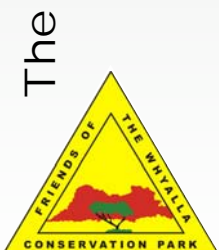




News letter of the
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600
 Web: www.fwcp.org
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

The Myall Post



September 2006



President's Message

Warming?

.How much longer can our national government go on denying the reality of Global

Natural systems are able to detect quite small changes in temperature and rainfall and respond to them. Records for the arrival of migratory species and the starting time of nesting for bird species have been kept by hundreds of bird watchers over a long period. Their evidence shows that migratory species are arriving earlier and many species are nesting earlier. Ella's bird sightings data confirms this for our area.

I photograph native orchids in my spare time. I recently saw Sun Orchids about to burst into flower in late August. These species normally flower in late September – early October. There is no doubt that nature is telling us that this year is already a warm year.

The idea that as a nation, we are going to use geo-sequestration as a method of combating Global Warming defies logic. Consider this, the Port Augusta Power stations are relatively small units. They produce about 9 million tonnes of hot Carbon Dioxide per year. If this is to be sequestered underground, these 9 million tonnes have to be cooled, liquefied and then pumped into some underground

formation, which has yet to be discovered. That's 9 million tonnes every year that the plant operates. In order to do this, energy has to be used. This in turn requires the use of more power. Geo- sequestration is not practicable in most situations. We should give up on it now and put tax-payer's money into more productive solutions.

Here are some possibilities. Biodiesel, methanol fuel cells and renewable energy. We already know how to generate power from the sun, wind and waves – the big issue is storing that energy, when the source is not available. This is where research is really needed.

Note that I do not see hydrogen fuel cells or nuclear power as any sort of solution for Global Warming. Ask me about them some time. Meanwhile write to your favorite politician and ask them to use your dollars to practical effect to solve Global Warming.

Clint Garrett

Is there a membership form inside this newsletter? That means either that its time to renew your membership, or that you have been getting a complimentary copy of this newsletter and we'd really appreciate you becoming a member!



This photo of Wild Dog Hill taken by Clint late in the afternoon is a good reminder of those magical moments we experience in the Park and why we volunteer our time for the Park.

Important Dates

The dates for the events in italics are tentative at this stage, as the 2006/07 calendar has not been prepared.

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

Committee Planning Session
Saturday September 17th @ 2:00pm
71 Jenkins Ave

Committee Meeting
Thursday 28th September @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

Committee Meeting
Thursday 26th October @ 7:30pm
267 Landrace Rd

Working Bee
Saturday 28th - 29th October @ 9:00am
Wild Dog Hill
Walking Trail Header erection

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:

September 9th & 10th - vacant

September 16th & 17th - Garretts

September 23rd & 24th - vacant

September 30th & October 1st - vacant

October 7th & 8th - vacant

October 14th & 15th - vacant

October 21st & 22nd - 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



Stubble Quail

This is a widespread quail occurring in most pastoral districts especially in the drier areas. It is light brown flecked with darker brown and lightly streaked with white. Some people may be familiar with the King Quail commonly found in aviaries, by comparison the Stubble Quail is approximately 50% larger.

Despite its abundance it is rarely seen as it is a ground dwelling bird that prefers to stay in the grass. Generally it will only break cover and fly when almost trodden on. Even then its direct whirring flight is usually only for about 50 metres before dropping again to the ground and running for cover in the grass.

It is a nomadic species, and while they will eat some insects they are mostly granivorous, and tend to follow the seasonal availability of grains. They breed mostly in spring when the grain is ripening and may raise several broods one after another.

The nest is a minimal scrape in the ground lined with a little grass. The clutch can be as many as a dozen buff coloured eggs blotched with a darker colour. After three weeks the young hatch and are led by the parents in searching for food. It takes about six weeks for the downy chicks to be fully feathered and ready to leave home.

Ella Smith

Working Bees

The working bee this weekend on Saturday the 9th September will be focusing on finishing clearing the Park's main access track, and searching for and spraying any weeds that have germinated now that the weather is warming up.

The erection of the trail head sign has been postponed until the weekend of the 28th - 29th of October as some members who want to be involved are not available until then. This could possibly involve work over two days.

2006 AGM

President's Report To The 2005 AGM

2005-2006 has been both a good year and a bad year.

We did not have a Plant Sale this year. This was a response to the relatively poor response to the previous Plant Sale and the fact that Clint was away in Western Australia for the majority of propagation time. I am sure that Ella has appreciated having a summer where she did not have to water seedlings 2 and 3 times a day.

We have made good progress on getting Carrion flower under control. Almost all of the large infestations are now dead or are down to a few plants. We still have no clear idea of how much Carrion flower there is in the Indenture land, but we now have the money to spray any areas that are found.

In October, the long standing issue with OneSteel's Vegetation Funding was resolved. The company was willing to pay the money direct to the group, however the government lawyers who had tied this funding up for the last two years won out in the end and made sure that the money was under Departmental control.

The Film shows have been very successful as public events, but have not resulted in us recruiting any extra members. The OneSteel Vegetation Agreement money has been useful as it has allowed us to have the Lincoln Highway fenceline in the Indenture section cleared and re-fenced. I am very happy with the work that Buttlingara and Peter Langdon have done on that job.

Our monthly working bees have been attended by 6 – 10 members and continue to maintain the park. 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. The removal of 2 of the 3 rubbish bins at Wild Dog Hill has been a worthwhile exercise as it has concentrated the litter into just one bin.

On the down side, there has been some significant littering events, bonfires being built under the trees at Wild Dog Hill and the break-in at the Friends Shed at Tanderra. A range of tools have been stolen and we await NPWS response as to whether they will be replaced or not.

Our committee meetings continue to be cosy and we are well looked after by Denise with all of the food that she supplies. I thank all of the committee members for their work throughout the year.

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.

Clint Garrett
28th July 2008

10 Year Awards

One of the things that occurred at the 2006 AGM on Saturday 29th July was that Clint had organised Ranger Michael Wigg to present 10 year service certificates and badges to those members of the group that had remained continuous members for 10 years or longer. This presentation was a well kept secret and a great surprise to those of us that received our certificate. Clint's notes on each member who was presented with a certificate are reproduced below and over the page.

Member / Since Activities

Lance Dean 1992 Treasurer from June 1993-2005 Committee member 2005/2006. Lance is methodical and for years has kept our books in excellent order. He has helped at many working bees and has effectively been our purchasing officer over the years. Lance's contacts in industry have helped us to get good prices on some major jobs such as the toilet and the construction of the western boundary fence. Now that he has retired from paid work, he has been able to do things for the group while most of us are at the workplace.

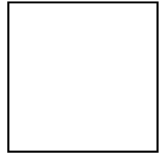
Elaine Dean 1992 Elaine has outstanding skills at handicraft and has made some truly beautiful toys for prizes for our raffles. While Elaine prefers to stay in the background, she has supported Lance and provided some nice edible goodies for events too.

David Poyner 1993 David joined the group in 1993 and produced the Myall Pamphlet and Park Brochure in 1994. He has been the group's Publicity officer in 1994-2001 and then 2004-2006. David has very good layout skills and produces high quality newsletters. He was responsible for our group being the first in the state to have a website of its own. He continues to maintain this and to host it. David has been on the committee since the AGM June 1993. He has had a major input to the Management plan, Show stalls, Westland displays, plant labels and was President in 1995/96





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



Ella Smith
1993
Committee member since 1995, President 2000-2001 and 2002/2003. Ella is an important part of the success of our plant sales because it is her daily watering of plants that ensures that we have good quality plants to sell to the public. An avid bird watcher, she has written almost all of the "Bird of the Month" articles that have appeared in our newsletter, the Myall Post.

John
Carter
1995
John has been a Committee member from 1996/1997 to 2005/2006 As well as John's regular commitment to the Friends Group, he is also a dedicated member of the SES, A Justice of the Peace and a member of the 4Wheel Drive Club. John is a valuable contributor to the Whyalla Community.

Rosemary
Carter
1995
Has supported the group at working bees. In preparing for plant sales, she has been a skilful potter of tiny plants. Rosemary has also contributed through her cooking for events such as Film Shows and Guided walks.

Ellen
Carter
1995
Has contributed through helping at working bees.

John
Carter
1995
John has walked more of the park than most members. He has a real skill for spotting Carrion Flower.

Denise
Sharp
1996
Secretary since 1997. Denise has a great range of contacts in the Environment field and with City Council and has used these to advance the work of the group. Denise is a person of considerable energy and she gets through a huge amount of work. She has also been responsible for feeding and watering the group at almost every event in the last 10 years. We particularly appreciate that she has continued her work as both Secretary and Minute secretary since the birth of Hayden.



Above: Ranger Michael Wigg presents John Carter with his 10 Year Service certificate and badge.

Previous Page: Ranger Michael Wigg presents Lance Dean with his 10 Year Service certificate and badge.

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