



# 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.

Website: <http://www.communitywebs.org/OnkaparingaParks/>

July

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2017

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Whilst considering what I wanted to include in this month's missive, I could not go past the fact that we still need good rain. As previously mentioned our 2017 planting programme is underway, albeit that we have had to water the tube-stock in at planting time and follow-ups are necessary. If anyone has any influence on who controls the weather, please put in a good word. However, the previous year's efforts are looking really good with significant growth rates. So much so that in some areas we have had to either change the guards or remove them. At the Old Coach Road site above Old Noarlunga, there has been some insect damage to the Eucalypts but they seem to be recovering OK. Time will tell.

Sadly we are seeing more and more evidence of feral animal damage. It is disheartening for all involved when shrubs and trees that were doing so well get smashed to the ground by deer and are unlikely to regrow. Goats are similarly doing irreparable damage to revegetation. We were promised action????

Many thanks to the many members who regularly assist in our working bees as the parks would not be looking as good as they are without your efforts. This is particularly the case in a year like 2017. Little rain combined with reducing sub-soil moisture means additional physical measures such as carrying many watering cans to the sites where tube-stock is planted. It is also harder to hammer the stakes in to hold the tree guards in place. Well done all!

There is lots of construction activity underway with the campground well advanced, new car parks at Sundews and along Piggott Range road to the west for the new Punchbowl Lookout. In addition work is progressing on River Road for the new kayak launching site and carpark. Mark your diaries for the following events;

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 'Come and Try' at the new campground.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Onkaparinga River National Park Open Day at a venue to be determined.

These are the "parks of the month"; if you can access the DEWNR website there should be more detail there.

Our parks are not immune from attacks of wanton vandalism. In pondering one recent incident, I was having difficulty in comprehending what it is that drives people to do this? Anecdotally it's not confined to "bored teens". People today have many more things to get involved in. More games, more gadgets, streamed media and the like. Whilst not wanting to sound like a whinging old man [which I probably resemble]; when growing up I and my peers had numerous things we could do and I can't recall ever being tempted to smash or deface someone else's property. When someone goes into the bush equipped with paint, brushes and spray cans, their acts are not spontaneous, but deliberate. Such acts should be appropriately punished, not by good behaviour bonds and similar. Maybe it's the 'whinging old man' again, but I don't see evidence of rehabilitation when courts deliberate on suitable penalties.

The *Advertiser* of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June reported on the State Budget that allocation of funding for the environment that includes "...\$12.7 million to repair and upgrade buildings, bridges, roads and trails within the state's national parks, damaged during the September 2016 extreme weather events...". Based on this promise of funds, it is my expectation that we should see immediate action to design and build the replacement bridge for entry into the park in Old Noarlunga. The curious part about this budget allocation is that replacement should be done under the State government's self-insurance coverage. Given that supply bills are seldom opposed in parliament, there is no excuse for delay.

Heard on ABC radio that only 3 pairs of Orange-Bellied Parrots sighted at Melaleuca Tasmania last breeding season.

Graham Thomas

July 2017



*When the last tree is cut down, the last fish is eaten and the last stream poisoned, you will realise that you cannot eat money.*

*Native American saying (Attributed to the Cree Nation.)*

FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK INC

PATRON: Dr B HARDY AO

Incorporating The ONKAPARINGA RECREATION PARK and ONKAPARINGA NATIONAL PARK.

Proudly a member of THE FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.,

Chairperson: Graham Thomas Deputy Chair: Michael Whitaker

Secretary/Treasurer: : Andrew McKinnon 8386 2393

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E mail: [mackins@tpq.com.au](mailto:mackins@tpq.com.au)



## From the Editor 's Desk.

Send **all** articles via: [billandgill@yahoo.com.au](mailto:billandgill@yahoo.com.au) or by snail mail to 27 Marston Drive, Morphett Vale 5162 or hand deliver to Gill or me. Mobile 0427 306758

I started writing this on the 28th June 2017. Outside the weather was wintry and we had received 6.6mm rain since 0900. Graham's plea may have reached the right ears. Colin C on a Facebook forum suggested that we do a rain dance—perhaps someone took up the suggestion. Our family name has no influence although I did notice that we never had a rained out picnic and the rain usually stopped when I played footie. Actually when it did rain I seemed to play so much better.

I wonder how many of us have rainfall gauges or worse.

I indulged and now have a “you beaut” system where not only does it record rain but wind speed, wind direction etc and its downloadable. Of course I download but the thing is after I download I don't look at the data again; but I might.

Reminds me a little of workmates who every day of the week checked their superannuation accounts to see what was happening. They never did anything just looked and smiled until the GFC hit us all in 2007 then they cried.

Thing is that they could have changed the results but as yet none of us can change the weather.

Having written that I do wonder if Climate change is not accidental weather changing. If that is the case the next step would be to turn this climate mess to our advantage and start getting control of the weather. Perhaps not, humanity has an enormous capacity to stuff things up. Just look at the effects of irrigation over the thousands of years we have been using that method and we may do the same in the Murray-Darling basin. In the Americas a whole civilization was lost.

Graham's comment about the funding for the Old Noarlunga bridge being an insurance issue. It was treated as such with the first FOOP bridge. So why is it in the Budget?

Is this creative accounting? That aside the important thing is that a suitable bridge be built soon. We probably cannot do anything about it anyway and if we ask too many questions the bridge will never be built.

I have been taking photos, or borrowing some, of the Onk parks for our oldest son. He gets a little homesick every now and then. Lately he has asked for photos of the Parks. He worked as a volunteer for a while when he was studying at the Adelaide Uni. so for a while there were three Heaven's working in the park.

In complying with his request I am reminded what a visual feast the parks are. I read Steve Johnson article in the online DEWNR paper the other day and he nailed it.

Our working as volunteers has spoilt it for me a little. Even though I am not a botanist I now know that quite a bit of the vegetation we used to admire are weeds. I still think olives should be reclassified as native vegetation. We have done it for the dingo so why not that tree we all despair about.

Gill and I have been keeping an eye on the infrastructure work being done in the two parks and do wonder whether what we may be seeing is the bringing in of the Onk Parks as Icon parks where while funding will increase the use of the parks will change.

The Onkaparinga National Park became a National park because of the identification of five geological monuments within its boundaries. Rare and endangered species have been found since then making it even more important from a conservation stance. I am repeating myself I know.

I have read the paper on trails in the parks and if I have a concern is that the original reasons for gazetting the parks seems to have been down graded in favour of recreation opportunities, especially bike riding, because of a perception that this will create a revenue stream. I don't have an issue with more people using the parks because after all they belong to all of us.

Having written that I shudder at the thought that motorbike riders may use that argument for legal access to the parks. Illegally they have been doing it for years and they seem to have little regard for anything but a good time.

Quickly I think graffiti is a little like a dog leaving its scent. That is its a primitive desire to lay some claim on the local environment. Its being going on for centuries and has become a university topic. I hate the scribbles but have admired some fine artwork over the years. You just wish the perpetrators would grow up or at least go to art school.

Lastly, recently I introduced myself to a new member and in a response to a question I identified myself as the FOOP newsletter editor. He was complimentary and asked about how long I spent on it per month. It takes about eight hours all up but that's just Gill's and my contribution.

Graham, Colin and Andy are regular contributors and the standard of their work suggests that they are not doing their articles over morning tea; although our working B morning teas are getting longer. Recently Fae Trueman has been providing us with a summary of the PDO's she and Jim organise.

So when you look at this newsletter there is probably around 10 –15 hours work going into it every month.

If you have a desire to write an article, pass on some information, draw a cartoon, or provide a joke or two feel free.

Bill.





Yellow-rumped Thornbill 11-12cm

*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*...common....resident...breeding

The Onkaparinga Park has quite a few species of Thornbills and the Yellow-rumped variety is probably the one most often encountered. They seem to be widespread in both the upper Gorge and Estuary localities. A small, mostly seed, insect and Lerp eating bird and of a similar size to the common Sparrow, Most often seen in open or grassy woodlands where seed is plentiful. Often in quite large flocks of a dozen or more individuals, at times more numbers depending on locality. Often found feeding alongside other small birds of different species, wherever seed or small insects are present.

An easily recognisable, most noticeable characteristic being the bright yellow rump below brown wings feathers bird and spotty forehead in grey and white. They tend to nest in groups with several nests in one tree, nest being a loose woven affair consisting primarily of grass strands and about the same size as a football.

Just the other day while visiting the Gorge Waterfall area I was amazed just how many small birds were actively feeding both on the ground and treetops. Consisting of a mixture of species, but the Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Striated Thornbill and Silvereyes were most prevalent. What an amazing thing to sit and observe while surrounded one of the nicest parts of the Onkaparinga NP.

Something I seem to of noticed this year is the big numbers of Superb Fairy-wrens in both Gorge and in particular the Estuary walk from Perrys Bend. While there are always good numbers, this year there seems to be double the number. It makes for a delightful walk . Whilst some of the bright blue males are in eclipse colouring at present { season colour loss } there are many stunning fully blue coloured males to be seen. We are so lucky to have so many of these birds !

Also very good to see is the lake off the Main Sth Rd, west of the D V Fleming Bridge. Despite constant work being carried out alongside this noisy lake the Blue-billed Ducks are still present. I have seen the Shovelers and Pink-eared Ducks often as well, a surprisingly very productive little bit of fresh water. There are always the more common Coots, Swamphens, Hardheads, Grebes in abundance, and a couple of Nankeen Night Herons often hanging around.



## PDO (PLEASANT DAY OUT) FRIDAY 30th JUNE, 2017

After a beautiful drive on winding roads and through misty gullies we emerged in sunshine at Macclesfield's Davenport Square.

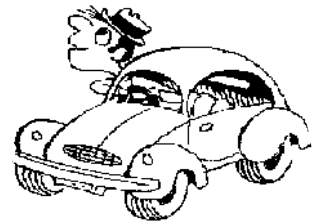
This was named after one of three brothers who settled there in 1840. First stop was the Night Paddock on Dawson Creek, where it is still possible to agist stock. Next up the hill to the Day Paddock reserve. Volunteers Brian and Pam Knill were there to show us the area and explain how they are tackling vast stands of gorse (in early days used extensively as hedging). There is a remarkable regrowth of native flora. Well done.

Crystal Lake - also known as Lord Robinson Park after a local lad who was knighted in England in later years. A swimming lake was established in the Angas River in 1932. 400 people attended the opening. More recently it has become known as a Sculpture Park. Sculptors come from around the world come to participate and create works, many in local Macclesfield marble. You can see them in towns around the Adelaide Hills, some still remain in the park.

After lunch a drive along back roads takes us to Strathalbyn where Pam and Brian have built a Ecco home - it will be featured on Sustainable House Day later in the year. The principles and philosophy behind the build are admirable and we appreciated the opportunity to visit.

Next PDO Brownhill Creek. Meet Carpark - Evans Avenue off Old Belair Road, Mitcham

FAE & JIM TRUEMAN



## A true story from the pages of the Manchester Evening Times

A passenger in a taxi heading for Salford station leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then, the shaking driver said "are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylight out of me."

The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said, "I didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly."

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab."



## Dreaming stories of The Mt Lofty Ranges

Extract from Wikipedia so should be treated as such.

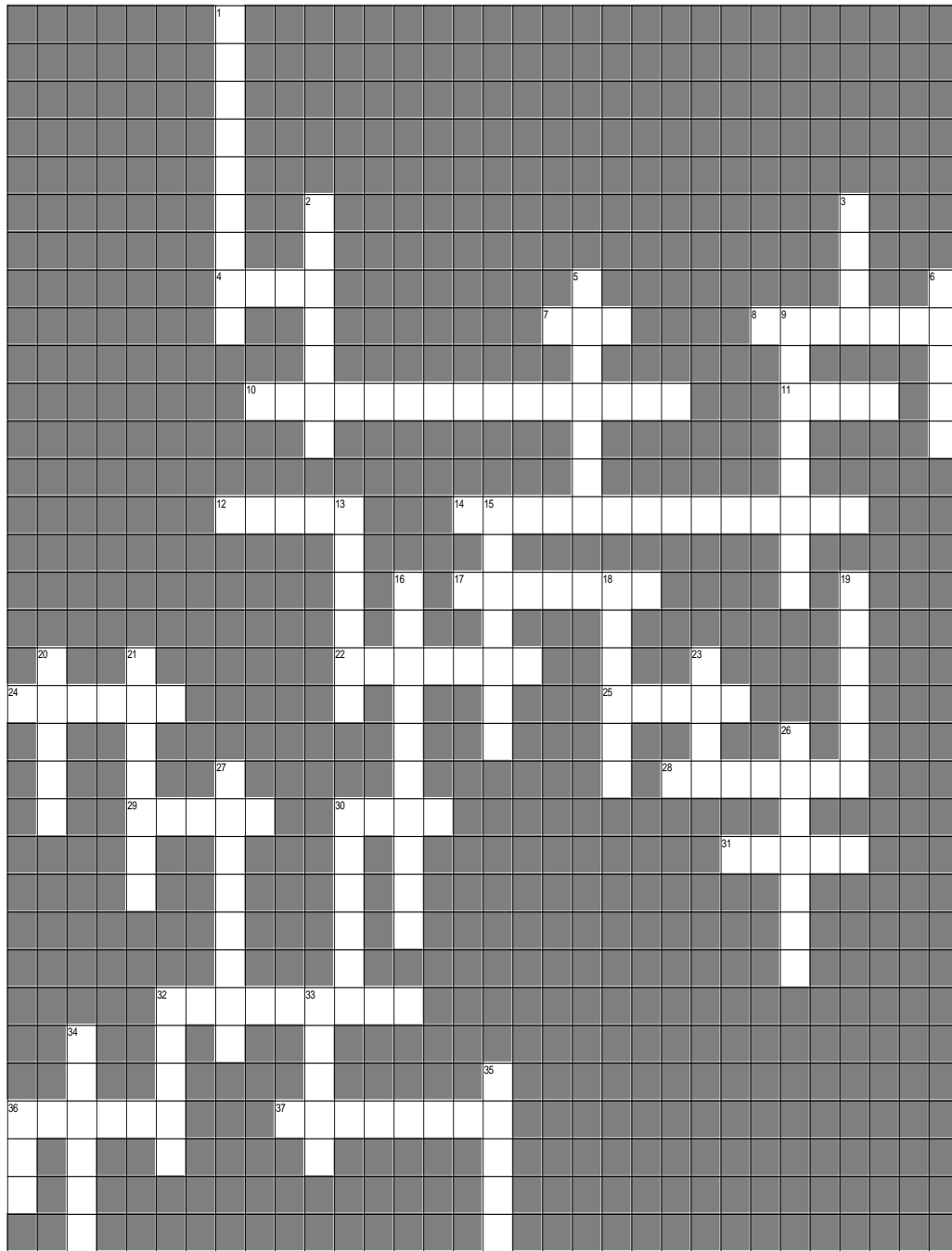
<i>Montongengg</i>	a legend of two children in the stringy bark tree
<i>Yurebilla</i>	The Giant whose body became the Mount Lofty Ranges
<i>Two Mates</i>	Who travelled from other lands way up north to visit the Peramangk people at Mount Lofty
<i>Tjilbruke</i>	The Water and Fire Man who travelled around all of Peramangk territory marking the boundaries of their territories with his travels. His body now forms part of the Mount Lofty Ranges
<i>The Mingka Bird</i>	Little Bird who lived on Mount Barker and who announced the approach of visitors and the imminent death of a loved one
<i>Tak:Oni</i>	Little Spirit Men who would throw stones at campers at night if they strayed too far from the fire
<i>Kadli-Umbo</i>	The Wild Dog Rainbow whose colours can be seen in the waters of Kaiserstuhl Creek
<i>Nurrunderi</i>	The father of the Ngarrindjeri people
<i>Nganno the Giant</i>	Gurltatakko Nganno's son was murdered and Nganno after holding an inquest, journeyed far and wide to find the murderer or murderers. On his journey he named the places of his country. Nganno moved around the earth that was flat without rivers and streams. As he moved around he made the rivers and filled them with yabbies and fish to eat. When Nganno had found the murderers and killed them, he went back home, but his people on seeing him panicked for he was much changed. They ran into the sea in fear where they were transformed into sea creatures. Then he told them not to enter the water, one answered "I am a shark", another "I am a whale and so on. Seeing him transformed into a giant, in the end Nganno himself was killed by his own people who did not recognise him. When he fell down his body became the Mount Lofty ranges. Yurre-idla (Mount Lofty & Mount Bonython) his two ears; Piccadilla (Piccadilly) his eyebrow; Ngariatpa (Nuriootpa), his neck, Tanunda, his elbow and so on. <sup>[4]</sup>



Red ochre figures with faint white ochre outlines in the South Para painting site 2 shelter.  
Traditional art.

Source: The Ochre warriors –Peramngk culture and rock art in the Mt Lofty ranges.

I have not seen anything like this in the Onk parks but did see someone's idea of the rainbow serpent—Ubirr rock style



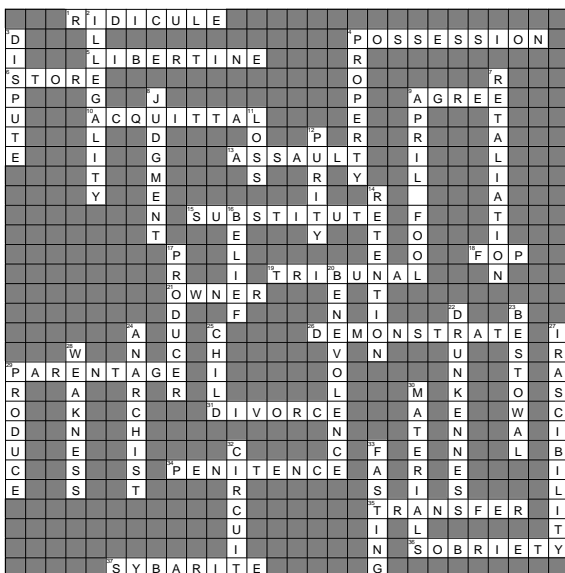
### Across

4. Surname of Charles 2 mistress. (4)
7. Acronym - Computer aided design. (3)
8. First book of the Old Testament. (7)
10. He composed the -Marseillaise while at Strousberg in 1792. (15)
11. The circular surface rotation of ocean water in each major sea. (4)
12. King of Northumbria and the city of Edinburgh was named after him. (5)
14. This plant completes its life cycle in two years. General description not specific plant. (14)
17. A species of small daffodil. (7)
22. Surname of Lewis Carroll. (7)
24. Dug up remains of animal or plant. (6)
25. Surname of an Irish adventurer who attempted to steal the Crown jewels in 1671. (5)
28. Science of the Earth. (7)
29. West Indian witchcraft. (5)
30. White muscovite is a form of ? (4)
31. North European freshwater fish. (5)
32. Regarded by some as the composer to write the first British Opera. (9)
36. King of the fairies. (6)
37. A Volcanic igneous rock, intermediate in silica content between rhyolite and basalt. (8)

### Down

1. Mount Kenya (9)
2. Half man - half horse. (7)
3. A venerable chap. (4)
5. The Hindu caste called the Untouchables in English. (7)
6. Sacred poem. (5)
9. Aubergine (8)
13. These nymphs guarded springs and pools. (6)
15. Same atomic number but different neutrons. (7)
16. The male part of a flower, comprising a number of stamens. (10)
18. On a map this line links all places with same atmospheric pressure at a given time. (6)
19. Largest island in the Channel islands group. (6)
20. Russian physicist who devised the first aerial. (5)
21. Yarrow -herb. (7)
23. Member of the Talpidae family. Into tunnelling. (4)
26. Widow of a peer or baronet. (7)
27. Sperm whale (8)
30. Honourable palace gate. Japanese. (6)
32. Capital of Switzerland. (5)
33. Surname of the Biggles series author. (5)
34. Ancient district of Central Greece and also the name of an aircraft manufacturer. (6)
35. US naturalist, explorer and writer particularly deep sea exploration. (5)
36. Member of the genus - Quercus. (3)

### Last month's solution...



## Around the traps and Diary dates

### Trees for Life.—Southport Dunes project.

15/07/2017 Weeding and planting..  
19/08/2017 Weeding and planting .

Talk to **Diana Dahms** about details.

### ONKAPARINGA PARK OF THE MONTH AUGUST 2017

6th Dog's Breakfast at Perry's Bend. (tentative)

13th Tour of the new campground at gate 15. Plant a tree. Come & Try Abseiling!

27th Come & Try new walking trails/see new Punchbowl Lookout viewing platform.

### FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER FROM 11.30AM.

LOCATION: AT A SITE NEAR THE NEW PUNCHBOWL LOOKOUT, PIGGOTT RANGE ROAD.

ENTRY VIA TEMPORARY GATE 200M EAST OF STATES ROAD.

FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE.

### Community Infrastructure from Local Labor rep Chris Picton..

We have committed to replacing the Old Noarlunga Footbridge that was destroyed in last years flooding. The new bridge will be built after wider consultation about what design is best suited for the location and needs of the Old Noarlunga community.

This was lifted from Chris Picton MP's newsletter.

It will interesting to see what gets built and when.



#### A little history.

The FOOP caravan before it received its distinctive paint job.

Have a look at the person lounging nearest the camera.

I will give you a hint he is now a well known ranger. Hasn't changed much.

I think this was in the Springs area before planting begun but could be wrong.

## 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 Secretary/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 [mackins@tpg.com.au](mailto:mackins@tpg.com.au) to confirm payment.

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

Andy McKinnon

Secretary/Treasurer

Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc.



**JUNE 2017 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.**

**Note: all new gate numbers**

Sunday	Mon-	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Boneseed removal Andy 8386 2393
2	3	4 NP Gate 20 – Springs Chapel Hill Road Weed control Andy 8386 2393 General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute	5	6 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control Graham 7220 5568	7	8 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Boneseed removal Andy 8386 2393
9	10	11 NP Gate 29/30 Riparian zone Weed control/Planting Andy 8386 2393	12	13 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control Graham 7220 5568	14	15 NP Gate 16 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Boneseed removal Andy 8386 2393
16	17	18 NP Gate 7a – The Knoll Piggott Range Road Weed control/Planting Andy 8386 2393	19	20 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control Graham 7220 5568	21 Pleasant Day Out Meet Car Park, Evans Ave, off Old Belair Road, Mitcham, 10am Jim 8278 9359	22 NP Gate 19 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Boneseed removal Andy 8386 2393
23	24	25 NP Gate 7a – The Knoll Piggott Range Road Weed control/Planting Andy 8386 2393	26	27 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control Graham 7220 5568	28	29 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Boneseed removal Andy 8386 2393
30	31	1 NP Gate 20 – Springs Chapel Hill Road Weed control Andy 8386 2393 General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute Speaker: Ali Ben Kahn Topic: State of the Environment	2	3 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control Graham 7220 5568	4	5 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Boneseed removal Michael 8557 7498