



Newsletter of the
Friends Of Whyalla Conservation
Park
PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600

The Myall Post



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President's Message



As a member of the Friends of Whyalla Conservation park, you are a member of a state-wide organisation - Friends of Parks Inc. You are part of an organisation of over 6000 volunteers, who care for 126 of the state's 282 parks.

The time that Friends members volunteer is estimated to be worth \$6 million per year. This is the equivalent of employing an extra 130 full-time staff. That time estimate is only for the time that members spend in parks while working on projects and does not include time spent fund raising etc. If that other time was able to be calculated, the contribution would be in excess of \$10 million.

Some Friends are extremely committed to their particular park. One couple from Innisfail in Queensland travel each year from Innisfail to Dingley Dell near Mt Gambier so that they can work on the restoration of Adam Lindsay Gordon's cottage.

Another couple from Melbourne are members of the Friends of the Simpson Desert Parks and travel to the north of S. Australia to take part in working bees in those parks.

Our work is valuable and is appreciated as is shown by the award received at Forum. Clint Garrett

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

Each year, one Friends group hosts the statewide forum of Friends of Parks. This year, the Friends of Riverland Parks were our hosts for the forum held at Berri on Sept. 19th and 20th.

The forum was extremely well organised and very informative. It had some of the best speakers that I have ever heard at a forum. These included Associate Prof. Keith Walker who spoke on the Natural History of the River Murray and Bob Newman from the Murray Darling Basin Commission, who spoke on salinity in the river.

NO ECOLOGY – NO ECONOMY

Dr Barbara Hardy made the point that the ecosystem services provided by nature are essential for the economy to function. An estimate of the value of the recycling services provided for "free" by nature puts these services at three times the value of World GDP. At this stage few economists factor in these services when calculating costs, which is why we continue to pollute and damage the system that supports us.

PARKS FOR THE FUTURE

Minister John Hill described a strategy of linking parks with remnant patches of vegetation, road reserves etc so as to provide continuous habitat for species.

For example, habitats from Port Augusta, across northern Eyre Peninsula to the Nullarbor could be linked to allow species to migrate. There are 1129 threatened species in SA and 890 of these are plants.

Linking habitat will be important for their future survival.

11TH OCT

WORKING

BEE

MEET AT WILD DOG HILL AT 9.00 AM

DETAILS ON PAGE 4

MUNYAROO PARK VISIT

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19TH 8.30 AM

Munyaroo is 12,000 hectares of coastal and mallee country about 50 km south of Whyalla. The park has large heath covered sand dunes and some historical relics, including a corduroy road built across the sand-flats to allow grain to be loaded onto ketches.

We will have the services of Leon Crowhurst to guide us through the park. This trip requires the use of four wheel drive vehicles as some of the tracks in Munyaroo are very sandy.

Meet at Ella's place – 267 Landrace Road to car pool. Ella has a locked yard so that cars not going on the trip can be left in safety.

Bring your lunch and drinks, as we will not return until mid afternoon.

On the return leg of the trip, we will visit the Murnininie mines. A powerful torch and good sense are required for anyone wishing to enter the mines.



DO YOU NEED TRAINING IN THE USE OF ANY OF THESE?



Let Clinton know which training you need. We can then find a suitable course for you.

FRIENDS OF WHYALLA CP RECEIVE PROJECT AWARD

Our work in the Whyalla Community was recognised at the Friends Forum in Berri, with the presentation of a Project Award.

The citation drew attention to our Plant Sale, Film Night and our involvement in the KESAB Road Watch program.

These activities not only help to make our community a better place, but they also serve to make the public aware of our continuing efforts in the park.

In accepting the award, Friends President, Clint Garrett said, " We know that our park is difficult to manage because there are few ranger staff and those that are responsible for our park are 150 km away."

"It is important that we have as many of the Whyalla Community on side with us in trying to manage the park, which is held in trust for future generations. It is great to be recognised for our efforts."

FROM THE COMMITTEE

SUNNY FATHER'S DAY

The Father's Day walk was held in ideal conditions and 17 people took part. The view from Cheeseboard Hill was beautiful and appreciated by those who were there. Thanks to Denise Sharp and Marg Garrett for the afternoon tea.

SEPTEMBER WORKING BEE

Ella and Yvonne removed a large amount of Horehound from the Crux Rock area. Lance and Hans repaired vandalism damage. The Garretts and Dunhams fumigated rabbit warrens.

BRENTON ARNOLD

Those of you who have been members for some time will remember Brenton Arnold as the person who has been in charge of our area for most of the time that the group has existed. Brenton retired recently and there will be a small get together at Mambray Creek on Saturday 1st of November. Details in the next newsletter.

WESTLAND DISPLAY

The group will be having a display in Westland Shopping Centre on Thursday Friday and Saturday November 20th - 22nd. Please mark this in your diary and if possible, make yourself available to man the stall.

SOLID FINANCES

Lance Dean reported that our finances are sound and that we will re-invest \$5000, and leave about \$2,500 in the working account.

PLANT SALE 2004

The first plants have been potted on and more seedlings are germinating each day. The 2004 Plant Sale will be on March 27th. Tell your friends about it.

BIRDS OF THE PARK RED-BACKED KINGFISHER

The Red-backed Kingfisher is Australia's dry land kingfisher. This species is nomadic and often lives far from water. In Whyalla, Red Backed Kingfishers are present in spring and summer and then fly north in the colder months.

While they are here they breed. A burrow drilled into a creek-bank, cliff, or road-cutting is the usual choice of nest site. The clutch is 3 to 5 white eggs which take 3 weeks to hatch and another 3 weeks for fledging of young. They live a solitary life except when breeding.

A carnivorous species, their prey mostly consists of grasshoppers, various insects, frogs, small reptiles and mice. They capture their prey by perching on bare branches, posts, etc from where they dive down and seize it on the ground.

At 20-24 cm it is average size for a kingfisher, with typical colouring, being white underneath and around the neck and darker on the head (grey), wings (blue) and back (red). If you see a kingfisher around Whyalla it will almost certainly be this species, although we do also have the Sacred Kingfisher here. The Sacred Kingfisher is more likely to be seen near the mangroves and it differs in having its darker upper-parts mostly a turquoise-green including the back, and the under-parts a more buff-white.

**Ella
Smith**



Red Backed Kingfisher

Mailing Label

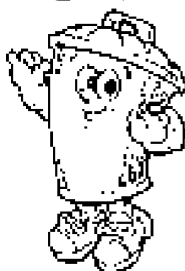
WORKING BEE SEPTEMBER 13TH

The following tasks are scheduled for the October 11th working bee.



- ◆ Fence repair – Western Boundary a small section needs replacing
- ◆ Boxthorn Cutting and swabbing on Eastern Boundary
- ◆ Weed checking and removal at Trig Hill, Southern Boundary and North East Corner of the park.
- ◆ Fumigate rabbit warrens
- ◆ 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:

Oct 4th Prenzel
Oct 11th Sharp/Poyner/Smith
Oct 18th Garretts
Oct 25th Deans
Nov 1st VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Nov 8th Carters

CALENDAR

Oct 11th	Working Bee
Oct 19th	Munyaroo Field Trip
Oct 23rd	Committee Meeting
Nov 1st	B Arnold Farewell Farewel;;
Nov 8th	Working Bee

Editor

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