



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/>

June

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2018

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Wow, its winter already! At least that is what the traditional calendar tells us, but nature often reminds us that things are not always as they seem. We need good rain to allow our re-vegetation programme to start.

At the McLaren Vale Dawn Service that I attended recently nature intervened in a very Australian way. Part way into the RSL Sub-Branch President's address a kookaburra started calling [laughing] in the distance, and the local parrots and corellas joined in. An evocative reminder of what a great country we live in.

I am not sure if you have been as keen an observer as I have been in watching the debate that is occurring because another sovereign nation [China] has prevented Australia's waste in the form of recyclable matter from entering its borders. Whilst the economists will tell us that China had been taking up to 35% of this nation's waste and re-using it because of the local cost, what appals me is the lack of vision and planning by our state, federal and local government leaders. Notwithstanding the almost complete erosion of Australian manufacturing, it is incomprehensible that an allegedly smart country cannot develop its own recycling processes and plants to re-use waste in positive ways; e.g. road base from glass, plastic and rubber as other countries have done for years. There are surely many, many areas where recycled products could be made from such re-used waste. A national disgrace in my view, what do you think?

Onkaparinga has been acknowledged as one of the best parks and will once again be 'Park of the Month' in September. As details are provided as to what events are planned, they will be forwarded to you. In the meantime if you have any ideas on what could be held, please let someone know.

Very disheartening to hear [mid- May] that the federal Department of Environment is planning to cut up to a third of its staff. Nearly all of the planned cuts are in the area of species protection. As most would know Australia has the unenviable reputation as the leading the world in mammal species extinction and this trend is accelerating. What this indicates to me is that matters environmental are not at the front of mind of our elected leaders. This is at all levels. According to media reports our state department for the environment is considering allowing up to 80% species loss of some fauna in the Coorong before they have to report such losses.

Investment is necessary to fund and monitor programmes that are designed to protect and enhance threatened species. Cutting money from such processes is futile and counter-productive. Surely we need better as does the country and we should remind our representatives that this is not on!

The 2018 federal budget seems to only have 2 areas of focus; \$500 million to help restore and protect the Great Barrier Reef a great initiative. The \$20 million National Forestry Industry Plan to drive growth in renewable timber and wood fibre sectors is also commendable, but are these the only areas that keep our politicians awake at night? I hope more detail comes to light soon.

Zoos SA are looking for any type/variety of *Lilly Pilly* seeds for a project at Monarto. If you can assist please let me know on vk5gct@adam.com.au or 0417802112.

A belated huge thank you to everyone involved with FOOP as it was National Volunteers Week from 21 – 27 May. Your being part of the group enables the on-ground works to be conducted week to week, I heard someone say recently "that the country would come to a standstill if volunteers weren't there" Whilst that may be overstating the point, but it has a lot of truth in it. Thank you again!

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

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Secretary, Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc C/- 27 Kym St., Port Noarlunga Sth 5167.

E mail: mackins@tpg.com.au

This Newsletter's hard copies printed at the Electoral office of

Katrine Hildyard MP
Member for Reynell

“When asked if I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: if you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand the data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse.”
— Martin Keogh, *Hope Beneath Our Feet: Restoring Our Place in the Natural World*

Be careful out there.

Those words were spoken by a character in a well known US cops and robbers TV show a few years back.

I have a rule that I stick to matters of an environmental or historical nature because that is what this newsletter is all about.

However, I have made the following an exception.

Recently and old and much respected friend of mine was caught by scammers.

He received an Email that asked him to be come part of a Telstra criminal task force formed to catch on line scammers using Telstra facilities.

They asked him to make available a legitimate bank account that they could put in some “seed” money to tempt the scammers. He would be required from time to time to buy Telstra prepaid cards to be sent to the scammers address. These cards would be “traced” by Telstra and would lead the task force to the scammers resulting in arrests and convictions.

To ensure he was not out of pocket he was advised that they would deposit a sum of money in his account to cover the cost of the cards purchased.

To do so he would need to advise them of his bank account details and give them access.

Now at this point in time he should have smelt a rat but he didn't.

Not long after he started doing as instructed he realised that this was not what he thought it was and because he had been given a contact number he rang and advised that he would no longer be taking part and he wanted his money back.

He was threatened quite forcibly apparently.

From what I can gather they started stripping him of his cash and if his son had not intervened he would have lost the lot.

This is not an uncommon situation where the victims are usually elderly (my friend would be around 78 and a stroke victim) and quite often naive to the type of people who do this.

What prompted me to write this is the fact that my friend in his working days was a close confidant of an AFP Commissioner, was the go to man for criminal targets for income tax investigations and was considered to be very street smart. He has been retired for quite a few years and while not very computer literate had seen a lot of “funny” stuff in his day. But he got caught.

In this case another friend who became involved has surmised that our friend when told about the “task force” had his old sleuthing juices stirred and he quickly got sucked in. That may be right but why I wrote this is because if a man with his background can be conned then anyone is a potential target.

There are many variants of this type of scam. What they all have in common is that sooner or later they will want you to give them bank details or more sinisterly personal details that will enable them to steal your identity. This type of activity gets reported in the press from time to time and it pays to read them. I also believe there is a Federal Government web site with details. I haven't read it but aim to. However, my experience tells me that those schemes are last weeks and these people would have moved on to some new scam by now.

So—be careful. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.

Bill



From the Editor 's Desk.

Send all articles via: 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



The picture is in an area we call the Springs area or one of many names of visiting dignitaries. Just opposite Hardys scrub. You should see it now.

In late April/May Gill and I went on a cruise. The cruise was from Sydney to Fremantle visiting Cairns, Alotau (Papua) Darwin, Broome, Geraldton on the way.

Ever conscious of my role as a volunteer in our National/conservation parks etc I kept an eye on the various venues we visited while on shore and came away with the feeling that South Australia doesn't do that badly by comparison but there is always room for improvement.

There were a number of South Australians on board (including David Wotton) but as is usual we also met a number of other Australians who had never visited SA but had heard it was "very nice". Not sure what to make of that.

What was of interest is that as we approached Western Australia a number of non South Australians became excited at seeing a sunset where the sun "sank" into the sea. Apparently this only happens in that state. A "fact" we were told by Western Australians when we got there. Yes we did point out that this remarkable phenomenon can also be experienced in Adelaide etc., and yes some were surprised.

We also were told quite confidently that Margaret River was the Premier wine area in Australia or in a rebuttal that honorific belonged to the Eastern states. South Australia may or may not have been an Eastern state. I suspected the NSW people were thinking of the Hunter Valley. On one occasion I bragged that South Australia still produces 59.8% of Australia's wine and it is still the most successful medal winner at a state level. It became obvious that a lot of us didn't have much of an idea about our own country.

We enjoyed ourselves immensely and while they were fleeting visits we can now say we have cruised the Kimberly coast, visited Kalbarri Conservation Park, enjoyed Rottnest Island, cruised the Swan river, threw a boomerang (mine came back), cruised the Adelaide River and watched crocodiles leaping for food. I'm still not sure that is a good thing but I also have a problem with the pelicans being fed at Kingscote (KI) - its not natural no matter how much we were told the opposite.

We noted that in WA the conservation park we visited (Kalbarri) had well defined trails:—bitumen trails suitably coloured.

The lookout we were taken to overlooked the magnificent Murchison's River Gorge. It bore little similarity to Onkaparinga gorge being a large river flowing through a semi desert area. Unlike the Onk the Murchison, even though it was many kilometres upstream from its mouth, had quite a lot of water. A note for the Government two full bus loads went on the tour. It cost about \$300 pp. The site we visited had toilet facilities, an interpretation board and shelter. If any Government wants to generate income from the environment they need to start investing in the sites which does not mean ripping out the bush.

It struck the four of us that even in places such as Broome and Darwin we were recognising fauna and flora that you would probably only ever see in Australia. Even in tropical Cairns some of the flora looked familiar probably because we have stag and elk horn ferns at home.

When we toured the Margaret River (after the cruise) quite a lot of the roadside flora was similar but I was struck by the prolific banksia and cycads. A little research later showed that we needed to be there during the wildflower season to appreciate the unique and diverse nature of this area. We did see some Karri but our guide was for a small time under the misapprehension that we wanted to visit wineries so we probably missed the best areas. I suspect some of that fault lay with us.

I came away with the thought that we live in a very interesting diverse country which we don't always appreciate. Perhaps familiarity breeds contempt.

Australia is a big country which attracts many visitors. They do not all come for the shopping, they come for the unique nature of our fauna and flora. The questions in my mind are:

Have we adequately preserved our unique environment after developing it over 200 years by urbanisation?

Where will future infrastructure be allowed and will we make the same mistakes?

It would be selfish for those of us who live in comfortable homes to take a stand against further development. Think of the area in which you live.

The one thought I have is we now have enough knowledge to at last do it properly and perhaps by education get some of the original bush planted back into regions. While there is now more vegetation (trees and shrubs) locally than there was when we shifted in 46 years ago not all of it is endemic to the area. With a little thought we could bring back the bush. A good start would be in our National, Conservation and Recreation parks. Or will we throw out the baby with the bath water.

Bill



**Nankeen Night Heron Nycticorax caledonicus
resident breedingcommon**

Attractive Heron species, formerly called the Rufous Night Heron, a name that personally I prefer. Many of us would know they can almost always be found roosting in the Pine trees on the perimeter of the market Square in Old Noarlunga. They still breed locally, but numbers seem to be down from my observations. Much of the reason I think would be as a result of the influx of the huge Corella flocks each Summer, that also roost noisily in the same trees the herons prefer. The Corellas have also denuded much of the trees the Herons nested and roosted in. The nankeens don't build much of a nest, a basic structure of sticks, chicks often fall out, especially now the trees are so stripped of foliage.

I have seen 2 or 3 of the juvenile Herons spending much more time in the usually permanent lake adjacent to South Rd, Old Noarlunga, as well as the odd one or two in the Onkaparinga Gorge and lower estuary.

Something I find a little sad is the Herons in Old Noarlunga have taken to scavenging food from the picnic areas, as well as the numerous Duck in the vicinity. It's difficult to stop people feeding the birds, especially the Herons and Ducks in the Park.

Most alarming is the type of food they are being offered, mostly bread. Constant feeding of bread is detrimental to the health of the birds, as well as badly polluting the water in the River. A much better food to hand out is shredded Lettuce, or Peas, cheap and much better health wise. A few councils these days have placed signs around popular lakes and rivers advising people what and what not to feed the birds, sadly that is not the case in the Onkaparinga region.

Well at last we have had a bit of rain after a long dry spell, I notice the Onkaparinga River is flowing and sections of the wetland are beginning to fill. Water fowl are starting to appear. and the smaller bush birds can be found a plenty foraging on fresh hatched insects etc.

I had the pleasure recently to visit the townships of Pinnaroo and Lameroo in the dry Wheat Belt areas of S.A. recently. I was impressed that both towns have constructed beautiful and permanent Wetlands alive with numerous birds, with many breeding there. They really seem to be a wonderful Oasis for wildlife in the region., and great for the tourists.

Although some may argue that it is not natural for the area, the way I see it is nothing about those areas is natural anymore. Much wildlife/birds have been forced out with agricultural advancement over decades. The constructed wetlands offer an environment and refuge to help wildlife to establish again, even if only in a smaller way.

I often wonder indeed what kind of haven the Onkaparinga Wetlands would be if water was more permanent, much like the northern side of Adelaide is with its numerous and amazing series of lakes and abundant bird and wildlife.....food for thought ?

Well, hopefully everyone can get out more in this cooler weather and explore the Park. It certainly seems a lot more hikers are doing just that now with the good signage, walking trails and lookouts to enhance the experience....do it..

FOOP History.

May 1992

42 recorded in attendance book.

Finances \$5,326.07

Rabbit control started by NPWS in the estuary.

Weekend walk with a camp at the Hollambys to occur 23/24May1992.

FOOP sweaters project well on the way.

Tree planting program well under way.

The Greening of Adelaide Award won by FOOP is available for members to take home for a month.

Fae Trueman talked about the plant of the month—Cumbungi (Bulrush).

Bridge plans available.

8.5 hectares of land in the estuary to be direct seeded. 5000 tube stock planting also to be done.

Letter to Minister of Environment (S Lenehan) re changing status of the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park.

Cattle and sheep reported in the park.

Newsletter cost \$36.00

Report on Pat Rogers recovery after an accident on the weekend camp. Ray expresses their thanks for those who assisted.

Ron Clark given the go ahead to work with community offenders.

Warning re using poisons. Be careful.

Colin Malcolm suggested that rather than delivering newsletters by hand (car travel) FOOP should post them out.

Does FOOP need a comprehensive first aid kit.

August 1992.

FOOP thanked in Parliament by Minister for Environment –S Lenehan for the work done in the Onkaparinga parks.

FOOP wins Outstanding Friends group 1992.

24 FOOPers went to the Whyalla forum.

FOOP representatives voice concerns over proposed bridge over estuary.

Two mangroves found in the estuary.

FOOP advise NPWS pond 1 needs a pollutant track.

Ray suggests that all ponds be connected by walking trails. Sub committee set up.

Resolution that the caravan will be registered in the name of the President for the present. President to hold caravan in trust.

September 1992.

Sherry Malcolm thanks FOOP for its involvement with Hackham South Primary when they visited the park.

Barbara Hardy wins S A Great Award, FOOP congratulates her.

Petty cash system to be discussed.

FOOPers go on bus trip to Jip Jip conservation park.

Discussion re river bank erosion at the Pond 1 overflow.

Hides and observation tower re pond 1 discussed.

Paul Franche advises trail marking completed.

Weekend camp, attended by 28 people, was a success.

Heavy rains highlighted that the site of FOOP's first bridge was inappropriate. A letter to be sent to C Moore re this matter.

Port bottling as a fund raiser proposed. Sub committee—Bill, Ron and Hugh.

November1992

31 members present at Tuesday meeting.

Mal Hansen responds to FOOP letter re the bridge.

Noarlunga Fair stall raises \$290.00

Olive tree removal project a success.

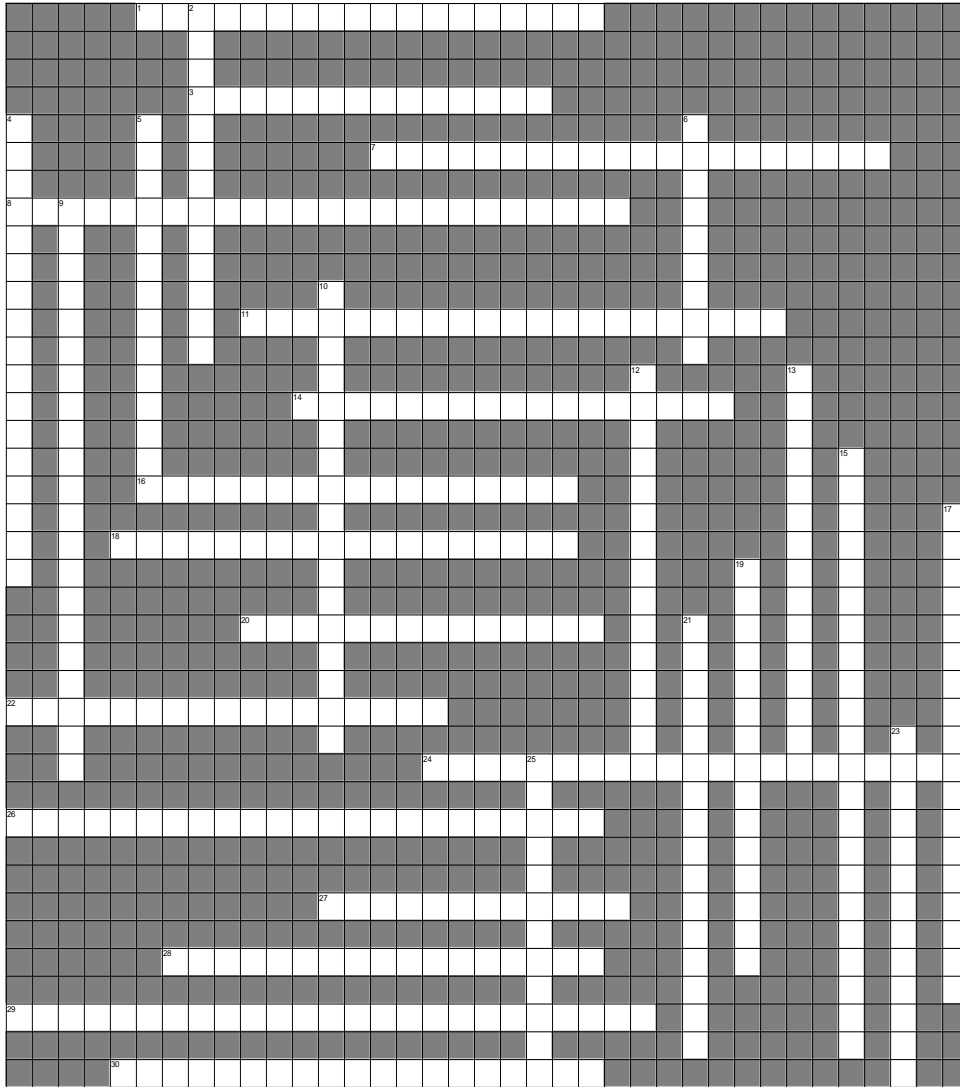
Colin on the hunt for the weed—Monadena Bracteata.

Map shown to FOOPers showing proposed wetlands walking trails.

NPWS now DELM.

FOOPers want to know what happened to the bridge money. Advised in the bank account.

This month's crossword clues and answers came from the book *Wildlife of Greater Adelaide*. There is a mixture of fish, bugs, reptiles. The answers are the scientific name for the creature. Enjoy!



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

1. Mosquito fish (18)
3. European honey bee (14)
7. Climbing galaxias (20)
8. Rainbow lorikeet (24)
11. blue banded bee (21)
14. Pacific black duck (17)
16. Lined worm lizard (17)
18. Australian wood duck (18)
20. brown tree frog (14)
22. redfin (17)
24. Musk lorikeet (21)
26. Easter banjo frog (23)
27. Bull ants (12)
28. Macquarie turtle (17)
29. Chequered cuckoo bees (25)
30. Cunningham's skink (19)

Down

2. Leafcutter bee (13)
4. Pouched lamprey (17)
5. Eastern bearded dragon (14)
6. Ensign or flag wasp (9)
9. Eastern water dragon (21)
10. Eastern tree skink (17)
12. Perons tree frog (15)
13. Common carp (15)
15. Banded sugar ant (22)
17. short finned eel (18)
19. Superb fairywren (15)
21. Southern four toed slider (16)
23. Grey teal (13)
25. Brown trout (12)

Answers on page 7

PLEASANT DAY OUT 25TH MAY



After meeting at Market Square Old Noarlunga we set out on a car trial that Nancy and Bob Fryer worked out for us. We had a very interesting time following the route and looking for the many clues - some obvious, others not so obvious. It takes a lot of work to set these trials up, so we are very grateful for the time and effort that Bob and Nancy put into it. Of course there were the usual mumbles and grumbles about the questions and answers but the adjudicators completely ignored them as you would expect.

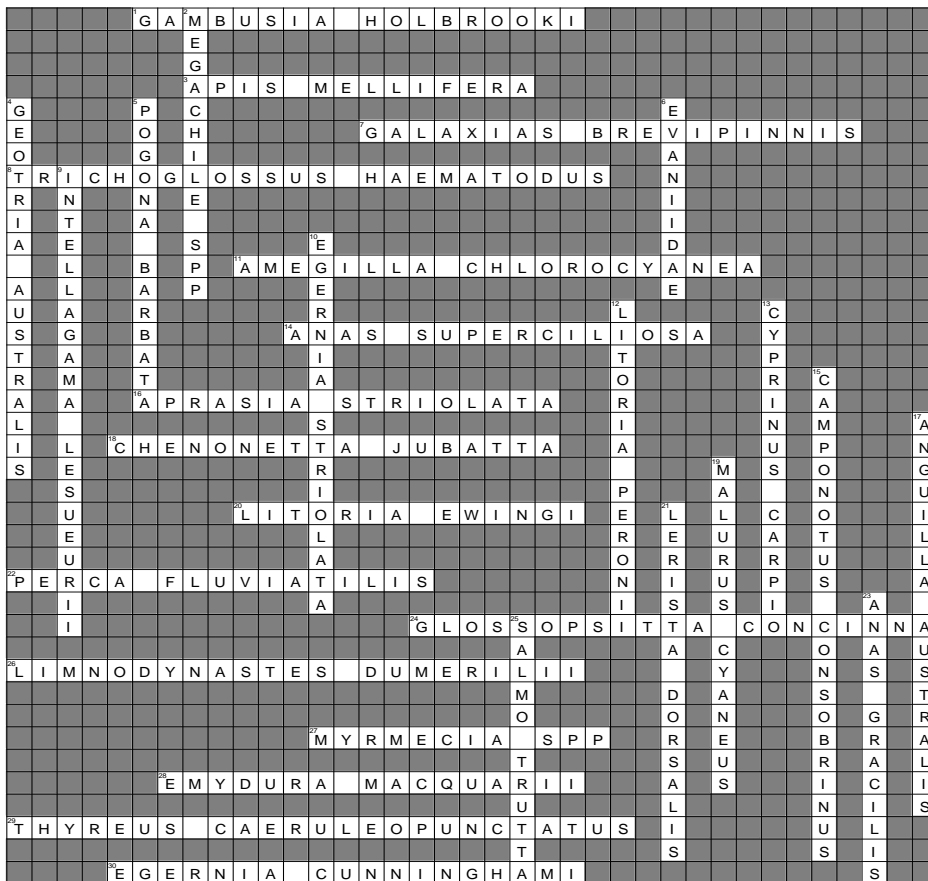
Another lovely day out. We lunched in glorious sunshine on the banks of the Onkaparinga River at Clarendon.

NEXT PDO

29TH JUNE
ECHUNGA OVAL 10AM
FAE AND JIM TRUEMAN

ACER Projector PD113P

The Friends of Onkaparinga Park have a VGA projector to **give away** to another community group or this can be **sold** to a private individual for \$100. This unit in good working order and comes with all cables. Contact Andy McKinnon for further details on 0427826721 or mackins@tpg.com.au



EclipseCrossword.com

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 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 to confirm payment.

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

Andy McKinnon

Secretary/Treasurer

Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc.

FOOP JUNE 2018.

**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	Mon- day	Tuesday	Wednes- day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 NP Gate 21 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Michael 8557 7498
3	4	5 NP Gate ?? New Punchbowl Car Park Piggott Range Road Planting/Weed control <u>Andy 8386 2393</u> General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute	6	7 ORNP or ORRP Contact Graham 7220 5568 or Mob 0417802112 or email vk5gct@adam.com.au for WB location	8	9 NP Gate 19 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Michael 8557 7498
10	11 Public Holiday	12 NP Gate ?? New Punchbowl Car Park Piggott Range Road Planting/Weed control Andy 8386 2393	13	14 ORNP or ORRP Contact Graham 7220 5568 or Mob 0417802112 or email vk5gct@adam.com.au for WB location	15	16 NP Gate 21 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 8386 2393
17	18	19 NP Gate 10 Punchbowl Track Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 8386 2393	20	21 ORNP or ORRP Contact Graham 7220 5568 or Mob 0417802112 or email vk5gct@adam.com.au for WB location	22	23 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 8386 2393
24	25	26 NP Gate 10 Punchbowl Track Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 8386 2393	27	28 ORNP or ORRP Contact Graham 7220 5568 or Mob 0417802112 or email vk5gct@adam.com.au for WB location	29 Pleasant Day Out Meet Echunga Oval 10am Jim 8278 9359 or Mob 0427789359	30 NP Gate 21 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 8386 2393
1	2	3 NP Gate 20 – Springs Chapel Hill Road Weed control <u>Andy 8386 2393</u> General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute "Our Coast Our Mission"	4	5 ORNP or ORRP Contact Graham 7220 5568 or Mob 0417802112 or email vk5gct@adam.com.au for WB location	6	7 NP Gate 19 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 8386 2393