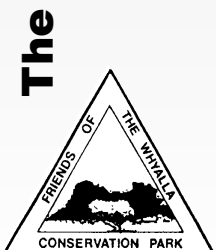


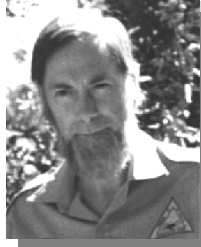


Newsletter of the
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600
<http://www.stuarths.schools.sa.edu.au/fwcp>
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

The Myall Post



Volume 11 No 8
 June 1998



President's Message

Many thanks to all of the members who took the time to fill out and return the members survey. We had a response from about two thirds of members, which is a high rate of return for a survey. It was interesting to see that about 75% of those who responded were people who had been to a working bee and who therefore must be counted amongst our most active members. The complete set of results are attached as an appendix to this newsletter.

Many of the returns confirmed that our present practices for working bees and for the newsletter were right. David's good work with the newsletter was confirmed, as all sections of the newsletter were highly rated. It was interesting to see the importance that you placed on it as a way of getting a reminder about up-coming events. There were many good suggestions for additional material which could be included. You will see some of these taken up in this edition.

So far as general meetings are concerned, there was a definite preference for quarterly meetings rather than for monthly or bi-monthly meetings. This change will be recommended the AGM in June. The new

committee will look at ways of including as many of the ideas as possible in the 1998-99 program.

Friday June 5th is World Environment Day. This celebrates the first Environment Day which was held in conjunction with the First International Conference on the Environment in Stockholm in 1972. Our State Government seems to be confused about its environmental responsibilities. In the budget, released last week, there is a welcome increase in funding for the National Parks Department. But at the same time, the Energy Information Centre has had its budget halved. Perhaps the government does not realise that energy management is one of the most significant ways of helping the environment.

Nowhere in the current debate about the possible sell off of ETSA have I heard the Treasurer talk about our state's energy future. An enlightened power supply utility could make a very significant contribution to the long term future of the state. However, it is my great fear is that the government will try to sell ETSA without attaching any environmental controls on the new owner. If you have concerns about selling off ETSA, then write to Rob Lucas.

Clint Garrett



Clint Garrett demonstrates the stickiness of a mistletoe seed during the Mother's Day Walk on May 10th. 32 members and guests joined in the walk in the eastern end of the Park.

Important Dates

Make sure that these dates are entered into your diary!

☞ 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
Annual General Meeting
UniSA Conference Room
(see extra information this page)

Thursday 25th June @ 7:30pm
Committee Meeting
71 Jenkins Ave

The 1998/99 calendar will be distributed with the July

Bin Roster

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

5th June - Garretts

12th June - Charleworths

19th June - Carters (John)

26th June - Scottney - Turbill

3rd July - Fennell

10th July - need non Desert Trip person/s

17th July - need non Desert Trip person/s

24th July - Dean

31st July - 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 Denise Sharp on 8645-4442

June Working Bee

The next Working Bee will be held on Saturday 6th June at 9:00am. The Working Bee will continue the work that was started on the Walking Trail last month.

Members who were at the last Working Bee managed to stabilise several sections of the Walking Trail to improve the safety of the surface for walkers.

Any member who has the time available is encouraged to attend Working Bees - you may not think that you have any specific skills, but every pair of hands can help in some way!

AGM

For the last few years the group has held its AGM in a variety of places - Pt Lowly, Mt Laura Homestead, Maritime Museum and the Fauna Park. This year, the committee have decided to stay at home (of sorts) and hold the AGM in the conference room of the University of SA. The meeting will commence at 2:00pm on Saturday 20th June.

A barbeque will precede the meeting at 12:30pm. Members are encouraged to bring their own meat and a salad and desert to share.

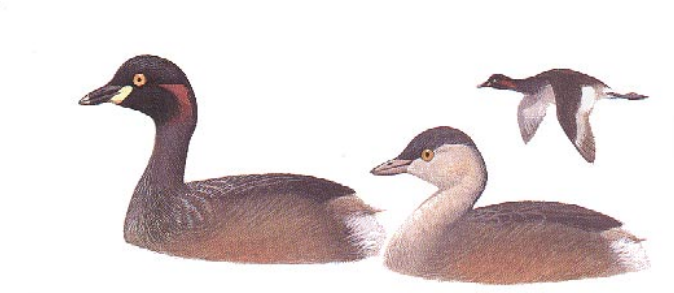
At the AGM, the President and Treasurer will present reports for the previous year, and then new committee members will be elected. Ranger Albert Zepf will also be in attendance.



Location of the 1998 AGM - UniSA Conference Room, Main Building South, ground floor. Entrance can be gained via a door on the eastern end of the building.

Bird Of The Month

Australasian Grebe



Picture from The Graham Pizzey & Frank Knight Field Guide To The Birds Of Australia

Anyone visiting the park lately may have noticed that the dam is currently dry, a reminder that our park is an arid land park, but nonetheless one which usually has varying amounts of water in the dam.

Consequently, of the 81 species of birds which have been recorded in the Park, a small number are unusual in that they are waterbirds. One of these occasional visitors is the Australasian Grebe. It looks somewhat like a small duck, but compared to a duck it is sharp-billed, slender-necked, and tail-less. Their legs are not designed for walking and they do so with difficulty, thus spending most of the time on water.

When disturbed they prefer to dive rather than fly. They feed on small fish, pond snails, water insects and crustaceans. Breeding in spring and summer, they use a platform of floating plant material on which to nest. When in breeding condition the feathers on the head change to a distinctive coloured pattern, not present the rest of the year when they are difficult to distinguish from the similar Hoary-headed Grebe.

If anyone wishes to see grebes they can usually be found at the Whyalla wetlands.

Ella Smith

Monthly Recipe

This month, Pam Charlesworth's famous scones are featured! If you would like to offer a recipe, hand it to a committee member or post it to the address on the back.

500g SR flour (5 cups)
50g castor sugar (1/4 cup)
Pinch of salt
150g butter (3/4 cup)
300ml milk
2 level teaspoons baking powder

Review

World Scientist's Warning to Humanity

In November 1992, 1,700 of the World's leading scientists, including the majority of Nobel Laureates in the Sciences signed this document. The whole document is available on the Internet but part of it is reproduced below. Importantly, what you do in your life can make a great difference to whether the world situation improves or declines. Being active in conservation and being willing to push politicians in the right direction are vitally important.

Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course. Human activities inflict harsh and often irreversible damage on the environment and on critical resources. If not checked, many of our current practices put at serious risk the future of the future that we wish for human society and for the plant and animal kingdoms, and may so alter the living world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner that we know. Fundamental changes are urgent if we are to avoid the collision our present course will bring about.

We the undersigned senior members of the world's scientific community, hereby warn all humanity of what lies ahead. A great change in our stewardship of the earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided and our global home is not to be irretrievably mutilated.

Five inextricably linked areas must be addressed simultaneously.

1. We must bring environmentally damaging activities under control to restore and protect the integrity of the earth's systems we depend on.

We just, for example, move away from fossil fuels to more benign, inexhaustible energy sources to cut greenhouse gas emissions and the pollution of our air and water. Priority must be given to the development of energy sources matched to Third World needs – small scale and relatively easy to implement.

We must halt deforestation, injury to and loss of agricultural land, and the loss of terrestrial and marine plant and animal species.

2. We must manage resources crucial to human welfare more effectively.

We must give high priority to efficient use of energy, water, and other materials, including expansion of conservation and recycling.

(Continued on page 4)

3. We must stabilise population.

This will be possible only if all nations recognise that it requires improved social and economic conditions, and the adoption of effective, voluntary family planning.

4. We must reduce and eventually eliminate poverty.

5. We must ensure sexual equality, and guarantee women control over their own reproductive decisions.

In Brief

Members may remember that the committee recently supported a push to have the book 'Plants Of The Adelaide Plains & Hills' republished. Well, the State Herbarium have responded to public demand, and a new revised edition will be available after July.

A pre-publication price of \$30.00 is available before the end of July. After this date the price will be \$39.95. Copies of the order form are available from David or Denise on 8645-4442 (h) 8645-7422 (w)



Welcome to our newest member - Dane Carter. Dane has recently completed an Associate Diploma in Applied Science in Natural & Cultural Resource Management. We hope that Dane enjoys his time as a member of the group.

Nine members offered to write material for the newsletter. As the surveys were anonymous, I am depending on you to get material to me. Please have a look at the list of things that members wanted and if you can supply material please do so.

Committee Report

At the last committee meeting held on Thursday, 28th May 1998 there were a number of issues discussed. These included:

- Toilet Update - the plans for the toilet are currently with the Director of National Parks, and feedback should be received soon. Correspondence has been sent to the new South Australian Downmus distributor regarding costs.

- Roadwatch signs - correspondence received from KESAB indicated that the signs the group ordered some time ago are currently with the Department of Transport and will be erected in the next couple of weeks. The reason for the delay was that the Friends signs were incorrectly sent elsewhere. Denise is to meet with Tony Jones, KESAB Roadwatch coordinator on Monday 1.6.98 and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- Following the last committee meeting a Botanist has been identified and who has agreed to undertake the lichen study in the Park. His name is Graham Bell and he works for the State Herbarium. Start date is yet to be confirmed.
- Chainsaw course - an offer has been made to attend a course being run in May / June. It was recommended that the group contact CLB and notify them of the members inability to attend and request that the course be held in late July / August.
- AGM - the format for this year's AGM was discussed in some detail. A BBQ will start at 12.30pm, followed by the AGM at 2.00pm. This is different to the usual format of having a shared meal after the event but it was decided to change this for this year. It is hoped that by having a shared lunch and then the meeting a few more members will be able to attend. The event is to be held at the University of SA Whyalla campus in the main boardroom. For more details see the article on page 2.
- Whyalla Show - this year's show is to be held on Saturday, 15th and Sunday, 16th August. The theme for this year's display is to be confirmed but much discussion focussed on reptiles, food chain and grasses (1998 Friends theme). With the success of last year's raffle and colouring in competition, it was agreed to run these again. David P will approach local artist Stephen Stanley to provide another cartoon for the colouring in competition and Meredith has agreed to organise the art work for the raffle.

Denise Sharp

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