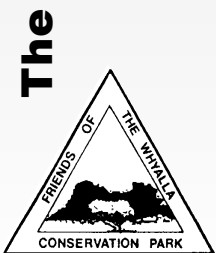


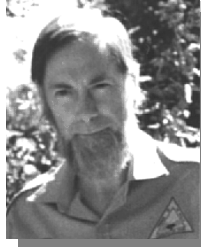


Newsletter of the
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

The Myall Post



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President's Message

The beginning of the new year sees us ready to begin 3 major projects. All the relevant approvals for the toilet have been completed and the materials for the building have been purchased. We are now awaiting the arrival of the tank. Brambles have transported a large cattle grid to Whyalla for placement at the South West entry to the park. The plants for the March Plant sale have been potted up and are now growing strongly.

We have also seen the successful completion of Management Plan project, as 500 copies of the final edition have now been printed and are ready for distribution.

Recent Night patrols of the park have shown that there is a continuing need for an active friends group, because we still have some members of the public who do not understand why the Conservation Park exists. I urge you to help find new members for the group so that we can continue our work.

Recently, the group was asked to attend the

Brambles Sand Yard open day. David Poyner and myself set up a display at the yard, and managed to sell some of the plants that were left over from last year's plant sale.

The open day was also a good opportunity for the group to continue to raise its profile amongst the community.

Clinton

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Pictured here are the members who attended the last Outdoor Film Night in the Park on November 5th. The evening was quite spectacular with lightning flashes all around the horizon. The films, while obviously quite serious when they were made, provided great hilarity and mirth – members were still talking about them weeks later!

Important Dates

Make sure that these dates are entered into your diary!

Friday 5th February @ 8:30pm
Wild Dog Hill
16mm Film Night

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

Thursday 25th February @ 7:30pm
71 Jenkins Ave
Committee Meeting / Fire Training?

Saturday 6th March @ 9:00am
Speedway Road
Clean Up Australia Day

Friday 19th March @ 9:00am
267 Landrace Rd
Plant Packing Night

Saturday 20th March @ 6:30am
Plant Sale Preparation / Plant Sale

Bin Roster

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

5th February – Carter Family

12th February – Scottney–Turbill / Harvey

19th February – Garretts

26th February – Knapman

5th March – vacant

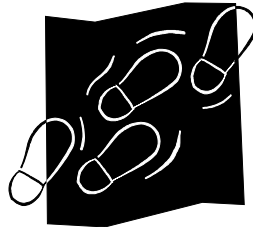
12th March – vacant

19th March – vacant

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

Working Bee



Hill safer.

For the working bee that is scheduled for this Saturday, February 6th, there will be an assessment of what work is required to complete the trial (probably cutting steps out of the remaining rock).

Fencing work is also needed, with a large hole in the eastern boundary, and patch up work on the southern boundary. Trimming of trees around the entrance sign on the Port Augusta Rd is required so that the sign can be seen adequately.

Many hands make light work, so please turn up at Wild Dog Hill at 9:00am this Saturday 6th February.

Lights, Camera, #2



With the success of the last Outdoor Film night, the committee has decided to repeat the night this Friday, 5th February and invite the public.

The night will start at 8:30pm at Wild Dog Hill, and once again, some old 16mm films from Filmart will be shown. The main feature will be 'Friends For Life' - *The baby lynx was so small and helpless.... Mikhal the old forester found him and took him home. So began a new life of the 'star' of our film. After that many adventures befell him. For a while he was with the circus, then in the zoo, but he always returned to his friend Mikhal.*

Some short films made in the 60's detailing survival in the American bush (not to be taken too seriously) and an Elmer Fudd cartoon will accompany the main feature.

Supper of buns, biscuits and tea and coffee will be provided. A gold coin donation will cover the cost of hiring the films and supper.

Clean Up Australia



Clean Up Australia Day is on Sunday March 7th. As a working bee is scheduled for Saturday the 6th, the Friends group will use that time to become involved in the Clean Up activities.

The committee has decided to put our efforts into cleaning up the speedway road. The road is the rear entrance into the Park and many locals use the road, therefore the committee thought that it would be a worthy location for our efforts.

In The Mail....

Members should find their copy of the Park's Management Plan in the mail shortly. The printing of the final version took a while to arrange, as every time we thought we were ready to print, there would be a department name change or a new Minister! The plan will be officially released to the public after notice of its availability has been printed in the Government Gazette next week.

Included with the Plan, members will find some posters advertising the Plant Sale. Can you please place these in prominent positions, remembering of course to remove them after March 20th!

Monthly Recipe

Apricot Chicken

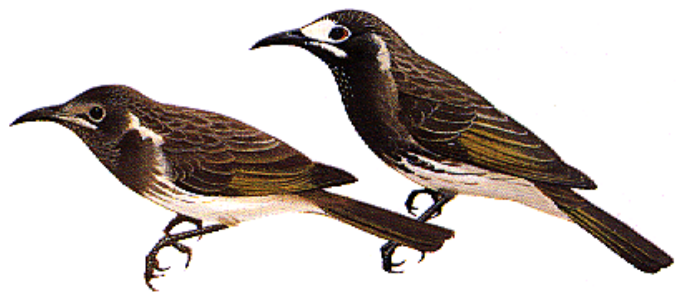
(Denise Sharp)

Ingredients:

- 4 chicken fillets
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 400ml apricot juice
- 1 onion
- 1 pkt French Onion soup
- Seasoned flour
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Olive oil



Bird Of The Month



Do you have friends or relatives who visit at Xmas? Whyalla has a Xmas bird visitor, the White-fronted Honeyeater. Some years it doesn't come at all, and occasionally it will arrive as early as spring and leave as late as March, but usually this species appears in Whyalla around Xmas and stays for just a few weeks.

It looks vaguely like a dull version of the New Holland Honeyeater, without the yellow wing stripe, more black on the chest, and with the feature for which it is named, a prominent white mask from the forehead to the eye.

Roaming over a wide expanse of the warmer drier regions of Australia, the White-fronted honeyeater is a nomad following the blossoms on which it feeds. It generally breeds in spring making a typical honeyeater's cup shaped nest in a low shrub.

Currently it can be found in Whyalla feeding on native blossoms, particularly mistletoe and eremophila species.

Ella Smith

Slice chicken into strips (approx 1cm thick) and coat in seasoned flour. Heat oil in pan or wok and cook chicken in batches until golden in colour. Set aside.

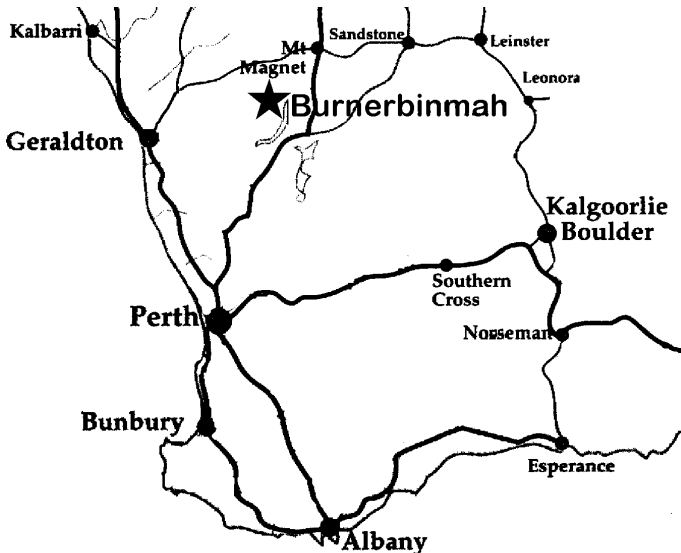
Slice and brown onion in pan. Mix chicken stock, French Onion soup and apricot juice in pan. Return cooked chicken to pan and cook on a medium heat for 30 minutes or until liquid has reduced.

If too thick, add either extra chicken stock or water. If too runny, add a small amount of cornflour.

Serve with boiled or steamed rice.

Burnerbinmah

Located about 120 km South West of Mount Magnet Burnerbinmah is a sheep station with a difference. It doesn't have any sheep - well not now anyway. The station is now being managed as a reserve for the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management by its previous managers, Don and Rhonda Anderson.



In January, Clinton and Margaret stayed at Burnerbinmah on their way back from Geraldton, where they had been looking at the work of the Regional Economic Development board. It was a great experience that they would encourage others to try.

Located at the northern end of Monger's Lake, the station has been de-stocked for several years now and is showing excellent regeneration of vegetation. Don and Rhonda have a particular fondness for Sandalwood and are actively re-planting it on the property.

The station is located in an area where rainfall is slightly lower than that of Whyalla (average 228 mm per year) and has a variety of landform types, each with their own vegetation communities. There are sand heaths with spinifex and many small Melaleucas and Calytrix, red sandhills with Mulga, Eremophilas and Grevilleas, Clay flats with Eucalypts, Mulgas and Eremophilas and breakaway country with dwarf shrubs. Along the creek lines there are groves of Callistemon phoenicius, Scarlet bottlebrush.

The Andersons have been active in controlling feral animals and last year, shot or removed 1400 goats. There is still along way to go with this work, as there were many groups over goats roaming the station. The local goannas have been the beneficiaries of the shooting program, as the carcasses of the goats make

good feed for them. As a result, some of the goannas were the up to 2 metres long.

Accommodation is in the shearer's quarters, which are pretty basic, but this is more than compensated for by the hospitality of the Andersons. Summer is probably not the best time to visit - in 1997/98, the station recorded 42 days straight over 45 C. However Spring-time brings carpets of everlasting daisies and the flowering of the shrubs. If you are ever heading toward Western Australia, think about staying at Burnerbinmah.

Committee Report

Items from the committee meeting Thursday 28th January 1999:

- Denise is arranging for committee members to attend a MFS taught fire training course as part of the next committee meeting on Thursday 25th February. General members will also welcome and the date and time will be confirmed.
- The committee agreed last year to a offer from Australia Post to look after the garden at the front of the Darling Tce Post Office for \$3 per week. On November 21st, Clint, David and Denise 'renovated' the garden. Unfortunately, one of the new plants met an untimely demise, however the other three are growing wonderfully. There are still two more plants to be added. A small plaque will advertise the group's work.
- Brambles have transported a sheep grid from the Borefield Rd (north of Roxby Downs) to Whyalla for free for the group. Brambles will also be installing the grid in the south west entrance for us. Hopefully this will stop the recent incursions into the park by mobs of sheep.
- ETSA have paid \$500 to the group in compensation for the damage that one of their trucks has done to the signs near the dam, and to a quandong tree nearby. The money will be held by DEHAA for the group's use.
- The release of the Management Plan will allow the construction of the toilet to go ahead. The committee has purchased the materials for the building, and are awaiting advice from the supplier of the processing tank as to when we can proceed.

Deep Thoughts (from Clint)

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,000. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!!



Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back.

There is no drawing against the "tomorrow". You must live in the present, on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success.

The clock is running. Make the most of it today.

- To realise the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who has failed a grade.
- To realise the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby
- To realise the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.
- To realise the value of ONE MINUTE ask a person who missed the train.
- To realise the value of ONE SECOND ask a person who just avoided an accident.
- To realise the value of ONE MILLI-SECOND ask a person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special enough to spend your time. And remember that time waits for no-one.

- Yesterday is history,
- Tomorrow is mystery,
- Today is a gift.
- That's why it's called the present!!

Friends are a very rare jewel indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their heart to us.

Show your friends how much you care. Send this to everyone you consider a FRIEND.

1999 Plant Sale

Preparations for the 1999 Plant Sale are well underway.

The second potting day took place on January 16th, and half a dozen members made short work of the approx 800 plants that needed potting.

The new soil that we are using this year is working extremely well and the plants are growing magnificently. Many of the plants that were potted on November 28th are so well advanced they could be offered for sale now – and there is six weeks to go until the sale!

There will be well over 1600 plants offered at the sale once the cuttings that Clint brought back from Western Australia are potted up.

This year, after many requests at last year's sale, there are several species of salt tolerant plants included. Also amongst the plants are some locally native Sugarwoods, that appeared as seedlings in the bottom of the holding tank – and were promptly potted for sale!

Don't forget that many hands make light work at the labelling night on Friday 19th March.....



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