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Willing Workers L to R : *Norm Winn, John Thompson, Heather Shearer, Bob Pankhurst, June Plush, Kevin Smith, Sandra Smith, John Nettlefold, Jenny Winn, Dean Lines.*

Photo Sue Nettlefold

As part of the ongoing upgrade to the Ngak Indau Trail, the Friends group recently held a working bee to clear the track of overgrown vegetation and to remove the old trail markers. The old permapine post markers are heavy, and we were very **grateful to Bob "Panky" Pankhurst who brought along his tractor and trailer.** Without this equipment we would not have completed the task in the time allotted.

We have secured a grant to pay for replacement markers which will be the same as those on the Kai Kai Trail. More working bees are planned to erect the new posts once they become available.

Planning is also underway to design the new interpretive signs along the Trail.

2017 Programme

<u>Meetings:</u>	18th January	15th February AGM
	15th March	17th May
	19th July	20st September
	15th November	

All meetings 7.30pm in the DEWNR building (entry via Merritt Avenue). All members or intending members welcome.

Date	Activity	Instructions	Contact
Wed 12th July	Riverland Youth Council Activity	TBA	Kevin Smith 0458817228
Tues 1st August	Waterbird Survey Katarapko	Meet at Lock 4 Entrance 0900 Bring binoculars, Morning Tea	John Nettlefold 85822892
Thurs 10th August	Ngak Indau Trail Signs	Meet at Ngak Indau Carpark 0900 Bring gloves, shovels, M/T, Lunch	Kevin Smith 0458817228
Tues 5th September	Waterbird Survey Katarapko	Meet at Lock 4 entrance 0830 Bring binoculars, M/T	John Nettlefold 85822892
Thurs 14th September	Katarapko Fox bait markers	Meet at Main Info Bay 0900 Bring gloves, M/T, Lunch	Kevin Smith 0458817228
September	Fox Baiting	Katarapko, Cooltong Pooginook	Dave Robertson 0429892368

Members intending to be at any of our activities please phone the relevant contact person before the event in case times and/or meeting places change.

The July and August activities, in particular, will depend on the availability of the posts and markers.

Newsletter

Presidents Ramble



The scientific naming of plants (and animals) remains daunting to some of us. It is, however, crucially important in the classification of plants (taxonomy) and in understanding relationships between species.

In the mid 18th century, a Swede by the name of Carl Linnaeus, developed the **binomial system**. **The first part of the name refers to the plant's genus. This** groups together similar species-e.g. Eucalyptus. The second name, (by convention always in lower case) refers to the individual species name. The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN) published in 1952 set forth the principles of naming plants.

Just to add a further layer of complexity, the different genera (plural of genus) **are grouped into families that have the ending "aceae", for example, Myrtaceae** is the Family to which Eucalypts and Melaleucas belong.

At the time of the development of the binomial system, Latin was the language of international scholarship and classical languages such as Greek were in vogue. It is said that Linnaeus spoke Latin at home!

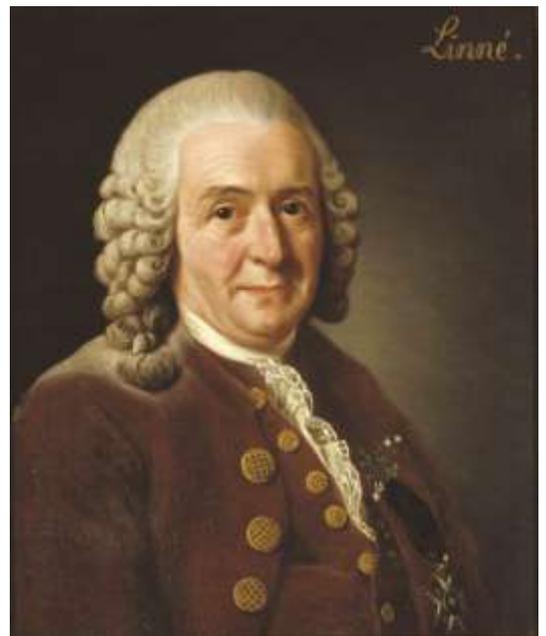
The distinguishing species name often uses a Latin or Greek term to describe a key botanical feature -e.g. *Acacia longifolia* (long leaves).

Sometimes the species carries the name of a person. Often this is the name of a botanist who first described it - e.g. *Oleria muelleri* after Ferdinand von Mueller—**Australia's most prominent** botanist.

Occasionally the species name may refer to the place where the plant originated. An unusual example is *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River red gum). This was first described from a specimen at the Camalduli Monastery near Naples in Italy. How this came about, I do not know, but presumably a botanical specimen was somehow planted in the monastery.

It is ironic that Australia's most iconic tree was so named.

John Nettlefold



Carl Linnaeus *Photo from Wikipedia*



John was recently awarded a Volunteer Certificate of Recognition for outstanding contribution to natural resources management in the Riverland NRM Group district.

As he was unable to attend the official function that was held at Olivewood Estate, Heather Shearer accepted the award for him.

She surprised John by presenting him with his certificate at the end of our latest Friends of Parks Meeting

Photo Murray Harvey

Newsletter

MATE OSBORNE

Mate Osborne died on February 8th 2017 at Berri, aged 76, and was privately cremated, as was his wish.

He was born at Ned's Corner Station near Renmark SA on 4th

November 1940. His parents were employed in various positions in the pastoral areas north of Renmark and in the Scotia region of Western NSW. Throughout his life, he rarely strayed from those same places.

He spent a number of years at "Belmore" Station prior to it being purchased by the Martin family. He told us that his first ever paid job was building the Chowilla pipeline with the Robertsons during the 1950s, not long after leaving school aged 13—and for very little money.



He was a long term Manager of "Oakvale" Station which was one of a number owned by the Lord family. He often joked that he had little need of churches as he had been working for the Lord for many years.

He lived there with his mother "Cooky" and offsider Bob until it was decreed time for one of the Lord sons to take over. With his experience in pastoral areas and ability to operate under isolated conditions, Mate was the ideal catch for Danggali.

He commenced his employment with National Parks in 1986 and moved to **"Hypurna" in Danggali Conservation Park. Incidentally, he had participated in the original construction of the "new Hypurna" homestead in the early 60s with the Martins and in particular Johnny Martin from "Tarawi" Station (now part of NSW National Parks). Following Ranger Phil Hollows departure, he moved to Canopus as manager of Danggali.**

Joan Gibbs, lecturer from the University of South Australia, who lead the annual field study program to Danggali for well over 20 years, talked of her deep respect and friendship for Mate. Possibly every graduate of the Parks and Wildlife degree over that period would have had **dealings with, and been in awe of, "Mate from Danggali".**

Trainee pilots from the Flying School at Parafield airport used Danggali as a destination for cross country flying. **"Bring a Newspaper", and you were welcomed with a cup of tea, as was everyone. I wonder how many of the pilots who fly us around the world have had tea with Mate and Bernie.**

He didn't suffer fools gladly, and valued his privacy. Not prone to rash decisions, there was quiet applause from many around the pastoral zone when his very long engagement to Bernadette culminated in their marriage. He had a strong work ethic and loyalty that is born out of his upbringing on station country

He always gave service above and beyond. Once he and Bernie were esconced at Canopus they rarely left their post. He embraced the management of this large piece of land with the sense of ownership that engenders a need to protect as well as share the thing you love with others. This quality was obviously recognised and in 1998 he was awarded the Public Service Medal in the New Year Honour Awards.

His real name was Arthur Robert Osborne, a fact known to few. For most of us he was "Mate" and he will be missed.

Stephen Brown



Regent Parrot Update

In 2012 four cameras were trained on the entrances to nest hollows that had been selected by pairs for breeding that season. Viewing the hours of footage to determine what was occurring at nest hollows took a number of volunteers a very long time.

However, the effort was worthwhile as we learned a number of important things about the breeding success **of these threatened birds. One nest was "taken over" by a pair of Yellow Rosellas and we do not know if this pair found another hollow or simply gave up for that season.** One 3 week old Regent Parrot chick was removed from a nest by a Lace Monitor (*Varanus varius*). **At a third nest the male bird "disappeared" at week six of the 10 week breeding cycle.** This male had been a very conscientious and regular visitor to the nest to feed his partner and his chicks up until that time. The female parent continued to feed her brood but she too suddenly ceased to visit the nest when the young would have been in their last week before fledging. One fully feathered young nestling was seen at the entrance to the hollow for two days, begging to any bird that happened to land nearby. It then was seen no more.

The good news is that one nest fledged three healthy chicks and the nest that the Lace Monitor visited fledged two. From this data three breeding pairs managed to raise five chicks to fledging stage.

In the 2016 breeding season the four cameras were set in place to monitor Regent Parrot nest hollows. The footage obtained has been forwarded to Flinders University where students will take on the task of watching and interpreting it.

I have had a cursory look at the footage from one nest. Although I have not watched every minute of the footage from that nest, it appears the female did not return to assist with the feeding of her brood at about halfway through the five weeks of feeding the nestlings. The male continued with the task and it appears that he was successful in raising two chicks to fledging age.

I am anxiously awaiting feedback from the University to see whether my limited viewing agrees with their interpretation and also to find out the fate of the other three nests.

Kevin Smith



Regent Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*)

Photo by K. Basely



Yellow Rosella (*Platycercus elegans* ssp
flaveolus)

Happy Birthday Wendy



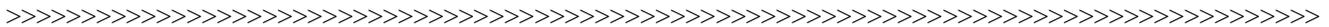
Wendy Mackintosh recently celebrated her 70th birthday.

Wendy has been a diligent Treasurer for the Friends of Riverland Parks for many years, and she and husband, Michael, are regular attendees at all our working bees.

Wendy always has this radiant smile, and is loved and appreciated by all our members. It was fitting that so many people attended the luncheon at Backyard Breads to help her celebrate the occasion.



Photos Chris Lill



Letters to the Editor

It is not often that I get comments regarding the Newsletter, but after the March Newsletter, I received 3 emails.

Geoff Haddon was stationed on Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands from May to August 1980. On May 2nd of that year, he sighted large flocks (up to 1000 birds) of Short-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) moving North. He watched them fly past for 5 hours before a thunderstorm put an end to his observations. The next day, there were no more Shearwaters to be seen, and he saw no more of these birds while he was on the atoll. He wrote an article that was published in *Australian Birds* regarding this migration. The recent article about the Shearwaters in Tasmania reminded him of this event which is still very clear in his mind.

Both Teagan McKillop (Berri Barmera Landcare) and Karen Bishop (Riverland West Landcare) commented **on the President's Ramble regarding a Code of Conduct** for recreational users of the River Murray. They had each found a pamphlet that had already been compiled and printed. One pamphlet was compiled in 2004 by a sustainable recreation steering committee. The other, *Sustainable Recreation Guide*, was published by MurrayCare in 2008. Unfortunately, the logos are outdated and it is not possible to upload the pamphlet onto the website—www.parks.sa.gov.au.

I am hoping that some of the information can be put on the website, perhaps under the heading "Looking after your River" and that Houseboat Hirers will also be encouraged to follow a code of conduct.

Newsletter

The Berri Lunettes

Last week, a group of us spent a couple of hours on a sunny afternoon at the Berri Lunette, by the old Rodeo Ground. This area had previously been planted up and we were pleased to see that a significant number of these plants had survived. There were, however, many empty guards and it was our plan to replant in these spots.

Murray Harvey had been carefully looking after *Melaleuca lanceolata* seedlings that he had grown, and these were planted. John Nettlefold also brought some of his home grown native plant seedlings to add some variety. At the end of the afternoon we had planted, guarded and watered about 150 seedlings. As mulch, we replaced the matting that was already there from previous plantings.

There is a watering system in place, but it is in some disrepair. If these trees are to survive, the pipes and tubing will need quite a lot of attention.



Norm & Jenny Winn, John Nettlefold



June Plush



Michael Mackintosh



John & Sue Nettlefold



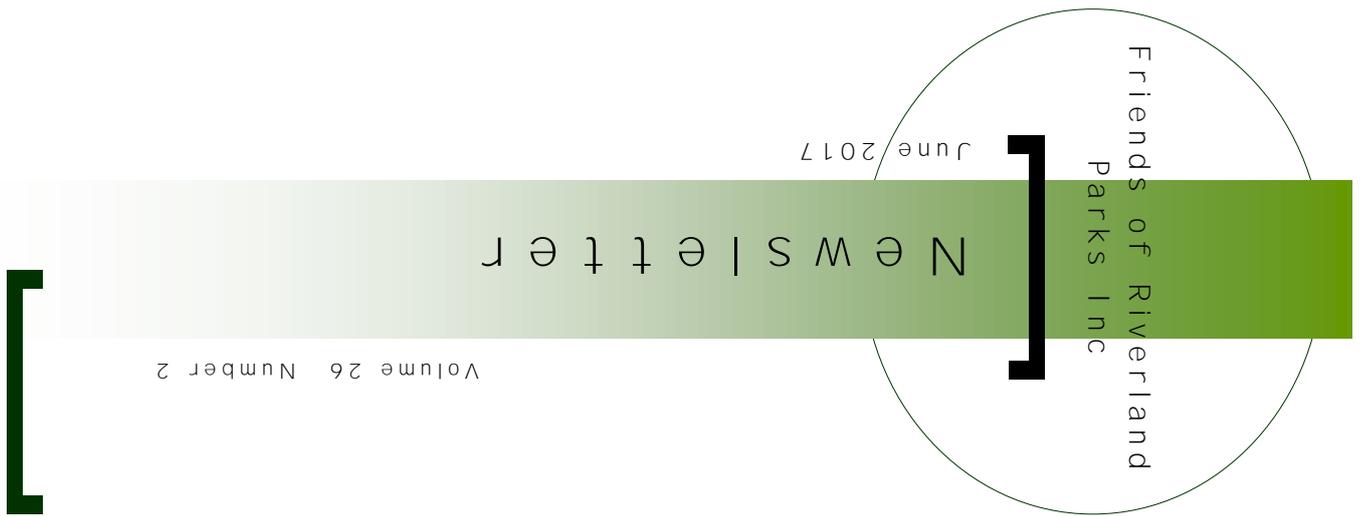
Book Launch

June was especially busy on the day that we planted the Lunettes. Earlier, **she had attended the launch of "Upstream", a children's book designed by the students of the Barmera Primary School.** The concept of creating a book for children about the Environment was put forward by the Katfish Reach Steering Group. Liz Frankel, a well known local **children's author was invited to help the students compile the book.**



Front cover of the new book

Kevin Smith, our hard working secretary, is also the Chairman of the Steering Group. The Group have acquired funding from the Murray Darling Basin Authority to publish the book. It will be distributed to schools, libraries and environmental groups. A great achievement and congratulations to all involved.



If not delivered, please return to:
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Friends of Riverland Parks Inc is a group of volunteers from most sections of the Riverland. Our common aim is to assist the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources in the conservation of both wet and dry land areas within the local district.