



Newsletter of the
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600
<http://www.stuarths.schools.sa.edu.au/fwcp>
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

The Myall Post



Volume 11 No 2
 August 1997



President's Message

The site inspection for the toilet was done by the relevant aboriginal elders during our last working bee. Both possible sites were felt to be suitable as they did not interfere with any of the significant areas so far as the custodians were concerned. Of the two sites, John Carter's suggested site was the preferred site. This lies near some bullock bushes to the east of the car-park. Chris Baxter has informed us that the site application has now been processed and approved.

It was most heartening to walk around the area with Ted, Henry and Jason and to talk about the park with them. They were very pleased with the work that the Friends Group has done in the park and commended us for what we had done.

Ted's home country is Mount Finke, a wonderful mountain that we visited last year during the Great Victoria Desert trip. He spoke with real passion about that country and what it means to him. I could only agree with him, because I too feel very strongly about that area. He has offered to

go with us and tell us the stories of the area should we ever go back there.

If more Australians could develop the sense of belonging to the land that these men have, then we would have far less environmental problems.

Clinton

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You Are / Are Not A Current Financial Member



Joan & Alan Neild, Magaret Garrett, Rosemary & John Carter and Vaughan Moldenhauer enjoy their 'Xmas' dinner at July's AGM at Point Lowly



Important Dates

Make sure that these dates are entered into your diary!

Saturday 2/8/97 @ 9:00 am
Working Bee
Wild Dog Hill

Thursday 7/8/97 @ 7:30 pm
General Meeting
Peters Street Uniting Church Hall

+ **Saturday & Sunday 16-18/8/97 All day**
Show Stall
Showgrounds

Thursday 28/8/97 @ 7:30 pm
Committee Meeting
71 Jenkins Ave

+ **Saturday 6/9/97 @ 9:00 am**
Working Bee
Wild Dog Hill

+ **Sunday 7/9/97 @ 2:00 pm**
10th Birthday + Fathers Day Walk

Thursday 25/9/97 @ 7:30 pm
Committee Meeting
71 Jenkins Ave



(Above) Out at Pt. Lowly for the AGM - Alvin Charlesworth cleaning the BBQ so that Pam can make her famous pancakes for breakfast.



Bin Roster

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

9th August 1997 - Carters

16th August 1997 - Garretts

23rd August 1997 - Lance Dean

30th August 1997 - Sharp / Poyner / Smith

6th September 1997 - Scottney-Turbill

Please remember to wear clothing which will identify you as a Friends member and NPWS volunteer if at all possible.

If you would like to volunteer for the roster, please call Kathryn Hollingworth on 8645-9233



Which male committee member, when plans were being made to hold our 10th Birthday celebrations and a public walk in the Park on Fathers Day, remarked "I might be home being pampered - I might not want to go....."

Anyway - advance notice is hereby given of the above event. The committee decided earlier in the year to make the 10th Birthday AGM an event for members only and to hold a separate public event later in the year. With the success of the Mother's Day walk, it may be a popular event.

The venue for the walk has not been decided yet, but hopefully recent rains will continue and the vegetation in the Park will be looking a lot better than it did in May!



Bird Of The Month

Horsefield's Bronze Cuckoo

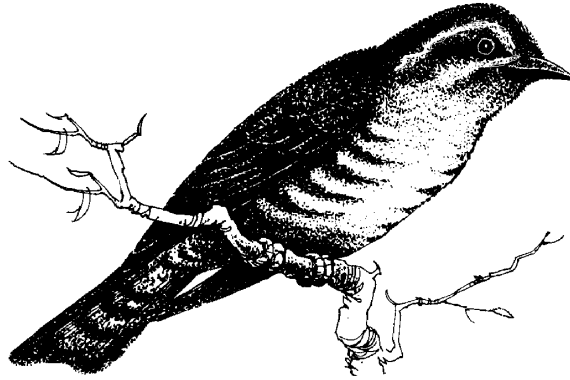
As spring approaches, cuckoos migrate from northern Australia where they have wintered and begin to return to our area. Two species are likely to be seen in the park: Horsefield's Bronze Cuckoo and Pallid Cuckoo.

If you should hear a bird repeatedly calling fweeee, fweeee, fweeee in a leisurely fashion, then you are probably hearing a Horsefield Bronze Cuckoo. Look for a bird a little larger than a sparrow, sitting on a prominent dead branch, from which it can view a large territory. It will call several times and then wait to see if it is challenged. The calling is then repeated to claim the territory and to advertise to potential mates.

As the name indicates, these cuckoos have a bronze sheen which is seen in the green feathers of the upper plumage. The belly is cream, which has brown bars

across it which do not reach the centreline. The eyebrow is prominent.

Bronze Cuckoos are parasitic like other cuckoos and have been recorded laying their eggs in the nests of thornbills and wrens. They do have a positive benefit in that they are insectivores and seem to eat a lot of caterpillars. In particular, they seem to like the large hairy black caterpillars that are commonly seen on grasses and low bushes.



The other species common in the park will often be heard before it is seen. Pallid Cuckoos are larger birds than Bronze Cuckoos, medium grey above and paler below. In females the belly is not streaked, but the male has prominent dark

streaks across the chest. This species is also called 'BRAIN FEVER BIRD', because of their repeated call. This is a series of five rising notes which is repeated over and over from first light to dark.

1997 Whyalla Show

The Whyalla Show is on again this coming weekend - August 14th -16th, and as usual, the Friends will be having a stall to help promote ourselves and the Park.

The theme of the stall will be the current Friends of Parks theme - 'The Year Of Ornithology'. The usual state-wide NPWS display will be present, as well as material on Mallee Fowl from the Threatened Species Network, and display material from the South Australian Ornithological Association.

We will be holding a colouring competition for children under 12 years of age, and raffling a framed print. The Friends will also be helping the Whyalla City Council stall to give away two 'Green Packs' - full of environmentally friendly household items. To win one of these, entrants will need to visit our stall and have their entry card stamped, as well as

answering a question about the Park.

We need members to help set up and to run the show stall. Set-up will be on Friday evening from 7.00pm. We will then need members to be on duty during the show commencing at 10:00am on Saturday and Sunday and concluding at 10:00pm and 4:00pm respectively. The show stall will be in the main pavillion, close to the entry in the South East corner.



We will need at least two members on the stall at any one time. Currently, vacancies exist from 11:00am to 2:00pm and from 3:30pm to 10:00pm on Saturday, and from 11:00am to 2:00pm on Sunday.

Please phone Clinton on 8645-7522 to add your name to the roster. The more members that we have who give time to this, the easier it is for all concerned.



Ranger's Report

Chris has sent Clinton a written report of detailing interesting news and his recent and forthcoming activities.

- The site clearance for the proposed toilet area has been finalised and is OK.
- A mining company has lodged an exploration permit for the area between Whyalla and Port Augusta.
- The State-wide NPWS display has been booked for the Whyalla Show and will be delivered the night before.
- Roadworks to repair some of the damage from the heavy summer rains have been completed.
- New signs for the Park have been delivered (*and installed already - ed*) to the Friends shed.
- Interviews have taken place for two new Ranger positions - one may be appointed for Whyalla.
- Chris will be in Innamincka until early August.



Committee Report

At the last committee meeting which was held on Thursday the 31st August, the following items were discussed:

- Detailed arrangements were made for the show stall.
- A progress report on the proposed toilet was given. Clinton reported that the site was now OK, and that the NPWS plans for the building would need to be modified to make them accessible to all visitors to the Park.
- Plans were made to install the new signs at the August working bee.
- Lance made a suggestion of relocating our 'depot' to another location - the committee thought that the idea had merit and the site is being investigated.
- Lance also suggested that the group purchase its own chain saw and safety equipment. It was agreed to investigate how much this would cost.



Snippets



If you are going to be in Adelaide on Sunday October 26th, then you can head off to the 'Leisure Day in the Park', a recreation and lifestyle show in conjunction with Life Be In It and the 4WD Association.

The show runs from 10:00am to 4:00pm, and boasts over 200 recreational, sporting, health, arts and leisure groups on display.

Six members are off to the Friends Forum on Kangaroo Island in October. Two of the features of Friends Forums are the 'Soapbox Sessions' and 'Forum Topics' where issues can be discussed that are important to the park system. If you have any suggestions on issues that can be raised by our team, please let a committee member know.

An interesting article about foxes:

Fox densities generally range from 1 (arid areas) to 4-8 foxes per square kilometre (farm & forest). Figures in excess of 10/km² may be encountered in swamps and semi-urban areas. A fox density of 4 foxes/km² is equivalent to about 16 foxes per 400 ha (1000 acres). If one or two foxes are seen for every 3-4 spotlight kilometres the density is about 4/km²

Each fox eats about 375gm* of food per night and is an opportunistic killer and scavenger. Overall about 30% of fox diet is sheep and lamb, 30% rabbits, mice and insects and 30% wildlife, but this varies widely with season, location and presence of lambs etc.

Foxes also carry several diseases including internal and external parasites such as hydatids and mange and would rapidly spread rabies if this virus entered Australia.

While foxes eat rabbits and mice they do not provide an effective control for these pests. Unlike native mammals, rabbits generally breed faster than foxes can eat. Most damage is done by foxes at night so the extent of predation is often underestimated. Spotlighting identifies only a proportion of the true number of foxes present.

* 20 Foxes (500ha) = 7.5 kg per night or 2.730 tonnes/year

1997-98 Calendar of Events

| Event | Date | Time | Venue |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| August 1997 | | | |
| Working Bee | 2/8/97 | 9:00 am | Wild Dog Hill |
| General Meeting | 7/8/97 | 7:30 pm | Peters Street Uniting Church Hall |
| Show Stall | 16-18/8/97 | All day | Showgrounds |
| Committee Meeting | 28/8/97 | 7:30 pm | 71 Jenkins Ave |
| September 1997 | | | |
| Working Bee | 6/9/97 | 9:00 am | Wild Dog Hill |
| 10th Birthday + Fathers Day Walk | 7/9/97 | 2:00 pm | |
| Committee Meeting | 25/9/97 | 7:30 pm | 71 Jenkins Ave |
| October 1997 | | | |
| General Meeting | 2/10/97 | 7:30 pm | Peters Street Uniting Church Hall |
| Forum | 10-12/10/97 | | Kangaroo Island |
| Committee Meeting | 23/10/97 | 7:30 pm | 71 Jenkins Ave |
| November 1997 | | | |
| Working Bee | 1/11/97 | 9:00 am | Wild Dog Hill |
| Committee Meeting | 27/11/97 | 7:30 pm | 71 Jenkins Ave |
| December 1997 | | | |
| General Meeting | 4/12/97 | 7:30 pm | Peters Street Uniting Church Hall |
| Potting On Day | 6/12/97 | 1:00 pm | |
| Xmas BBQ | 7/12/97 | 4:00 pm | |
| January 1998 | | | |
| Committee Meeting | 22/1/98 | 7:30 pm | 71 Jenkins Ave |
| February 1998 | | | |
| General Meeting | 5/2/98 | 6:30 pm | Wild Dog Hill |
| Working Bee | 7/2/98 | 9:00 am | Wild Dog Hill |
| Committee Meeting | 26/2/98 | 7:30 pm | 71 Jenkins Ave |
| March 1998 | | | |
| Working Bee | 7/3/98 | 9:00 am | Wild Dog Hill |
| Plant Labelling & Loading | 20/3/98 | 6:00 pm | 267 Landrace Rd |
| Plant Sale | 21/3/98 | 6:00 am | |
| Committee Meeting | 26/3/98 | 7:30 pm | 71 Jenkins Ave |
| April 1998 | | | |
| General Meeting | 2/4/98 | 7:30 pm | Peters Street Uniting Church Hall |
| Working Bee | 4/4/98 | 9:00 am | Wild Dog Hill |
| Walk | 11/4/98 | | (Corruna or Uno Ranges?) |
| Committee Meeting | 23/4/98 | 7:30 pm | 71 Jenkins Ave |
| May 1998 | | | |
| Working Bee | 2/5/98 | 9:00 am | Wild Dog Hill |
| Come'n'Try Walking | 10/5/98 | 2:00 pm | |
| Committee Meeting | 28/5/98 | 7:30 pm | 71 Jenkins Ave |
| July 1998 | | | |
| General Meeting | 4/6/98 | 7:30 pm | Peters Street Uniting Church Hall |
| Working Bee | 6/6/98 | 9:00 am | Wild Dog Hill |
| AGM | 20/6/98 | | |
| Committee Meeting | 25/6/98 | 7:30 pm | 71 Jenkins Ave |