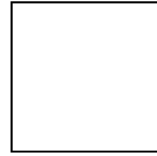




Friends of the Whyalla  
Conservation Park  
PO Box 805  
Whyalla SA 5600



## Committee Report

The committee has over the past 2 meetings discussed a number of issues. A short summary of some of the issues tackled are as follows:

- 20 Year Anniversary Dinner – a de-brief of how the event went was undertaken and it was agreed that the final analysis was it was well planned and delivered. The feedback from those who attend has all been good. Thanks are to be extended to Peter Mirtschin for his attendance and presentation.
- Remaining plants from March plant sale – it was agreed that any plants remaining are to be made available to Friends members – free of charge as all other distribution points have been exhausted
- Completion of trail header project
- 2008 Annual Plant Sale – will not be held due to the uncertainty of how much longer the drought will continue current and future water restrictions and what this means in people's gardening decisions and buying habits.
- Major fundraising activity for 2008 - following the decision not to hold an annual plant sale it was agreed that another event or series of events needs to be undertaken to assist the group in fundraising. A quick brainstorming session was held to try and identify a range of alternative fund raising activities which could be considered including:
  - Australian bush food biscuits sale / drive
  - Auction of some of the myall posts in the shed
  - Mulch sale – buy in a large semi-trailer of good quality mulch and sell off in bags and trailer loads.
  - The committee are seeking input from other members for ideas and support for any of those already identified. A decision will need to be made by the end of the year to allow time to plan and implement a strategy in 2008.

- Training requirements in the use of poisons for weed and rabbit control – following the successful blasting of rabbit warrens by Peter Baker in June & July it has been identified that follow up elimination of old and new rabbit warrens is required and to ensure those participating in these activities are appropriately qualified. Training in the use of poisons and herbicides needs to be completed and a number of members have indicated their interest in participating. Denise is to investigate what training options are available and report back to the committee. See article in this newsletter for more information. General members are encouraged to identify whether they would also like to participate and can contact Denise or Clinton, either by phone or email
- Treasury position – this position remains vacant and the committee are exploring a couple of options of how to complete the duties of this position
- Whyalla City Council proposed Mt Laura Conservation Reserve Management Plan and consultation with the group

Denise Sharp

## Contacts

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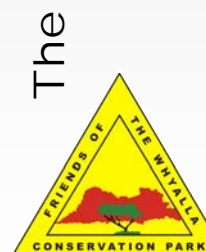
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Newsletter of the  
Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park  
PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600  
Web: [www.fwcp.org](http://www.fwcp.org)  
Volunteers Working For Conservation

# The Myall Post



November 2007



## President's Message

For any of you who took part in the recent 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations for the Friends group, I am sure that you will agree with me that it was a most enjoyable night.

I would like to particularly thank the following people for making it such a success. Denise Sharp for the invitations and essential organisation of the evening, as well as doing the floral arrangements along with Ellen Zukowski; Lance Dean for organising and setting up the Central's Football Clubrooms for the event -the room looked really beautiful as people came in; David Poyner for the 20 year overview photographic documentation. Bev Dunham organised the nibbles to go with drinks and with Joan Nield looked after the record keeping at the door.

The evening demonstrated what I think is one of the real strengths of our group and that is our commitment to professionalism. When the Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park do a job, they do it well.

Our guest speaker, Peter Mirtschin was responsible for the first moves to found the group back in 1987. These days, Peter runs a company called Venom Supplies at Marananga in the Barossa Valley. There he

keeps approximately 400 venomous snakes, which are milked for their venom. From that venom, a wide range of products are extracted. Some components cause blood to clot, while other components cause blood to thin – these can be selectively used as circumstances require. Other venom components can be used as diagnostic tools for auto-immune diseases such as lupus. The range of uses to which snake venom is now put was most surprising.

It was pleasing to have Tim Collins, the Regional Conservator with us as well as Michael Wigg and from Mambray Creek.,

The afternoon of the anniversary was also the AGM for the group and I am pleased to welcome Troy Brougham and Allan Nield to the committee. I am sure that they will add their particular flavour to the work of the group.

We have also had a planning session to organise the work of the next 12 months. The new calendar is included with this newsletter.

I thank all of you for your contributions to the group over the last 12 months.

Clinton Garrett



Ella Smith, David Poyner, Hayden Poyner, Lance Dean, Alan Nield and Rodney Dunham at one of the access control gates that has recently been installed in the Park. The gates are intended to control access to tracks that are for used for maintenance only.

## Important Dates

Make sure you put these upcoming dates in your diary:

**Working Bee**  
**Saturday 10th November @ 9:00am**  
**Port Augusta Rd**

Committee Meeting  
 Sunday 25th November @ 1:00pm  
 267 Landrace Rd

**Working Bee**  
**Saturday 8th December @ 9:00am**  
**Wild Dog Hill**

**Xmas BBQ**  
**Saturday 8th December @ 6:30pm**  
**71 Jenkins Ave**

Committee Meeting  
 Sunday 27th January @ 1:00pm  
 267 Landrace Rd

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

## 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 3rd & 4th** - Waters

**November 10th & 11th** - Garrett

**November 17th & 18th** - Nield

**November 24th & 25th** - Garrett

**December 1st & 2nd** - Waters

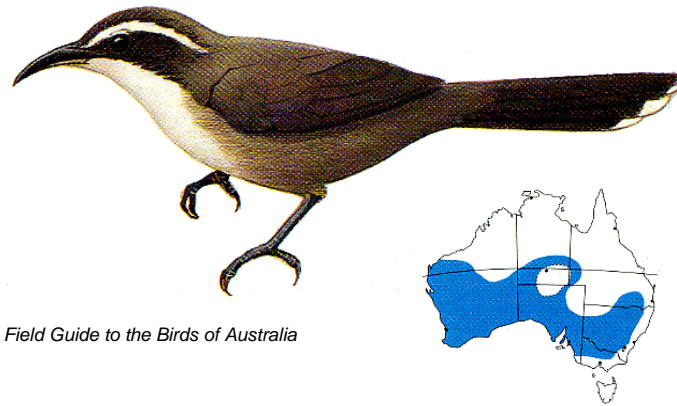
**December 8th & 9th** - Dean

**December 15th & 16th** - vacant

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

### White-browed Babbler

A grey bird with a white throat and chest the White-browed Babbler is aptly named with a large white brow. It is a little smaller than a Starling and much more human friendly than the European invader.

This charmingly active bird gets around in a family group of up to about a dozen, comprised of a breeding pair and their offspring. They occupy a home territory of up to about 5 or 6 hectares, within which they build several nests to use as sleeping quarters.

When ready to breed in the second half of the year, they build a separate nest in which to incubate up to five brown-grey eggs.

Mostly insectivorous they will also feed on spiders and seeds, and forage as a group. They are a delight to watch as they quickly hop and bounce along, stopping only to search likely sources of food. Often heard before seen as the group chatter a lot interspersed with alarm whistles.

Ella Smith

## Working Bee / Xmas

The working bee scheduled for Saturday 10th November has been ear-marked for a RoadWatch cleanup. The sides of the Port Augusta Road outside the Park have accumulated quite a bit of rubbish since we last cleaned up and looks very untidy.

As the saying goes "many hands make light work", so please consider turning up at 9:00am at the Port Augusta Road entrance.

The 2007 Xmas BBQ will be held at Clint and Marg's house at 71 Jenkins Ave on Saturday 8th December at 6:30pm. As usual, the Friends group will provide the meat and some drinks, but you will need to bring either a salad or sweet to share.

## Vandalism

The group seems to be suffering a bad run with vandalism over the last twelve months or so. In July 2006, thieves broke into the Friend's shed at Tanderra and caused major damage to the roller door and stole several hundreds of dollars worth of tools.

In October 2006, someone attempted to burn down the toilet at Wild Dog Hill by filling the pan with toilet paper and setting it alight. Fortunately the only real damage was to the toilet seat.

In September this year, someone caused major damage by cutting the colourbond cladding on the side of the toilet, and setting fire to the contents of the small shed at the back of the toilet. They also completely destroyed a log barrier in the carpark in an attempt to get access to the toilet by car.

Sadly, the vandalism has continued into October when one of the new access control gates near Wild Dog Hill was completely broken off its mounting post by someone who obviously thought that they should be able to drive wherever they wanted to.

Please be vigilant when in the Park during bin roster duty or at any other time. Remember you do not have to approach anyone (in fact it is safer if you don't), but take note of any details of any persons committing acts of vandalism and report them immediately to a committee member or to the police.



## Roof Colour



An experiment run at WERIC demonstrates very clearly the effect that roof colour has on the amount of heat that a roof absorbs. Trevor Toomer has set up a test rig, which continuously monitors the temperature on the underside of various pieces of Colorbond roofing. You can have a look at the setup, when you next drive past WERIC on Hincks Avenue.

As you can see from the graph dark colours soak up a lot more heat. This in turn heats the roof cavity and then makes the building harder to cool. Even if the ceiling is insulated, there is an extra heat load on the rooms below. This means that the occupants of the house then use more cooling to get the house down to an acceptable temperature.

It would have been interesting if Trevor had tested Black, Dark Blue and Dark Grey Colorbond, as my guess is that these colours would have absorbed even more heat. It is depressing to see the number of new houses being built with roofs of these colours, as it means that for the next 30 or so years that these houses will use more energy than they really need to. Simple changes such as roof colour can make a big difference to our Greenhouse impacts.

Clint Garrett.

