



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.

We acknowledge this land that we work on is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

May

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2023



The Punchbowl Waterhole

FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK INC

PATRON: Dr B HARDY AO

Incorporating The ONKAPARINGA RIVER RP and ONKAPARINGA RIVER NP.

Proudly a member of THE FRIENDS OF PARKS INC.,

President: Graham Thomas Vice-President: Michael Whitaker

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Website: [Friends of Onkaparinga Park \(foop.com.au\)](http://Friends of Onkaparinga Park (foop.com.au))



This Newsletter's hard copies printed at the Electoral office of Katrine Hildyard MP
Member for Reynell

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Almost every day a story appears in either printed or electronic media of unauthorised land clearing yet they seems to be little or no repercussions for these illegal activities. A personal frustration is when local, state or federal governments are the offenders. It is high time legislation is approved which will hold these miscreants to account. An example of this was the attitude of our local council a number of years ago when it was pointed out to them that a very large Athel Pine *Tamarix aphylla* was growing on the corner of Penneys Hill and States Rds Hackham [near the roundabout]; their response was that the particular tree was one of significance. This species is a *Weed Of National Significance* [WONS], and although it took over 18 months to do so the tree was eventually removed. Bureaucracy gone mad if you ask me.

The start of the 'walking season' in SA was opened by the Deputy Premier and Minister for the Environment and Water Susan Close on Sunday 2nd April at Belair NP. At the instigation of one of our members FOOP was represented by 4 people engaging with those interested in walking in our parks. Personally I believe the effort was worthwhile albeit that a common response to questions was that they either did not know the parks existed or they have been meaning to visit. Time will tell if visitation improves.

The April general meeting saw a demonstration of the uses and application of an Automatic External Defibrillator [AED] by Henry Cowell from St John. Comments made by members attending highlighted how important it is to know how to use an AED when the need arises. I am certain that everyone who attended gained some important and relevant information.

We recently attended a meeting at Aldinga to hear from a range of speakers on current threats to wilderness as well as on how driving South Australian beaches affects the birds that nest on them. The Deputy Premier Sussan Close was present and explained the government's thinking and processes on how legislation can be changed for the better. From a personal view I found the structured method of questioning the panel of experts restrictive. Attendees could only get questions answered by using a QR reader to scan the code and type in the question. Many participants felt hamstrung by this method which I hope does not become the norm. Hope I'm not a luddite??

We are still being plagued by deer damage; on Easter Monday Jan and I were in the Springs area and saw 13 deer all females and fawns. There is ample evidence of their presence by the amount of damage being done to young plants when the deer either push the tree and guard over or by rubbing the bark off the trunks of saplings effectively ring-barking them. Hopefully we will see a control programme implemented soon.

Graham Thomas

The safest and most effective measures to combat climate change and global warming is in vegetative cover, thereby reintroducing the water cycling and cooling capacity of living plants. The primary cooling caused by evapo-transpiration, will strengthen the land-sea balance in Australia, i.e. the cooling of the landscape by vegetation will bring more rain back to the landscape. Jan Pokorny and Wilhelm Ripl

The unique efficiencies of the Australian floodplains and their capacity to mitigate local climate and sequester carbon dioxide. March 2008

**FOOP at the Hiking Expo
Belair National Park**





ONKAPARINGA PARK BIRD WATCH

by Colin Cock



Likely the same time as this article will be viewed I will be in Victorias High Country to indulge in the Autumn splendour around Bright. With a bit of luck hoping to locate birds like the very tiny, and awfully cute Rose Robins.



This months bird is one not often seen, but reasonably common in the Onkaparinga, and many other regions. The Collared Sparrowhawk { not to be confused with the cartoon character of the Chicken Hawk of Foghorn Leghorn fame from the Bugs Bunny show }

There is another bird very similar to the Sparrowhawk, and accurate identification between the two is often difficult, and that bird is the Brown Goshawk. Most noticeable differences are the Sparrowhawk is generally more slender in build, and has an unusually long middle toe, smaller head in comparison to the Brown Goshawk. The Goshawk also has a heavy looking brow ridge, always looks rather stern, and overall a more robust looking bird, but there are more distinguishing features

Both species are hunters, and unlike most other birds of prey they will often conceal themselves in tree foliage, where they may lurk ready to pounce on any other bird unlucky enough to come too close. Prey can sometimes be quite large, and comparable to their own body size.

The bird pictured was photographed near Old Noarlunga, and not long after this picture was taken it snatched and made a meal of a unfortunate Pigeon.



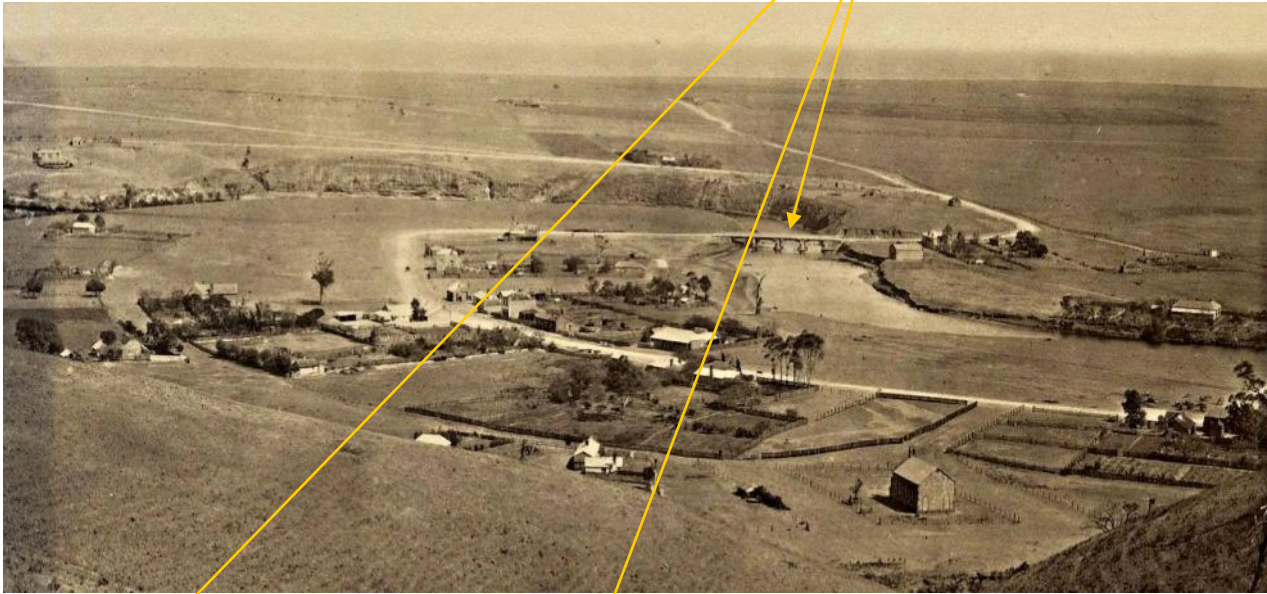
Good news for the month, and thanks to a tip off. A pair of Peregrine Falcons have been showing some interest in nesting in the Onkaparinga Estuary again, hopefully in the near future. This is good news, as there was some concern the regular pair has disappeared. They had nested for several years on the Old Noarlunga Church tower, but the recent renovations, and broken nesting box forced them to move on.

A peregrine falcon can dive up to 200 miles (323 kilometers) an hour to capture prey in flight, striking in midair with its outstretched talons, or claws. Peregrines usually hunt with either a swift chase or a fast dive. Starlings, pigeons, and doves are among their favorite

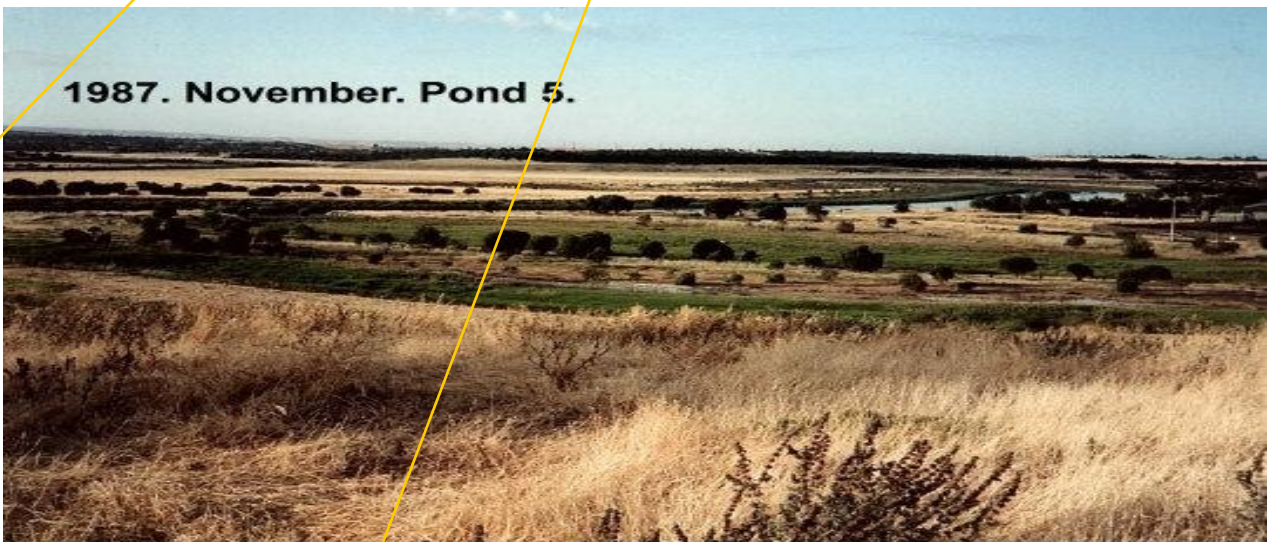
Lots of activity in the Park at the moment, good rains have seen lots of new vegetation....you should go and see.

History in a photo. (from 2015)

The pictures below show how the Onkaparinga estuary has changed over the years. The 1869 photo is particularly interesting because it shows that in 33 years an incredible amount of clearing had taken place. Descriptions by various early white settlers describe the estuary as covered in large gum trees, honey suckle (banksia) and other vegetation. The escarpment by then had been cleared of acacia for tanning. The 1987 picture while not in the same place (escarpment above Old Noarlunga) gives an idea of an estuary still very much cleared of large flora. In 2015 in a position not too far from that taken in 1869 (note the bridge) large trees are now flourishing. The Old Noarlunga Uniting Church can be seen in the right hand foreground.



1869



1987. November. Pond 5.

1987



2015



Green Adelaide Volunteer Celebration

Green Adelaide celebrating environmental volunteers, Sunday 21 May!

When and where

Date and time

Sun, 21 May 2023 9:15 AM - 2:00 PM ACST

Location

The Joinery 111 Franklin Street Adelaide, SA 5000

About this event

- 4 hours 45 minutes

Mobile eTicket

Gather your group and block out your diaries for the annual Green Adelaide volunteer celebration event!

We are inviting all environmental volunteer groups supported by Green Adelaide to join us for a day of networking, sharing, learning, and plenty of fun!

Enjoy delicious food, catching up with friends, sharing stories, and hearing presentations that recognise the incredible contribution you as volunteers make to our natural and cultural environment and local communities.

Come and enjoy a range of short workshops:

- Cultural activity – further details to come!
- The Joinery Tour – with Adelaide Sustainability Centre Coordinator
- Disability Awareness & Inclusion activity – with VolunteerAbility
- Grass ID Tricks & Tips

We'll also be showcasing some of our volunteer group's recent projects, and are delighted to offer a special presentation on 'Volunteering, Disability and Inclusion' with Rachel Yorston from VolunteerAbility who will showcase the importance of engaging people with disabilities in volunteering and connecting with nature.

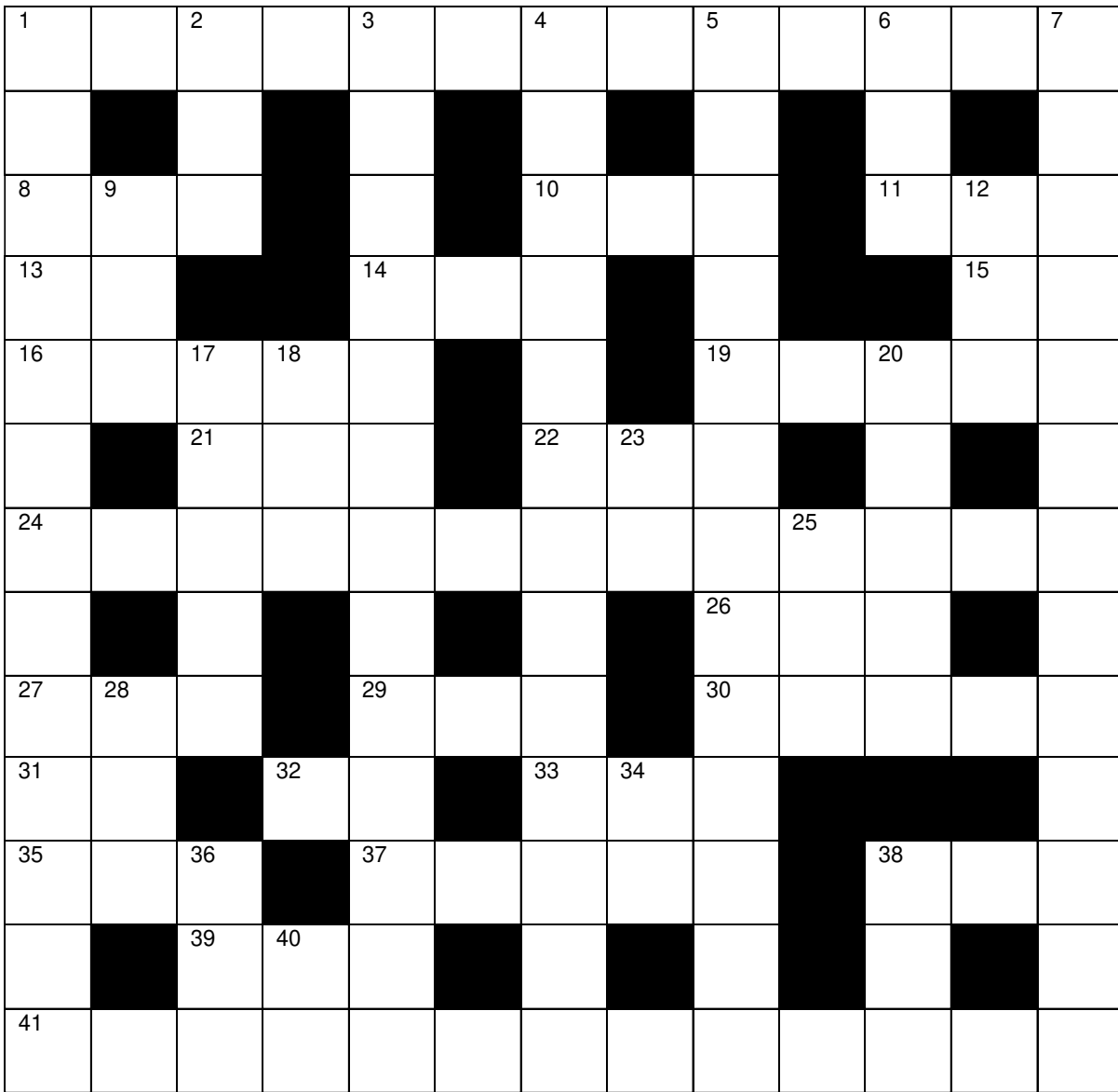
Registrations are essential. Link for booking below.

[Green Adelaide Volunteer Celebration Tickets, Sun 21/05/2023 at 9:15 am | Eventbrite](#)

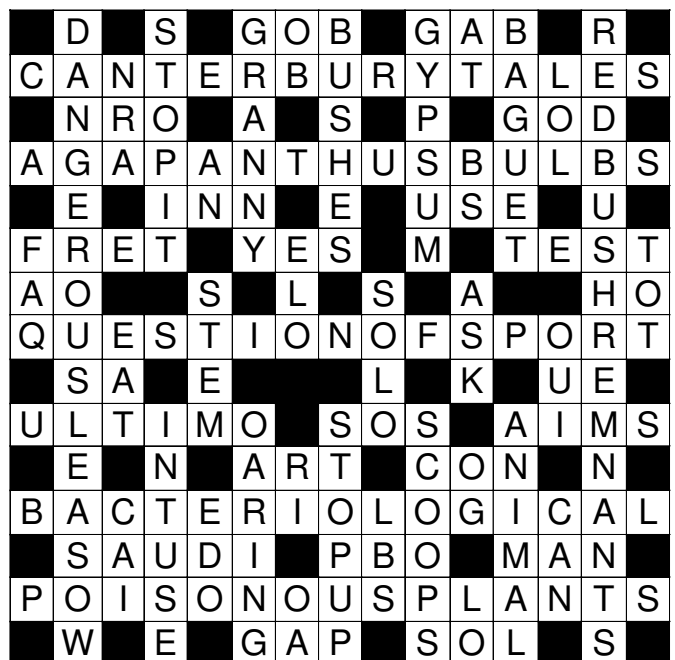
There is paid parking onsite or alternatively, there is easy access to public transportation or share a ride with someone.

Some activities will be hosted outside, so please remember to bring a hat, sunglasses, water bottle and wear appropriate clothing for the weather on the day.

MICHAEL'S CROSSWORD NUMBER 29 (clues on next page)



MICHAEL'S SOLUTION CROSSWORD 28



MICHAEL'S CROSSWORD CLUES FOR NUMBER 28

ACROSS

1. One small part of an existence [1,3,2,3,4]
8. To pinch off, as in a bud [3]
10. ---man, a computer game [3]
11. A joining word for an addition [3]
13. A military plan [2]
14. A kangaroo [3]
15. Moon of Jupiter [2]
16. A burning itch [5]
19. A neck-warmer [5]
21. Short for 'locative' or a place [3]
22. Island State [3]
24. Before you can tie her to a ducking-stool you have to do this [5,3,5]
26. Heightened fuss [3]
27. Male human [3]
29. Moses, there were five in a stage musical [3]
30. Concur that the drag-reel has it [5]
31. Previous partner [2]
32. Red chicken comes from here [2]
33. A time period [3]
35. Before it was old [3]
37. Any of several trees of the genus 'carapa' [5]
38. Boat pusher [3]
39. Horn of Africa [1,1,1]
41. Spare the rod if you want this [5,3,5]

DOWN

1. Short public messages [13]
2. Current unit [3]
3. Ancient study of chemistry with respect to diseases [13]
4. Everest could be called this [3,2,3,5]
5. This could describe the final phase of the Roman Empire [6,3,4]
6. Initial Teaching Alphabet [1,1,1]
7. Doomsday [3,2,3,5]
9. Inches per revolution [1,1,1]
12. A part of the light spectrum [1,1,1]
17. Piano player [5]
18. Medico [3]
20. Player [5]
23. First two vowels [1,1]
25. I don't care in 'modern-speak' [1,1,1]
28. Wood-cutter [3]
34. Drawing to show overall picture [1,1]
36. The 1960's rock group, still touring [3]
38. First name of a Jedi Master [3]
40. Cockney word to gain attention [2]



Prickly Pear in the Onkaparinga Gorge

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 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
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.



MAY 2023 FOOP WORKING B PROGRAM.

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 Gate 14 Rec. Park River Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au <u>General Meeting</u> <u>7.30pm</u> <u>Old Noarlunga Hall</u>	3	4 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	5	6 Gate 18 Whitings Road Michael 0438893304
7	8	9 Gate 10 Punchbowl LO Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	10	11 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	12	13 Gate 16 Chapel Hill Road Michael 0438893304
14	15	16 Gate 20 Springs Chapel Hill Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	17	18 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	19	20 Gate 21 Chapel Hill Road Michael 0438893304
21	22	23 Gate 10 Punchbowl LO Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	24	25 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	26	27 Gate 18 Whitings Road Michael 0438893304
28	29	30 Gate 15 Rec. Park River Road (new site) Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	31	1 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	2	3 Gate 19 Chapel Hill Road Michael 0438893304
4	5	6 Gate 10 Punchbowl LO Piggott Range Road Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au <u>General Meeting</u> <u>7.30pm</u> <u>Old Noarlunga Hall</u>	7	8 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	9	10 No working bee