



# 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 Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.*

October

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2024



Hardys Scrub Wine Dam 2005; currently dry



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](mailto:secretary@foop.com.au)

Newsletter contributions to [mackins@tpg.com.au](mailto: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

Note: we are celebrating our 38<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Chapel Hill picnic site on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Let Andy know at [mackins63@gmail.com](mailto:mackins63@gmail.com) if you plan to attend or mobile 0427826721.

I recently spent some time in the North West and North East Pastoral districts and found I had to re-acquaint myself with a number of the local plants. There had been rainfall in the immediate past which resulted in some magnificent wildflower displays which is very special when it occurs. I was not so appreciative of the state of the tracks to our remoter destinations which is the result of increased tourism into these far flung spots. It may be a selfish view but many of the roads which are now bitumenised such as parts of the Oodnadatta Track means lots of ill-prepared travellers, enough said!

As predicted some time ago the current federal government looks very unlikely to secure legislation to establish its proposed Environmental Protection Agency during this current term. Very powerful lobby groups are feverishly agitating to prevent the body being established. Reports suggest that MPs and Senators in the National Party are under pressure to ensure resources companies are not restricted in their endeavours. The promised re-vamped *EPBC Act* looks unlikely to proceed.

The parks are showing their best side as spring progresses. Most if not all the Acacia species are in bloom adding splashes of colour, the weeds such as Salvation Jane and Cape Tulip are colourful but also a problem. Took our NZ visitors through Hardys Scrub recently which gave them an insight into the glorious native orchid displays in Spring. The birdlife on that occasion was prolific sighting around 20 species in about 30 minutes. If you get the opportunity get out and enjoy what spring offers.

A study by a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland has reported that Environmental Laws are failing to stop tree-clearing to make way for agriculture, development and mining. The study examined 1.5 million hectares focusing on clearings greater than 20 hectares in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory. Further research proved that over 65 per cent of this tree-clearing was unauthorised and non-compliant with at least 1 law in each state. Only 19 per cent had been formally assessed for approval illustrating the inadequacy of current legislation. Professor Martine Maron said "*reducing tree clearing rates was critical considering Australia agreed at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030, and prevent further extinctions*". This clearly demonstrates why there is an urgent need to revamp the *EPBC Act*. Successive governments have approved 740 coal and gas projects, despite their harm to our environment and climate. Australia has one of the worst extinction rates on Earth. Australia has also become a global deforestation hotspot.

When you read this, the initial stages of reducing the feral deer problem in the National Park will have concluded. Contractors have been engaged to carry out this work. Let us keep our fingers crossed that it is a success.

*Graham Thomas*

*"Nature is inexhaustibly sustainable if we care for it. It is our universal responsibility to pass a healthy earth onto future generations."*

**Sylvia Dolson**, [Joy of Bears](#)





## ONKAPARINGA PARK BIRD WATCH

by Colin Cock



Nankeen Kestrel...*Falco cenchroides*...30 to 35 cm...common resident in the Park and region

A small Raptor found commonly in the Park, a few resident birds exist, but others may vary seasonally. They like to hunt in open woodlands, grasslands, coastal dunes, where they have room to glide and hunt. In the Park they can be found in spots like the open grasslands on the Knoll, southern side and upper regions of the Onkaparinga Gorge. More commonly found in the fields, Samphire flats and wetlands of the Onkaparinga Estuary, including the sand dunes and nearby farmlands. They tend to perch openly atop dead trees, fences and power lines for an unrestricted view

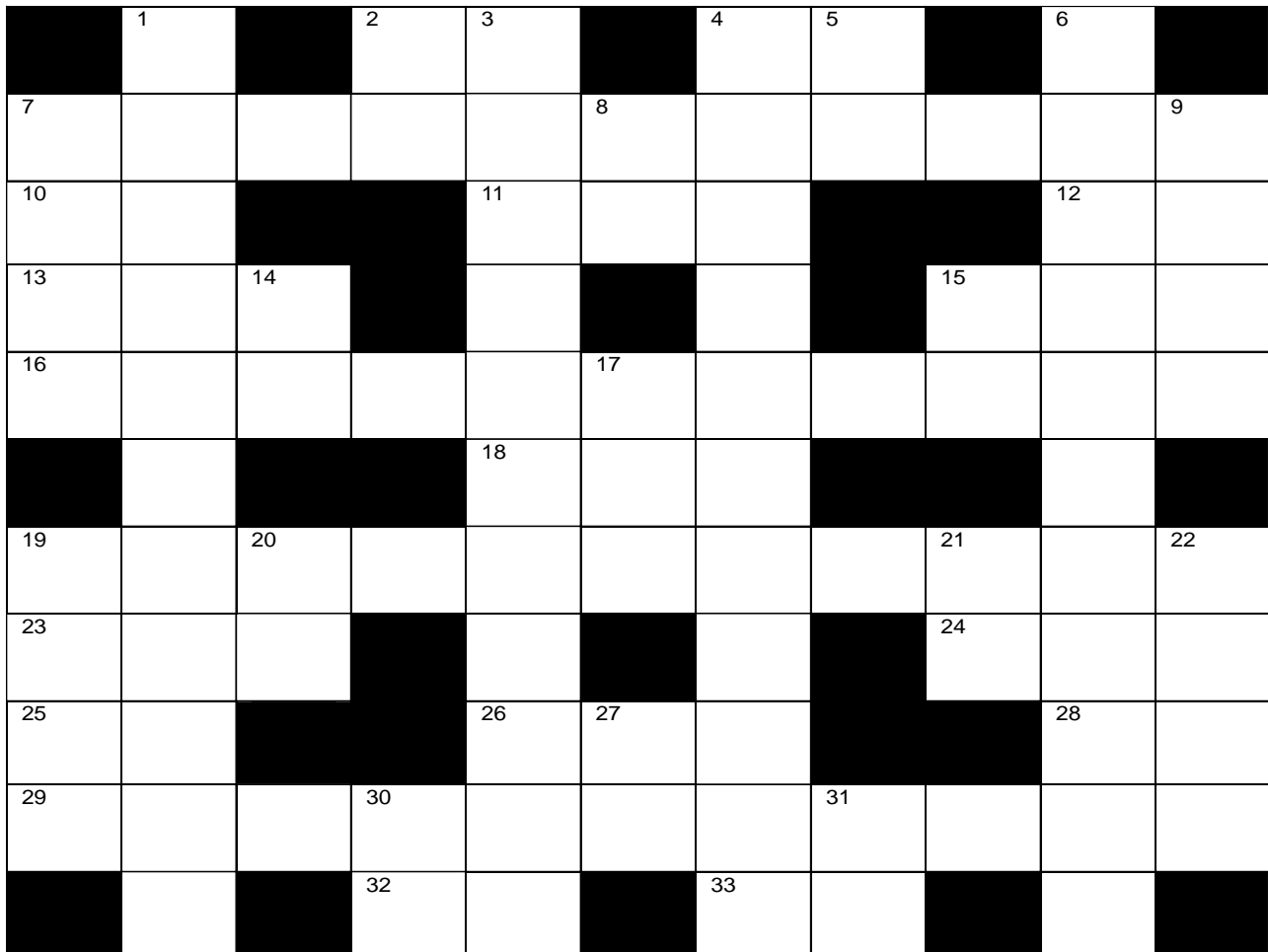
Some Kestrels do nest and successfully raise chicks in the Onkaparinga Park, usually within a hollow in an old tree, or in small nooks in cliff faces lining the Onkaparinga River. Usually hatching 3 or 4 chicks, not all reaching maturity and often using same nesting site year after year. One pair nested for a few years in the cliffs behind Old Noarlunga, but sadly, for reasons unknown, the site has since been abandoned.

Generally they feed on larger insects, small lizards, mice and easy to manage prey. When raising hungry chicks the variety and size of food can increase to keep little bellies filled. I have photographed an adult pair feeding 2 fledgling chicks by catching Pigeons, generally considered too big a challenge for such a small Raptor, also observed feeding small Snakes, Frogs and even a Yabby surprisingly? The usual method of hunting is to glide high over open fields changing direction abruptly, presumably to cover more area, and then suddenly hover in one spot before plunging down to seize lunch in its Talons. The hovering technique is shown in the photograph, it is what often reveals the identification of the bird from a distance. With tail wide spread and facing into the wind, a Kestrel skilfully using just a few wing beats to hold its position. This hover technique, apart from its use to watch for victims, is often used to dismember and consume its newly caught meal on the wing, rather than flying back to a perch.

Birding tip....Another raptor with similar hunting habits and size, and one to look out for in the cooler weather, is the Black-shouldered Kite, found commonly in similar areas as the Kestrel. A pair have nested and bred for many years in the area next to the new rail bridge area, but they seemed to have disappeared for a while now, hopefully they will return soon. ....hope to see you in the Park.



## MICHAEL'S CROSSWORD NUMBER 45



### ACROSS

2. Occupational Therapy [1,1]
4. A short example [1,1]
7. Some heavy bashing tools [4,7]
10. Outside diameter [1,1]
11. Western Sydney Uni [1,1,1]
12. A Californian Games Company [1,1]
13. British Order of Chivalry [1,1,1]
15. A container or what was shot [3]
16. Diamonds or yachts are examples [6,5]
18. This little piggy... [3]
19. Little Jack Horner had one [4,7]
23. Excessive Daytime Sleepiness [1,1,1]
24. Measure of how old something is [3]
25. American State, in the N.E. [1,1]
26. Polymer used in glue [1,1,1]
28. A version of @ [2]
29. Depression [11]
32. Indicating a close position [2]
33. A short number [2]

### DOWN

1. The Colosseum would be an example [3,8]
2. A broadcast not from a studio [1,1]
3. Frustrate a baby dog [6,5]
4. To empty a waste water pipe [6,5]
5. Genetically modified [1,1]
6. Fearing a snake [8,3]
7. Less than warm or 'with-it' [4]
8. Another word for 'like' [2]
9. Droops [4]
14. Extinct [2]
15. A personal scent [1,1]
17. The people who are not me [3]
19. South American Country [4]
20. This includes me and you [2]
21. Iraqi Airways [1,1]
22. Collects [4]
27. Next person below the President [1,1]
30. A blood type [1,1]
31. A negative reply [2]





# Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc

ABN 17 039 448 316

*Patron:* Dr. Barbara Hardy, A.O.;

## NOMINATION FORM

### FOR POSITION ON FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK INC. COMMITTEE - FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER, 2024

Positions to be elected: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer & at least four additional committee members. Total committee membership shall be no more than ten & all shall be members of the Association. Public Officer, Safety Officer & Publicity Officer are appointed by the Committee. Retiring committee members are eligible to stand for re-election without nomination.

To: Jo Scheiffers, Secretary, Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc  
[secretary@foop.com.au](mailto:secretary@foop.com.au) Mob: 0429676453

To be returned by Tuesday 29/10/2024.

**POSITION:** .....

**NOMINEE:** .....

**ADDRESS:** .....

**SIGNED:** .....

**NOMINOR:** .....

**ADDRESS:** .....

**SIGNED:** .....



### MICHAEL'S SOLUTION CROSSWORD 44

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G	O	T			C		B		P	H	O
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N	O	N	A	D	H	E	S	I	V	E	
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# **Happy Birthday Us!!!!!!!**

**FOOP is 38 years old in 2024.**

**Being a friendly lot we are going to have a BBQ.  
All members, partners & families welcome.**

**Where: At the Chapel Hill Picnic Ground, Chapel Hill Road.**

**When: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Time: From 11.30am. Meal served at 12.30pm.**

**BBQ meat supplied.**

**Bring:**

- ☺ **A sweet and savoury.**
- ☺ **Own Chair and Table.**
- ☺ **Plates & Cutlery.**
- ☺ **Good wine or whatever you drink.**
- ☺ **A pleasant disposition.**

**Please contact Andy McKinnon (Mob: 0427826721) or email to [mackins@tpg.com.au](mailto:mackins@tpg.com.au) if you intend coming to assist in catering for the BBQ.**



## Safety Report



There was one incident reported this month.

A volunteer tripped and fell heavily while walking to a work site. Fortunately, they were not injured or required any medical attention and have made a full recovery.

Again, just a reminder to be careful when walking in the workplace as trip hazards are abundant. As we move into the warmer months, we should take care in our preparation for sun protection and heat exposure.

Wear protective clothing e.g. long sleeves, trousers and sunscreen. A wide brimmed hat is always a good idea.

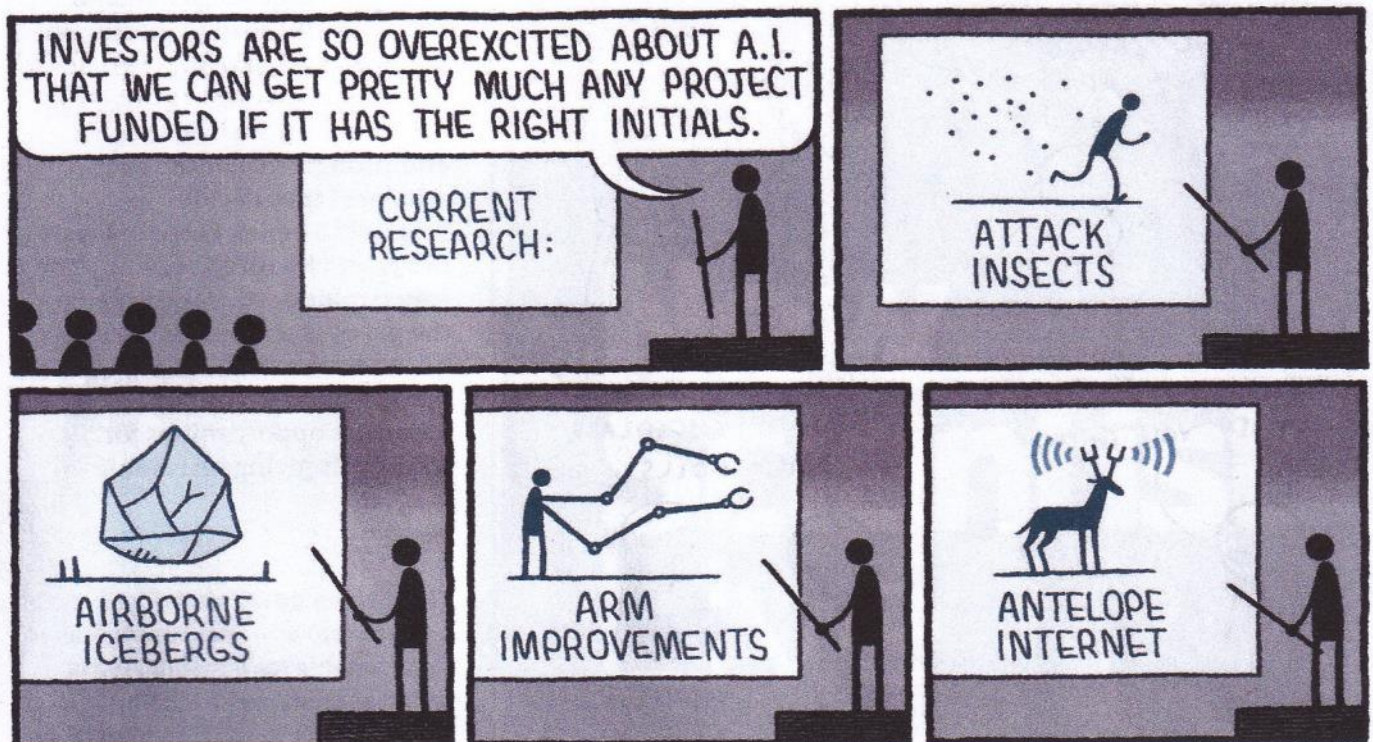
Have water available for rehydration.

Supervisor on the day will advise cancellation due to excessive heat.

Ian Carr  
Safety Officer



## **Tom Gauld** *for New Scientist*





## FOOP Subscriptions Form



**Subscriptions are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> November of each year.**

(Financial year 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October)

**New** members who join after 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.





## OCTOBER 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
		<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Gate 10 Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p> <p><b>General Meeting</b> <b>7.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Old Noarlunga Hall</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>No working bee</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>Public Holiday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>Gate 16 Chapel Hill Road Pink Gum car park Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>Gate 22 Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433 <a href="mailto:secretary@foop.com.au">secretary@foop.com.au</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>Birthday Celebration Chapel Hill 11.30am Andy 0427826721</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>Gate 9 Punchbowl CP Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>Gate 19 Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433 <a href="mailto:secretary@foop.com.au">secretary@foop.com.au</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>Gate 16 Chapel Hill Road Pink Gum car park Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>Gate 18 Hardy's Scrub Whitings Road Jo 0429676433 <a href="mailto:secretary@foop.com.au">secretary@foop.com.au</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>Gate 9 Punchbowl CP Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Gate 18 Hardy's Scrub Whitings Road Jo 0429676433 <a href="mailto:secretary@foop.com.au">secretary@foop.com.au</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>Gate 9 Punchbowl CP Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p> <p><b>General Meeting</b> <b>7.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Old Noarlunga Hall</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 <a href="mailto:vk5gct@adam.com.au">vk5gct@adam.com.au</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>Gate 16 Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433 <a href="mailto:secretary@foop.com.au">secretary@foop.com.au</a></p>