



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/>

AUGUST

Vol 33 No 8.

2020

President's Page

It would be nice to think that COVID19 is under control and life would be returning to what we are comfortable with, but sadly that does not seem to be happening just yet. Whilst there are outbreaks occurring we need to continue to follow the advice of public health officials. This means keeping a socially appropriate distance, practicing good hand hygiene even when working in the parks. My observations are that FOOPers are doing the right thing.

Just over twenty FOOPers attended the July General meeting, all seemed pleased that we could gather again albeit with protocols in place to conform with public health requirements. During a recent clean up at the FOOP shed a videotape of the group's early activities was re-discovered. Much laughter and commentary accompanied its presentation including several remarks on how hair and waistlines had enlarged or diminished. The August meeting's speaker will enlighten us on how NPWSSA ensures compliance in the parks and reserves it is custodian of.

On behalf of all FOOP members I would like to place on record our appreciation to the NRM Volunteer Support Officers we have had for the last ten years, or so. Their assistance and support has been invaluable, particularly when we have tried to find our way through the vagaries of grant applications. I have previously expressed disappointment that a system that worked well has been changed for reasons that still mystify. We wish them all well in whatever new roles await.

The following is a quote from the state government regarding changes to volunteer support as highlighted above; "...*This reform will see important improvements in the way we support on-ground environmental volunteers...*" Time and actions will be proof of this.

It appears that volunteer groups working in National Parks will be funded by applying for grants which in my view is a poor way to recognise the group's endeavours. A better solution would be to provide ongoing funding based on a percentage of the monetary value of the volunteer hours worked in the previous fiscal year. To calculate what FOOP would receive is as follows; we contributed just over 2000 volunteer hours for 2019/2020 not including administration, preparation or meetings. At the current rate of \$40/hour credited FOOP would have an annual allocation of \$8000 for on-ground works. This would provide incentives to groups such as ours; after all is said and done it is levy money collected from us all. At a recent presentation by NPWSSA it was confirmed that annual volunteer hours are required to be reported to parliament within 3 months. Even more reason for formal recognition of effort.

Graham Thomas August 2020

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

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

Katrine Hildyard MP
Member for Reynell



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.
Phone Mobile 0427 306758

No tirade this month, rather the opposite.

Gill and I have been stepping out lately and visiting the park in areas where we have not gone for some time. I have alluded to this before. What has pleasantly surprised us is the realisation how FOOP work is helping transforming the park for the better and that it is appreciated by the visiting public. So if you ever have doubts about what we do just look at the following pictures.

The first is a composite photo I took of the Sundews area in or about 1987.

These pictures were taken very close to where the toilets are now and definitely in the carpark area. FOOP did not plant all the bush but did play a big part in the transformation. We travelled to Sundews this week and took a photo in about the same place to show the difference.



This is Sundews. Circa 1986.



This is Sundews. July 30/07/2020.

Over the years this area and many other places where you could in the early days literally swing a cat today the poor cat would be bouncing off the bush. Which could be a good but an inhumane thing.

As you can see the bush has and is coming back. FOOP members were not solely responsible for what has/ is transpiring in this and other areas but we have played a significant part in taking paddocks on and returning the bush.

I would like to think that as the transformation has taken place some of the original inhabitant species also came back. Some obviously did but it would be good to see evidence of say southern brown bandicoot etc and other small mammals staking a claim. Some of us in the early days entertained the idea of also reintroducing platypus into the river. Historically the Sundews area would be appropriate because there is a record somewhere that in this area the last platypus was captured.

In those days we were young and we used bowsaws. And no Gill didn't cut the tree down I did with a little help.



KESAB days were sometimes very interesting. Bodies were removed—car bodies that is.



Much of the early weed removal was done without chainsaws etc but we were a lot younger and fitter. Thankfully we did have the good sense to buy chainsaws etc and step up the eradication program.

So if you sometimes have a doubt or two about what use we are. These pictures demonstrate that we have and are making a big difference.

I just hope DEW appreciates that we are stakeholders.

Bill

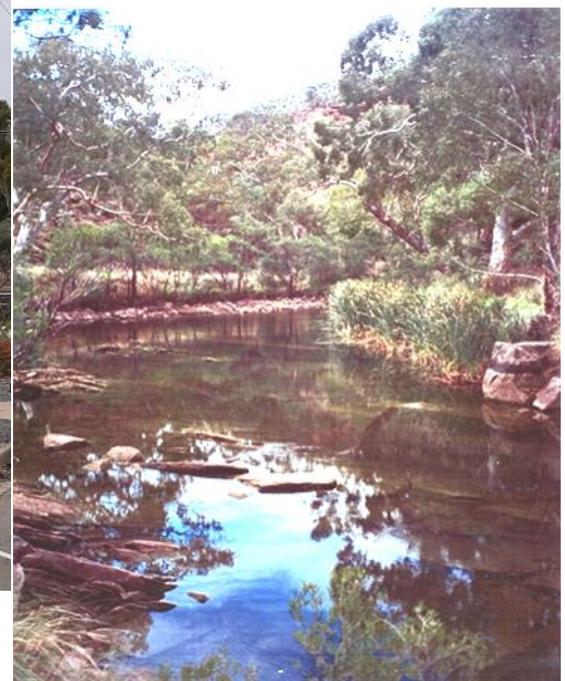


Old Noarlunga –look at the bald hills C 1987 –8

Old Noarlunga



Old Noarlunga hills–2020



This scene was glimpsed in the movie—“The rabbit proof fence”. Some of that movie was made in the Onkaparinga Gorge National park.

Birding wise, it looks to be shaping up to be a productive Spring breeding season this year with a few more uncommon birds making an appearance in places I've not seen them before, and other more common birds in larger numbers.

One bird which does not seem to be overly common in South Aust, and until now I have not seen it in the Onkaparinga Park before, is the tiny European Greenfinch. I have seen a small flock of 5 feeding on seeds adjacent to the Wetlands Boardwalk over a few days. Though introduced to Australia, they don't seem to be in big numbers, and doubtful they would pose a threat to our native Finch. They have been seen feeding on the also introduced Dandelion and Artichoke Thistles seeds. Easy to spot and identify as they fly around, revealing a rich Green/Yellow colouration....but terribly shy to approach.

European Greenfinch
 { *Carduelis chloris* }
 14-16 cm

- uncommon ,breeding ?
- Introduced in 1880s
- Gathers in small flocks
- Preferring open areas, Roadsides, Farmlands ,
- Diet consisting of seeds



..... European Greenfinch



..... European Greenfinch

Another unexpected bird also seen in the wetlands is the White-browed Babbler. I have seen a few flocks in the Onkaparinga Gorge region, and Hardys Scrub, but this is the first time I have spotted them in the Estuary area. These birds are quite comical, always vocal, and live in small interactive flocks of maybe 8 to 10 birds. Presence often given away with their very distinct vocalisations, sounding much like a dogs squeaky toy. They always seem to have one lookout in the flock, making them hard to approach, and when they flee one seems to hang around longer than the rest making sure all is safe. About the same size as a Starling, they share nest building duties, of which there may be a few nests per flock. Diet consisting of mostly insects scratched from the leaf litter and some seed matter. Breeding in the Onkaparinga, fairly common upstream, but elusive.

Also seeing many Superb Fairy-wrens, Red-browed Finches, Quail, Chats etc this season, and with the wet-



White-browed Babbler

lands holding water again numerous Waterfowl abound. a great time to visit the Park so make sure you find time to explore.

I'm on my hobby horse again....

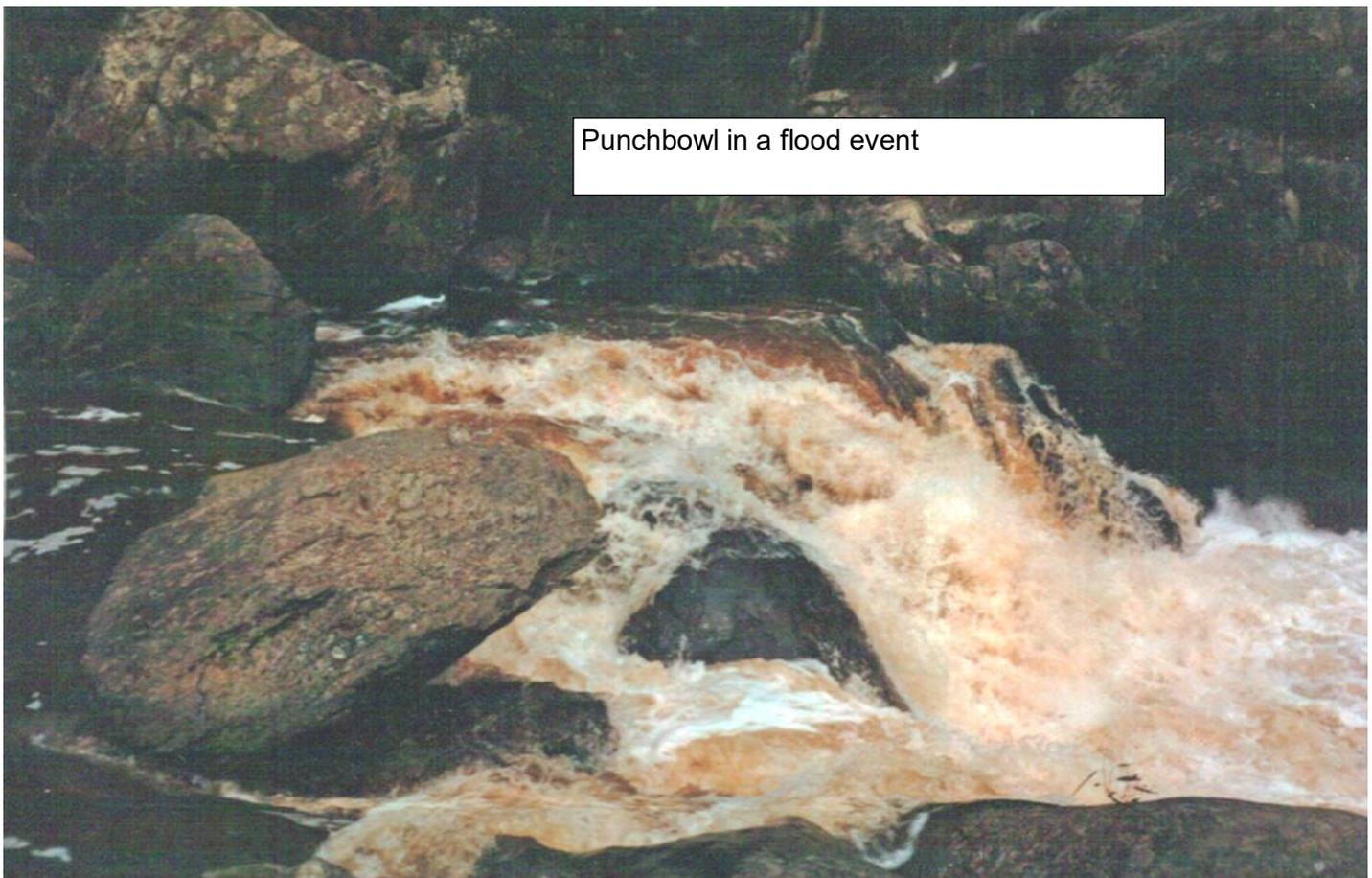
As a Federal public servant I had occasion to travel every now and then. We were paid a set amount for travelling expenses and once paid any unused portion which technically was meant to be paid back the practice was not encouraged. I know this because I tried. I could say a lot but that is for others to consider.

What has been revealed thus far reminds me of some of the basic errors I encountered as a Forensic accountant with SAPOL and in each case they were part of a fraud case. Paramount in these cases speculation is irrelevant and only facts presented to a court or something similar should have any impact.

What was more interesting to me was the "appearance " once again of basic **internal control errors** that plague many organisations and it is these that concern me but only academically because to my knowledge no FOOP treasurer has ever committed these basic errors.

1. Signing of blank authorisations to be filled in by other people. That is as bad as presigning blank cheques because a signatory would be unavailable. Defeats the purpose of the multiple signatories requirement. All signatories have a responsibility to check the supporting documents to the transaction. **Its called Internal control**. It amazed me the number of groups of which I have been a member where initially the management committee or board thought this was acceptable. In each case I advised and insisted that the practice cease forthwith. What concerned me that in one case a fellow CPA thought it was an OK practice.
2. The second concern was that the users of the system are alleging that they were never actually taught how to use the system. I have no idea whether this is true but I guess we will find out sooner or later. Once again I saw this lack of education creating an atmosphere where potential fraud can take place.
3. So if you are a member of a board or committee and you know the above are being done my strong advice, based on 5+ years as an Forensic accountant and more than 40 years as an accountant involved in law enforcement, is to stop the practices.
 - a. As a committee person you are all jointly and severally liable potentially if someone decides to be silly.
 - b. If you have a qualification that a court considers gives you special knowledge (in this case accountants or lawyers).
 - c. I am aware that some organisations have board member insurance in place but that is no protection from a law suit that relies on proving that you did not apply due diligence. Ignorance of the law is never a defence.

Have a nice day.



FOOP History.....

27-Apr-99 Exec Present: Colin, Gail, Ron, Ray, Betty, Paul, Cynthia, Malcolm, Jill C
meeting Rabbit poison - used name adjusted in the minutes to Pindone.
Finances: as at 31/03/1999 -S1 acc., \$744.36 .S2 Acc., \$3921.87
Agreed that an interest bearing account be specifically set up for the \$10,000 grant.
Signatories to accounts now:
Colin Malcolm, Gail Rees, Paul Franche, Betty Franche, Cynthia Markham.
Auditor: Alistair . Thanked committee for gifts for payment for audit.
Mobile phone. Details from Gail to Ray.
KESAB thank you letter received.
Proposed camp at Kangarilla creek cancelled because of the OCWMB activity in the area.
Eagle and owl boxes project to be continued.
Fish farm report inaccurate more to come
Stile project. Considered \$100 is too expensive. Talk to Darren about possible grant.
Wetland - cost to be discussed.
Camels and Hardys scrub. Noted that despite the meeting previously with A Holmes etc FOOP was op-
posed to the continuing of the Rex Ellis camel walks through the park
Onkaparinga River Riparian Zone old Noarlunga Project. \$10,000 received.
Ray Rogers stated that more directions had been made by the board but he objected to them.
It is now a requirement that a group member must be on site when contractors or botanist on site.
Signs to be erected. Ray moved that OCWMB standardise the signage.
Botanist (Paul Green), Weed control controller (Mark Garrett) attended a good meeting with FOOP peo-
ple. Very productive. Project to take more than 12 months.
Ray to write to OCWMB requesting and time extension and to put them on notice that the project will ex-
tend a further 400 metres.
Casuarina glaucas- no further information but castor oil plants found.
Finances: as at 31/03/1999 -S1 acc., \$631.81 .S2 Acc., \$4154.16
GIO acc now \$5000.79 to be closed and funds to S1 acc.,
Note that Paul injured his hand at recent recycling cleanup - reported and forms to be filled and submit-
ted.
Forum raffle tickets to be sent back.
National Reserve systems conference - 19/03/1999 Paul to give report.
Rabbit poisoning. Carrots and pindone spread out above Old Noarlunga and in wetlands. Cost about
\$250.
Fox baiting. 15 baits taken.
National Parks Festival 5th June Belair. FOOP to participate.
Wetland 1 island to cost \$6750. FOOP to offer \$4500.00
Community Environmental action. To be held on 25th May . Paul to attend and reoport.
Life be in it - come and try conservation. FOOP working B's offered as events.
Youth challenge. FOOP asked to provide meals etc to this series of events. Accepted.
Abseiling, walking, cycling and canoeing to be offered.
Dave Clark and Kathy Townsend requested that we advertise their CD in newsletter. Moved that cannot
be done because we are a not for profit, but it will be promoted at General Meeting.
Woodcroft college expressed an interest in the park. Paul to follow up.
Old Noarlunga spraying. Darren Calvert working on Grant application - employ a contractor to spray Old
Noarlunga gullies.
Wetland forum forest was burnt out this year and now to be direct seeded.
Island to be sprayed along with last ridge on Old Coach road,
Letter to ONCI newsletter re revegetation of riparian zone at Old Noarlunga.
Hardy scrub status not yet changed from recreation to conservation. Director to be contacted by FOOP.
Copy of letter also to Dr M Sullivan - President, FOP Inc.
Ray Rogers expressed concern about rabbit poisoning and the use of aerosol poison spray (garlon and
Diesel) . Spray drift smells and as such he would like the use to be discontinued.
1995 Erosion work at Sundews to be revisited. Tunnel erosion is happening.
Is there a possibility of a Directors grant.
Request to be made for use of NPWS bob cat.
Signs that horses were in the park at Old Noarlunga but there are no signs to say people cannot ride
horses in the area.
Locks missing on gates near gate 21.
Old Noarlunga walking trail becoming dangerous - Ray to write to Richard (ranger) about this.
Ray proposed a works committee co-ordinating committee.
Tuesday group award. Malcolm and Cynthia to write a citation and confirm attendance to the Forum to
accept the Award..

KNOW YOUR NATIVE GRASSES

Windmill Grass *Chloris truncata*



Habit; small low growing tussock



Triangle black seeds with 2 long awns



Flower head like windmill or umbrella spokes

Weed

*Feathertop Rhodes Grass *Chloris virgata*



Habit; tussock or creeping foliage with tall flowering stems



Seed with 2 long awns plus many hairs

Windmill Grass	<i>Chloris truncata</i>
Description	Small squat bluish low growing tussocks. Leaves bluish-green, broad, flat but folded near base. Flower head stem with terminal branches radiating out, green when young but looking black when seeds mature. Seeds small, reddish-purple to black when mature.
Key features	Flower head resembles a windmill of radiating spokes at the top of the stem. Seeds like black triangles with long fine awns in 2 corners. Broad bluish leaf folded at base.
Height	Tussocks to 15 cm, flower heads to 40 cm high.
Fertiliser	Increases in frequency
Frost	Low tolerance
Drought	Moderate tolerance
Grazing	Tolerant. Favoured by sheep as it grows close to the ground. Best grazed over spring/summer. Leaves are fibrous and not very palatable; keep green and leafy to maintain quality. Moderate forage value. Metabolisable energy 7.5 MJ/Kg DM. Crude protein 11%. Digestibility 53%. Windmill grass is a valuable warm-season grass.
Growing season	A relatively short-lived perennial, most active in summer, flowering in early summer. (C4 grass).
Distribution	MLR: In woodlands and grasslands of the eastern and western foothills and not usually found in the high rainfall forests. A grassland specialist. Scattered in arid SA. Also in NT, Qld, NSW, Vic.
Weed mimics	Introduced * <i>Chloris</i> species and *Couch grasses have similar windmill flower heads. *Feathertop Rhodes Grass (<i>Chloris virgata</i>) is a taller grass, long hairs as well as long awns on the seed. *Rhodes Grass (<i>Chloris gayana</i>) is a much taller grass, short hairs on a short awn. *Finger Couch Grass (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> var <i>dactylon</i>) spreads by running stems. See Couch-like grasses card.



Michael Whitaker is missing ...

Michael and Joan are without a doubt two very good imports from the old country and are always available for FOOP projects etc.,

Lately Michael has been on the sick

list and we miss his friendly face and wise counsel.

So Michael hurry up and get better because we are missing you.

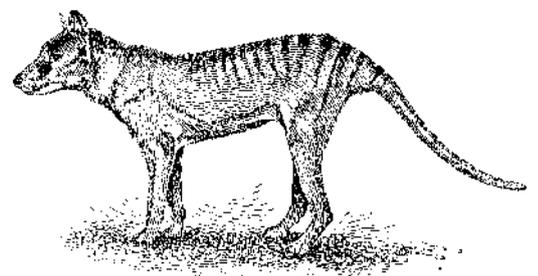
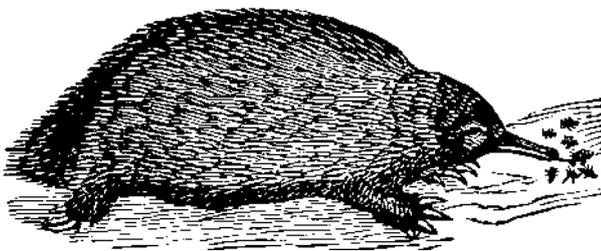
Seriously mate we do miss you at the working b's etc and are quite sure if you could you would be there .

FOOP mob.....

Some animals you are probably missing..



Don't fret my dear Michael will be back soon and we can cadge a lift off him.





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. (refer EFT payment method below)

Name(s):.....

Address:.....

Telephone No.....Mob No.....

Email address.....

Please indicate if you would like to receive notices by email	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate if you would like to receive newsletter by email	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate if you would still like to receive newsletter by post	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

I am paying (please indicate the one you are paying)

Family Membership	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single Membership	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donation	\$.....	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.

If you are already a member and have a friend who may be interested you could pass this on.
Editor.



FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARKS INC

August 2020

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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 NP Gate 13 Gosse Road Weed control Andy 0427826721
2	3	4 NP Gate 20 – Springs Chapel Hill Road Weed control <u>Andy 0427826721</u> General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute	5	6 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	7	8 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721
9	10	11 NP Gate 10 Punchbowl Track Piggott Range Road Planting/Weed control Andy 0427826721	12	13 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	14	15 NP Gate 21 Chapel Hill Road Weed control Andy 0427826721
16	17	18 NP Gate 10 Punchbowl Track Piggott Range Road Planting/Weed control Andy 0427826721	19	20 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	21	22 NP Gate 12 Piggott Range Road Beehives Weed control Andy 0427826721
23	24	25 NP Gate 29/30 – Riparian Barytes Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	26	27 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	28	29 NP Gate 13 Gosse Road Weed control Andy 0427826721
30	31	1 NP Gate 20 – Springs Chapel Hill Road Weed control <u>Andy 0427826721</u> General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute Special Presentations	2	3 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	4	5 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721