



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

Myall Post

The



September 2005



President's Message

President's Report To The 2005 AGM

2005 marks the 18th year of operation for the Friends of the Whyalla Conservation Park. During this year our most significant achievements have been:

In July the re-fencing of the western boundary of the park was completed. This is the boundary of the land that was added to the park in 2001. Lance Dean negotiated a good price for the clearing of the boundary and Peter Langdon did an excellent job of installing the fence for us. The Friends group has paid over \$5000 for this work and we are still waiting for the resolution of funding for this work. This matter has been under discussion between OneSteel and DEH since February 2004. Meanwhile our funds have been used to do the work.

Our Father's Day walk in September was poorly attended and the group has decided to no longer run this walk. We cannot compete with AFL football.

The Scouts have been mapping rabbit warrens and Carrion Flower for the group as part of their Conservation Badge. The large area that they discovered near the boundary track has been the site of 4 working bees. The first effort removed about 1 tonne of plants. The second saw

us remove over 700 seedling plants. The two subsequent control sessions have used a herbicide mix developed by the Animal and Plant Control board. This is effective, but has to be applied at extremely high rates.

The Film Show in the Park was highly successful until the Sound system on the projector broke down in the last minutes of Storm Boy. I have had many enquiries as to when our next film show will be.

Our display in Westland Shopping Centre prior to the Plant Sale was very successful. This did not translate into good sales however, as the day of the sale was 400C with a north wind blowing dust. Many members worked on potting up plants and packing and labelling. However Ella is the person who keeps the plants alive day after day in summer. I thank her wholeheartedly. We have had plant sales for the last 15 years and our profit from these averages around \$3000. As a result, there has been \$45,000 spent in the park which can be added to our volunteer hours.

The Mother's Day Walk was held on a fine day for a change, but still only attracted 25 walkers.

Our monthly working bees have been attended by 6 – 10 members and continue to maintain the park.

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This is a picture of Cylindropuntia tunicata - Cholla Cactus, which Clint and Bob Chinnock from the Botanic Gardens found recently at the abandoned site of Iron Baron. It is garden escapees like these that have the potential to spread and become pest plants - like Carrion Flower has.

Important Dates

Make sure that these dates are entered into your diary!

Working Bee
Saturday 10th September @ 9:00am
Wild Dog Hill

Committee Meeting
Thursday 22nd September @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

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

Day or Overnight Trip
Saturday 22nd, Sunday 23rd October
Munyaroo Conservation Park
(see next newsletter)

Committee Meeting
Thursday 27th October @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

A handy fridge-magnet calendar has been distributed with this newsletter. Always check with the latest edition of the Myall Post for any changes to the dates, times or locations of events.

Park Roster

The following individuals or families have volunteered to empty the bins, check the toilet, and check the Park on the weekends beginning Friday:

September 9th - Prenzel

September 16th - Hughes / Hollingworth

September 23rd - Dean

September 30th - Sharp / Poyner / Smith

October 7th - Vacant

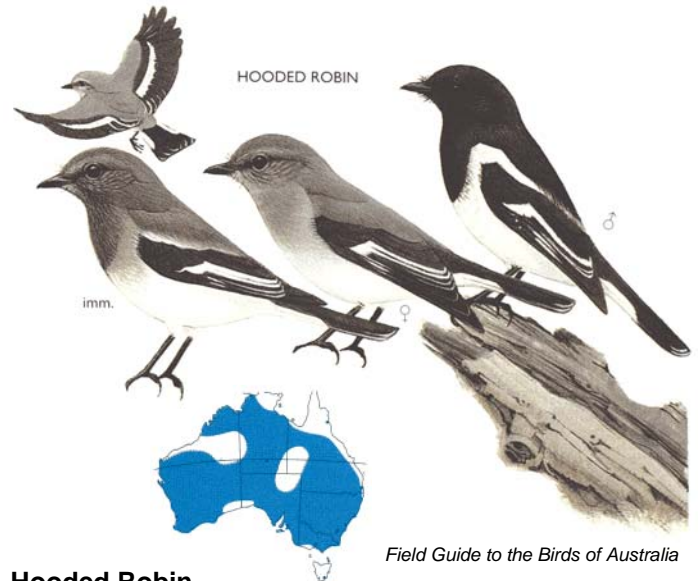
October 14th - Vacant

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



Hooded Robin

The Hooded Robin is Australia's most widespread robin, absent only from Tasmania and Cape York Peninsula. It is a bird of the drier open woodlands and heathlands.

The male is basically black above and white below, with the black on the head extending down into a wedge on the breast. There is also a white streak on the shoulder and on the wing. The female is a rather drab little creature with the black on the male replaced by brownish-grey on the female, and the white parts more of a dirty off-white.

They don't move around a lot, once an established pair has a territory the mostly remain within the 15 hectares or so. As with all Australian 'robins' they are actually members of the Flycatcher group of birds, and are insectivorous. The Hooded Robin is often found on the ground searching for insects, but also commonly hunts by sitting on a low perch to catch prey by perch-and-pounce.

Breeding is usually in spring, but they may nest anytime after sufficient rain increases food supply. Small neat cup shaped nest of bark, grasses, and spider webs is placed in a tree fork or crevice, and is usually well camouflaged. Clutch of two greenish eggs with red-brown tinge at larger end. As with most birds of similar size, the eggs hatch in about two weeks.

Ella Smith

Memberships Due

Membership subscriptions are due following the AGM each year. Membership is \$20 for a family or household and \$25 for an organisation or group.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a membership form. If you have not yet paid your 2005/06 membership fees, please fill in the form and either return it to a member of the committee, or post it to PO Box 805, Whyalla, SA, 5600.

President's Report

(Continued from page 1)

We also continue to have a Night Roster, which has had members do night patrols on weekends. This roster has been running since 1992, when the park was gazetted as being closed at night. Having the roster does not stop all vandalism, but it certainly helps to reduce it.

My greatest concern for the group is that member numbers continues to decline. This is an issue for many groups and at this stage I can see no easy path to increase our numbers.

I would like to pay tribute to all of those who have served on the committee this year:

- **Denise Sharp** - for her work as Correspondence Secretary – Denise has been doing this for 10 years now. She has a wide range of contacts in Council and with Environment groups, that makes it easier for us to do things. Denise is also responsible for the Night Roster – which means getting sufficient members to staff the roster 52 weekends per year. Denise also feeds the group at Committee meetings and working bees.
- **Lance Dean** - for his work as treasurer. His thorough and prompt work in this area is invaluable as are his contacts with contractors. Lance has been Treasurer since 1993. He is retiring from that position, but is still willing to serve on the Committee. Our finances have been well managed as a result of Lance's efforts.
- **David Poyner** - for his work as publicity officer – David's newsletters are well designed and present a very professional image of the group.
- **Ella Smith** - for her knowledge of the birds of the park and for her work to keep our plants alive for the plant sale.
- **Joan Nield** has been our minute secretary for the last 2 years. She will retire from that position as she and Allan will do more travelling now that he has retired.
- **Bev Dunham** – has a wealth of local knowledge and her enthusiasm. Bev also brings wonderful cakes to meetings. At this time, Bev and Rodney are away on Groote Eylandt.
- **John Carter** - for his knowledge and reliability

My special thanks to Margaret for her on-going support, without our partnership, much less would be achieved for the group

To all the members of the group who have made contributions, I say thank you. Whether you have, attended working bees, taken part in trips or other activities, your contribution is valued. It is through these contributions, no matter how small, that the group achieves its goals.

My thanks to you all for your help with supporting the Whyalla Conservation Park.

Clint Garrett

Meeting Report

The 2005/06 Committee as elected at the AGM is:

President: Clint Garrett
Secretary: Denise Sharp
Publicity Officer: David Poyner
Treasurer: vacant
Committee Members: Ella Smith, Bev Dunham, Lance Dean, John Carter

The committee has met three times since the AGM, two committee meetings and a meeting to set the calendar. The following issues were discussed:

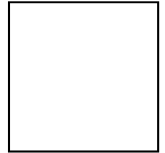
- The lack of a Treasurer for the group was seen as a concern. It was decided to seek expressions of interest from other members. If any member is interested in filling the position, they should speak to a committee member.
- When the calendar was set, the committee tried to ensure that there were more social events during the upcoming year. Two trips away in October and April can be either one day or overnight trips, depending on the choice of individual members.
- There was concern that DEH had "lost" the now infamous OneSteel agreement, which was still no closer to being finalised. Since the meeting it has since been "found" and was being signed.
- Arrangements were made for the September working bee - which will be primarily concerned with fumigating rabbits and spraying weeds.



Bob Chinnock and an *Opuntia* sp cactus at Iron Baron - another garden escapee that threatens to become a weed



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



Whyalla Foreshore

This is the newsletter of the Friends of the Whyalla Conservation Park, and as such conveys information about, and the opinions of, the Friends.

Occasionally, members of the Friends of the Whyalla Conservation Park hold similar opinions and concerns to other community organisations, and as such, it is entirely appropriate to express them in this journal.

Our President, Clint Garrett, is also involved with the Friends of the Whyalla Foreshore, and writes:

City Council's proposed Foreshore and Town Centre Master Plan has caused many residents to become environmentally active. If you are one of the more than 250 people who came to the Foreshore public meeting, you already have a good idea of what is planned. If you are one of the more than 1000 people who have signed a petition, I urge you to take the following two actions.

Write to City Council with your ideas on the plan. Take part in one or both of the two meetings that council will stage. Council sees signing of a petition as an act requiring little thought or effort. Much more attention will be paid to personal letters and your presence at the meetings.

The two public meetings are to be held on:

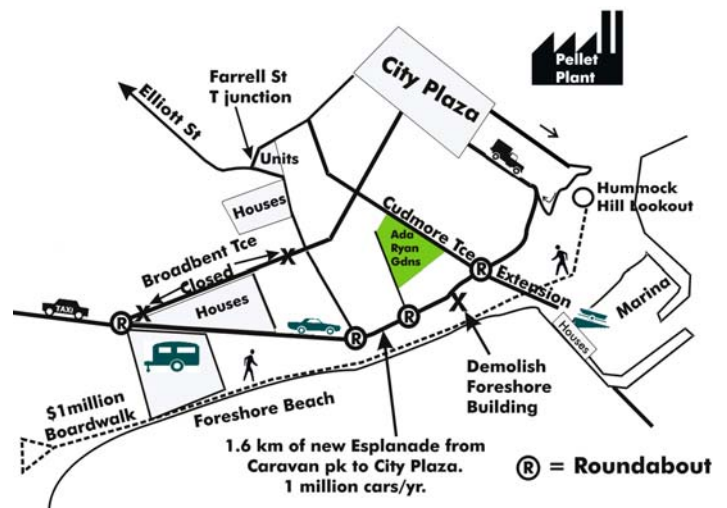
12th September
7:00pm

South Whyalla Football Clubrooms

14th September
7:00pm

Spencer Institute of TAFE Cafeteria

Clint has provided an overview of the Plan below, and you should have received an A3 leaflet explaining the Plan in your letterbox. If you haven't, contact Council on 86403444 to find out how you can obtain one.



Contacts

Postal Address

Friends Of The Whyalla Conservation Park
PO Box 805
Whyalla SA 5608
<http://www.fwcp.org>

President – Clinton Garrett

0417-854-887 (m)

Publicity Officer – David Poyner

8640-3444 (w) 8645-4442 (h) 0411-098-000 (m)
davidpoyner@ozemail.com.au

Correspondence Secretary – Denise Sharp

8645-4442 (h) 0411-098-363 (m)
denisesharp@ozemail.com.au