



# 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/>

October

Vol 33 No 10.

2020

### President's Page

Life becomes more difficult when you can't use your computer. This happened just recently and it is frustrating to realise that so much of your daily activity depends on technology. I had almost completed this page when my PC didn't want to play ball. On to plan B with a deadline.

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) has been under review by Graeme Samuel since 2019; an interim report was released in July 2020 which does not fill one with confidence. The Act is meant to protect Australia's environmental values which include native fauna and flora species, the Great Artesian Basin, world heritage areas, national parks and marine parks (including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park), Ramsar wetlands, national heritage places, migratory species and water resources.

I must be clear to any interested person/body that the current Act can not do what is meant to do. There are no enforceable provisions. There is no independent regulator. Nor does it mention the 'elephant in the room' **climate change**. My analysis of the interim report is that whilst there are some good recommendations there are numerous anomalies including the proposal to put the states in charge of environmental responsibilities. The same states that can not protect koalas, as in NSW. If current thinking is any indication our state is no better. The federal government using the guise of COVID19 is rushing the passage of a 'one stop shop' piece of legislation to cut so called 'green tape'. This is akin to putting the fox in charge of the chook house. Keep watching this space.

Please keep Sunday the 11th October free for FOOP's 34th birthday picnic at the Chapel Hill picnic site.

My recent suggestion that our rainfall for the year to date was looking good has definitely fallen flat. The recent rain events [or should that be non-events?] have failed to deliver. So keep your fingers crossed for late rains to sustain our plantings, Whilst we can do supplementary watering it is not as good as what nature delivers.

Our recent working bee activity is delivering some good outcomes. If you enjoy the walk between the Punchbowl lookout and Sundews you should notice significant improvements in the views into the gorge as many olives have been removed and treated in the area. For those who use the 'Climbers' Track we have been completing a number of 'free the tree' sites where substantial clumps of olives are clustered around the base of large *eucalypts* as a result of birds eating olives and depositing the seeds below. *This area has been dramatically improved by this work.*

The state is about to increase its controlled burning by 50% to reduce fire hazards; this is a result of the review into the 2020 bushfire disaster. When asked if indigenous burning practices would be adopted the Minister said only in arid and pastoral areas. It seems we will continue with the current protocols in other areas, we don't listen or learn do we?  
*Graham Thomas*

*I think the government has to reposition environment on top of their national and international priorities. Brian Mulroney*

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

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Secretary, Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc C/- 27 Kym St., Port Noarlunga Sth 5167.

E mail: [mackins@tpg.com.au](mailto:mackins@tpg.com.au)



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](mailto: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

Before I start this I want to make my position clear about my view of the Environment and my interaction with it.

It frustrates me that many quite clever people seem to think the Environment is down the street or in the local State, Federal or local government park and they act accordingly.

In my view we live in and are part of the Environment and whether we like it or not we humans interfere with the natural order of the Environment every day because we have evolved a way of life that could lead no other way. This is the way it is and unfortunately we oldies are leaving a bit of a mess.

It could be argued I suppose that as we are part of the Environment anything we do is in the natural order of things but that gives me the shudders.

It has not happened just in our lifetime we are just adding to the pile. A lot of what we have done and are doing is in line with what we as a species do with a lot of realities. We adjust our thinking to cope with the contradictions in the way we think. In that we are all guilty of hiding our guilt.

The problem is that we are now getting to the pointy end of the stick. In a sense Climate change is a symptom not the illness. The illness may very well be us.

I wish I knew the answer, or knew someone who does, but in my view we have not found a solution that will actually work. Perhaps we need to rethink how our economy works and consider how we can change it to benefit all including the planet itself. The economy is after all a human construct although its roots, I believe, are far more ancient than we might think.

But in the meantime I thought I would run this by you .

Many years ago while studying for my Accounting degree I was required to study Economics. It was over two years and even though it was the same subject it was obvious that there were two aspects to this fascinating subject. I loved the graphs by the way.

There was macroeconomics (the one we hear about all the time) and microeconomics.

I am a bit rusty on both, especially the latter because it is quite specialised and rarely makes the popular press. But for the record with macro economics I never got past Keynes and I think Milton Friedman (trickle down economics man) got it horribly wrong even though he won a Nobel prize for the theory. Even Keynes morphed into neo Keynes.

That said it dawned on me the other day that the way humanity treats Environmental matters is somewhat similar which should not surprise us as it is a general human trait. Some of us sit in the helicopter and others want the microscope.

Many in the community consider the Environment in the macro sense.

They are not particularly interested in knowing the name of every plant or animal etc but enjoy nature (?) in the broad. In order to do that they want their experience to be superficial and somehow connected with being fit. Quite often that involves motoring, bike riding, horse riding, jogging and quick walking through the "bushland" of choice.



Its not that they don't appreciate the bush they just don't get interested in the detail. It is all about the broad experience. I am not averse to that attitude because at least they see some use for keeping some of the bush intact. I am reminded of my late father, an horticulturist (?), who didn't like the bush at all but liked a good view.

Then we have the more committed bush lover. They too may use the above methods of transportation but rather than ticking the area off as job done indulge in the more detailed aspects of where their interests lie which could be bird watching, botany, geology, and even local history. They have started the move from the macro to the micro.

We then have the committed specialists who probably would live in the bush if they thought they could get away with it.

They are into the micro and if asked will explain in great detail why they are so invested in their subject of choice often to the point that they resent anyone who does not think in a similar fashion. By the very nature of specialisation they are in the minority and will always be.

At the moment we have the macro element at the top of the decision making tree . It has been that way globally for many years. They do occasionally indulge in funding for more specific environmental issues. Currently we are saving Koalas and looking at dunnarts.

We see it in the choices being made.

There is funding for pleasant walks, bike trails and camp facilities but little or none for the study of particular topics and it rarely involves, say an area being set aside for the specialists only to have access.

If I am wrong I would like to hear where this happens.

I do recall one Minister of the Environment banning mining in the Flinders area because of a rare fish species which was a step in the right direction but it was the exception not the rule.

The problem is we live in a democracy and that means in general the majority rules.

Politicians, in general, reflect the general mood of the population although a wily politician with their own agenda will manipulate the mood to suit their personal preference. This can go horribly wrong and if overdone they lose their jobs.

I will admit I sit in the second group if I am honest. I enjoy getting more involved than at the general and superficial level but as yet have not settled on a specific topic as have a number of my fellow FOOPers.

I believe there is a place for all and hopefully some of the superficial bush lovers will move deeper into the wonder of the Australian wilderness.

What I want to see is the acknowledgement that the Environment does not start at the Park gate.

Bill

I've been away for some 3 weeks, exploring Eyre Peninsula, and as expectable hunting down new birds for my personal list.

Overall bird numbers seemed lower than expected for Spring. Often the forest/scrub were very quiet, with long breaks between hearing or seeing any birds. Quite possibly the absence of bird numbers might be because of inclement weather most days. Birds go quiet in windy weather, and there was a lot of that in my time on Eyre. Talking to a number of other birders, most seem to be of the opinion that bird numbers in many parts seem to be unexpectedly down. A few suggest insect numbers are also low, which may also account for lack of birdlife. I did manage however to find some new birds for me, such as the Australian Bustard, Rufous Treecreeper, Thick-billed Grass-wrens, Blue-breasted Fairy-wren.

Back home now and a stroll around the Onkaparinga Gorge revealed definitely no lack of birds locally, especially Parrots, all busy fussing over nesting hollows. The most common it seems would be the constantly noisy, chattering Rainbow Lorikeets, as pictured below. Its great to see so many in the region still, as there were concerns a few years back with numbers being culled to prevent damage to Vineyards.

Rainbow Lorikeets are often found in huge flocks, particularly in parts of eastern Australia...tourists love them, and a popular bird for pets.

Nectar form the main part of their diet., and males and female look identical which is unusual in the bird world.



The not so good .....

I saw another bird in the Park recently that definitely has no place roaming free in Australia...the Alexandrine Parrot, or Indian Ringneck. A popular pet bird for many people all over the world, and likely escapee from someone's Aviary or bird cage here in Australia, and I have seen a few outside of the Onkaparinga Park, and heard quite a few reports of the same. They are becoming an increasing concern in the East Coast and WA with a lot being seen roaming free in many areas in those states.

Larger than many of our Parrots, and although every bit as beautiful, there is some fear, or maybe fact that they are now breeding here and competing with our native birds for nesting hollows and food. Hopefully they don't become a great pest, we have enough feral animals and birds in Australia as it is.



# KNOW YOUR NATIVE GRASSES

**Bottlebrush Grass** *Enneapogon nigricans*



Habit; small upright tussock



Young upright flower head



Hairy seed, many spreading awns



Fructing head; bottlebrush shape

Photos © C & C Chesson

<b>Bottlebrush Grass</b>	<i>Enneapogon nigricans</i>
<b>Also known as</b>	Nine-awn Grass, Shuttlecock Grass, Octopus Grass, Bottle Washers
<b>Description</b>	Small tussock with very upright look, with both green leaves and taller flower heads erect. Flower heads start green, turn blackish when mature and fade to straw colour.
<b>Key features</b>	Seeds look a little bit like an octopus or a badminton shuttlecock.
<b>Height</b>	Leaves to about 15 cm, flower heads to about 30 cm.
<b>Fertiliser</b>	Unknown
<b>Frost</b>	Low to moderate
<b>Drought</b>	Tolerant
<b>Grazing</b>	Moderate tolerance. High forage value. Metabolisable energy 6.9 MJ/Kg DM. Crude protein 12.5%. Digestibility 50%.
<b>Growing season</b>	Short lived perennial (green all year), sometimes almost an annual, most active in summer, flowering in early summer. Tussock usually not very visible in winter. (C4 grass).
<b>Distribution</b>	MLR: In woodlands and grasslands of the eastern and western foothills and not usually found in the high rainfall forests. Widespread in SA. Also in Qld, NSW, Vic.
<b>Similar looking native grasses</b>	Foxtail Mulga Grass ( <i>Neurachne alopecuroidea</i> )
<b>Weed mimics</b>	Many weedy grasses have a similar flower head but none have the "octopus" or "shuttlecock" shaped seeds.



**For Official Use Only**  
From: [Smith, Pamela J \(DEW\)](#)

Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:10 AM

3 September 2020

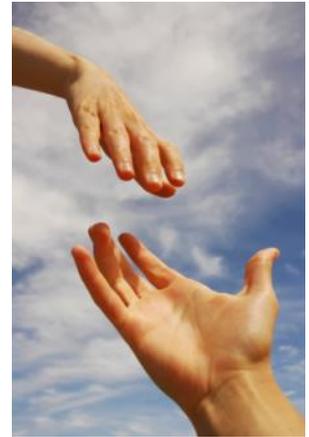
Hi everyone

Some further donations have been received which is wonderful. The focus until the end of 2021 will be on donations to the Friends Groups affected by the Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek fires.

You might like to advertise the plea for donations in your group's newsletter.

Regards

Pam



**Editor's note.**

The FOP Inc Gift fund was my "gift" to the Friends many years ago and as such I have always had an interest in its welfare. I brought it into being with the express idea that it would serve as a focus for collecting funds for the Friends movement in South Australia for whatever legitimate purpose we needed funds.

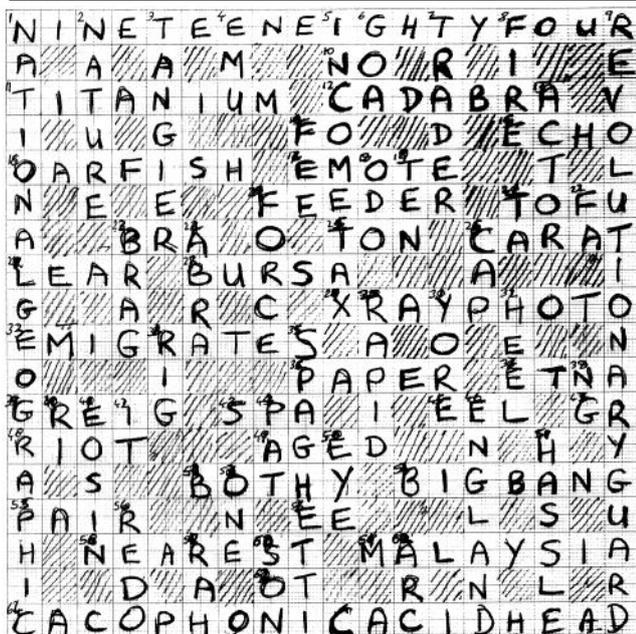
It was/is used but has never realised the potential I still believe that is possible. Note that even today most of the Friend's funding comes from the Government coffers which is fine but it would be great to have our own funds.

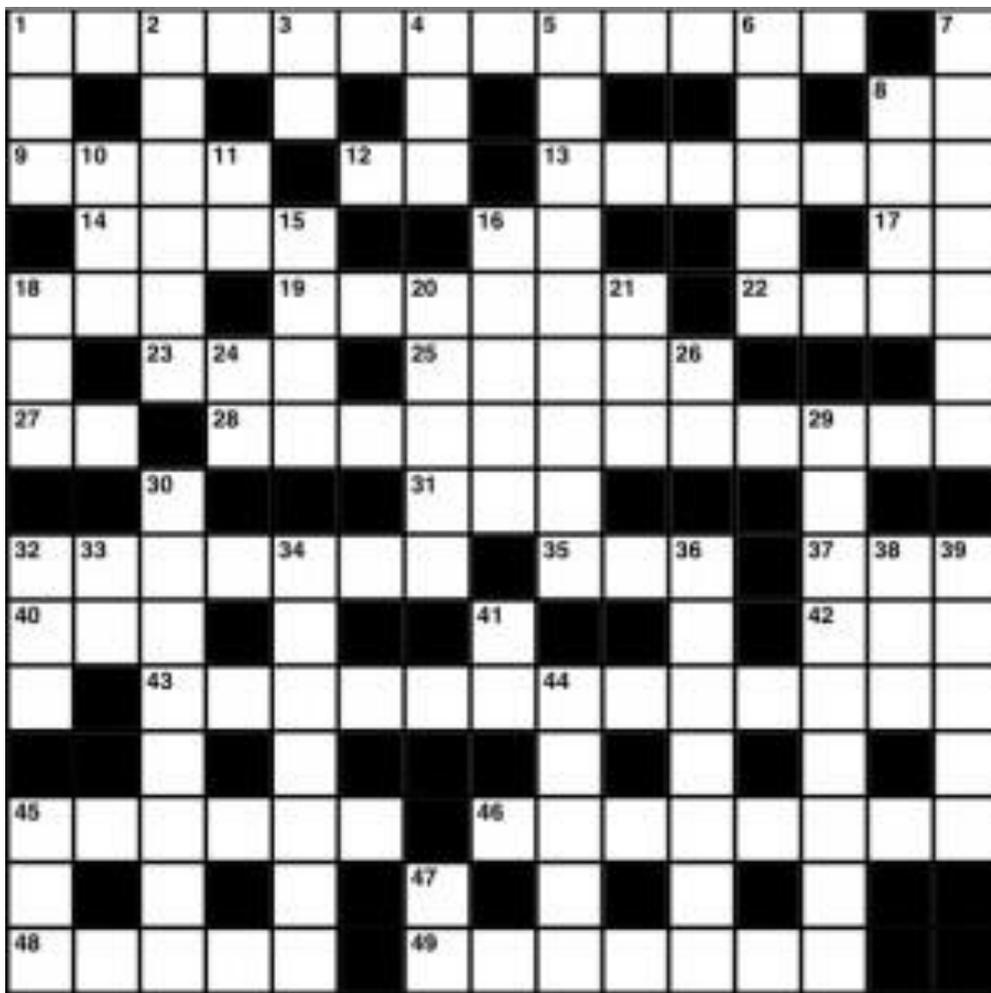
Putting aside the fact that the way the original committee was bundled out was unsavoury and unnecessary this call for donations is well worth considering.

Apart from that it is tax deductible which is a bonus if you pay tax.

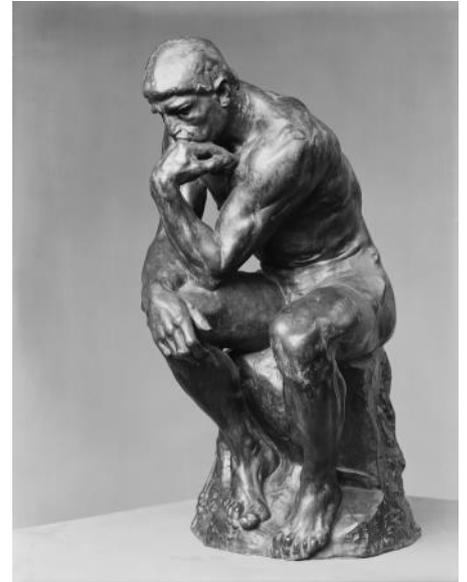
Bill.

**Michael's Pandemic boredom breaker No 1 solution.**





# Michael's Pandemic boredom Breaker No 2.



## ACROSS

1. Traditionally held at the MCG. [3,5,5]
8. A truncated insect is a verb. [2]
9. A hedge fund has it but the Universe does not [4]
12. How to get wet without any tea? [2]
13. Strange: you, you and you join snail but I leave in a mess. [7]
14. Shakespeare's Lear muddled his way to a fact. [4]
16. 1<sup>st</sup> person singular of 'are' in the morning. [2]
17. A part of Britain across the sea. [2]
18. Sounds naughty, but is just a prefix. [3]
19. Some horrible gin is just the start. [6]
22. A confused edit, maybe a lunar effect. [4]
23. God backs a greyhound. [3]
25. No computer breaks the strict moral code. [3,2]
27. Short operation goes backwards on a river. [2]
28. Left at sea and a Queen cruises from here. [4,8]
31. East London Emporium is elegant at first. [3]
32. A déjà vu moment will do this. [7]
35. A chest support will give Eve a start. [3]
37. To catch a fist is definitely not gross. [3]
40. Eat has a mixed past. [3]
42. The water police end solid. [3]
43. The wanderers of the English League. [13]
45. Cal was named after he led the field. [6]
46. Ban Blake, he could be worth a punt. [8]
48. Shoot all over the place – much more than warm. [2,3]
49. An imbecile is one letter short of rubbish. [2,5]

## DOWN

1. A mushy pea makes a monkey out of you. [3]
2. Where your foot is, or is it even true. [6]
3. The Pope's mob. [2]
4. Sounds like a joint but are you born with it? [3]
5. Influenza needs watching. Life 'n' drum remade. [9]
6. Tessa hides her talent. [5]
7. Accept as true that an evil bee is upsetting. [7]
8. Not much music from a rubber one. [4]
10. Last bit of what a wizard does; no water left. [3]
11. Abbreviated share. [2]
15. The Log Operation Federation has a symbol. [4]
16. Ball in the net, wrapped in sago aldehyde. [1,4]
18. A gullible person arises in the spring. [3]
20. In the middle of being slain terribly. [5]
21. A Nuclear Physics Experiment, short of ten percent. [3]
24. That river in Italy goes uphill, operationally. [2]
26. Sounds like a mammal, but is a pool chemical. [2]
29. The GI bat line hides a fire risk. [9]
30. A rock guitarist with the Eagles. [3,5]
32. A sheep might butt your arm into a mess. [3]
33. He has returned home to a part of a planet. [2]
34. Let the receiver pay when you pick up the goods. [7]
36. Knock into you relatives. How stupid are you. [7]
38. Save the Planet warrior. [3]
39. Verb use descriptor is taut? [5]
41. Either but not both. Is dug up but losing an 'e'. [2]
44. Fifty-fifty with tails. Two are better than one. [5]
45. Lettuce is only part of the total cost for a salad. [3]
47. Hotel loses a letter but is never out. [2]

# FOOP History.....

I have reviewed this article and concluded that it was probably not particularly interesting to FOOPers who either were present when the events happened or were not present and probably don't have much of an interest.

As such I am terminating the series and instead will review the FOOP minutes over the years with the idea of bringing to readers attention interesting and or significant events in the 34 years the group has been in existence. We probably should consider writing a history of the group.

Meanwhile here are some pictures I have either taken or been given of our parks.

Bill



**NB., If you want to see a return of the FOOP history please advise me. If I get enough people wanting its return I will reinstate it. Its your newsletter after all.**



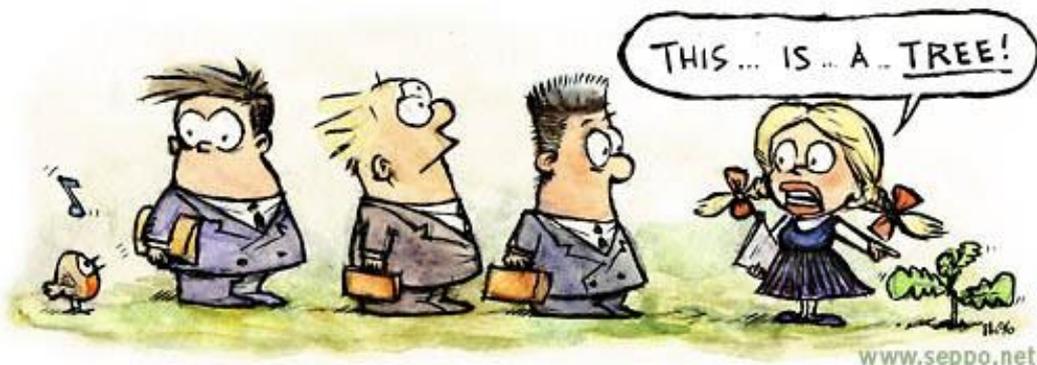
# LOOKING FOR CARERS



Last month in an effort to emphasise Ray's call for assistance in growing Twining Purslane (TP) I searched the Internet saw a photo described as TP and shamelessly copied it. Unfortunately it was the wrong purslane and a certain renowned bird photographer chastised me accordingly. Suitably mortified I am now rectifying my error and beneath are two photos obtained from reputable government departments showing the plant in question.

Bill.

PS., If it is wrong this time –tough.





# Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc

c/-27 Kym Street, Port Noarlunga South, South Australia, 5167

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**Telephone: (08) 8386 2393    Mob: 0427826721**

[www.communitywebs.org/OnkaparingaParks](http://www.communitywebs.org/OnkaparingaParks)

ABN 17 039 448 316

*Patron:* Dr. Barbara Hardy, A.O.;

## NOMINATION FORM

### FOR POSITION ON FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK INC. COMMITTEE

#### - FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2020

Positions to be elected: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer & at least four additional committee members. Total committee membership shall be no more than ten & all shall be members of the Association. Public Officer, Safety Officer & Publicity Officer are appointed by the Committee. Retiring committee members are eligible to stand for re-election without nomination.

To: Andy McKinnon, Secretary, Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc  
27 Kym Street, PORT NOARLUNGA SOUTH SA 5167

To be returned by Tuesday 27/10/2020.

POSITION: .....

NOMINEE: .....

ADDRESS: .....

SIGNED: .....

NOMINOR: .....

ADDRESS: .....

SIGNED: .....

Received: //2020

# Happy Birthday us!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**FOOP is 34 years old in 2020.**

**Being a friendly lot we are going to have a BBQ.  
All members, partners & families welcome.**



**Where: At the Chapel Hill Picnic Ground, Chapel Hill Road.**

**When: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Time: From 11.30am. Meal served at 12.30pm.**

**BBQ meat supplied.**

**Bring:**

- A sweet and savoury.
- Own Chair and Table.
- Plates & Cutlery.
- Good wine or whatever you drink.
- A pleasant disposition.

**Please contact Andy McKinnon (Mob: 0427826721) or email to [mackins@tpg.com.au](mailto:mackins@tpg.com.au) if you intend coming to assist in catering for the BBQ.**





# FOOP Subscriptions Form

**Subscriptions are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> November of each year.**

(Financial year 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October)

**New** members who join after 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**October 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 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	2	3 NP Gate 13 Gosse Road Weed control Andy 0427826721
4 Daylight Saving Begins	5 Public Holiday	6 NP Gate 20 – Springs Chapel Hill Road Weed control <u>Andy 0427826721</u> General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute	7	8 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 5pm Meet Hardy's Scrub Gate 16 Chapel Hill Road Andy 0427826721	9	10 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721
11 34 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Chapel Hill Picnic Ground 11.30am Andy 0427826721	12	13 NP Gate 10 Punchbowl Track Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	14	15 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 5pm Meet ORRP Gate 10, Commercial Road Edith 8382 1120	16	17 NP Gate cnr Franceschinis Rd & Blewitt Springs Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721
18	19	20 NP Gate 10 Punchbowl Track Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	21	22 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 5pm Meet ORNP Punch- bowl Car Park, PR Road Andy 0427826721	23	24  No working bee
25	26	27 NP Gate 21 Chapel Hill Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	28	29 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 5pm Meet Pine Road Car Park, Woodcroft Tangari Regional Park Edith 8382 1120	30	31 NP Gate 12 Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721
1	2	3 RP Gate 14 River Road Weed control <u>Andy 0427826721</u> General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute Speaker: Richard Brown Topic: River Murray Infrastructure Manage- ment	4	5 WB Location Graham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au Evening Walk 5pm Meet Willunga Rose Garden Car Park Aldinga Road Willunga Andy 0427826721	6	7 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721