

Para Wirra News



Steve Taylor & Ranger Farrin installing new FOPW sign.



From the Friends of Para Wirra (Patron: Mike Johnson)
and the Barossa Goldfields Historical Society
- Proudly members of Friends of Parks Inc.

Welcome to the September 2021 Edition of Para Wirra News

Hello Friends.

Welcome to the latest, rather ‘belated’, issue of ParaWirra News. It’s been quite a task locating articles for this newsletter during the last 18 months or so due as Covid 19 impacted volunteer activities. Hopefully now a page a has been turned and soon thingswill be back to normal, or rather ‘nominal’.

Once again thanks to those who have contributed to this edition.

Darren Williams



Darren Williams

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President's Report

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021



Birthdays: Rob Marshall mid July, Phil Gillett 11/7, Jasmine Williams 28/8, Colin Winsor 26/9. Happy Birthday!

Anniversaries: John Dawkins 7/7/99=22yrs, John Fuller (life member) 2/8/2000=21yrs, Leonie Hobbs 16/8/03=18yrs, Nadia Jankovic 31/7/10=11yrs, Val Lacy 16/8/03=18yrs, Dragos Moise 21/9/13=8yrs, Kath Moloney, Life Member, 1/7/89=32yrs, Bob Swarbrick Life Member, 1/7/89=32yrs.

Grants: Steve Taylor. Contractors **Josh Noble** (Restore Environmental Services) and **Amanda Pearce** (Bush Regeneration) are on track with their work for both the Grassy Woodlands grant of \$10,670 and the South Para Valley Continued Restoration grant of \$5,500. The work on these grants is due to be finished at the end of September and it seems as though they will both come in on time when the work will need to be inspected and an acquittal done.

We have a current application for the **Friends of Parks Small Grants Program** for work to be carried out on watsonia and olives in the South Para region. We have not heard yet whether this grant application has been successful.

Friends of Parks Partnership Grants are now open and applications are due at the end of October.

A total of \$500,000 is available for grants of up to \$25,000 per annum for projects to be completed within three (3) years; up to a maximum of \$75,000 per application, commencing on payment of funding. The application will require a primary Friends of Parks member or affiliate group applicant, with an identified supporting partner(s).

Steve has put some thought into this opportunity and is working with Phil and our liaison rangers to put forward an application. There has been some interest from the South Para Biodiversity group in partnering with FOPW on a regional grant application. The South Para Biodiversity Group consists of a network of agencies, organisations and landholders who are and have been for some time working together to benefit and optimise the biodiversity of our regional environment. Steve and Phil recently attended a meeting with

this group. Thanks to Steve and Phil for their great work on these Grants.

Working Bees: July 1st Grassy Woodlands area. July 17th South Para Valley area, August 5th South Para Valley, August 21st Grassy Woodlands and Whack a Weed Day, September 2nd Grassy Woodlands, September 18th Wildflower Walk.

Joanne Ludlow joined our working bee on 2nd September, and is now a member of our group. Welcome, Joanne!

My thanks to all of our great volunteers, a very special group of fun-loving and hard working people, dedicated to nature.

Best wishes to all.

Regards
Patsy Johnson.



Pink Gum. Photo: D Williams



Barossa Goldfields Historical Society

Secretary's Report - Leonie Hobbs

A quiet couple of months. We had a visit from Prince Alfred College August 10th, which went really well. Lots of the students found "gold" and were quite happy! They also enjoyed the tours. August 15th as part of Park of the Month, we had quite a few extra visitors; around 60 I think. We had a bit more advertising via the DEW website, hence more people.

On August 24th, there was also a visit from a group who came with Eureka Tours. Only a small group and a short visit, but they enjoyed looking through the Cottage and Museum. Hopefully we can get some more tours through this company.

On the 14th Sept, The Barossa Cubs visited for a night walk. Their walk venue was going to be Mt Crawford Forest but they were asked to go elsewhere as an pest animal management event was happening the same night, so the Cub Leader asked if they could come to the Goldfields. Lynton opened the Cottage and museum for them to have a look through. Thanks Lynton!

The Probus Club has a visit booked on September 21st; 15 participants who want the whole experience. Hopefully the weather will be fine for Kaylene to put on some damper for them. Thanks Kaylene.

Gawler Primary School is coming on the 26th October, no damper, just the usual tours etc.

Usually today would be our planning day for the Open Day, but since the Committee met to discuss all the implications with this new Delta variant of the Covid virus, we thought it best to cancel this year's Open Day. So, let's start planning an even bigger and better event next year, when we all hope that things will have settled down!

Last Tuesday, the third leg of the Poppet was repaired. We had hoped to do two on the day, but that was a bit ambitious! One more to go, which we hope to get done before the weather gets too hot!

Stay well and safe everyone!

Conservation Parks Are More than Just A Pretty Face

-Patsy Johnson

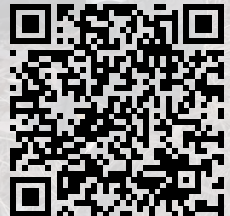
When we visit Para Wirra or other forested parks in our state, we gain much more than the beautiful sights of native trees and other plants in their glory and the chance to see our native flora and fauna in their natural surroundings, much though this is a wonderful experience every time.

We also may gain the joy, peace and mental health which comes from the fresh air produced by the vegetation; which is rare or non-existent in the commercial areas of the towns and cities in which most of us live.

Some towns have parks and gardens, and they are lovely to look at, pleasant to walk or have a picnic in, but the larger areas in conservation parks offer so much more in sheer size and huge variety of species, and of different types of native birds and animals, most of which simply can't survive in towns and cities.

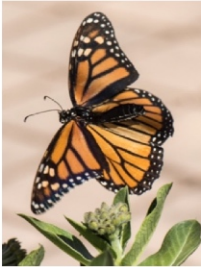
I remember some years ago taking a team of schoolteachers from Gawler on a walk in Para Wirra, and realising that everyone was alert and excited about what they were seeing, hearing and feeling in the bushland, and realising that perhaps the possibly higher oxygen content of the air there was contributing to their feelings of wellbeing and happiness, expressed by the comments made about the freshness they could smell and the beauty they could see.

I recently found an article online about trees and health, and have attached it below just for interest: https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/why_trees_can_make_you_happier



-Kath Mathews

Butterflies of Para Wirra



If you love to see a butterfly or 3 or more you can usually find some flying around Para Wirra.

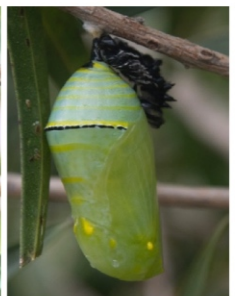
This issue we look at the life cycle of the most common butterfly in Para Wirra – *Danaus Plexippus plexippus* – better known as the Wanderer, Monarch and sometimes the milkweed butterfly.

In Para Wirra there are many cotton bush/milkweed plants. While being a weed and not a native plant they are a food supply for the Wanderer Butterfly caterpillars. The eggs when laid are about the size of a pin head and can be seen on the cotton bush leaves. They are conical in shape, cream and take about 4 days to hatch.



The tiny caterpillar hatches and feeds on the leaves. It goes through several changes until after about 2 weeks it has grown to about 45 mm and it then begins the process of metamorphosis. By that time it can be up to 45 mm in length. α

Most will choose a spot under the leaf of the milkweed but some will move to other plants close by. The caterpillar attaches itself with a silk like thread and sits for 1- 2 days after which it “sheds” its skin and the cocoon/ chrysalis emerges.



Friends of Sandy Creek 30th Anniversary-Leonie Hobbs

The Friends of Sandy Creek Conservation Park recently hosted a barbeque lunch and guided walk to celebrate the group's 30-year anniversary.

Group secretary, Paul Koch, provided a brief overview of how the park came into existence through lobbying of the then State Lands Commissioner Cecil Rix. Additional land was later added with a generous donation from the Wilson family, the purchase by Mr Mark Bonnin of a walkway to link the two pieces of land, and most recently the purchase of land in the middle of the two blocks to create the present-day park. The Park was originally gazetted because of its importance as bird habitat, and it continues to attract bird watchers.



At the inaugural meeting to form the group, the original members were challenged to move on from simply caring about the environment to taking action. As a result, over the years the group has been involved in a huge range of activities, included on-ground control of weeds, installing bird boxes, through to redesigning the walk trails network so it is more sustainable.

The group has also been active outside the boundaries of the Park, including working with students at Sandy Creek Primary School, and owners of neighbouring properties interested in how best to manage their native vegetation.

The group enjoyed a guided walk led by Steve Taylor, with many native orchids and daisies identified. This highlighted the great plant diversity in the park and the need for regular work to ensure they continue to thrive.

Group President Leonie Hobbs said "The group has been very active in supporting the management of the Park in partnership with the Park Rangers. It has seen great outcomes for the Park and we look forward to more successes in the future."

Members of the group meet regularly on the second Saturday of the month to work on weed control and other environmental issues in the park and are always looking for new members. Contact Leonie Hobbs on 0413 331 598 if interested.

Whack A Weed Day (21st August)-Steve Taylor

We had a great working bee and lots of opportunity to meet cubs and their families from One Tree Hill and surrounds. There was enthusiasm and good spirits in abundance as we scoured about 5ha around the



Helipad for boneseed, bridal creeper and African weed orchid. Also some Cape tulip treated near the carpark. We didn't see Jo, a prospective new member, but Michael and family from Gawler East and Nicole from Munno Para who registered through the DEW system were really committed and showed a lot of interest in the Friends and what we do.

We were treated to a fly past by 20 Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos and were entertained by a group of White Winged Choughs, attending their mud nest high in the trees, when we stopped for morning tea.

Altogether, we had around 50 participants including 2 volunteer rangers and our Ranger Aislinn who helped out in many ways; including handing out sausages. Bindi Hawkey from One Tree Hill Cubs is also the One Tree Hill 'Grapevine' editor and has already written an article which promotes our group.

And the sausages were pretty good too!

Cheers, Steve

Gallery

Towards
Gawler.
Devils Nose
Track.
Photo:
Darren
Williams



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OR PHONE 8280 7279.



The Friends of Para Wirra undertake working bees every first Thursday of the month and third Saturday of the month. Meet at Park Office at 9:00am

Saturday Nov 20th Olives, Boneseed as required. Morning tea on site.
Committee Meeting

Thursday Dec 2nd Weed Control as required. Morning tea at work site.
BYO lunch if desired.

Saturday Dec 18th Christmas Party 5:30pm BYO food & drink.

**Please check CFS Website. Events cancelled during days of Total Fire Ban.*

THE FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA

For more information please contact:

Patsy Johnson 08 8280 7279



Website:



THE BAROSSA GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bowden's Cottage: Cnr Goldfields & Allendale Roads

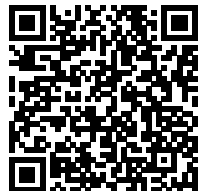
For more information contact:

Leonie Hobbs 0413 331 598

bgoldhs@gmail.com

Website: bghs.org.au

Friends of Para Wirra is now on
facebook.



Newsletter Articles and Correspondence Welcome
Email: Darren Williams, dgwillsguitar@hotmail.com