



ONKAPARINGA PARKWATCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK INC.

Note opinions and commentary in this newsletter are not necessarily the general opinion of the FOOP membership. Any complaints should in the first instance be directed to the author.

We acknowledge this land that we work on is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

May

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2024



Hardy's Scrub Dump 1990



Hardy's Scrub Dump 1990

FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK INC <https://foop.com.au>

PATRON: Dr B HARDY AO

Incorporating The ONKAPARINGA RIVER RP and ONKAPARINGA RIVER NP.

Proudly a member of THE FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.,

President: Graham Thomas Vice-President: Michael Whitaker

Secretary: Jo Scheiffers 0429676433 Treasurer: Andrew McKinnon 0427826721

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Secretary, Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc secretary@foop.com.au

Newsletter contributions to mackins@tpg.com.au .



This Newsletter's hard copies printed at the Electoral office of Katrine Hildyard MP
Member for Reynell

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The recent decision by the European Court of Human Rights that held that the Swiss government had not done enough to mitigate the effects of climate change that ultimately will affect Swiss citizens must have sent a shiver down the spine of collective governments world-wide. It will be interesting to watch how governments and politicians react, it is inevitable that those with vested interests in this country will attempt to underplay the message the court has sent.

A search of all available press releases and opinion pieces on the promised revamp of the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act* failed to find a definitive date on the introduction of revised laws to be introduced into the Australian Parliament. Given that the next federal election is due in May 2025 my earlier misgivings are proving true. First and second reading stages in the House of Representatives will probably take between 6-8 months to reach the stage of a final vote. Then there is the tortuous Senate process to follow. End result likely to be no new enforceable laws before the new parliament is settled. This in my opinion is likely due to the opposing forces lobbying government to delay new and effective laws allowing continued uncontrolled land clearing and development which results in further flora and fauna loss all in the name of profit. Should you get the opportunity to contact a federal MP, voice your displeasure at what would be a broken promise.

The nature journal Communications Earth and Environment reports that Australia's carbon offsets method is a failure and doing little or nothing to help address the climate crisis. This is despite the federal government claiming a review it commissioned found the system to be sound. To date Australian taxpayers have paid out between \$750million and \$1billion for carbon storage for which the researchers expected to see 100% forest cover in the areas where this was carried out, but what they did find was only 21%. One researcher Andrew MacIntosh environmental law professor at ANU claims the current scheme to be a "sham" and a "fraud".

As you look at your own garden it won't be a surprise that rainfall so far in 2024 is very light on. The rain in January was adequate but subsequently we have only had 6mm of recorded rain over February and March. The parks are showing signs of moisture stress so much so that I have observed Eucalyptus seedlings dying. Let us hope that we get some decent falls soon. Time to do a rain dance?

A mystery paralysis has affected over 3500 rainbow lorikeets in SE Queensland and northern NSW. Of further concern is that the large bat population is showing similar symptoms. Infectious disease has been ruled out as the reason and work is continuing to discover what is the cause.

Graham Thomas

*If you think that the environment is less important than the economy, try holding your breath while you count your money - **Guy McPherson***





ONKAPARINGA PARK BIRD WATCH

by Colin Cock



Wattlebirds common breeding locally inhabiting both rural and suburban regions throughout S.A. and other States

I chose this common, bossy and noisy bird for this month's article for the reason that lately there have been huge numbers about in the Onkaparinga. Not really a bird that migrates en masse regularly, and for the most part staying around familiar local territories, including many home gardens. While working in the Recreation Park a couple of weeks ago the work crew and myself were witness to an unprecedented amount of Red Wattlebirds, flying in waves of them, too many to count. I've never witnessed so many in one area before, and not sure what they were feeding upon, although there did seem to be a lot of Lerps on some of the tree leaves. Sugary tasting Lerps are a favourite of many birds, but even the plentiful Lerps did not seem to be enough to satisfy so many Wattlebirds on that day as they restlessly flew around.

Despite their name, this bird does not get its name because it likes the nectar from Wattle flowers, but because a distinguishing is a small red coloured flap of skin on its face ... a "Wattle" However its favourite food source apart from Lerps is nectar from many flowering plants as well as insects....and my fruit trees ! They can be aggressive and territorial birds, defending food sources from other birds vigorously.

3 species exist in Australia. The Red Wattlebird, which is most common, the Little Wattlebird, moderately common, and the Yellow Wattlebirdthe latter exists only in Tasmania



Little Wattlebird



Red Wattlebird

An added note regarding birds in the Onkaparinga, the "Free The Tree" activities of the FOOP work teams have uncovered a great many more tree hollows...be great to see then used. Well, by the time everyone reads this I should be in Tasmania for the next 3 weeks, and with a bit of luck I hope to see the Yellow Wattlebird, endemic to that State of Australia.....bye 4 now.

MICHAEL'S CROSSWORD NUMBER 40

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8	9					10				11	12	
13				14								15
16		17	18					19		20		
		21				22	23					
24									25			
								26				
27	28			29				30				
31			32			33	34					
35		36		37						38		
		39	40									
41												

ACROSS

1. The secure place for a joey [8,5]
8. A fish-catcher or the World-wide web [3]
10. Portuguese for a river [3]
11. Raw material used to make plastics [3]
13. Progress in the direction of... [2]
14. Domestic Dept in the USA [1,1,1]
15. Chlorine [2]
16. Below [5]
19. State in USA, adjacent to Canada [5]
21. Latin for 'hail' [3]
22. Weapon [3]
24. An array of colours, ever-changing [13]
26. The Internet of Everything [1,1,1]
27. Modern speak for "Do you know" [1,1,1]
29. A garden implement [3]
30. Sleep problem, where breathing stops [5]
31. A film about a donkey (2022) [2]
32. A small street [2]
33. Our star [3]
35. To press down with a hand and rotate [3]
37. Ancient Tribe in Britain [5]
38. Front end of a pen [3]
39. Metal with atomic number 50 [3]
41. Juvenile 'bad boy or girl' [5,8]

DOWN

1. Famous American horse race [8,5]
2. Eat it or thread it on a bolt [3]
3. Sending on an aeroplane [13]
4. Rowing alone [6,7]
5. To declare a Province [13]
6. A mystery thing in the sky [3]
7. A room that echoes [6,7]
9. An immeasurably long period of time [3]
12. 'I' in old English or German [3]
17. An enemy of Dr Who [5]
18. Adam's mate [3]
20. Tree species [5]
23. The objective case of 'we' [2]
25. Object oriented programming [1,1,1]
28. The people who are not me [3]
34. Switch down in Australia, up in the USA [2]
36. Outdated measure of thermal energy [1,1,1]
38. Movement of head up and down [3]
40. Not out [2]



Strong Roots
New Branches

33rd Friends of Parks Inc Forum
Belair National Park
23 - 25 August, 2024

Did you hear? The Friends of Parks Forum is back in 2024!

The 33rd forum will be held in Belair National Park from **23 to 25 August, 2024.**

The steering committee is hard at work putting together an exciting program of presentations and activities for attendees to enjoy. Stay tuned - further information about the Forum program will be announced and tickets will be available to purchase shortly.



Removing rubbish from old Sundews camp

MICHAEL'S SOLUTION CROSSWORD 39

C	E	S	P	A	P	B	S	B
C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D
O	R	C	A	I	Y	A	I	N
A	S	S	O	R	T	E	D	L
S	R	O	C	L	P	R	O	F
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E	G	G	A	N	D	S	P	O
P	O	F	O	T	C	O		
B	A	C	K	O	F	E	N	T
T	A	R	E	X	O	I	L	C
C	R	I	M	S	O	N	C	O
O	L	E	I	C	I	O	U	N
B	L	U	E	S	K	Y	T	H
S	Z	S	E	E	C	O	Y	S



2 April 2024

Mr Duncan MacKenzie OAM
President
Friends of Parks SA
81-95 Waymouth Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Mr MacKenzie

I write to advise that on Wednesday 20 March, the House of Assembly of the South Australian Parliament passed a motion acknowledging the impact the Friends of Parks SA groups have on the South Australian environment and expresses its thanks to all the member volunteers.

An extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the House containing this motion, together with an extract from the Hansard records of the debate, are enclosed for your information.

A Motion is a proposition by a Member or Minister for the consideration of the House. Motions upon adoption do not have the force of law but represent an opinion of the House, which may or may not be acted upon by the Government. More information and a list of all motions of the previous session of Parliament can be found at:
www.parliament.sa.gov.au/House-of-Assembly/Motions

Should you require further information in relation to this matter, please contact me on telephone 8237 9388.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Crump'.

Richard Crump
Clerk
House of Assembly
Parliament of South Australia

Encl. Votes and Proceedings Extract, Hansard Extract

Safety Report

This month we have no injuries or incidents to report.

Good to see we are all taking care of ourselves and our mates.

I would like to remind everyone to take care on our roads while travelling to and from the volunteering sites.

As most of us are aware some of the roads we travel on to sites are not the best.

Piggot Range Rd is one that comes to mind. The 80 Km/Hr limit is not a safe speed to travel along this road, particularly the dirt section between Gates 8 & 10.

I am sure there are others that you can think of, so take care when travelling to and from work areas.

Also, I remind you that the tracks we drive down are mostly suited to 4WD vehicles and with winter coming even more so.

Consider leaving your vehicle at the meeting point and share riding to work site to reduce the impact of vehicle travel along these tracks.

It is worth noting that the insurance policy we volunteers are under does not cover travelling to and from work meeting points.

Please forward any incident/injury reports to Supervisor on the day or myself if I am present.

Stay safe and have fun.

Ian Carr

Safety Officer



FOOP Subscriptions Form



Subscriptions are due on the 1st November of each year.

(Financial year 1st November to 31st October)

New members who join after 1st September are covered for the year following.

Please accept my/our new/renewal subscription.

Name(s):.....

Address:.....

Telephone No.....Mob No.....

Email address.....

Please indicate if you would like to receive notices by email Yes No

Please indicate if you would like to receive newsletter by email Yes No

Please indicate if you would still like to receive newsletter by post Yes No

I am paying (please indicate the one you are paying)

Family Membership \$15.00

Single Membership \$10.00

Donation \$..... (NB., Not tax deductible)

Then detach this form and forward with payment to:

The Treasurer, Mr A McKinnon, 27 Kym Street, Port Noarlunga South 5167

Payment can also be made to the Treasurer at general meetings held the first Tuesday of the month. (except January) Payment also by **electronic transfer**, details below.

EFT Details:

Account Title: Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc.

BSB Number: 805-007A/C Number: 00707387 (Credit Union SA)

Reference: Last name, first name, "subs".

Send email to mackins63@gmail.com to confirm payment.

If you are a **new member** please forward contact details as above.

Andy McKinnon
Treasurer
Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc.

If you are already a member and have a friend who may be interested you could pass this on.

Subs for the new financial year 2023/24 are now due. Payment methods above.



MAY 2024 FOOP WORKING B PROGRAM.

Note Working B's in the park will be cancelled when there is a Total Fire ban in the MT Lofty Region
All Working B's start at 9:00 am & finish at 11.30am unless otherwise stated.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	3	4 Gate 19 Hardy's Scrub Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433 secretary@foop.com.au
5	6	7 Gate 8 Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au <u>General Meeting</u> <u>7.30pm</u> <u>Old Noarlunga Hall</u>	8	9 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	10	11 Gate 12 Beehives Piggott Range Road Jo 0429676433 secretary@foop.com.au
12	13	14 Gate 25 Chapel Hill Chapel Hill Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	15	16 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	17	18 Gate 18 Hardy's Scrub Whitings Road Jo 0429676433 secretary@foop.com.au
19	20	21 Gate 25 Chapel Hill Chapel Hill Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	22	23 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	24	25 Gate 18 Hardy's Scrub Whitings Road Jo 0429676433 secretary@foop.com.au
26	27	28 Gate 20 Springs Chapel Hill Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	29	30 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	31	1 Gate 13 Gosse Road Jo 0429676433 secretary@foop.com.au
2	3	4 Gate 12 Rec Park Perrys Bend, River Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au <u>General Meeting</u> <u>7.30pm</u> <u>Old Noarlunga Hall</u>	5	6 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	7	8 No working bee