



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

Vol 38 No 4

2025



Reconstructing the Sundews Lookout 2005



FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK INC

PATRON: Dr B HARDY AO

Incorporating The ONKAPARINGA RIVER RP and ONKAPARINGA RIVER NP.

Proudly a member of THE FRIENDS OF PARKS & NATURE INC.,

President: Graham Thomas Vice-President: Michael Whitaker

Secretary: Jo Scheiffers 0429676433 Treasurer: Andrew McKinnon 0427826721

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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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

We have good news on the feral deer front: on Monday 3rd March the next stage of culling the numbers of deer in our parks re-commenced. This activity is carried out by professionals and given their success in 2024 it is expected that numbers will be further reduced. An aerial cull is also programmed for May. Please give some thought as to whether you could spare a few hours to provide security at one of the National Park gates to ensure no one enters during the cull. May 26 – May 30 are the dates involved: if you can spare time on any of these days please let me or any of the committee know asap so we can put a roster together* My email is vk5gct@adam.com.au or 0417802112.

For completeness the full programme is shown below, please note some of these dates will have elapsed when you read this:

Night cull dates - Ground activity

3-4-5 March

24-25 March

31 March-1-2 April

25-26-27-28-29 May

23-24-25 June

30 June -1-2 July

Aerial Cull [Assistance needed to monitor gates during daylight hours]*

26-27-28-29-30 May

The sea-ice that usually surrounds Antarctica has reduced to a level that is causing scientists extreme concern. The Australian Antarctic Division has been using satellite data for the past 45 years to monitor the mass of frozen sea that forms around the southern continent each winter. The 2025 data [1 March] shows that the sea-ice mass was the third lowest on record. The boffins believe that ocean temperatures are the most likely cause as the atmosphere alone would not result in the loss of ice. Low levels of Antarctic sea ice could have significant flow-on effects, including reduced protection of ice shelves and glaciers, which could contribute to sea level rise if they melt.

You will have read or seen that the Mount Remarkable National Park was badly affected by a bush-fire that destroyed around 30% of the park. The area burnt is roughly 5400 hectares. Whilst it is believed to have been started by dry lightning the most encouraging aspect is that NPWSSA believes no wildlife were killed. The Yorke and Mid North Regional Manager for National Parks Craig Nixon said "the fire showed just how effective prescribed burns could be in difficult terrain".

I read recently in the *SA Birder* that the renowned English Ornithologist John Gould wrote in 1865 "...*Australians should bestir themselves to render protection to these and many other native birds, otherwise very many of them...will soon become extinct...*" Very prophetic words as the Australian Museum has confirmed that since colonisation 21 species of birds and 27 species of mammals have been declared extinct.

Update on Deer Control: 25 more deer were removed over the first 3 nights of the programme.

Graham Thomas

"If we humans are good at anything, it's thinking we've got a terrific idea and going for it without acknowledging the potential consequences or our own ignorance." **David Suzuki**



ONKAPARINGA PARK BIRD WATCH

by Colin Cock

Almost all ponds, lakes, and the Onkaparinga River are now completely dry, exposing the smelly mud. Also alarming to see is just how much rubbish is exposed when the water recedes, and the toxicity of that rubbish left behind. Lots of Waterfowl scrounge the muddy basins in search for food in the way of worms, insects, frogs and water plants, and one has to wonder just how safe it is to eat those organisms. Despite excellent organised cleanups around the Onkaparinga river regions, and the installed Trash Racks the rubbish now seen exposed below the waterline is woeful in many places.

It's a disgrace what our diminishing wildlife have to sort through just to get a meal. While it seems the trash racks collect a great quantity of rubbish, there is still a lot that gets past the installations, primarily liquids such as road grime, oils, chemicals etc. I think most of us have seen the large, discoloured black stream of pollution pouring onto Christies Beach after rain. Maybe the old KESAB program could be kick started again to make more people aware and care of the problems litter creates, education to make more people more aware of the environment?



Another all too common a problem for the wildlife is discarded fishing line/hooks, which is plentiful, and lethal. Most people have come across some poor bird with fishing line wrapped around its leg, wing or beak. Personally I have seen many birds, and other animals in this predicament, including Dogs, even Seals and Dolphins. I've rescued quite a few as well, mostly water birds, in particular Cormorants that seem to practice the quick snatch n' grab at fish on the end of somebody's fishing line, hooks n' all. It often doesn't end well for the bird. Pelicans also seem prone to fishing line entrapment, and will often have a go at anything that's looks edible..... Solution ?????



MICHAEL'S CROSSWORD NUMBER 50

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										

ACROSS

1. Better than an ordinary shop? [11]
8. The eighth month got shorter [3]
9. In the sea, or suspicious [5]
11. What links Downs with salts [5]
13. Intake food [3]
14. Unhappy about 'ads' [3]
16. A combustion oven [3]
17. Manufacturer of honey [3]
18. Equipment, or a tail-less kite [3]
19. Step down from the bus [7]
22. One that the Romans loaned [3]
23. Create it, out of a 'rat' [3]
24. A Morse appeal [3]
25. Standard temperature operation [3]
26. African tributary of Congo River [5]
27. Cat noise [5]
28. River in Thailand [3]
30. A live wireless, or uranium? [11]

DOWN

1. A cracker of secure boxes [11]
2. Milk that is fit to drink [11]
3. Light beams [4]
4. μ as written by non-Greeks [2]
5. Polite way to say 'old' [4]
6. One spelling for a resident living between Russia and Uzbekistan [11]
7. One of the 57 varieties [11]
10. International Atomic Energy [1,1,1]
12. A fermented cereal pudding [3]
15. To terminate a procedure [5]
20. A legal gambling den [6]
21. Another word for 30 Across [6]
29. A formal honour in Australia [2]

IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES

(International Union for the Conservation of Nature)

- There are 46,300 species **threatened with extinction**, 28% of all assessed species.
- 41% of amphibians, 26% mammals, 34% conifers, 12% birds, 37% sharks & rays, 44% reef corals, 28% crustaceans, 21% reptiles, 71% of cycads.
- There are now 2,245 Australian ecosystems, plants and animals recognised nationally as being threatened with extinction. Some of these include the Grassland earless dragon, the regent honeyeater, swift parrot, Northern hairy-nosed wombat and koala. Australia has 666 threatened fauna species, 1472 threatened flora species, 107 threatened ecological communities for a total of 2245.
- **Australia** has many **critically endangered** species such as the Regent Honeyeater. There are 10 mammals, 4 birds, 13 fishes, 7 reptiles, 15 amphibians, 37 arthropods.
- In 2024, 25,000 hectares of threatened species habitat was approved by the Federal Government for removal. This included more than 3,000 hectares of koala habitat. In 2023, we saw a record number of species added to the threatened species list. While this reflects Australia's worsening extinction crisis, it's also because the department cleared a backlog of nominations that hadn't been actioned by the previous government and updated the list to better reflect reality.



Twining Purslane

(image SA Seed Conservation Centre)



Regent Honeyeater (Image:Animalia Life)

MICHAEL'S SOLUTION CROSSWORD 49

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

WALKFEST

Sun 6 April 2025
Belair National Park

Connecting with Nature



Presented by



Principal Event Partner



Community Partners



Location

[Main Oval, Belair National Park](#)

When

9am to 1:00pm

Sunday 6th April 2025

Cost

- Free vehicle entry to national park for WalkFest visitors
- Free entry to WalkFest

Guided Walks: Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$6 per child. Family tickets are \$26 for two adults and two children. All monies raised go to funding Walking SA, with thanks. Participate in these walks by [registering online](#) or registering on the day at the WalkFest ticket booth. **Book early online to avoid disappointment** as most walks will sell out before the day.

Join a [guided hike](#) where our guides will show you the natural bushland, woodlands and trails in the park. With walks ranging from easy to challenging, and from 45 mins to 3 hours, there are child friendly, pram friendly, dog friendly and Accessible walk options.

Choose from one of 25 walks that depart the WalkFest site between 7:00am to 12noon.

Guided walk tickets are \$10 per adult and \$6 per child. Family tickets are \$26 for two adults and two children. All monies raised go to funding Walking SA, with thanks.

Participate in these walks by:

[Register online at eventbookings.com.](#)

Registering on the day at the WalkFest ticket booth.

F.O.O.P



CHAINSAW SAFETY TIPS

CHAINSAWS can be a very dangerous and unforgiving tool.

As we now regularly make use of chainsaws, it may be useful to remind ourselves of a few safety tips when assisting a chainsaw operator.

Do **NOT** stand in front of a working saw just in case the chain breaks - (it can make a mess of anyone who gets in the way of it).

When a chainsaw is in use the operator is concentrating on the area immediately around the saw and cannot be expected to see anything else, so if you need to quickly gain the operator's attention, approach from the rear and tap the operator on the right shoulder.

Do **NOT** remove any cut branches or apply weedicide until the chainsaw operator has stopped cutting, stepped back with the chain brake applied, and indicated that it is safe to proceed.

When a tree or branch is being cut - ensure that you stand well clear of the tree -& do **not** assume that the tree/branch will fall in the direction planned.

Minimum **mandatory safety gear** when working near a chainsaw – high visibility vest, long sleeved shirt, full length trousers, safety boots, glasses, gloves, earmuffs or plugs.

Your personal safety is of utmost importance, however if you see anyone doing anything that you consider to be unsafe, please bring it to their attention & notify the safety officer if necessary.

Much better a dented ego than a dented body

The Golden Rule of Olive Control

“If you are **not** killing the lignotuber, you are **not** killing the olive!!!”

A **lignotuber** is a starchy swelling of the [root crown](#) possessed by some plants as a protection against destruction of the plant stem by fire. The crown contains [buds](#) from which new stems may sprout, and a sufficient store of nutrients to support a period of growth in the absence of [photosynthesis](#).

Herbicide needs to be applied to the lignotuber as soon as possible after cutting. The most effective methods are **drill & fill**, **frill & fill** or trench & fill using deep chainsaw cuts. Watered down glyphosate at the rate of 1 to 5 seems to work the best as it can be carried by the sap in the olive.

When cutting & swabbing **olive regrowth**, the lignotuber still needs to be treated. Locate the lignotuber & cut it with a small hatchet or other tool. Then apply the herbicide to the cut as soon as possible.

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 2024/25 are now due. Payment methods above.



APRIL 2025 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 12 Perrys Bend River Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p> <p>General Meeting 7.30pm</p> <p>Old Noarlunga Hall</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 5pm 27 Kym Street Port Noarlunga South Andy 0427826721</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>Gate 16 Hardy's Scrub Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Daylight Saving Ends</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>Gate 9 Punchbowl CP Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>Gate 16 Hardy's Scrub Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>Gate 10 Punchbowl Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>Easter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>Easter No working bee</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>Easter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>Easter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>Gate 9 Punchbowl CP Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>Anzac Day Public Holiday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>Gate 19 Hardy's Scrub Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>Gate 10 Punchbowl Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Gate 19 Hardy's Scrub Chapel Hill Road Jo 0429676433</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Gate 14 Rec Park River Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p> <p>General Meeting 7.30pm</p> <p>Old Noarlunga Hall</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>Gate 12 Beehives Piggott Range Road Jo 0429676433</p>