

Para Wirra News



Legends! ! Mike and Patsy Johnson

Photo: Darren Williams

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



Welcome to the September 2020 Edition of Para Wirra News
Para Wirra CP was certainly busy during September. As park of the month, many events from wildflower walks to informative cultural experiences, hardly a day went by where there were no planned activities. The campground at Wirra was fully booked every weekend and mostly booked out for the school holidays which also made September a very busy time.

The highlight of all this activity was the formal recognition of the new Glenburnie addition to Para Wirra CP. Mike Johnson's 15 year vision for his land to become part of Para Wirra was finally realised. Thanks Mike and Patsy for your generosity in this purchase and also to those who helped this vision become reality.

The FOPW facebook site has also been busy. Most of the material in this issue has already been published on the FOPW page. One post, featuring Yaundamarra's cultural walk, reached an active audience of around 12,000 people. Other posts were received well into the high hundreds.

Yes it its been a very busy time. So yes, please take a break, sit down and have a good read of this edition of Para Wirra News.

Darren Williams

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President's Report

September 2020-Patsy Johnson



BIRTHDAYS: Richard Lacy 12/7, Rob Marshall mid July, Jasmine Williams 28/8, Colin Winsor 26/8.
Happy Birthday!

ANNIVERSARIES OF MEMBERSHIP: John Fuller 2/8/2000=20 yrs, Leonie 16/8/03=17yrs, Nadia Jankovic 31/7/10=10 yrs, Paula Luethen 15/9/18=2yrs, Dragos Moise 21/9/13=7yrs, Steve Taylor 19/10/96=24yrs.
Congratulations!

Working bees:

Thursday July 2nd Olive and Boneseed below the Knob.

Saturday July 18th Boneseed and Olives below the Knob.

Thursday August 6th Boneseed on Devil's Nose Track above Wild Dog Creek.

Saturday August 15th Olive and Boneseed below the Knob.

Thursday September 3rd Freesias around Humbug Scrub.

Saturday September 19th Wildflower Walk.

We have been enjoying good numbers at working bees, (check logbook), which is great, especially in this Covid era. The morning tea is a welcome break and a chance to chat.

On Saturday 12th September, a group of members and staff enjoyed a visit to the new Glenburnie Section of the park, with Minister David Speirs, several local and city staff members including Kate Graham and Nick Neagle, who assisted with the sale process, Executive Director Mike Williams, also members of the Native Vegetation Council, who funded the purchase of the area including Sarah Telfer, who surveyed the area. District Ranger Janine Kraehenbuehl and Senior Ranger Tammy Leggett guided us to various parts of the new section, including the marvellous lookout over the South Para, where we were observed overhead by a Wedge-tailed Eagle, and the grassy woodland areas which will have sheep grazing at times, for weed control. After the tour, we enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea at the office.

The Wildflower Walk on September 19th was particularly enjoyable this year, with a numerous and glorious display along the Hissey Trail, including

several orchids, Flame Heath, Bush Peas, Fringe Myrtle, Hibbertia and even the occasional Acacia still present. After the walk, which was quite long, we decided to have morning tea at the office, and some of us sat outside in the sun, which was a bonus as rain was forecast but did not arrive.

We have sold another Flowers of Para Wirra book from the Park office.

During September, Para Wirra was Park of the Month. Numbers were of course up again and there were several events held for visitors, including a separate Wildflower Walk led by Bob Bates. A group of Kurna people camped overnight on 12th September, and some of our members dropped in for a chat.

Our latest Grant application has been submitted, thanks to the tireless efforts of Steve Taylor, with help from Phil Gillett and edited by myself. Hopefully we will succeed in gaining the Grant, as we have had lots of success in the past.

Work on the current running Grant has been completed to a great extent, with finish date end of October, so final invoices will be issued soon for payment approval through our sponsors, Friends of Parks Inc., who hold the funds on our behalf.

Another interesting 3 months with plenty of great work conducted in our lovely park.

Thank you all for your participation and enthusiasm!

Patsy Johnson.





Barossa Goldfields Historical Society



Secretary's Report - Leonie Hobbs

Things are slowly getting to a new normal. Still have to think about social distancing, but we are all getting used to that! Our Tuesday working bees have been well attended, and we have been able to keep our distance from each other.

The school visits went fairly well, with the use of the Teachers Pack. This has been updated for each visit and still needs a bit of tweaking.

There is a school that wants to be more involved with us next year. They have visited the Goldfields on various days, but not on a Tuesday.

The first Tuesday of the Park of the Month was a fizzer, but the next planned one, the September 15th, was better and we had 7 people booked, all of whom turned up. We managed the social distancing fairly well, but next Sunday the 27th, will be a test. I am having trouble finding out how many people have booked. Hopefully that will be rectified soon. We will have at least one Volunteer Ranger to help out, and I have done the Covid training so will be Covid Marshall on the day. For those of you that don't know, I am also in the process of becoming a Volunteer Ranger. Fingers crossed the weather will be good next Sunday!



Photos from August 15th 2020 FOPW working bee.

The morning was spent removing Olives from the North facing slopes of the South Para Gorge. Olives present a challenge and are far harder to remove than Boneseed. The small ones were trimmed and then pulled out with the stump removers. Larger Olives were drilled around the base and filled with glycosphate.



Para Wirra CP: Park of The Month, September 2020.-Darren Williams

The following pages are photos of the various activities conducted throughout Para Wirra during September, 2020. (All Photos: D Williams)

Ranger guided sunset walk to Devil's Nose with Senior Ranger Tammy Leggett, September 3rd,



Welcome To Country & Aboriginal Cultural Walk-With Yaundamarra (Red Centre Enterprises) 5th September, 2020.

Aboriginal Law Man, Yaundamarra, performed a Welcome to Country ceremony then took participants (including Kurna representatives) on a very informative walk around Lizard Rock Trail. Yaundamarra, with permission and under the guidance of Kurna Elder Uncle Jeffery (Jeffery Newchurch), provided insights on how Aboriginal people used to use the land. Yaundamarra also told a creation story of Lizard Rock and explained how Para Wirra was a meeting place of 3 Aboriginal Nations, the Kurna, the Ngadjuri and Peramangk.



New Glenburnie Section-Afternoon Tea with Minister David Spiers. September 12, 2020.

Various representatives from DEW, and other professionals involved in acquiring the new addition to Para Wirra CP 'Glenburnie', went on a tour of the new 'Glenburnie' with Mike and Patsy Johnson. The Minister unfortunately could not come, however he was well represented by Member for Kings, Paula Luethen. The visitors were treated to a 4WD tour of the property then an afternoon tea back at the office. Nadia from Red Centre Enterprises, catered the afternoon tea which included Lemon Myrtle Tea, and Quandong jam on scones smothered with wattle seed cream.



Aboriginal Cultural Evening: Night Skies-Yaundamarra September 12, 2020

Yaundamarra presented several indigenous stories from around Australia in relation to the night sky. The visual representation of talk was enhanced by several Light Columns each of which were painted with stories of creation. The columns glowed in the darkness creating a beautiful display. Unfortunately it rained the entire time, so the event took place under a large shelter in the Gawler View picnic area. People managed to maintain social distancing despite the limited space. Once again, Nadia (Red Centre Enterprises) provided a supper of Wattle Seed Damper and Lemon Myrtle Tea.



Photos from FOPW Wildflower Walk 19/09/20-Darren Williams

The Friends of Para Wirra annual Wildflower Walk provided the opportunity for myself to practise using my iPhone for flower photos for an up coming public workshop for Park of The Month. (Held 4/10/20 Ed.) The walk was quite long. Unfortunately, the spider orchids by the lake had been freshly mown down. However, we saw many orchids and other plants. The workshop track proved to be a highlight.



Giant Cuttlefish Breeding- Steve Taylor

Every winter Giant Cuttlefish gather to breed on a rocky shore near Pt Lowly SA (close to Whyalla). Several km of coastline provide exactly the right breeding habitat these unique animals need and the area is reserved to protect them.



I had heard this can be a spectacular and colourful experience and can be shared by anyone who can snorkel and is willing to brave 12 degree water temperatures! This July I decided to see for myself so I packed the swag and headed to Whyalla with a thick wetsuit and my brother's Go-Pro camera.

Giant Cuttlefish courtship is complex and dynamic and I was lucky to be right amongst it in 2m of clear water with 30 or so in view at any one time. I witnessed rapid changes of shape and colour from seaweed camouflage to highlighter iridescence, sudden movements and colour bursts as rivals were repelled and tender embraces of flattened tentacles. It is an amazing experience and one I will enjoy again some other winter's day.



A Brief History Of Para Wirra-Patricia Bond, 2011 (Part1)

Para Wirra Recreation Park is located in the northern Mount Lofty Ranges, 40 kilometres from Adelaide and a 20 minute drive from Golden Grove, Elizabeth or Gawler. It was the second National Park established in the state after Belair National Park. The Park was opened by the Premier, Sir Thomas Playford on 24th September 1963 as Para Wirra National Park. In 1972 the Park was prescribed as Para Wirra Recreation Park. Together with land belonging to the Woods & Forests Department (now Forestry SA) and the Engineering & Water Supply Department (now SA Water Corporation), private landholders and the Humbug Scrub Wildlife Sanctuary, the area forms part of the third largest portion of native vegetation left in the Adelaide Hills.

Para Wirra comes from the Aboriginal phrase for “river with scrub”. There are no known Aboriginal sites in the park, but it is believed to be the traditional boundary between the Peramangk and Kaurna tribes who roamed through the area before European settlement. [There are now three groups recognised as associated with Para Wirra; the Peramangk, Kaurna and Ngaduri. There are many Aboriginal sites that have been identified in Para Wirra. Ed.]

During the 1860s and 1890s mining at the Barossa Goldfields and the Lady Alice Mine degraded much of the Humbug Scrub area. Trees were felled for firewood, buildings and use in the mines. Wattle bark was stripped from trees to be used for tanning. Land was cleared for grazing. There were those who appreciated the beauty of the bush and who were aware that it was being lost to farming and mining. In 1905 Mr Thomas Paine Bellchambers founded Humbug Scrub Wildlife Sanctuary and in the 1920 Mr R Bellchambers suggested founding a Nature Lovers League. Twenty years later Mr H. Lindsay of the Bushwalkers Club proposed Humbug Scrub become a National Park, but this was rejected by the Government on the grounds of the excessive cost involved.

Time passed and the bush began to regenerate from the effects of mining. Professor J.B. Cleland, Chairman of Commissioners of the National Park (Belair) proposed a change in the Act to allow the Commissioners to control other National Parks. He wrote to the Minister of Lands on 31st July 1950

“The Commissioners of the National Park have for some while been considering the advantages that might result from the extension of their activities and control to other areas of natural vegetation in various parts of South Australia

which may in the future become available as Reserves for Fauna and Flora. This State is perhaps the most deficient in such Reserves of all the Australian States. Their value from the scientific and the health aspects is very considerable, especially if such Reserves contain the only remnants left of our original Flora and its animals, and this State's progress in industrialisation continues at its present rate."

The need to preserve original vegetation in the State was gaining recognition. Meanwhile the northern suburbs were developing. In 1950 tracts of land had been purchased by the Housing Trust to create the new town of Elizabeth. The Government recognised the need for a Recreation Park similar to that at Belair.

In 1959 landowner Mr Lance Rasheed offered 500 acres to the Government on condition the land be left in its natural state. The Lands Board inspected the area offered, and although not suitable for a Park, thought it could be considered if Mr. Rasheed was prepared to include further land which could be cleared for ovals and tennis courts and the remainder be left in its natural state. In October 1960 the Government purchased 1142 acres of land from Lance Rasheed, being sections 3277,3278,3279,3280,288,289 and part sections 3273,3274 in the Hundred of Para Wirra. (He subsequently offered remaining areas of sections 3273, and 3274, and added sections 3271 and 3272. This included a house known as "Tipperary", which it was thought would be ideal as a Park Keeper's residence).

The following year the Government allocated 17,000 pounds for supplying electricity, developing roads, toilets, ovals, tennis courts and a lake. Entries in the Government Department Diary for Para Wirra in 1962 details Park Keepers J. Hilton and P Martinsen as working on foundations for the workshop, and for a Kiosk, clearing old farm fences, erecting new, and clearing tracks for telephone poles. On the 12th July Mr Jack. Hilton wrote,

"excavating for petrol tanks all day. Sir Thomas Playford visited the Park."

The Government renumbered the original sections of land formerly owned by Mr Rasheed and on 21st June 1962 Section 423 Hundred of Para Wirra and Section 311, Hundred of Barossa was dedicated as a wildlife reserve under the control of the Commissioner of National Parks, and to be known as Para Wirra National Park, and on 24th September 1963 Para Wirra National Park was officially opened by the Premier Sir Thomas Playford.

From 'Flowers of Para Wirra'.Michael Johnson et.al.Bunyip Print. 2011.Pp 41-
(Part 2 in December 2020 edition of Para Wirra News)

Gallery

The
Peltonen
Family &
Friends.

Note:
both
animals
are
leashed!

Photo: D
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	October 17th	Olives, Star of Africa as required, 2 teams. Morning tea at work site, BYO lunch BI-MONTHLY MEETING.
Thursday	*November 5th	Tangier Pea, Olives as required. Morning tea at work site, BYO lunch if desired.
Saturday	*November 7th	VILLAGE FAIR STALL, PIONEER PARK GAWLER.
Saturday	*November 21st	Olives, Boneseed as required. Morning tea at work site, BYO lunch if desired.
Thursday	*December 3rd	Weed control as required. Morning tea at work site, BYO lunch if desired. 7th
Saturday	*December 19th	CHRISTMAS PARTY. 5.30 p.m. BI-MONTHLY MEETING. (TBA)

***CHECK CFS WEBSITE FOR FIRE BANS & WARNINGS.**



THE FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA

For more information please contact:

Patsy Johnson 08 8280 7279

Or visit our web page: www.communitywebs.org/parawirrafriends



THE BAROSSA GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Friends of Para Wirra is now on facebook.



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