

Newsletter of the  
Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park  
1995 Friends Group Of The Decade  
PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600  
Volunteers Working For Conservation

# The Myall Post



Volume 10 No 7  
March 1997



## President's Message

Dear Members,

When the Friends group was founded nearly ten years ago, the committee identified a number of issues which would improve the Park. One of those issues was the installation of a toilet at Wild Dog Hill. But this work could not be done until the park had a management plan. When it became clear that the government did not have the resources to develop a management plan for the park, a small group of members put together South Australia's first management plan prepared by a Friends group. This plan has now been through the approval process, having been placed on public exhibition this time last year. The way is now clear for us to address the issue of installing a toilet at Wild Dog Hill to serve the needs of the approximately 8,000 visitors a year that the Hill receives.

The funding of the toilet is to be a shared effort between the Friends group, the Department of Natural Resources and the Whyalla City Council, each of who will contribute approximately one third of the estimated \$15,000 cost.

Prior to the management plan being finalized, the committee looked at several different toilet designs, before selecting the Dowmus Composting toilet. This design of toilet is in wide use by the Australian Army, who have them installed at both the Cultana Training camp and the Port Wakefield Range. The comments from the Army, from Parks organisations and from my personal inspection are all very favorable. The design is also approved by the Health Commissions in all states.

Much of the construction work required is capable of being done by the Friends group, so I look forward to seeing you on one of our forthcoming working bees.

Clinton Garrett

Don't forget the....

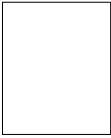


# 1997 Plant Sale

- Labelling and loading Friday 21st March
- Set-up and sale Saturday 22nd March



During Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 2nd March, members of the group, including Alvin, Pam & Joshua Charlesworth, Clint Garrett, John Carter, Vaughan Moldenhauer, Denise Sharp, Ella Smith, Lance Dean and me (behind the camera of course!), cleaned up the road in front of the Park.



## Coming Events!

Friday 21st March @ 7:00pm  
267 Landrace Rd  
Plant Labelling & Packing

Saturday 22nd March @ 6:30am  
Corner Hincks & Nicolson  
Plant Sale

Thursday 26th March @ 7:30pm  
71 Jenkins Ave  
Committee Meeting

Saturday 5th April @ 2:00pm  
Wild Dog Hill  
Working Bee, Tea, Astronomy Night

Saturday 12th April  
Toilet Construction??

Wednesday 24th April @ 7:30pm  
71 Jenkins Ave  
Committee Meeting

Thursday 1st May @ 7:30pm  
Peter's St Uniting Church Hall  
General Meeting



## Miss This At Your Peril!

Yep, its that time of the year again. Frantic preparations for this year's plant sale are again about to get underway, and as usual, the more hands, the lighter the work.

First cab off the rank is the labelling at David's house on Friday 21st March at 7:00pm. There are several important points here:

1. If you have not yet volunteered your trailer, please ring Clint or David
2. For those who are bringing trailers, please swing left at the shadehouse, and queue around the back
3. Everyone else, please park on the house side of the driveway
4. Bring supper for afters
5. Bring Mosquito repellent - (if you don't you'll be SORRY!)
6. Remember that Friends members can get their plants on the evening

The second important event is the actual sale the next morning. Laying out of the plants and erection of the fence begins at 6:30am. The sale starts at 8:30am and the whole event should be all over by 10:30am! We will need sellers at the gate, and others to help customers with their choices.

Remember that this is the Friends' major fundraising event for the year, and we will need all the help we can get. Posters for the sale are attached to this newsletter, please put them up where you can (and don't forget to retrieve them!).



## Bin Roster

Weekend beginning:

14th March Charlesworths

21st March Holly Hughes

28th March Garretts

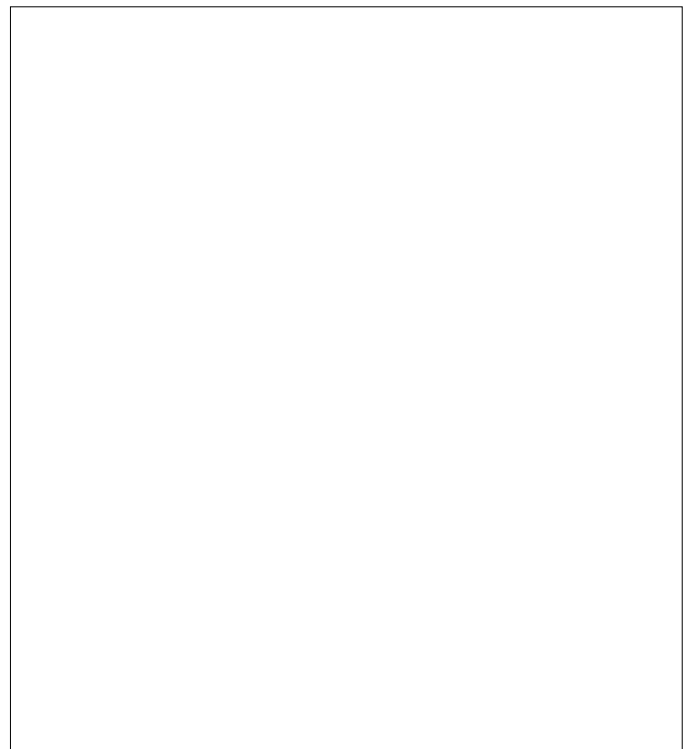
4th April Perc Prenzel

11th April Charlesworths

18th April Carter family

25th April Holly Hughes

Do you want to help check the Park and empty the bins?  
Please ring Kathryn Hollingworth on 8645 9233



# Committee Report



The committee met on Thursday the 27th of February. The items that were discussed were:

- There was a lengthy discussion for planning the Plant Sale, and the labelling night.
- Similarly, there was a lengthy discussion on the toilet to be placed at Wild Dog Hill. Various options for building type, location, excavations required and how to provide hand washing water were investigated. It was decided to defer the matter until another meeting, but to go ahead and purchase the tank which can sit in storage.
- As reported in Chris Baxter's report, the Management Plan has been approved with two minor alterations.
- The group has donated \$100 towards helping to send the Friends Of Parks delegate, Viki Natt, to the World Wildlife Congress in Bangalore.



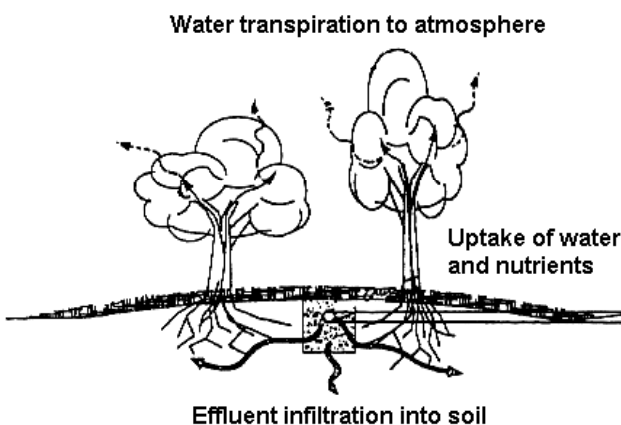
## A Toilet For The Park! *(from their brochure)*

DOWMUS systems work on a simple ecological cycle. This biologically active, aerobic disposal process is smell free, healthy and requires no chemical additives.

The secret to DOWMUS is the worm. In fact, large numbers of composting worms performing a lively biological ballet to convert amazing quantities of organic household waste into a rich compost.

What's more, it all happens without you having to touch it or think about it. And there are no lingering smells in the bathroom if you choose the non flush pedestal because a low energy, or solar-powered fan Provides constant ventilation throughout the system .

This simple recycling process provides many benefits including a dramatic reduction in your weekly garbage.

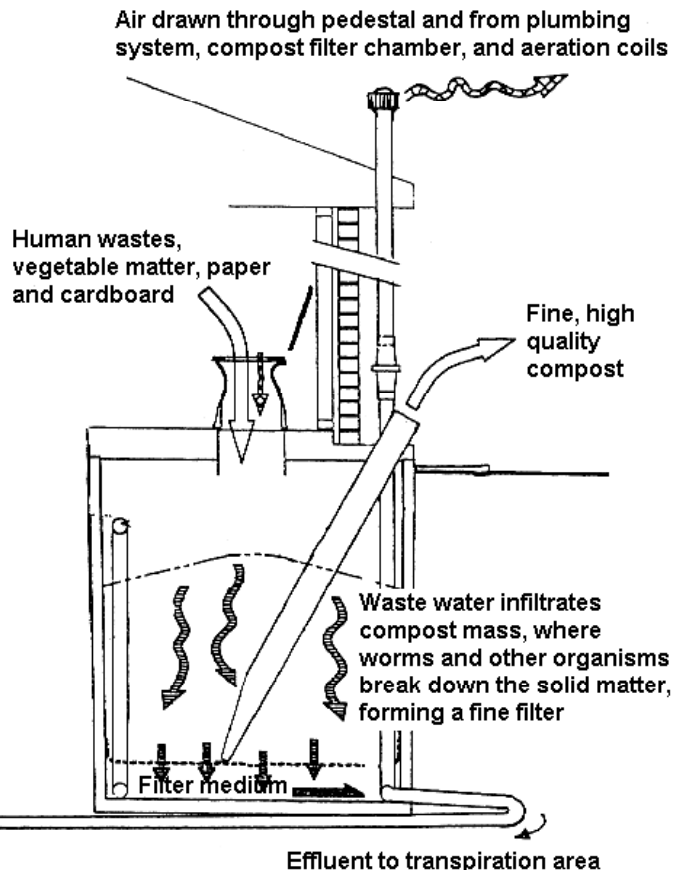


# Change In District Structure

At our September Committee meeting, Pearce Doherty, our District Ranger, informed us that there is to be a change to the structure of this district. The promised re-organisation has now occurred, with the result that Whyalla is now part of the Desert Parks District. The daily supervision and maintenance of this vast area will be staffed by three Rangers and two half-time park assistants. These few people will be responsible for the area shown in the table below.

This is an area greater than any of the following European countries: Albania, Austria Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands or Switzerland and many other countries in the world. It is an area 32 % larger than Tasmania.

Reserve	Area
Innaminka Regional Reserve	1,381,765 ha
Simpson Desert Regional Reserve	2,964,200 ha
Lake Eyre National Park	1,228,000 ha
Witjara National Park	776,900 ha
Elliot Price Conservation Park	64,570 ha
Lake Gairdner Conservation Park	548,143 ha
Lake Gillies Conservation Park	45,114 ha
Simpson Desert Conservation Park	692,680 ha
Tallaringa Well Conservation Park	1,268,800 ha
Whyalla Conservation Park	1,011 ha
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,971,183 ha</b>





## Ranger's Report

Firstly, I must advise you that I will be away in the Gawler Ranges all next week. We will be conducting a biological survey out there in conjunction with fox baiting around the Yellow-footed Rock wallaby colony. Unfortunately this means that I will not be able to attend the committee meeting on the 26/2/97 and I hereby extend my apologies for that meeting.

I include here a report on a few different topics that will probably be of interest:

### Flood Damage

- I have written up a submission for flood damage funding for the park. A total of \$10,000 has been requested (see copy of minute accompanying this) and as yet I have not heard back from Corporate Finance on this matter. I will probably know the outcome by the end of February.

I spoke to Mike Blythe about undertaking these roadworks and he is quite keen to undertake the work. He did mention that, if funding was approved, we should again endeavour to cut costs by acquiring cheap slag fill material. He also, mentioned that slag fill was a little too bulky last time and that it either would have to be finer material or put through a crusher to achieve this end. It was difficult working with material with such large "floaters" in it.

I will be meeting with him as soon as funds are approved to kick off stage one: which is to grade and open up drains again etc.

### Management Plan

- I have previously sent a fax to you re: the latest developments here. The plan has been approved by the Minister and is in need of only a few alterations to get it to its final form. If the two alteration I faxed to you could be entered into final text (ie; map scale alteration and Peninsula Dragon text altered) then we are ready for printing etc. I assume Marg. has all of the draft text on disk and it is straight forward process to edit this new material in.

### Toilet

- With regard to new toilet block, I need from you some definite plans of what you have in mind. These plans along with costing are necessary before anything else can progress on this matter. We need to be doubly sure of ourselves on the suitability of the composting type toilets you have mentioned-bearing in mind that they will not be suitable if not approved by the SA Health Commission.

I am writing a letter today to Henry Croft of the Barngarla Aboriginal Consultative Council, to request a site inspection of locality of proposed toilet block. We do not want to disturb any place of aboriginal significance and a site clearance from the Barngarla people is necessary to achieve this goal. I will follow this letter up with a visit to the Barngarla Office in Whyalla after returning from the Gawler Ranges to ensure things keep moving along in this regard. I spoke with Henry about this matter and he suggested there may be a delay on this due to other commitments.

### Signs

- The wooden routed signs for the park have arrived and were to be put in place at last working bee or shortly after. Unfortunately this did not happen due to other commitments at the time, I will be endeavouring to meet them in two week period following my return from the Gawler Ranges.

### District Structure

- Just to bring everyone up to date on latest happenings at Port Augusta Regional Office. We are presently in throes of organising ourselves into the Flinders Ranges and Desert Parks Districts, Whyalla CP is part of the Desert Parks District and as such is a very small park compared to the huge reserves further north (eg: Wijira, Lake Eyre, Simpson Desert, Innamincka, Strzelecki, Lake Gairdner, Lake Torrens, Tallaringa etc.).

I am one of three rangers based at Port Augusta who are responsible for bulk of field based activities in managing these parks. As well as this I have a wildlife component to my work (Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby Conservation Programme and Kangaroo Management), I am mentioning this in order for you to understand and accept that the time I have available to me for management of Whyalla CP is limited, It is certainly not the same scenario as when previous rangers were responsible for just two parks outside or their wildlife work-those being Whyalla and Winninowie CP.

I will do my best to support Whyalla CP and Whyalla Friends, but please understand the constraints on my time due to an increased work load and commitments elsewhere.

I see our main priorities for this year as printing of Management Plan, establishment of toilets at Wild Dog Hill and further upgrading of main entrance road and northern boundary track (erosion rehabilitation).

Chris Baxter

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### Contacts.....

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