



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/>

January_February

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2021

President's Page

Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of 2021. Most of us will wish that COVID19 is soon a distant memory and that developed and developing vaccines give hope for the future.

Late last year the state government released its *Nature Conservation Directions Statement* and is heartening that at last some effort is being put into conservation. Having read the statement many times I am curious as to its intent. On one hand it suggests more effort in preserving and restoring ecosystems yet its emphasis on promoting commercial tourism within parks and reserves is perplexing. These can be issues of mutual benefit and time will tell what path DEW is forced to go down. Personally the best thing that any government can and should do is put *conservation* front and centre including restoring *conservation* into the state minister's title.

In recent days I have been concerned over the plight of 2 species of critically endangered birds; *Orange-Bellied* and *Swift* Parrots both of which are Tasmanian species. Whilst very good work is being done to preserve these precious birds, their future is very bleak. The last data from researchers show that only 23 OBPs that migrated to the mainland returned out of 58 that set off. The returning birds are being supplemented with 31 captive-bred birds.

The Swift Parrot population has reduced from just 1000 to now only 300 in just a decade. My reckoning is that the Swifts are rapidly losing habitat through logging of old-growth forests which were supposedly protected under the *Regional Forest Agreement* between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian governments. The facts are that these agreements cannot be legally enforced, which brings us full circle to the *EPBC Act* which I wrote about in late 2020. This legislation which the current federal government amended using COVID19 as a pretext weakens enforceability of laws designed to protect and preserve Australia's unique plants and animals which were already very weak. It gives state governments the role of reviewing its own decisions. Go figure??

Either the work we do is engrossing or many working-bee people were getting bored as we had a great turn-out for the return to work on 5 January. 16 brave souls turned out to continue the battle on feral olives. Great job team!

My apologies to anyone who may have received an email purportedly from me seeking them to buy gift cards, this was the work of scammers who somehow got into an address book to gain email addresses. My email is vk5gct@adam.com.com.au so please don't be fooled by others.

Just heard that the government has decided to exempt tourist developments worth over \$1m in Flinders Chase National Park from planning and native vegetation clearance rules; which would prevent any scrutiny of the Australian Walking Company's development proposal. As you will recall this matter is currently before the Supreme Court and was done by regulation and not put before parliament.

Stay Safe! *Graham Thomas January 2021*

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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From the Editor's Desk.

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or by snail mail to 27 Marston Drive, Morphett Vale 5162 or hand deliver to Gill or me.
Phone Mobile 0427 306758

In reviewing my December 2020 effort I noted that I had forgotten to thank various people who over the year gave this newsletter its content. I was carried away by the articles I found about the Murray and how far the sea some times encroached. Well that's my excuse.

That said this newsletter would not really be that interesting without the input of Graham Thomas, Andy MacKinnon, Colin Cock and recently Michael Whitaker.

The newsletter is a vehicle for some to get their thoughts out to the membership but isn't that a major reason for its existence?

From experience this is not an easy task. Putting your thoughts and ideas on "paper" is akin to exposing the jugular sometimes and inviting a swift cut.

So thank you contributors. Long may you contribute and **I invite anyone else** who would like to inform, advise, or humour their fellow FOOPers. I don't normally practise censorship although we seem to have a couple of unofficial censors from time to time. On that I have wondered if a small panel should be part of the process.

Now on to 2021.

Some time ago my son Chris bought me Peter Fitzsimmons book—Burke and Wills (B&W). I will confess it would not have been my choice. Having said that the book has been well researched and I recommend it to anyone interested in Australian history.

For years I maintained the line that B&W never made it to the Gulf of Carpentaria because they became bogged down in mangrove swamps. Besides that I am an admirer of John McDouall Stuart and we know he made it all the way. So much so they named a highway after him. He was, unlike Mr B and Mr W, an experienced bushman. I have a book on Stuart as well.

Having read the B & W book I concede that they did make it. I base that on the fact that they made it to an area that had been explored by white explorers coming from the sea to about the same place. So the link was established. I'm sure they would be pleased about my decision.

The reason why we use Stuart's route is because it is the more sensible way. Not a lot that B&W did was very sensible.

The blame was not all theirs. The Organising committee should have received a lot of the blame but they went looking for scapegoats and found them. They seemed more interested in the glory than the aim to find a trail. They did consider Stuart and another South Australian but as they were South Australian they never had a chance.

What the book did not change for me was that Burke and even Wills to some extent were the wrong people to undertake the expedition let alone lead it.

Neither had much bush experience. Both were picked more because they were gentlemen with connections and not because they had been proven in the field.

In Wills defence at least he was a good navigator.

Apparently Burke was so hopeless as a navigator in his previous position he even got lost on a well established road network in the area he resided. He was obviously one of those people who had trouble working out which way was North.

What also comes out of the story is that the ignorance and arrogance of most of these European explorers as to the Aboriginal peoples in the areas through which they travelled cost them lives unnecessarily.

We must accept that the first people to cross the continent from North to South were not European; the Aboriginal people had long done that and found ways to flourish in land that killed our lot. They had done that thousands of years before we turned up. I do recall reading that it was wetter in the interior when they first arrived so that would have helped.

History of the expedition highlighted that if you had bushcraft you too could survive, even flourish in this very harsh country. What happened when the rescue/retrieval party moved beyond the outskirts of known white habitation demonstrated this.

The leader of that expedition: Alfred William Howitt, not only made it to the Coopers Creek but within hours of getting there successfully caught fish with hooks that Burke had discarded on the way to the area because he could see no use for them. While the search party was in the area he also had vegetables planted by the creek and within a month was harvesting them.

One intriguing story that I had not heard about until reading the book was that of the only survivor.

John King was part of the small party that made the dash for the Gulf (of Carpentaria) and the only one who lived to tell the tale..

He survived because the local Aboriginal tribe took him. He became part of the social structure although not immediately, so much so that there is a persistent story that not only did he survive he was given a woman who became pregnant by him.

The story is well documented even with a recent meeting with an English descendant of King and an Australian ancestor. The article I read stated that the English bloke was convinced because of the likeness to family members. This could be resolved by a DNA test.

I recall as a child we were told that when found King was in a bad way but what if he wasn't?

The motive for him being portrayed at death's door is obvious.

If it became known King not only survived but fathered a child, courtesy of a local young woman, B&W's reputation would have been in tatters.

I became so interested in the child story I purchased a book—"The Aboriginal story of Burke and Wills Forgotten narratives". It has a number of contributors and is supported by, amongst others, - The Royal Society of Victoria-Burke and Wills Commemoration Committee. The book was commissioned by the CSIRO and has been well researched.

In the Introduction the writer of that chapter: Aaron Paterson, a Yandruwandha descendant, relates the story of King's daughter starting a lineage that exists in the local community to this day and that in fact he is one of those descendants.

Burke, as leader, completely ignored an asset that he could have used and if it had it would have guaranteed they all survived.

The local Aboriginal population were described by members of the expedition as being hale and hearty and although they were not happy about the intruders (for intruders they were) they did offer to help and could have if only Burke had not been so prejudiced against them.

Wills originally shared Burke's view but before he died changed his mind and tried to get the locals to help only to have Burke shoot at some of the people because he thought they were going to rob them.

There is a lesson for us all in this and that is leadership.

I have known and worked with a lot of managers but good leaders are few and far between but one common trait they had was that they were open to ideas with the understanding that while in the end it would be their decision the team can often give good counsel. They are assets.

Its not an easy gig.

Bill Heaven

PS., I have been in management roles but its not something I get excited about..

Vale.

Grant Good.

Many FOOPers will not be familiar with the name, and thus the person, but we old timers knew him well.

Grant and family joined FOOP in 1987 and for a number of years they were active members.

He was a Primary school teacher and when he joined his long time interest in conservation and the desire to get his classes involved came to the fore.

Grant quickly organised a major planting in the Sundews area where his school at the time—Morphett Vale West Primary—became heavily involved. It was a great success and other plantings happened.

FOOPers also became part of the projects. The park benefitted and the kids were introduced to Conservation. A win—win.

In or about the early 1980's Grant started the Children's forest in Kyeema and he became more involved in that area so as these things happen he left FOOP to pursue his interest in that area.

As in all family dynamics Grant was supported by his wife Meg in the early days. Meg died of cancer and when he remarried his second wife, Trudy also stood shoulder to shoulder with him.

Grant was a personal friend as well and we shared a lot of interesting times.

He is survived by his wife Trudy and daughter—Mary Louise and her family.

On behalf of FOOP I extend our condolences to his family.

Bill Heaven.



Sacred Kingfisher... *Todiramphus sanctus* ...
Uncommon ...
Breeding unobserved ... Vagrant ?

A pleasant surprise to come across this species in the Estuary recently, and I've only ever seen it in the Park once before in the upper Onkaparinga River sections about 10 yrs ago. The Sacred Kingfisher is in the same taxonomy as the abundant Kookaburras, but a bit smaller with a distinct blue/green/sheen colours on it's back and head....and minus the iconic laugh of the Kookaburra. Quite common in many areas of the Adelaide Hills and more remote areas in most States of Australia, but usually along water courses. Seen as well along the extensive coastal Mangrove forests of the gulf. Surprisingly they are not seen regularly in the Onkaparinga Park, although it seems like it would be an ideal habitat.

Diet comprises small fish, reptiles, insects and small crabs. They seem to move around, following food and water, and at times when our rivers and lakes are full they can be numerous. They can be hard to spot in the trees, but sometimes seen perched conspicuously on branches above the water hunting fish.

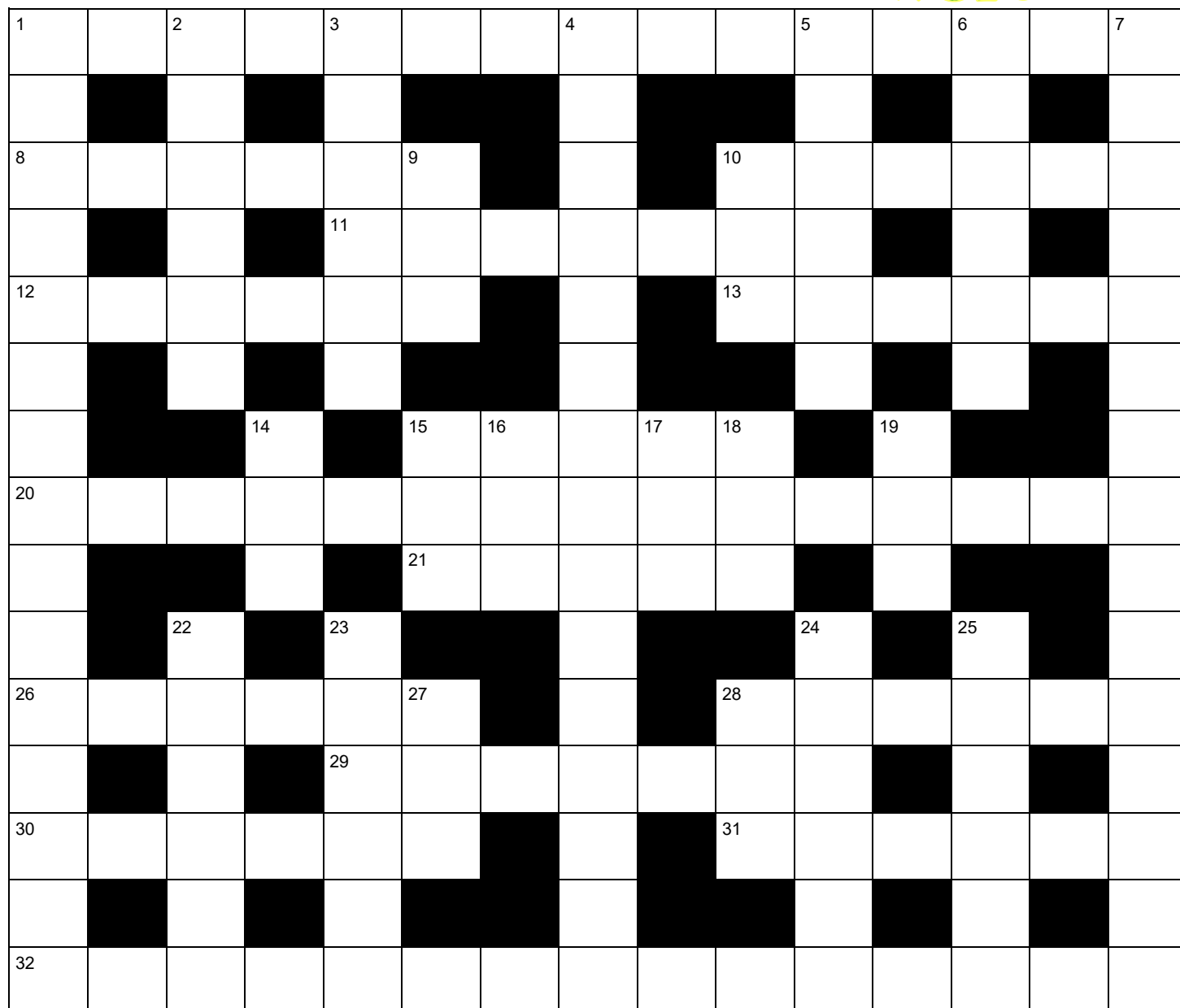
This is time of the year I sometimes find unusual seasonal visitors to the Park, such as Rainbow Bee-eaters. Not long after this Kingfisher picture was taken I saw a small flock of Budgerigars in the same location, so maybe the Kingfisher is simply passing through as well, possibly as a result of drought further North ?

I've been asked to do another presentation at the next General Meeting. Rather than my usual collection of still bird photos, I have incorporated some video and music, which means I won't have to bore you with my narration.

It is an experiment with a new Video editing program, a huge learning curve for an old dog. It has taken 100hrs plus to compose, for just 37 minutes of run time

....Hecklers will be harshly dealt with.

Michael Whitaker's Crossword No.5



ACROSS

1. Can I limit AA cost, adjusting to Global warming? [15]
8. Northernmost US State with 'a' changed to 'o'. Now rear-range for tree-sleepers. [6]
10. The best is a top aim spoiled. [6]
11. Kyrgios has to start here. [4, 3]
12. A donkey could be a rich do. [6]
13. These events are the sad alternatives. [6]
15. Membranes for embryos – a man I alter. [5]
20. Top person in a newspaper, but not a foreign-language one. [6, 2, 7]
21. Wind a rope around it or recover it from bicycle attachments. [5]
26. Escapes detection even though Sue led the search. [6]
28. Last of a vintage - it could be binned. [3, 3]
29. Capital of a Baltic State. [7]
30. Cricket team is an odd bunch. [6]
31. Nag's abode is firmly fixed. [6]
32. They sort out problems – or bother centre forwards. [15]

DOWN

1. Confused men tack ledge now for an acceptance. [15]
2. There is a possibility that you will get this one. [6]

3. Sounds like "aye, aye" added to talc will bend *letters*. [6]
4. Zoom, for example, makes these possible. [15]
5. A fair comparison when matched with itself, but Eve should have avoided them. [6]
6. Stupid people join the dots with two eyes. [6]
7. Myopia. [15]
9. Turf or abuse. [3]
10. Golden years, where you will find this description. [3]
14. A story, or not, for pigs. [3]
15. Curved like a bent car. [3]
16. A little molecule. [3]
17. Remove all that is odd from Liberal, to get an International enterprise agreement. [3]
18. Some are an inch long, they say. [3]
19. Can you make this out of stale ingredients? {3}
22. A North American gum tree or a town in Mississippi. [6]
23. About a doing word comes back as an echo. [6]
24. Sit Rob in a confused coffee shop. [6]
25. Upside-down meat on the French is weak. [6]
27. Seven of them are deadly – a single one contains itself. [3]
28. On its own, it conveys people. With a bar, it conveys electricity. [3]

KNOW YOUR NATIVE GRASSES

I started this series some time ago and I am happy to continue provided people want me to.

It does seem to me that it may be getting a little tired so does anyone have a topic that they want me to include.

Should I continue or pick another topic.?



Bloody Bushfires

FOOP has a long relationship with Scott Creek Conservation park Friends with the late Tom Hands being well regarded by many. So from my point of view it's a little closer to home.

I have not read much about how the park fared in the bushfire but the little I have read the park has been badly affected. There is concern that some of the rare fauna in the park may have suffered which is of great concern.



The only silver lining I can see is that sometimes when such a catastrophe happens within months native endemic plants appear that have not been seen in the area for many years. Hopefully some major weeds would have succumbed as well. Unfortunately some of our worst weeds are opportunistic and are the first to appear after a fire such as this.

It has all the hallmarks of a deliberate fire event but I know from personal experience its never a good idea to jump to conclusions. Until the evidence is gathered, analysed and tested in a court we won't know.

It does sound like the Onkaparinga dodged a bullet because an alleged arsonist was caught causing a fire event on Piggott Range road. As many will know Piggott range road is the Northern boundary of the Onkaparinga Gorge National Park.

The fire season is not over yet so keep your eyes open and report any suspicious activity to SAPOL.

Courtesy of the CFS site .

Stay Informed.

Fires can threaten suddenly and without warning.

You need to be prepared to enact your Bushfire Survival Plan without receiving any emergency warning.

You can:

- know what the bushfire dangers are for your area
- know the daily Fire Danger Rating for your area
- watch for signs of fire, especially smoke and flames
- know what you need to do
- act decisively the moment you know there is danger
- put your Bushfire Survival Plan into action (avoid a "wait and see" response)

Find information on:

CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au

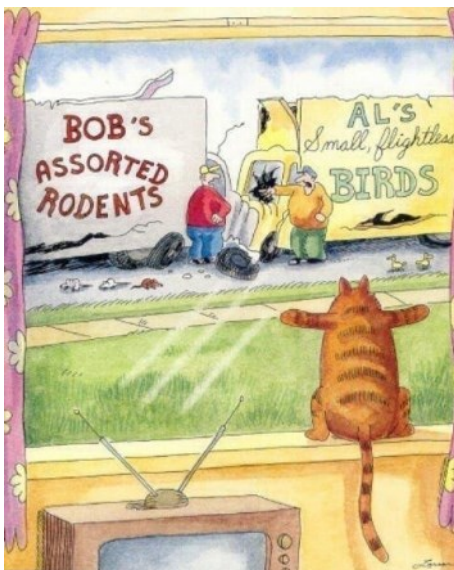
Bushfire Information Hotline **1800 362 361**

on Facebook, like [SA Country Fire Service](#) and [CFSUpdates](#)

on Twitter follow [@cftalk](#) and [@cfsalerts](#)

local [ABC radio](#), [FIVEaa](#), or one of our other [Emergency Broadcast Partners](#)

Do not rely on a single source for emergency warning information.



Clean up Australia Day...

Day: Sunday; 7th March

Time: 9:00 am

Its that time of the year again.

Once again we get together to help clean our park and river of rubbish.

Where:

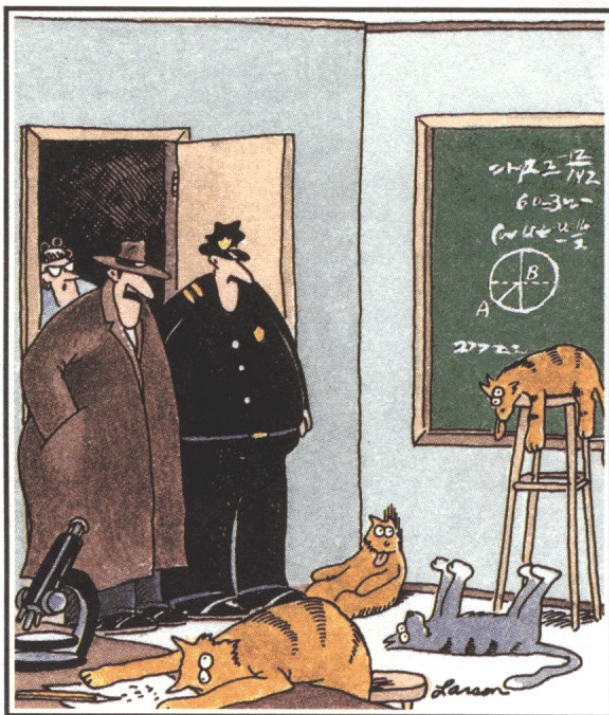
Meet at Perrys bend, River Road, Car park Port Noarlunga

What to wear:

Stout shoes, gloves and a hat.

Our usual sausage sizzle will be at 12:00

Jill and Ron Clark
PH; 0474 288126



"Notice all the computations, theoretical scribbles, and lab equipment, Norm. ...
Yes, curiosity killed these cats."

Michael's crossword No: 4 solution

D	I	C	E		A	S	I	A		C	U	B	E	
E		R		A		H		L		O		U		B
C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	P	U	Z	Z	L	E
O		W		U		R		E		N		Z		G
R	E	D	U	C	E	T	O	N	O	T	H	I	N	G
		E		C		E		T				N		A
B	U	D	G	E	T	R	E	E	R	A	N	G	E	R
A				S						C				L
B	R	A	S	S	R	U	B	B	I	N	G	D	A	Y
B		N				M		E		E		A		
L	I	G	H	T	U	P	T	H	E	W	O	R	L	D
I		L		E		T		E		E		E		U
N	O	I	S	E	L	E	S	S	N	E	S	S	E	S
G		N		N		E		T		P		A		T
	A	G	E	S		N	E	S	T		E	Y	R	Y



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

☐

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

\$.....

☐

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 PARK INC. COMMITTEE 2021

	POSITION	
1	President	Graham Thomas
2	Vice-President	Michael Whitaker
3	Secretary & Public Officer*	Andy McKinnon
	Treasurer	Andy McKinnon
Committee		
4	Safety Officer*	Joe Kennedy
5		Joan Alford
6		John Bekkers
7		Heather Alcorn
8		
9		
10		

*Public Officer & Safety Officer appointed by the elected committee.

Please consider filling a vacant position on the committee.

Andy McKinnon
SECRETARY
FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK INC.
Tel: 08 83862393
Mob: 0427826721
Email: mackins@tpg.com.au





Friends of Onkaparinga Parks Inc

Program for: February 2021



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	2 NP Gate 7a – The Knoll Piggott Range Road Weed control <u>Andy 0427826721</u> General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute	3	4 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 6pm, Old Noarlunga Market Square, Old Noarlunga Tony 0405243101	5	6 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721
7	8	9 NP Gate 8 Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	10	11 WB Location Graham 7220 5568 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 6pm, Belair NP Meet Country Club Car Park, Upper Sturt Rd Edith 8382 1120	12	13 NP Gate 13 Gosse Road Weed control Andy 0427826721
14	15	16 NP Gate 8 Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	17	18 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 6pm, O'Sullivan Beach Andy 0427826721 Meet Park, Tingira Drive, O'Sullivan Beach Rick 0424308011	19	20 NP Gate 19 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721
21	22	23 NP Gate 8 Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	24	25 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 6pm, Manning Scrub Meet entrance, Whitings Rd, McLaren Flat Edith 8382 1120	26	27 NP Gate 12 Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721
28	1	2 NP Gate 9 Punchbowl Car Park Piggott Range Road Weed control <u>Andy 0427826721</u> General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute	3	4 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 5pm, Kyeema Meet Kyeema CP Car Park Woodgate Hill Road, Kuitpo Andy 0427826721	5	6 NP Gate 16 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721
7 Clean Up Day Perry's Bend 9am Jill 0401315672 BBQ Lunch	8 Public Holiday	9 NP Gate 20 – Springs Chapel Hill Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	10	11 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 5pm, Woodcroft Meet Playground, Equestrian Drive Woodcroft Rick 0424308011	12	13 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721