unable to be in employment. There should be a large number of people who are able to give some time to the community.

The Friends group is not alone in needing more members. Many community organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit active members. This week there was a report of the St John Ambulance having to consider closing two stations in the Riverland because they no longer have the volunteers that they need.

I wonder whether we are entering an age of self interest. A world where people care more about the imaginary world that they see on television than the real world which is in real trouble. A world where sports fans spend hours discussing their AFL team, but do not take commit time to local sport.

How can we increase the involvement of more people in Volunteer groups ? Any ideas?

Clint Garrett

WESTLAND DISPLAY

**THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER
FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER**

The Friends group will be having a display in the Westlands Mall on the dates above.

Thursday's session will be from 5.00 pm – 9.00 p.m. Friday will be 9.00 am - 5.30 p.m. and Saturday 9.00 am to noon.

The display gives us an opportunity to tell the people of Whyalla about our good work. We hope to encourage some new members to join the group by increasing public awareness.

There will also be a raffle as part of the display. We have a Xmas hamper, which is filled with Australian products including wine, jams and bush foods.

A number of members have already volunteered their time to assist with the stall. We are particularly looking for help during the day on Friday and during Saturday morning.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you have an hour or two that you can spend on any of those days handing out Friends Information please give Clint a call on **8645-7522** after hours.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 8TH NOVEMBER | MEET AT WILD DOG HILL AT 9.00 AM |
| WORKING | DETAILS ON PAGE 4 |
| BEE | |

MUNYAROO PARK VISIT

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19TH

The trip to Munyaroo Conservation Park was enjoyed by just two members of the Friends group and five other people. The weather was kind to us and we had a very good tour through the northern and western sections of the park. Because of the size of the park it was impossible to visit all sections of the park in the 5 hours that we had.

Munyaroo is impressive for its size, variety of habitats and wilderness qualities.

The 12,392 hectare park begins on the mangrove coast south of Murninie and extends inland through samphire flats, mallee woodland, melaleuca scrub and an escarpment that rises to a plateau covered with red sand dunes, white sand-dunes and small iron-stone ridges. This plateau has the greatest diversity of species.

In total, 246 plant species, 33 reptiles, 106 species of birds and 16 species of mammals have been recorded for the park. This makes Munyaroo a significant biological reserve.



The view from the escarpment towards the sea.

This view gives some idea of the size of the park, as this point is halfway between the west and eastern boundaries of the park.

The photo below is a view of *Grevillea huegelii*, one of the many beautiful plants in the park.

We are grateful to Leon Crowhurst for guiding the group on this trip. His detailed knowledge of the park meant that we stopped and looked at many things that the casual visitor would miss.

One of the outstanding sites that Leon showed us was a Mallee fowl nest. This was not in use this season, but was used two years ago.

The corduroy road that was once used for loading ketches with grain, has been damaged by somebody driving over it. This was a road made of myall logs laid at right angles to the track which ran across the mudflats.



FROM THE COMMITTEE

NEW EQUIPMENT TO BE BOUGHT

The October meeting decided to buy a GPS to assist with the mapping of rabbit warrens. Global Positioning Systems have become cheaper and more accurate. This will allow us to map warrens so that it is easy to return to them to check whether they have been re-opened.

We will also purchase 2 large lopping shears, 2 pruning saws and 2 new secateurs as well as leather gloves to help members who are doing pruning work.

PLANT SALE 2004

Ella, Yvonne, Jason and Clint recently potted up approximately 200 plants. Clint has about 300 cuttings in the cutting frame and many of these are showing good growth.

There will be a need to pot these plants in early December.

RANGER'S REPORT

Shirley reported that she was seeking funding for managing the extension. She told the committee that the staff at Mambray Creek had just been through a very busy period as the weather has been mild and the school holidays brought many visitors.



This will be held at Garrett's - 71 Jenkins Ave from 6.00 pm on the 6th of December.

The Friends group will provide Salads, Xmas Pudding, Fruit Salad and Icecream.

Members are asked to bring meat, drinks and a chair.

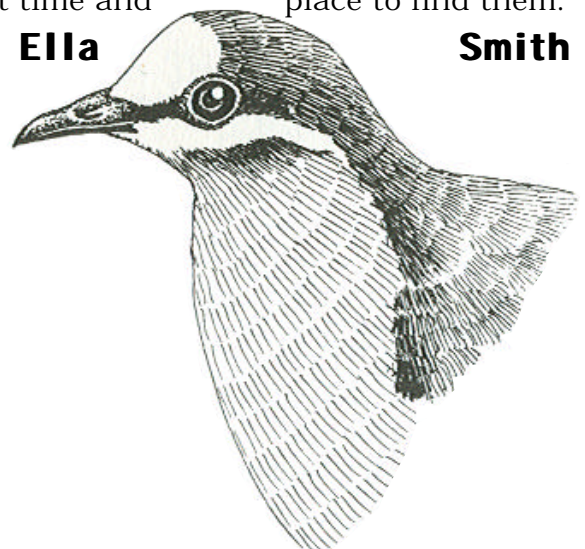
BIRDS OF THE PARK

COMMON BRONZEWING

This native pigeon is the same size as a domestic pigeon. It is basically a brown bird that is, lighter underneath and darker above, with an orange-green bronze patch on the wings. Distribution is right across Australia, except for treeless areas and the densest rainforest. Even so it is probably not seen as much as expected, as it blends into the background and spends most of the day on the ground under a bush or low tree.

Bronzewings live in pairs, and forage early morning and late afternoon for seeds. In areas where wheat is grown it may comprise up to 50% of their diet. They are a shy bird and will fly off with a loud whirring clatter of the wings when disturbed.

Breeding has been known to occur at anytime of the year, but is usually in spring and early summer. The nest is a shallow stick and twig platform placed on a horizontal fork. Like most pigeons and doves they have a clutch of 2 white eggs. With the Common Bronzewing the incubation period is 14-16 days and a further 16-18 days for young to fledge. I have found that when there is water in the dam, late afternoon near the dam is the best time and place to find them.



Common Bronzewing

Mailing Label

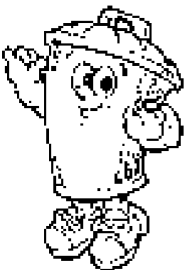
WORKING BEE NOVEMBER 8TH

The following tasks are scheduled for the November 8th working bee.



- ◆ Fence repair – Eastern Boundary various sections need replacing
- ◆ Continuation of chainsaw work to clear Eastern boundary.
- ◆ Removal of Carrion Flower outbreak and checking of other Carrion flower sites.
- ◆ Check warren fumigated in October.
- ◆ Seal bird entry points in toilet with gutter guard
- ◆ Other repairs as needed

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, let Denise Sharp know . This months

volunteers are:

Nov 1st Garretts
Nov 8th Carters
Nov 15th Sharp/Poyner/Smith
Nov 22nd Meyer
Nov 29th Nields
Dec 1st Volunteer needed

CALENDAR

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Nov 8th | Working Bee |
| Nov 20 –22nd 23rd | Westland Display |
| Dec 6th | End of Year BBQ Farewel;; |
| Dec 13th | Working Bee |
| Dec 18th | Committee Meeting |

Editor

Clint Garrett PO Box 805

Whyalla SA 5600

Phone 0417-854-887

Email clinmarg@ozemail.com.au