



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

The Myall Post



Volume 16
No 9
Sept 2003

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



Alvin & Pam Charlesworth in a more formal moment

Alvin and Pam Charlesworth are foundation members of the Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park. They joined from a background with the Whyalla and Districts Four Wheel Drive Club. Since they joined the group in 1987, both of them have taken an active role in the management of the group. Alvin has been Vice President, Treasurer and an active committee member. His practical skills and enormous range of tools have been a significant part of our ability to tackle projects. The building of the toilet, setting up of our storage depot and our work trailer would not have been possible without the hours of work that Alvin has put in and his practical skills.

Pam has been our Minute Secretary for most of her time with the group. Her attention to detail has meant that we have a thorough record of committee business, which in turn helps the functioning of the group. Pam is a thorough person who has made sure that activities are thoroughly planned before they are carried out.

There are very few working bees and events that Alvin and Pam have missed in the last 16 years. They have also both been regular participants in the bin roster since we introduced it in 1992. This has meant giving up at least one night a month to patrol the park, detect problems and do the routine removal of rubbish.

In addition to their community service through our group, they have also been active members and office holders of the Whyalla and Districts Four Wheel Drive Club. Alvin and Pam will be presented with Life Membership Certificates at a special dinner on September 11th.

The presentation of Life Membership Certificates will be made at a dinner at the Sundowner Hotel, on Thursday 11th September, 7.00m.

RSVP: Denise Sharp Phone 8645 4442 by September 10th

SEPT 13TH	MEET AT WILD DOG HILL AT 9.00 AM
WORKING	
BEE	
DETAILS ON PAGE 4	

President's Message



A recent article headed "**Time to adapt as Greenhouse Effect hits home**" in the "**Weekend Australian**" 2nd August 2003 should give all South Australians cause for thought.

Research scientists from the National Climate Centre pointed out that the 11 months to January 2003 ha been the driest since 1890. It was the hottest autumn, winter and spring on record, with record evaporation levels. One of the scientists, Kevin Hennessy said " climate models suggested that global warming would lead to higher temperatures in Australia, by about 0.5C to 2C by the year 2030."

" In Australia by about the year 2030 we expect less rainfall in general over southern parts of eastern Australia, particularly in winter and spring."

"When you combine these changes with the very broad increase in evaporation, the message is clearly one of a drier continent." he said.

The message for South Australia is a powerful one. We will have to adapt to a drier state. Our heavy dependence on water from the River Murray makes us particularly at risk if there is a reduction of rain fall and an increase in evaporation in the watershed of the River Murray. South Australians are just becoming aware of the importance of the River to our economy and to our lifestyle. How will we adapt to not only a lower level of flow in the river, but increased restrictions on what can be taken out of it?

The Whyalla City Council has made a beginning on better water management. The use of storm-water for watering public spaces such as parks is easily done. Redirecting storm-water off road ways and underground to water nature strips is also relatively easy to do.

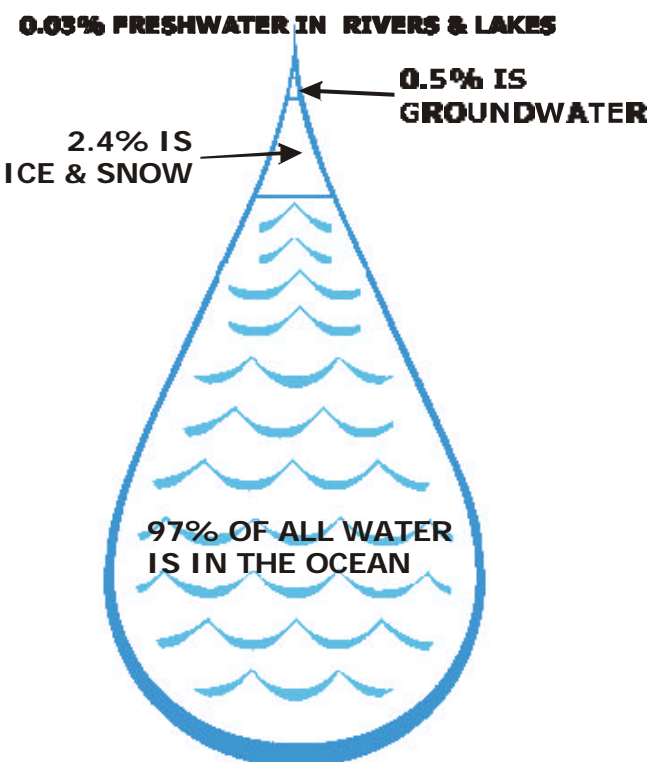
In Whyalla approximately \$1.5 million worth of water is dumped into the sea from the Whyalla Waste-water Treatment plant every year. This is water that has been pumped nearly 400 km from the River Murray and used once before being disposed of.

How long can we allow this waste to go on?

Desalination plants such as the potential Solar Oasis project will need to be trialled now if they are to supply us in 30 years time.

Have we forgotten that without water, there is no life?

WORLD WATER



FROM THE COMMITTEE

Scout Group maps Warrens

The 2nd Whyalla Scout group have mapped rabbit warrens in the North West of the park. This is being done as part of their Conservation badge.

4WD Group visits Park

As part of the recent 4WD training weekend, approximately 35 people were taken on a guided tour of Wild Dog Hill by David and Denise.

Plant Sale 2004

Clint has planted seed of 31 species at this stage and some of them have sprouted already. Other species will be done by cutting.

Working Bees

Clint reported that all logs in the car-park are now branded and the traffic counter is in place. September's working bee has been planned as per page 4.



Yellow Throated Miner

BIRDS OF THE PARK YELLOW-THROATED MINER

This is a medium sized honey-eater with widespread distribution, generally across the drier parts of Australia. It is a mostly grey bird with a smallish black mask near the eye. It has a yellow bill, legs and a spot behind the eye and yellow wash on the wings forehead chin, and throat

The race of *Manorina flavigula* that is present in the Park has a white rump that is sufficiently noticeable that it was formerly called the White-rumped Miner. Other races are darker grey with grey rumps.

Miners are nomadic when water supply is variable and live and breed in small colonies. Although they do feed on nectar, most of their food is comprised of a wide variety of insects and other invertebrates, pretty much anything available when foraging the foliage, bark and ground.

They are closely related to the very rare endangered Black-eared Miner, with which unfortunately they inter-breed. Breeding season is July- December preferably after rain. The nest is a bulky cup of twigs, grasses, fur, wool and hair. The clutch is of 3 or 4 eggs which are pinkish-red with darker blotches. Young birds hatch in approx. 2 weeks, with a further 2 weeks to fledge. Most likely to be found in the more heavily wooded areas of the park.

Ella Smith

FATHER'S DAY WALK

When: Sunday September 7th 2003, 2:00pm

Where: Cheeseboard Hill – Whyalla Conservation Park.

Meet: At Whyalla Speedway Car-park – Iron Knob Road

How Long: About an hour and a half

Need: Sturdy shoes, hat, binoculars (if you have them)

Cost: Gold Coin Donation ***Afternoon tea provided***

Mailing Label

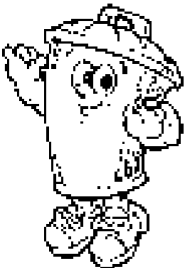
WORKING BEE SEPTEMBER 13TH

The following tasks are scheduled for the September working bee.



- ◆ Vandalism repair – log and post, replace traffic counter line
- ◆ Furrow Re-vegetation area to encourage seed establishment
- ◆ Weed checking and control
- ◆ Fumigate rabbit warrens

BIN



ROSTER

volunteers are:

Sept 6th Sharp/Poyner/Smith
Sept 13th Garrett's
Sept 20th Sipsma
Sept 27th Prenzel
Oct 4th Prenzel

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

CALENDAR

September 7th	Father's Day Walk
Sept 11th	Life Membership Dinner
Sept 13th	Working Bee
Sept 25th	Committee Meeting
Oct 11th	Working Bee

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