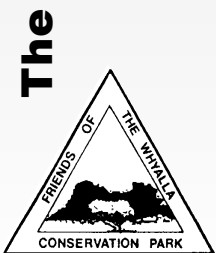


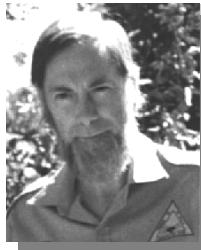


Newsletter of the
 Friends Of Whyalla Conservation Park
 PO Box 805 WHYALLA SA 5600
 Volunteers Working For Conservation

The Myall Post



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President's Message

In my final president's message, I would like to thank all of those members both present and past, who have contributed to the success of the friends of Whyalla Conservation Park. As a group, we have managed to turn around what was a very serious vandalism problem and to make the park one which is enjoyed by more members of our community. This has happened because some of our members have been willing to put in a significant amount of their own time to make projects happen.

I would particularly like to thank the following people for their service to the group while I have been President.

- Trevor Aird
- Alvin & Pam Charlesworth
- Gwen Foulkes
- Jim Harvey
- Kathryn Hollingworth
- Vaughan Moldenhauer
- David Poyner
- Denise Sharp
- Don Berrett
- Lance & Elaine Dean

- Richard Fox
- Martin Hilton
- Eddie Hughes
- Robin Nankivell
- Perc Prenzel
- Ella Smith
- John & Rosemary Carter
- Paul Fennel
- Marg Garrett
- John Holds
- Don Kidger
- Allen & Joan Neild
- Meredith Scotney Turbill
- Wendy Sysouphat

Our Rangers,

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Congratulations!! Clint & Marg Garrett were recently named 1999 Volunteers of the Year. They are pictured here with Ranger of the Year, Steve Gilbert from the Coorong National Park. More information on this well deserved win on page 4.

Important Dates

Make sure that these dates are entered into your diary!

Saturday 5th June @ 9:00am
Tanderra Shed
Working Bee

Saturday 19th June @ 2:00pm
Maritime Museum
Annual General Meeting

Thursday 24th June @ 7:30pm
Location TBA
Committee Meeting

A calendar for 1999/2000 will be distributed with the next newsletter. Due to the good comments that we received about the fridge magnet, the calendar will be in the same format.

Bin Roster

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

4th June – Vaughan Moldenhauer

11th June – Lance Dean

18th June – Garretts

25th June – Scottney Turbill / Harvey

2nd July – Sharp / Smith / Poyner

9th July – vacant

16th July – vacant

23rd July – 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

A Working Bee was held on Saturday 5th June at the Tanderra shed. Work that was completed included increasing security, a general tidy up, and retrieving the last remaining equipment from the old SACON shed

Clint Garrett was at the Wild Dog Hill car park for the Working Bee, supervising a couple of younger volunteers. They attempted to remove the large amount of graffiti that has been scrawled on the picnic tables (by persons unknown) – with varying degrees of success. It appears as though the tables may need painting with a light grey paint.

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

- Chris Baxter
- Shirley Meyer
- Tom Gerschwitz
- Pia Richter
- Richard Phillips,
- Albert Zepf

On the down-side, the Treasurer has delivered yet another anti -environment State Budget. There is a further reduction of \$14 million in the budget for DEHAA. This is the money which pays for the day to day running of parks. I would dearly like to see the government match the amount of volunteer hours by an equivalent dollar amount. There is some money for the capital works in the Parks Agenda, but this money appears to have been transferred from the operating budget of the department.

The government needs to recognise that the money which was lost by the State Bank was in fact largely lost by members of the South Australian business community. It is these people who should be asked to make the greatest contribution to rebuilding our economy. Ironically it is these same people who are Liberal Party supporters and the most vociferous supporters of cutting government expenditure and/or selling government assets.

I look forward a time when Governments in South Australia, both Liberal and Labour recognise the central importance of a healthy environment to a healthy economy. I have been waiting for 12 years now, I wonder how long I will have to wait.

Clint Garrett

Bird Of The Month



Mistletoebird

Around Whyalla at the moment many Mistletoes are fruiting ,providing an excellent opportunity to see the little Mistletoebirds, which because of their size are often hard to find. The male is more noticeable than it's mate, being a glossy blue-black above with a scarlet throat and upper breast, the rest of the bird being largely grey, which is mostly the colour of the somewhat drab female.

The lives of the Mistletoebird and mistletoes are inextricably linked. The tiny 10 cm bird feeds almost exclusively on the fruits of mistletoe. The seeds and accompanying flesh are squeezed by the bill and swallowed. Within half an hour to an hour after ingestion the seeds are defecated and being very sticky adhere to any surface. Almost all seeds germinate and if they have landed on a compatible tree or shrub a mistletoe plant may establish.

They forage alone as they fly from clump to clump of mistletoe, and are locally nomadic as various mistletoes in different areas set fruit at different times. In spring or summer the female builds a pear-shaped hanging nest from plant down and cobwebs. She incubates the eggs, with both parents feeding the young, who for the first few days are fed on insects before being weaned onto mistletoe flesh.

LOST!

One red and blue Berghaus 25 litre back-pack. Marg Garrett believes she may have lent this item to a Friends member. If you have this item, or know of its whereabouts, please contact Marg.

1999 AGM

This year's AGM will be held at the:

**Maritime Museum
Saturday 19th May
2:00pm**

The location is appropriate for the guest speaker who will be Tony Flaherty, the SA coordinator for the Marine & Coastal Community Network. Tony will talk about "Coastal & Marine Issues In South Australia", and in particular the significance of mangroves in Spencer Gulf.

Members are encouraged to attend earlier than the meeting time of 2:00pm. The cost of admission to the Museum will be paid for persons attending the AGM, so we encourage you to take advantage of this and explore the Museum, or join the guided tour of the Whyalla which begins at 1:00pm. All you have to do is indicate to the staff at the Tourist Centre that you are attending the Friends AGM, and they will admit you free of charge.



Please bring a plate of food to share for afternoon tea. Coffee and

Fire Training Report

On Saturday 8th May, nine members attended the fire station on Nicolson Avenue to learn how to successfully use a fire extinguisher.



The training, which was provided by two members of the Metropolitan Fire Service, included:

- The different types of fire and how to recognise them
- The different ways of extinguishing a fire
- The different types of extinguishers and how to recognise them

Members then went outside where several fires were started which they had to extinguish. All members present had the opportunity to extinguish at least one fire, some members relishing the opportunity and extinguishing several!

Afterwards, the group had the opportunity to inspect the Fire Fighting Appliances, much to the delight of Joshua Charlesworth and John Carter junior.

Volunteers Award

As mentioned on the front page, the Whyalla Friends have become the recipients of yet another award. Founding members, Margaret and Clinton Garrett, have been awarded as the 1999 Volunteer(s) of the Year. This award is presented annually by the Rotary Club of Glen Osmond, in conjunction with their award for Ranger of the Year.

This is the second time that a member of our group has won this award. Vaughan Moldenhauer was named Volunteer of the Year in 1991. The following is an extract from the Rotary Club of Glen Osmond's media release:

Glen Osmond Rotary Club presented Clinton and Margaret Garrett with the award for Friends of Parks Volunteers of the Year, 1999. There were eleven nominations for this award.

Mr. Graham Sorby-Adams read the citation. The Garrett's are stalwart and leading members of the Friends of Whyalla Conservation Park. They have held office and been instigators of the group's success, for about eleven years. In that time, the Whyalla Friends have achieved remarkable results in their park, which is 75 km from the nearest Ranger at Port Augusta. There are 96 Friends of Parks groups in South Australia, among which six thousand volunteers are members. Margaret is a former Citizen of the Year at Whyalla. Clinton is an Alderman in the Whyalla Council.

President, Michael Hartley, presented the award.

Clinton and Margaret jointly responded, saying that they will treasure the award.

The Garrett's flew from Whyalla to receive their distinguished award from Rotary.

Dene Cordes from the Community Liaison Unit of DEHAA nominated Clint & Marg for the award.

I am sure that every member of our group joins me in congratulating Clint & Marg for their award, one which is thoroughly deserved considering the amount of time and effort that they have given freely to the group and to the Park over an eleven year period.

Committee Report

Some of the significant issues that were discussed at the May committee meeting were:

- Preparations for installing the toilet were discussed. It was decided that as there was a long weekend imminent, and several key members of the committee had plans for other weekends, construction of the toilet needed to wait until after June.
- The AGM and its organisation were discussed. All members of the committee indicated their preparedness to be nominated again for their current positions. Ella Smith volunteered to be nominated for President.
- Bookings for space at the 1999 Whyalla Show were discussed. It was felt that we would like to be next to the Whyalla City Council stall, as we requested last year (but did not get).
- Clint reported that he attended a sale at Chris Richardson's old landscaping business, and had sold \$30 worth of plants that were left over from the Plant Sale. Clint also reported that Council's Parks & Gardens had agreed to purchase the remainder of the plants.
- David and Denise indicated that they had given a commitment to erect a display for the Friends at the EcoFest, to be held at Edward John Eyre High School on World Environment Day, June 5th.

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