



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.

April

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2024



Bakers Gully Track 1997



Bakers Gully Track 2016 after revegetation

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

Recent protests in Canberra against the inevitable march towards renewable energy demonstrates how organised the anti brigades are becoming. The protest labelled *Against Reckless Renewables* has been described by observers as an opportunity for some in major political parties to cultivate and strengthen their base. One prominent coalition senator said in a rambling speech that nothing disgusted her more than the sight of a wind turbine. Adding that Australia must move to nuclear energy immediately. This trend is certainly on worth keeping an eye on as there are many agendas at play which have been called "Trump like".

If you aren't aware there is a review underway of the state legislation aimed at a *Biodiversity Act* that is fit for purpose. Current laws do not provide a legislated requirement to identify threats to biodiversity. If a new Act is proposed it must ensure there are statutory provisions to do so which includes compliance measures with enforceable punitive penalties.

On Sunday March 3 a small number of FOOP members along with contact ranger Will continued our involvement in *Clean Up Day* at Perrys Bend in the recreation park. A significant amount of rubbish was collected including 2 *Porta Potties* [thankfully empty], a spare wheel, an abandoned camp including a tent, plus the usual overwhelming amount of fast food related items. A huge thank you to Jill and Ron Clark for their organisation and catering. If you can help in 2025 note the 1st Sunday in March.

The recent publicity surrounding blue gum plantation logging on Kangaroo Island with the likely death koalas clearly illustrates the inadequacy of the laws that are meant to protect flora and Fauna. From a personal perspective the sooner we get legislation that does what it's meant to, the better biodiversity will be protected. I have been beating the drum for quite a while on the need for the national legislation to be revamped. The review into the *EPBC Act* was promised some time back following the Samuels' Review. My prediction is that we will see proposed changes late 2024. Government will do what governments normally do; take time to review the recommendations the announce proposed changes shortly before the next election. End result, no change.

Our March General Meeting heard and saw from Matt Endacott [Coastal Protection Officer – Green Adelaide] on what people can do in their gardens to encourage native butterflies, as well as what could be done in the parks. The messages I took away were that if we planted any species of native grass, *Hardenbergia Violacea*, any *Acacia sp.* The nett result would be increased interest from butterflies and possibly an increase if they choose to breed on these plants. Matt suggested planting exotics of the mauve, purple or blue colours also helps, as does having warm open spaces and a source of moisture. In regards to the parks, your committee will consider over the following time to work out what is possible.

I recently read with interest that the NSW government was concerned that it wouldn't meet its programmed hazard reduction targets and citizens should expect lingering smoke as it stepped up the current programme. This is identical to the reaction of the Victorian government post the disastrous 'Black Saturday' bushfires where that government burnt thousands of hectares of scrub with no ecological study prior, simply to meet an imposed target. This resulted in the destruction of hundreds of hectares of aged mallee which many dryland birds need for nesting. Let us hope the SA government is a lot wiser than that.

Keep your fingers crossed for good rain at the appropriate time: so far in 2024 we are well below average rainfall.

Graham Thomas

"When all the trees have been cut down and all the animals have been hunted to extinction, when all the waters are polluted and the air is unsafe to breathe, only then will you discover you cannot eat money."

— Sherilynn Kenyon



ONKAPARINGA PARK BIRD WATCH

by Colin Cock



Nankeen Night Heron, formerly Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*... 55 to 65 cm... locally breeding ???

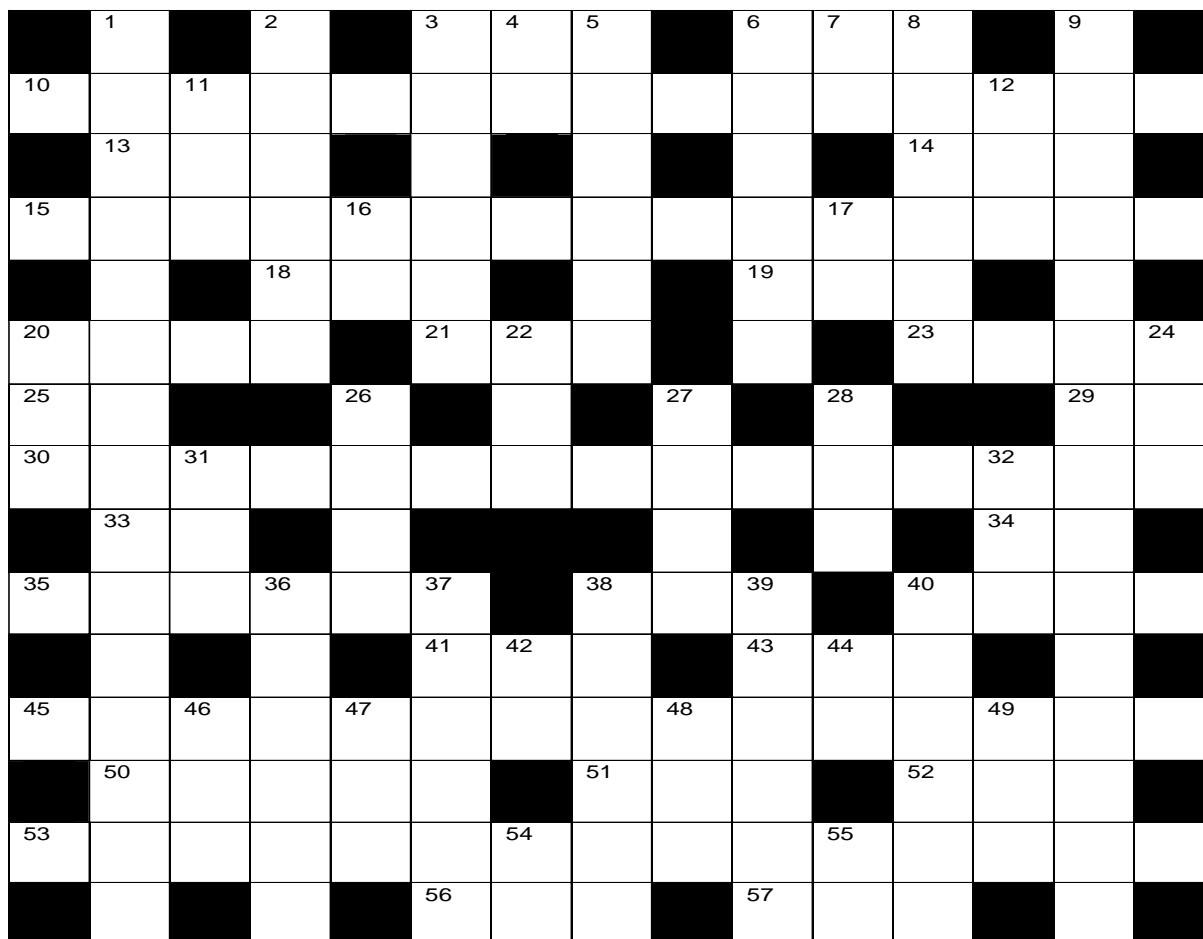
As the name suggests this beautiful species of Heron prefers to hunt at night, evening or dawn. A fairly common bird over much of Australia, almost always near water including Marine areas and Mangroves. Fish, frogs and other small creatures form a large part of their diet { but also known to eat other birds chicks} I seen them in their hundreds on my recent trip to Menindie Lakes /NSW, what a spectacle, so although they aren't in short supply overall, the numbers in the Onkaparinga region seem to of plummeted significantly over the past 10 yrs or so.

What used to be an easy and special bird to find around the Onkaparinga, in particular a large and regular breeding colony in the trees in the township of Old Noarlunga, is now becoming harder to find. They were well known to nest and roost mostly in the Pine trees in the Old Noarlunga market square. Only a few years ago it was not unusual to see as many as 20 or more in one tree, both adults and young . They seem to favour the local Pine trees to nest in , likely one of the main reasons is because the Pines form dense foliage of layered branches which adds extra security for chicks should they fall out, which is not unusual. The nest consists of not much more than a few bundled sticks to form a basic platform. Bare skeletal trees, as is the case now, make for very poor nest security, or privacy. Sad to say that the Night Herons seemed to of moved on from their usual haunts in the Onkaparinga, and it seems there are less birds remaining every year, lately I struggle to find even one bird in their usual trees.

The main reason for their absence may be the forever increasing influx of the Little Corella flocks completely taking over sites. The flocks numbering in their thousands descend upon the southern suburbs, and other semi rural towns in SA every year from Spring , into Autumn, creating havoc. The sheer multitude of them can be devastating to other birds, and food sources, not forgetting the mess, damage and constant loud noise they make. Worryingly, Old Noarlunga seems to get an extra hammering each year. The Corellas have defoliated the Herons favourite trees year after year until there is almost nothing left . As a consequence the number of Night Herons has decreased alarmingly, which is pretty sad I think what's the answer ?????



MICHAEL'S CROSSWORD NUMBER 39



ACROSS

3. Where you can 'take the waters' [3]
6. The way the Government administers medicines [3]
10. You are this, hopefully [9,6]
13. A whale type [3]
14. Scottish word for 'own' [3]
15. Mixed sweets [8,7]
18. A legendary bird of prey [3]
19. Not an amateur [3]
20. Controlled eating [4]
21. Grass, cut and dried for fodder [3]
23. Post [4]
25. Switch down in Oz, but up in the USA [2]
29. Tellurium [2]
30. Contest involving running and balancing, for kids? [3,3,5,4]
33. Italian river [2]
34. A little Company [2]
35. Describing the rear [4,2]
38. A hospital department – all about breathing, hearing, swallowing, balance and speech [1,1,1]
40. 100 to a dollar [4]
41. The Monarch [3]
43. Lubricant [3]
45. Someone who paints the town red? [7,8]
50. Describing an oily acid [5]
51. A promissory note [1,1,1]
52. Like neither [3]
53. An original concept [4,3,8]
56. To perceive by eye [3]
57. Bashful [3]

DOWN

1. Lollipop people [8,7]
2. They accompany, as a guard or companion [6]
3. A piece of material [6]
4. Polonium [2]
5. In a dry way [6]
6. Short for military deception tactics [6]
7. What underarm deodorant combats [2]
8. Skiing in a wiggly way [6]
9. Go to Centrelink with these worries [7,8]
11. Office of Recreation & Sport [3]
12. Roman for seven? [1,1,1]
16. A ferry that is this, never unloads! [2]
17. Lawrencium [2]
20. A dear lady? [3]
22. A hoofed mammal, or a fool [3]
24. An out of the wind place [3]
26. Short for factual stuff [4]
27. A celestial body [4]
28. Explosive [4]
31. General Officer Commanding [1,1,1]
32. Could be the smallest card, or the best [3]
36. Tunic worn in South Asia [6]
37. Tunics worn in Western society? [6]
38. Stimulate [6]
39. A range of acid types, used to make dyes [6]
40. Description of a noisy car [6]
42. 14th letter of Roman alphabet [2]
44. A 27 Down, around Jupiter [2]
46. Modern speak, for I love you [3]
47. A little sister? [3]
48. A gasp, usually a happy one [3]
49. French king [3]
54. Old English for 'youn' [2]
55. Nobelium or a little number [2]

Clean Up Day Sunday 3rd March at Perry's Bend



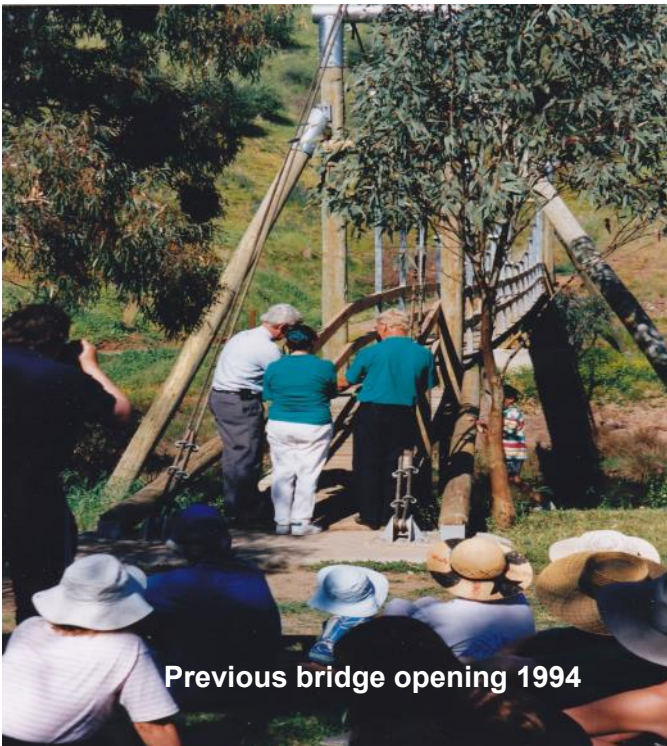
Twelve members attended on a pleasant day weather wise. We were pleased that there was less rubbish around than in past years but we did fill twelve bags for the council to collect. In the report sent back to the organisers it was mentioned that two portable toilets were found in the recreation park. One wonders what the story was behind those items!

The morning ended with the usual sausage sizzle. Thank you to all the people who helped with the clean up and cooking the BBQ.

Jill & Ron Clark



Sundews Loop Trail 2006 after bushfire



Previous bridge opening 1994

MICHAEL'S SOLUTION CROSSWORD 38

S	U	N	N	Y	B	R	O	O	K	F	A	R	M	
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A		N		Y		S	O		I		I		N	
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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 2023/34 are now due. Payment methods above.



Safety News



Since the last newsletter we have had 4 incident reports.

1. A volunteer member was left behind at a worksite after wandering out of sight. It wasn't apparent they were missing until it was mentioned on the trek back to the parking area. The volunteer was contacted by phone and made their way back to the parking area.

Please make sure that all your mates are accounted for before leaving a work site and always try and work in at least pairs to avoid this occurrence, which could have been awkward if the person had had a medical incident.

2. A volunteer fell backwards after the branch he was attempting to pull out suddenly gave way. They were uninjured.

A reminder to take care when pulling out branches or logs that you have a good grip and stance before retrieving.

3. A volunteer received a bite/sting from a beetle. No long term issues resulted. To avoid such incidences, make sure you are sufficiently protected from entry of insects through sleeve and trousers leg openings.

4. A volunteer was cut on the leg after a workmate attempted to extract a large log next to where they were drilling. The log grazed across the leg and put a nasty gash in it, which resulted in onsite treatment to bind the wound. After visiting a GP the volunteer received further treatment and anti-biotics.

This incident highlights the dangers when removing branches that have been cut and other loose timber.

Always remain clear of chainsaw operators until they have completed their cuts and have stepped away.

Then remove cut timber and taking care to have the correct grip and stance, remove in a manner that will not injure others.

Make sure no one is behind you or in a space that you wish to remove the item through. It is easy to strike someone in the face or body if you are swinging or pulling a branch out.

So, look after your mates, have fun and stay safe.



APRIL 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 Easter	2 Gate 7A The Knoll Piggott Range Road Andy 0427826721 mackins63@gmail.com General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Hall	3	4 WB Location Andy 0427826721 mackins63@gmail.com Evening Walk 5pm 27 Kym Street Port Noarlunga South Andy 0427826721	5	6 Gate 16 Hardy's Scrub Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433 secretary@foop.com.au
7 Daylight Saving Ends	8	9 Gate 12 Rec Park Perrys Bend, River Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	10	11 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	12	13 Gate 16 Hardy's Scrub Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433 secretary@foop.com.au
14	15	16 Gate 10 Punchbowl LO Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	17	18 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	19	20 Gate 17 Hardy's Scrub Whitings Road Jo 0429676433 secretary@foop.com.au
21	22	23 Gate 8 Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	24	25 Public Holiday Anzac Day No working bee	26	27 Gate 19 Hardy's Scrub Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433 secretary@foop.com.au
28	29	30 Gate 12 Rec Park Perrys Bend, River Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	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 General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Hall	8	9 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	10	11 Gate 12 Beehives Piggott Range Road Jo 0429676433 secretary@foop.com.au