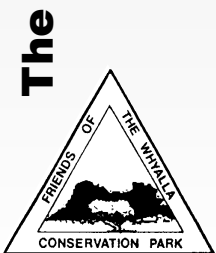


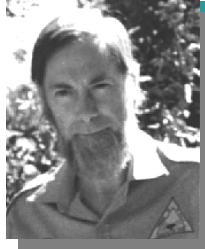


Newsletter of the
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600
<http://www.stuarths.schools.sa.edu.au/fwcp>
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

The Myall Post



Volume 11 No 7
 May 1998



President's Message

This newsletter includes a questionnaire concerning a number of issues which were raised at the last committee meeting. I would ask the each member take the time to fill it out and return it.

Denise puts a lot of effort into getting a wide range of guest speakers to come to our General meetings. However there are usually only the committee plus two or three other members at these meetings. Is it worth the effort to continue with these meetings on a bi-monthly basis, or would more people come if they were quarterly.

David puts his time into preparing the newsletter but apart from the articles that Ella and I contribute, gets nothing from members which he can publish. If you have information which relates to conservation and which you think members would be interested in, please give this to David.

On a different note. Last year, the noted American economist, Robert Theobald gave a series of lectures on the ABC under the heading, " Re-working Tomorrow ". Those lectures dealt with issues of the environment, employment and social disruption. Theobald is currently giving a new series of lectures entitled " The Healing Century". These lectures can be heard on

ABC Radio National at 5.00 pm on Sundays. Robert Theobald will be in Adelaide from September 13th to 17th this year to run community workshops. If you are able to get there, I would heartily recommend that you do so. For those unable to travel, use the Internet at <http://www.transform.org.transform/> to read the lectures. Here are two short quotes to give you the flavour of what he has to say.

" At some point, our increase in population and production will over-strain ecological systems. The argument about when this happens is not yet settled, but this statement is un-arguable. Some believe that we have already moved beyond sustainability. Others think that there is still some flexibility in the system.

As we do not know where the real limits are, the only prudent course is to move as rapidly as possible to limit population, production and wastes."

" There are enough people who know and care about a more humane future that they could alter the directions of the world rapidly if they chose to do so. The choice really does depend on each one of us individually and collectively"

I agree whole-heartedly.

Clinton Garrett



Looking for fish during the trip to the Spencer Gulf Aquaculture Hatchery on Sunday 19th April are Denise Sharp, Liam Hughes-Hollingworth, Eddie Hughes, Cieran Hughes-Hollingworth, Megan Boyle, Ella Smith, Marg Garrett, Pam Charlesworth, Paul Fennell, Kathryn Hollingworth, Alvin Charlesworth, Clint Garrett, Josh Charlesworth, Sinead Hughes-Hollingworth and Hatchery Manager, Stephen Shotten.



Important Dates

Make sure that these dates are entered into your diary!

Sunday 2nd May @ 9:00am
Working Bee
Wild Dog Hill

Sunday 10th May @ 2:00pm
Mother's Day Walk
Main Gate - Pt Augusta Rd
(see page 3)

Thursday 28th May @ 7:30pm
Committee Meeting
71 Jenkins Ave

Saturday 6th June @ 9:00am
Working Bee
Wild Dog Hill

Sunday 14th June @ 2:00pm
Simpson Desert Trip Meeting
113 Norrie Ave

Saturday 20th June @ 2:00pm
AGM
UniSA Conference Room



Bin Roster

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

Friday 1st May - Carters

Friday 8th May - Poyner/Smith/Sharp

Friday 15th May - Lance Dean

Friday 22nd May - Meridith Scottney-Turbill

Friday 29th May - Meridith Scottney-Turbill

Friday 5th June - Garretts

Friday 12th June - Charleworths

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 Denise Sharp on 8645-4442



May Working Bee

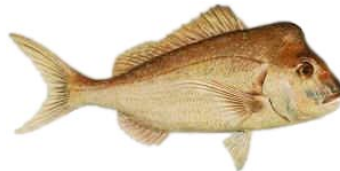
As suggested by Pam Charlesworth at the last committee meeting, there will be only one task at the May working bee, which will be to concentrate on maintenance of the Walking Trail.

Tasks that need to be completed include raking, pruning, maintaining the position of the edging rocks, and cementing some other rocks in position to improve safety. There will be plenty to do, and even if you do not think that you are able to help with the more skilled or heavy lifting jobs, there are other ways that you can help.

As there will be some cementing involved, please bring along 40 litres of water if you are able.

On another note, the working bee provides us with an opportunity to move most of our equipment from the old shed to the new one. The scheme works like this: if everyone who is attending the working bee who has access to a trailer could stop by the old shed on the way to the working bee, load their trailer with equipment, they can take it to the new shed on their way home. Please ring Clinton at work on 8645-7677 (or at home if you have his number) if you can assist in this manner.

Fish Farm Trip



The recent trip to Spencer Gulf Aquaculture to look at the breeding of snapper was both informative and fun for all.

15 members of the group attended and were taken on a guided tour of the hatchery by Stephen Shotten, Manager of the site. Members were treated to a host sights, smells and sounds which included the growing of algae to feed the young fish to viewing the breeding stock up on a landing some 6 feet of the ground.

A couple of interesting points picked up from the visit include;

- when babySnapper are born they have no eyes and live on a yolk sac for the first 2 1/2 weeks. After this time they are fed on algae and then progress to tiny microorganisms called Rotifers.
- the snapper currently being bred in the tanks will be transferred to the Fitzgerald Bay Aquaculture Zone later this year where they will be bred to the size of a dinner plate for the restaurant trade

After the tour the group visited the Arid Lands Botanic Garden for lunch and a leisurely stroll around the grounds before heading back to Whyalla.

Denise Sharp



Bird Of The Month

Grey Fantail

The Grey Fantail is found all over Australia. It prefers the wetter areas however, which probably explains why this species which is partly nomadic, always seems to turn up in Whyalla in mid to late autumn, stay over for winter, and disappear again in spring.

Belonging to a group of small birds characterised by their fan like tails, the Grey Fantail is like a small grey Willie Wagtail.

A very active bird usually found singly or in pairs, they use their wings and tail to manoeuvre as they flit about acrobatically to catch small insects in mid air.

Breeding in Spring and summer, they build a tiny neat cup shaped nest like a baseless wine glass made of fine grasses and strips of bark bound with spiders web. The two or three eggs take a fortnight to hatch, and a fortnight later the baby birds are nearly ready to leave the nest.

This energetic little bird has just reappeared for this year, perhaps you will see it in your garden in the next few months.

Ella Smith



Our mystery lizard that featured on the front page of the last newsletter (above) has been identified by the South Australian Museum. It is a Five-lined Earless Dragon, *Tympanocryptis lineata*. Apparently, *T. lineata* is the most widespread of its genus on the Eyre Peninsula, but varies a great deal in its colour, usually matching the dominant soil colour. As suggested by its name, this lizard is cryptic and hard to find, so spotting it during the walk was fortunate.



1998 Forum



Registration forms for the 1998 forum have arrived. This year, it will be held Friday 9th to Sunday 11th of October at Meningie.

A number of tours have been organised as well as the usual addresses from the Director of NPWSA and the CEO.

Registration forms are available from Denise.

Mother's Day Walk

This year's Mother's Day walk on Sunday May 10th will begin at 2:00pm at the Port Augusta Road entrance.



The guided walk will cover the South Eastern end of the Park and last approximately three quarters of an hour to an hour. Recent rains should mean that the vegetation will be in better condition than it was at this time last year. The vegetation in this end of the Park is much denser than in the western end of the Park.

If you are planning on attending, please bring a chair. Afternoon tea will be provided and a toilet will be available.

1999 Plant Sale

Clinton has been researching a range of plants which would be suitable for salty soils or for coastal planting. Having read through the last 24 years editions of the Journal of Australian plants and through the five volumes of the Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, he has found over 60 species with horticultural potential which will grow in these situations. Many of these will be grown for the next plant sale. In addition, he has searched up another 50 decorative species which are suited more generally to Whyalla and which we have not grown before.

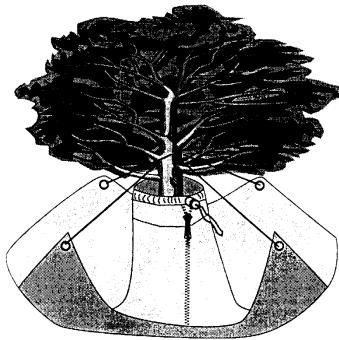
Our next batch of plants will be grown in a new propagating unit that Clinton has developed. He has converted a large Bain-Marie for the purpose and is currently trying it on a beautiful weeping form of Myall and on a blue form of Native Pine. If successful, you will see them at the next plant sale.



Committee Report

At the last committee meeting held on Thursday, 23rd April 1998 a number of issues were discussed. They are as follow:

- The toilet plans have been submitted to DEHAA for approval.
- Recently Clinton received the names of two Botanists who are well qualified to undertake a lichen study in the park. Correspondence has been sent to Community Liaison Branch for their response.
- Arrangements for the Mothers Day Walk on Sunday, 10th May 1998 were discussed. If anyone would like to volunteer to make scones for afternoon tea please contact Clinton. See this newsletter for more information.
- A report was given on the recent trip to the Aquaculture Hatchery on Sunday, 19th April 1998, which was visited by 15 members. It was decided that another trip be scheduled for next year's calendar events, to allow those who missed out on this years visit to attend.
- In preparation for the building of the toilet block it was decided to order a Dowmus composting toilet and store it at the new shed.
- A progress report was given on the work being done at the new shed. The new roller doors have been installed and more work will need to be done over the next couple of months before it is complete. Once this is done, it was agreed to hold a "Lock up Party" to celebrate the opening of the shed at it new location.
- Following the last committee meeting it was agreed to purchase a seed trap from Greening Australia. This is now available to members for seed collections. See Clinton for more information.
- A report was given on the last working bee held on 4th April 1998. The main focus was on rabbit control



and according to Clinton, 80% of the warrens previously closed had been reopened in this time which indicates that rabbit numbers are on the rise.

- Pam gave a report on their (Pam & Alvin's) attendance at the last Tanderra Committee meeting on Monday, 6th April 1998. Pam and Alvin have agreed to be the Friend's group representative for these meetings.
- A preliminary discussion was held on the AGM (Saturday 20th June 1998). Members were asked to identify whether they would be standing again for next year. If you are interested in being involved in the committee please contact Clinton.
- Clinton presented a new listing for salt tolerant and coastal plants as well as a new decorative plant listing for consideration for the Friends Plant Sale next year. A copy of the listings can be obtained from Clinton.
- A new bain-marie has been purchased for propagating seedlings.
- A list of participants interested in undertaking a chainsaw course has been submitted to DEHAA. It is hoped that this can be done locally.



Ranger's Report

Albert has been working at Dalhousie Springs for the last few weeks. He reports that the conditions have been hot and difficult due to the number of March Flies. We guess that he has now been rained in owing to the 70 mm which fell in the area last week.

The Management plan has been rechecked and because of the name change from National Parks and Wildlife Service, to National Parks SA every mention of the name will have to be changed.

Contacts

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Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park

1998 Member Survey

In an effort to ensure that the group's program meets the need of our members, we have included this survey with the May 1998 Newsletter. Please take the time to circle your preferences and place it in the stamped addressed envelope which came with the survey. Thank you.

General Meetings

1. Do you think that General Meetings of the group should be held:

- a) Monthly
- b) Every second month
- c) Quarterly

2. Which day/s do you think General Meetings should be held?

- a) Monday
- b) Tuesday
- c) Wednesday
- d) Thursday
- e) Friday
- f) Saturday
- g) Sunday

3. At what time of the day should General Meetings be held?

.....

4. What would you like to see/do at a General Meeting? (circle as many as you like)

- a) Guest speaker
- b) Environmental video
- c) Activity
- d) Activity in the Park
- e) Other.....

5. Have you ever attended a General Meeting?

- a) Yes
- b) No

6. If you have not attended a recent General Meeting, could you please explain why:

.....

Working Bees

1. Do you think that Working Bees should be held in the Park:

- a) Monthly
- b) Every second month
- c) Quarterly

2. Do you think that Working Bees should be held on:

- a) Saturday
- b) Sunday
- c) During the week

3. Do you think that Working Bees should be held:

- a) Early in the morning
- b) Later in the morning
- c) In the afternoon

4. Have you ever attended a Working Bee?

- a) Yes
- b) No

5. If you have not attended a recent Working Bee, could you please explain why:

.....

Myall Post

1. Do you think that the newsletter should be delivered:

- a) Monthly
- b) Every second month
- c) Quarterly

2. What do you think are the most important parts of the newsletter (circle as many as you like)

- a) President's message
- b) Important dates
- c) Bin roster
- d) Committee report
- e) General meeting report
- f) Interest articles (Bird of the month etc)
- g) Other

3. If there are any other comments or suggestions that you would like to make, please feel free to add them here:

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3. What else would you like to see in the newsletter?

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4. Would you be willing to contribute articles for the newsletter?

- a) Yes
- b) No

5. How do you remember when meetings / events are scheduled?

- a) The calendar for the whole year which is printed in the July Myall Post
- b) The most recent newsletter

Other

1. How long have you been a member of the Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park?

.....

2. What benefits do you think that you get from being a member of the group?

- a) Able to help protect the Park
- b) Learn about plants and animals
- c) Friendship
- d) Other/s.....