



# FRIENDS OF THE COORONG

## NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2017



President, Sam



### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

November 2017 marks the Friends of the Coorong's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On **Saturday, October 14**, the Committee would like to celebrate this occasion in a special way with a 4WD tag-along tour in Martins Washpool Conservation Park before returning to Cantara Homestead for afternoon tea, with a cake and the presentation of membership certificates.

We will meet at the Oil Rig in Salt Creek at 9:30am for registration. The tour will begin at 10am sharp and include a picnic lunch in the park, before returning to Cantara by 2:30pm.

Matt Honner from the South East Flows Restoration Project has been approached and he's agreed to join us as our guest speaker for the day.

Don't worry if you don't have a 4WD vehicle, we can arrange for you to grab a ride with someone else. There will also be the opportunity to stay overnight at Cantara.



*The spot overlooking Morella Basin which has been chosen for lunch.*

### Mallee fowl mound surveys



Mallee fowl mound surveys will be carried out on the following dates:  
Mount Boothby – Monday 9-Tuesday 10 Oct  
Gum Lagoon – Thursday 12-Friday 13 October  
Mount Scott – Saturday 14- Sunday 15 Oct  
Coorong – Monday 16 October

Co-ordinated by Vicki Natt, these surveys locate and monitor activity on known mounds. Volunteers are always welcome, but you will require a certain level of fitness as there is some bushwalking involved.

A training day will be held at the Lacedpede Bay Motel in Kingston SE on **Saturday 16 September**, starting at 9:30am. **For catering purposes, please RSVP to Vicki on 0428 673273.**

### How to avoid being swooped by a magpie



It's the time of year that magpies (and other nesting birds) are out in force, protecting their chicks. Magpies only swoop within 50m of their nests, so stay away from the area if you can.

If you can't change your route, try these tips;

- Carry an open umbrella or wear sunglasses and a broad-brimmed hat to protect your head, neck and eyes.
- Travel in groups if possible – swooping birds usually target individuals.
- Walk quietly, don't run, past their nests.
- Avoid making eye contact with the bird and don't wave your arms or shout at it; this just confirms you are a threat.

The good news is, this behaviour only lasts about six weeks.

Sunday, 30 July was Planet Ark National Tree Day and, as they have done for several years now, members of Friends of the Coorong got together for a morning planting native species and enjoying the ambience of the Coorong National Park.

It was encouraging to see that last year's planting at the same site was developing, slowly but surely.

This year a total of nearly 300 melaleucas and saltbushes were planted at a site near Mark Point Mill.

*Atriplex cinerea* and *melaleuca halmaturorum* (for the technically minded) were sourced from Melaleuca Nursery in Meningie and Ngopamuldi Nursery in Raukkan.

These will, in due course, provide increased shelter for campers and improve the general amenity of the site.

The seedlings were provided by Coorong Tatiara LAP, while the preparatory work was carried out by DEWNR and the Cultural Rangers.

Further materials on the day – tools, water, guards and stakes – were provided by both LAP and DEWNR, under the direction of Sam Blight and Chris Thompson.

All of the fourteen people present enjoyed the perfect July day and look forward to carrying out more planting next year.



*A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, but is still fat. . .*



Tree planting site at Mark Point.



Your  
health  
and  
safety



### Hypothermia

Hypothermia (being too cold) occurs when the body temperature drops below 35°C. It can be life threatening if it is not recognised and treated early and can occur if the weather is cold, wet or windy, or if the person has been immersed in cold water or soaked by rain.

Signs and Symptoms include:

Mild: feeling cold, shivering, clumsiness and slurred speech, apathy and irrational behaviour  
Severe: shivering ceases, difficult to find pulse, slow heart rate, loss of consciousness.

Hypothermia can be mistaken for drunkenness, a stroke or drug abuse.

If you come across someone suffering from hypothermia, move them to a warm, dry place and change any wet clothing. Wrap them in blankets, a sleeping bag and/or an emergency blanket and cover their head to maintain body heat. Give them a warm drink (if they are conscious), but not alcohol. Place hot water bottles or heat packs directly on them, but being careful to avoid burns.

If hypothermia is severe, call 000 immediately. Stay with the person until medical aid arrives.

## Visit to the well found and restored in Bonney Reserve

With the appropriate permission from land owners, the Friends of the Coorong Committee is investigating a tag-along 4WD tour through

Bonney Reserve to the Moonee Hills Road, including a visit to this well and the Ration Station. We will also look into the possibility of a bush tucker walk and visit to Camp Coorong's museum.

We were hoping to do this in early spring, but preparation for our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations has taken precedence. We will provide more details of this event soon.



## Naracoorte Caves on Heritage Register



Naracoorte Caves has been added to the South Australian Heritage Register due to its geological, palaeontological and speleological significance.

Following provisional listing last year, all 37 known caves have been formally added to the register. Fossils in the caves were put on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1994, currently the only SA place on the list.

The caves have recently had a 'spring clean' with guides taking part in a series of specialist workshops and demonstrations on cave cleaning and restoration. Damage to internal surfaces, such as graffiti, was repaired and growths of green algae and mosses near lights, removed. Working with the soft limestone was a challenge, but the maintenance allows the caves to continue to provide the best possible experience for visitors.



*The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.*

## More on the walkers hut



Our President, Sam, along with DEWNR staff and Wilderness School staff and students recently met on-site to discuss how we might all work together to build a walkers hut along the Nukan Kungan trail which runs from Salt Creek to the 42 Mile Crossing.

Topics discussed included design, possible building materials, finance, Cultural heritage, rehabilitation of the site after the building works and the ongoing maintenance of the shelter.

Wilderness School have committed to being a part of the project and the students will begin by investigating designs and building materials when they return to the classroom.

Both the school and Friends of the Coorong will investigate funding opportunities.



*The proposed site for the hut near Sheep Rug Well.*

## New membership rates

New membership rates were adopted last year:  
\* \$10 per person, family or group per year  
\* \$45 per person, family or group for 5 years  
\* \$80 per person, family or group for 10 years.

Due to increased postage costs, the rates for 5 or 10 years' membership will include **email only** communication.

Membership fees are due in January each year. Please send your payment to the FOC Secretary, P O Box 229, Meningie, 5264. You may also pay by direct deposit to the our Bank SA account, BSB 105 165, account number: 739063740.

## Recycling



Some frightening facts from the *organic gardener* magazine:

- 40% of Australian bananas are mulched or unsold because they are too short, too fat, too long or ugly
- 4.25 billion plastic bags end up in Australian landfill each year
- 12.7 million tonnes of plastic waste washes into our oceans each year
- 100,000 whales, seals, birds and turtles are killed annually by plastic waste
- 6000kg of clothing is being thrown away every ten minutes in Australia



We have reached the point where we are regularly throwing away so much food, clothing, appliances and plastic packaging that our waste is growing at double the rate of our population.

Individual action is vital and the cumulative effect of our decisions does count. Just making a few small changes in our habits can make a huge difference:

- Check your local Council website so you know what they recycle and what other collection services they offer.
- If your household has soft plastic waste, collect it and leave it at a REDcycle collection bin for recycling at Coles supermarkets.
- Keep a stash of fabric bags in the car, at work and in your handbag so you don't need to use plastic bags.
- Carry a reusable coffee cup and water bottle.
- Mend and make do. Have appliances repaired. Buy clothes from op shops, create new outfits from old, or have swap nights with friends
- Plan menus ahead, stick to your shopping list and eat more of the food you've bought. Chop up vegie ends and put them in soup or stock, or freeze them for later.
- Use a compost bin or worm farm to manage food waste.

## Boost to metallic sun-orchid population



After four years of planning, collecting and growing, 78 nationally endangered metallic sun-orchids (*Thelymitra epipactoides*) have been transplanted into the wild by SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM staff.

Metallic sun-orchids produce a 50cm flower stalk with as many as 20 flowers in late winter and early spring. There are possibly fewer than 1500 of these rare plants left in the wild.

The transplanting process started with hand-pollinating and bagging orchid flowers, then returning weeks later to collect the seed.

However, with these orchids it's not just a matter of planting the seed and walking away. They are not easy to propagate as they require a particular mycorrhizal fungus for the tiny germinant to grow. This fungus was collected in small amounts from the roots of existing, mature orchids, a process that does not harm the plant.

An orchid specialist at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Victoria undertook the intricate work of introducing the fungi and seed, then cared for the seedlings for two years.

Three sites for translocation were chosen at Tailem Bend and Meningie as having the precise vegetation community, pollinators, fungi and micro-climate the orchids need, while also being free from threats like grazing and weeds.

There is a total of 145 orchids to be translocated – 78 have been planted this year and the remainder will be planted out next year to increase the success of the project.

*If you would like to know more about this project, our president, Sam Blight has been involved and would be happy to chat to you.*

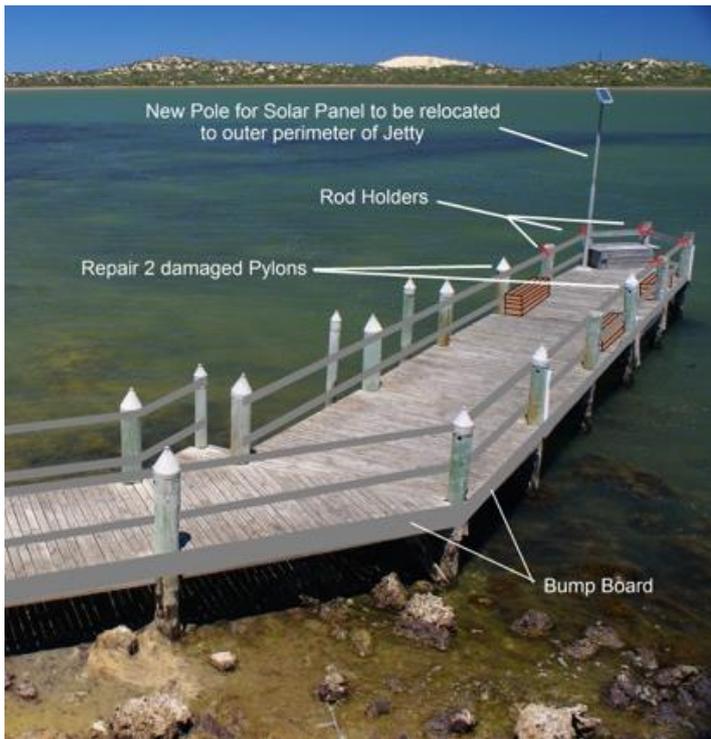
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*Kids in the back seat cause accidents.  
Accidents in the back seat cause kids.*



## Long Point Jetty renovations

(kindly provided by Peter Doolette)



Friends of the Coorong are excited to have been awarded a 2017 South Australian Recreational Fishing Grant of nearly \$6,800 to be used for repairing and upgrading the Long Point jetty.

The jetty, constructed in the early 2000's, is deteriorating rapidly and, thanks to the efforts of Vice President, Geoff Gallasch, this sorely needed work can now be carried out.

The repair work, which will hopefully commence next January when water levels are low, include:

- repair/replacement of damaged bearers and pylons
- installation of safety railing
- installation of fishing rod holders
- additional seating
- installation of a fish cleaning station
- repair of the approach walkway to meet the needs of people with limited mobility,
- and other minor works.



Grant me just enough senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to remember the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

The grant funding will pay for materials and the work will be carried out by volunteers. It is anticipated that these works will ensure that the jetty is sound and useable by the community for at least another ten years.

In addition, the Meningie Progress Association has received a SA Recreational Fishing Grant of \$5000 for the re-sheeting of the approximately one kilometre of roadway between the Kartoo Track and the jetty car park.

This money will be used for the cartage of roadbase material which has been generously donated by Nigel Treloar. The Coorong District Council has agreed to provide machinery and labour for the project.

The Council has also allocated in its 2017/2018 financial year budget, money for the re-sheeting of the remainder of Long Point Road. This will mean that the entire section of road from the Narrung Road turn-off to the jetty will be repaired which will be a significant benefit to tourism in Meningie and surrounding districts.



## Lower Murray Canoe Trail

A canoe trail between Taillem Bend and Wellington will go ahead with a \$20,000 grant. This project will provide an attractive and adventurous way to get people on to the river and learn more about its habitat. Users of the trail will follow interpretive signage and experience the beauty that is the Murray River and its wildlife. It is anticipated that it will begin towards the end of 2017, with completion expected by June 2018.

## Drones and our parks



With drone photography becoming an increasingly popular pastime, operators are being reminded to play by the rules and protect our precious wildlife.

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) governs the use of drones as they are classified as remotely-piloted aircraft (RPA). In addition, under the National Parks and Wildlife Regulations 2016, anyone flying a RPA in SA's national parks, reserves and marine park restricted access zones, must have a permit.

Permits are considered for scientific research and commercial filming.

## Give our whales some space



With the annual whale migration underway along the SA coast, it is particularly important that drone operators are not tempted to fly too close to them. Regulations applying to the viewing of marine mammals (whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions) require aircraft to be at least 300m away from them. A 500m exclusion zone applies to helicopters and they are not allowed to hover over the mammals.

Similarly, high powered boats and jet skis are not allowed closer than 300m to them. Paddle boarders, canoeists, other conventional vessels, surfers and swimmers must not come closer than 100m.

**Remember to check out the Friends of the Coorong's Facebook page and feel free to share your thoughts, experiences and photos.**



## Gift Ideas



Gift certificates - \$10

Call of the Coorong DVD - \$10

Books:

A Diverse Land - A History of the Lower Murray, Lakes and Coorong (by Rob Linn) - \$15

Tales of the Coorong \$8, More Tales of the Coorong - \$10, Tales of the Lakes and Coorong - \$12, Anniversary packs of all 3 Tales books - \$25 (by Leta Padman)

Murder, Mishap and Misfortune – a select history of the Coorong - \$20, The Coorong Gazetteer - \$25 (by Peter Doolette)

**Sale - 25% off Clothing**

Polo shirts were \$26, **now \$19.50**

T shirts were \$14, **now \$10.50**

Windcheaters were \$30, **now \$22.50**

All are printed with our logo – various sizes and colours available. Current stocks only.

**Contact Joanne (85751200 - Mondays to Wednesdays or [joanne.flavel@sa.gov.au](mailto:joanne.flavel@sa.gov.au)) if you wish to purchase any of our merchandise.**

## Dates for your Diary



Saturday 16 September, 2017 – training for Mallee fowl mound surveys, Kingston SE, 9:30am

Monday 9 – Tuesday 10 October, 2017 – Mallee fowl mound survey – Mount Boothby CP

Thursday 12 – Friday 13 October, 2017 – Mallee fowl mound survey – Gum Lagoon CP

Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 October, 2017 – Mallee fowl mound survey – Mt Scott CP

Saturday 14 October, 2017 - Friends of the Coorong 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Monday 16 October, 2017 – Mallee fowl mound survey – Coorong NP

Coorong Walking Group – Bonney Reserve (date to be confirmed)