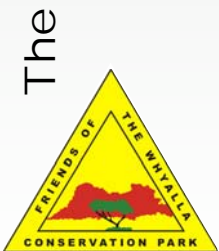




News letter of the  
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park  
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600  
 Web: www.fwcp.org  
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

# The Myall Post



November 2006



## President's Message

The last few weeks has been a significant one for the Friends group.

On the 20th to 22nd October, Denise Sharp, David Poyner, Marg and Clint Garrett attended the Friends of Parks forum in Echunga, to collect awards for the group and for their individual efforts. Those awards are recognition of the good efforts that members of the group have made over many years.

Saturday November 3rd has seen the major part of the new sign shelter constructed and erected. It was a great group effort that saw thirteen members contribute their time and skills to getting the job done. See page three for a report on the day.

Propagation of plants for the next plant sale is under way and the first seedlings have been potted up. I have been pleased by the rapid response of some of the cuttings as some species have 2 cm long roots after just two weeks. Now that water restrictions are in place, it is likely that we will have a greater demand for our water wise plants.

Talking to Friends members from the Riverland at Forum, they told me that the River Murray had now virtually stopped

flowing and was just a series of ponds trapped behind the various locks. This not a good sign for later in the summer.

Normally this time of year is a period of high flow in the river as its headwaters are fed by a mix of winter rain and melting snow. However, this year, there has been little of either. Every one degree rise in atmospheric temperature pushes the snowline up 100 metres and reduces the amount available for melting.

Maybe this drought will be the wake-up call that some governments and businesses need to spurt them into action. Let's wait and see whether their response is a short term band-aid or a long term fix.

Clint Garrett

There are still quite a few members who haven't paid their membership fees for the 2006/07 year. Your membership fees contribute towards producing and delivering this newsletter, and more importantly, ensure that you are covered by insurance at Friend's events. If you still have the membership leaflet that was delivered with the September Myall Post, please return it and \$20 soon!



David Poyner and Clint Garrett with two of the awards that the group were presented with at the 2006 Friends Forum. David is holding the Golden Wallaby award for the best newsletter for the last twelve months, while Clint is holding an appreciation award in recognition of the success of the group's regular film nights in the Park.

## Important Dates

The 2006/07 calendar should have been with this copy of the Myall Post. Make sure you put these upcoming dates in your diary:

**Working Bee**  
**Saturday 11th November @ 9:00am**  
**267 Landrace Rd**  
**Erection of new plant shade structure**

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

**Working Bee**  
**Saturday 9th December @ 9:00am**  
**Wild Dog Hill**

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

**Xmas BBQ**  
**Saturday 16th December @ 6:30pm**  
**71 Jenkins Ave**

## Park Roster

The following individuals or families have volunteered to empty the remaining bin, check the toilet, and check the Park on the weekend of:

**November 11th & 12th** - Nield

**November 18th & 19th** - Dean

**November 25th & 26th** - Hughes / Hollingworth

**December 2nd & 3rd** - Hughes / Hollingworth

**December 9th & 10th** - Dean

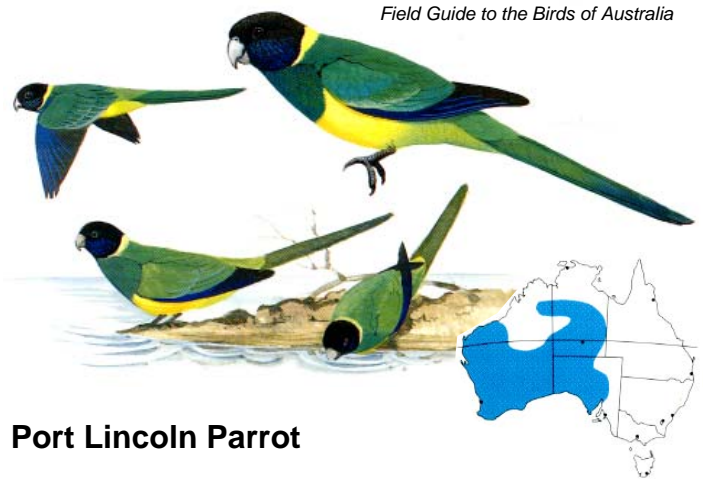
**December 16th & 17th** - Nield

**December 23rd & 24th** - Hughes / Hollingworth

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



### Port Lincoln Parrot

The large mostly green parrot in the Whyalla area is the Pt.Lincoln Parrot. Most members will probably have seen it in the Park or in an aviary somewhere. It is closely related to the 28 Parrot, the Mallee Ringneck and the Cloncurry Parrot, with some debate over the years as to which are separate species and which are subspecies.

They can be grouped together as the Australian Ringneck with each occupying their particular geographical niche. The Pt Lincoln Parrot is the most widespread, found over most of the western half of the continent except the north. Our side of the Spencer Gulf is approx. its eastern distribution limit.

Usually seen in pairs or small family groups, mostly where there are trees within the generally drier areas that they inhabit. They feed on a wide variety of seeds and fruits of native grasses, herbs, and trees, and also appreciate our grain crops and orchard fruits.

They breed in tree hollows anytime from late winter through into summer, with rainfall having an influence on the timing. The clutch of up to six large white eggs take approx. 3 weeks to hatch and the young about 5 weeks to fledge.

Ella Smith

## Xmas BBQ

This year's Xmas BBQ will be held at Clint and Marg's house at 71 Jenkins Ave on Saturday 16th December, starting at 6:30pm.

Everyone is welcome as it is a time to reflect upon the achievements of the last twelve months and catch up with some of the members that you may not have seen for a little while.

Please bring a chair and a salad or sweet to share. The BBQ meat will be provided as well as a limited choice of drinks (so if you want to drink something special, please bring it!).

# Working Bee Report

It was great to see so many members turn up for the October working bee on Saturday the 28th. In fact, several members had to go off and work on other jobs so that the work on the new trail header could proceed without "too many cooks".

Erecting the framework for the new sign shelter took most of the day. Some eager members arrived at 7:00am, and most stayed until approximately 4:00pm.

Marg, Denise, Rosemary and Bev did a wonderful job of catering, providing morning tea and lunch.

As you can see in the bottom photo, all we are waiting on is to design some new signs to fit!



# Friends Forum



*Above: Clint and Marg Garrett receive the 2006 Best Friends Medals from Minister Gail Gago and Friends Patron Barbara Hardy.*

As Clint has mentioned in his President's message, the Friends of the Whyalla Conservation Park were delighted to receive the following awards at the 22nd Annual Friends Forum:

- The Golden Wallaby Award for Best Newsletter, the Myall Post, was presented to the group's Publicity Officer, David Poyner, by Department for Environment and Heritage Director Greg Leaman.
- A Project Award for the group's regular "Film Night Under The Stars" nights was presented to the groups' President, Clint Garrett, by Department for Environment and Heritage Director Greg Leaman.
- An individual Appreciation Award for outstanding service to the Friends of Parks network and conservation in general was presented to Denise Sharp, the group's Secretary, by Department for Environment and Heritage Director Greg Leaman.
- The group's President, Clint Garrett, and his wife Marg were jointly awarded the Best Friends Medals for 2006, by the Minister for Environment and Conservation, the Hon. Gail Gago, MLC. The Best Friend Medal is the highest individual award presented at the annual Forum.

An edited version of Clint and Marg's acceptance speech is reproduced below:

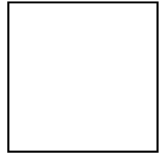
*Minister Gail Gago, Director, Greg Leaman, our patrons, Warren Bonython, Barbara Hardy and Verne McLaren, who is represented by Jean, guests and fellow Friends . It gives both of us great pleasure to receive this award. When the Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park was formed, 19 years ago, we certainly did not think that we would still involved with managing our park.*

*We are both very conscious that we would not be able to receive this award without having a very hardworking Friends' committee in Whyalla. Many of the members of this committee have served ten years or more on the*

*(Continued on page 4)*



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



## Friends Forum

*committee and we feel are just as deserving of receiving such an award. Our group is special, because many of its members are not retired. It is common for our members to have both partners in full time work. That makes the time they give to the park very special.*

*We would like to thank the Community Liaison Branch for sponsoring this award. It is important to recognise the efforts of volunteers. We would like to thank Dene Cordes and Pam Smith, dedicated and enthusiastic staff of the Community Liaison Branch. We appreciate too the work of all of the Friends Groups who have worked so hard to plan and host this forum. Having helped to organise a Forum in 1992 we have a good idea of what is involved.*

*The Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park have won many awards over the 19 years of the existence of the Group. It has never been the group's intention or motivation to undertake tasks to win awards. Nor has the group been interested in just talking about conservation issues. Rather, we have had an enthusiasm for practical conservation and have been fortunate to attract volunteers with an extensive range of skills and abilities. This has enabled us to achieve many things.*

*We are very conscious that the success of the group in the early days was greatly enhanced by regular visits and support from National Parks Staff. This is less true today. This reduction in support is largely due to the various cuts to the DEH operational budget. This year's cut makes it even harder for the staff on the ground to carry out their duties and to support local Friends Groups. This is a matter that the government needs to address. The willingness of staff to be involved in the work of Friends groups is there, but when there is a continuing reduction in staffing levels and finances to undertake this work, the staff find it very hard to do so.*

*Again, thank you for this award. We will treasure it.*



*Denise Sharp receives her award from DEH Director Greg Leaman and Friend's Patron Warren Bonython.*

## Contacts

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