



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/

Vol 33 No 9. 2020 September

President's Page

It seems the dreaded COVID19 could be with us for some time, at least that is what the public health officials are advising. As much as it is inconvenient, we must continue with social distancing at all of our activities.

Jan and I had the pleasure recently of catching up with Jodie Woof one of our previous Volunteer Support Officers [remember them?] in the Riverland. Jodie currently works with the Murraylands and Riverland landscape Board as a Senior District Officer located out of Berri. She sends her best wishes to all FOOP members.

An article in the *Advertiser* on 24th August highlighted the olive infestation of parks and reserves throughout the state but in particular in the Adelaide hills. It was suggested that NPWSSA should install boot scrubbing and hygiene stations in all parks based on the supposition that we humans are the main means of translocation of this pest plant. Evidence in our bailiwick would contradict this as feral animals and birds are the culprits here. Stomach contents of culled goats were stuffed with olives, foxes and kangaroos are observed eating the fruit, whilst the 'free the tree' endeavours our working bee teams have been engaged in clearly show birds are eating and depositing olive kernels already fertilised right under the trees.

The Tasmanian government is once again attempting to increase the amount of logging in native forests through proposed changes to that state's Regional Forest Agreement. A legal case is planned to challenge this which has been opposed both by the Federal and State governments who have unlimited resources. To read more see:

https://www.bobbrown.org.au/20_08_tgfc_public_appeal_2?utm_campaign=20_08_tgfc_app2&utm_

Recent good rainfall is aiding the establishment of our plantings for this year and with good follow-up rain should result in better biodiversity in the parks.

Graham Thomas

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroved ... We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in." — Wallace Stegner, The Sound of Mountain Water



From the Editor's Desk.



Send <u>all</u> articles *via*: billandgilll@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

There has been a discussion going on for some time about what actually constitutes a National park under the NPWS act 1972 because of Glenthorne. As recently as two days ago I read a social media discussion where Dean Nicolle commented about the validity of Glenthorne National park qualifying for the classification. I am not going to buy into that at all because I don't have all the facts as to why it was declared as it was. I agreed with Nicolle's comment that it is pleasing to see the area being developed as something. For years we have all wondered what on earth was going to happen to the large vacant area. I just wish that there was a lot more conservation and less recreation theme park ideas.

I don't know if many of you know or even care about the difference between National parks and say Recreation parks but I thought you ought to have some inkling of the differences so I copied the Park classification from the Onkaparinga River reserve management plan 2004. I chose this is because it is very easy to understand and it is the DEH official interpretation in 2004 of what each classification means. I read the NPWS Act 1972 some time ago and I think the definition as per the 2004 management plan is as per the act but as I have been told on a number of occasions I am not a lawyer and thus cannot express a legal opinion. I can express an opinion its just not a legal opinion.

What I was more interested in is the apparent lack of knowledge of the two parks with which we are involved.

We all know where they are although last months meeting gave me cause for concern that some FOOpers were not sure of the borders of the National park and the Recreation park..

The plan refers to the parks as the "Onkaparinga River Reserve" and that is a good description because both parks are defined by their relationship with the Onkaparinga river.

Originally the parks were promulgated (1985) as a single Recreation park but in 1993 they were separated.

They were not physically joined in the first place. The town of Old Noarlunga split the Gorge from the estuary. As I have stated before in that year the Onkaparinga Gorge National Park came in to being, It was reclassified because of the identification of 5 geological monuments in the Gorge area. A well known geologist; Maud McBriar, had a large part to play in that process and our Jim Trueman was also involved from memory. This reclassification made the Onkaparinga National park the second National Park in metropolitan Adelaide.

The parks are in the Adelaide metropolitan area and are about 32 kms from the CBD.

Onkaparinga Recreation park is shown (official Wiki?) as being 2.67 km² while the Gorge National Park is 15.42km². The Gorge National park is our largest metropolitan National park. In total the Onkaparinga River Reserve covers 18.09Km² which is a fair chunk of land. However, in researching this I noticed that the Management plan states that the two reserves cover an area of 18.5 km². A quick arithmetic check reveals the parks have lost some area or perhaps its just Wikiness.

I also noted that while all this information is available it is not easy to access.

And before I finish another gripe.

In the PDF for the Onkaparinga recreation park there is a reference to barges going down the river and passing through the river mouth to offload their cargo onto waiting ships. That needs to be corrected because all the ships (referred to as barges eg.,Maid of the Mill and Onkaparinga) that sailed in and out of the river in those early days travelled on to places such as Pt Adelaide, and other ports in the gulf. In addition although they were referred to as barges they were not horse drawn but sailed under their own sail. But I have bored you all with this before.

2.1 Park Classification

Parks are established for the conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage and the environmentally responsible use of our natural resources. The classification of parks provides a general statement of purpose for which the area was acquired.

Classifications under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, the Crown Lands Act 1929 or the Wilderness Protection Act 1992 are as follows:

Recreation Parks (RP) - areas of significance under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, managed for public recreation and enjoyment in a natural setting;

National Parks (NP) - areas proclaimed under the National Parks and Wildlife Act considered to be of national significance due to wildlife, natural features of the land or cultural heritage;

Conservation Parks (CP) - areas under the National Parks and Wildlife Act that are protected for the purpose of conserving wildlife or the natural or historic features of the land, where the development of visitor facilities tends to be kept to a minimum;

Game Reserves (GR) - areas set aside under the National Parks and Wildlife Act for the conservation of wildlife and the management of game at prescribed times for controlled seasonal hunting;

Regional Reserves (RR) - areas proclaimed under the National Parks and Wildlife Act for the purpose of conserving wildlife or natural or historical features while allowing responsible use of the area's natural resources (eg. mining);

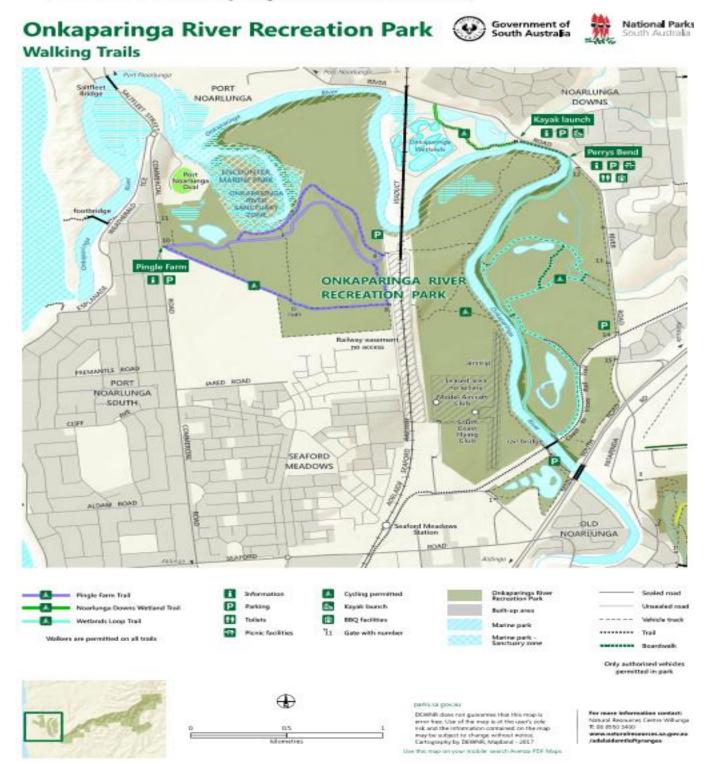
Conservation Reserves (CR) - land currently set aside for conservation of natural and cultural features under the Crown Lands Act 1929 and held under the care, control and management of the Minister for Environment and Conservation, that for various reasons were not proclaimed under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972;

Wilderness Protection Areas (WPA) - land set aside under the Wilderness Protection Act 1992 to protect natural and remote areas.

2.2 Government Policy and Legislation

When managing reserves, DEH is required under section 37 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* to have regard to, and provide actions that are consistent with the following objectives stated in the Act:

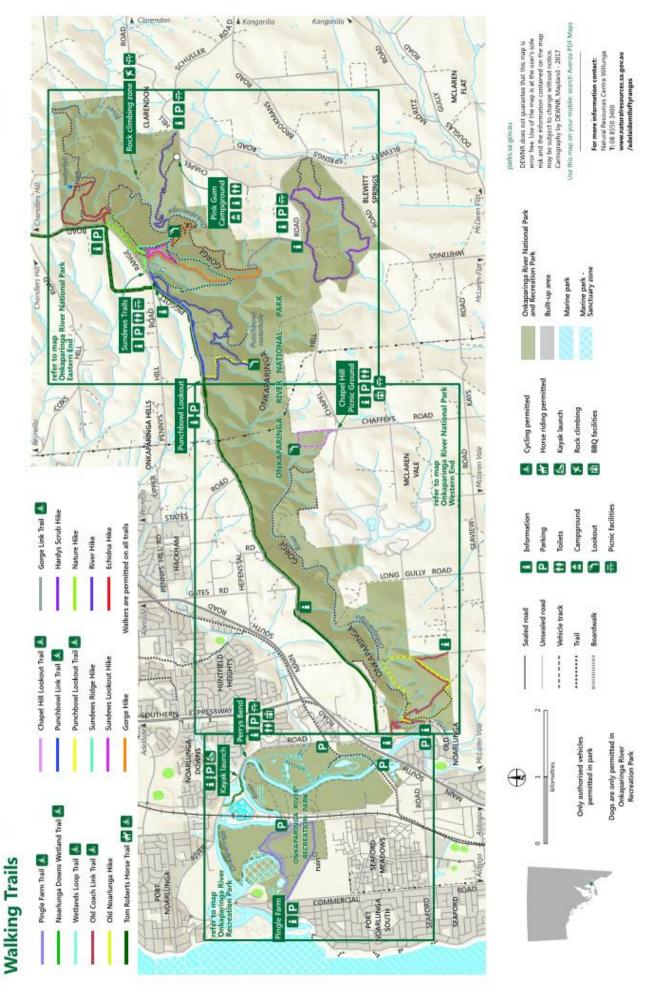
- preservation and management of wildlife;
- preservation of historic sites, objects and structures of historic or scientific interest within reserves:
- preservation of features of geological, natural or scenic interest;





Onkaparinga River National and Recreation Parks







ONKAPARINGA PARK BIRD WATCH









Australian Hobby ... Falco longipennis ... also called the Little Falcon ... (males 30 centimetres long, females are up to 35 centimetres long ... uncommon ... locally breeding August to January... usually solitary out of breeding season.

The Australian hobby, also known as the little falcon, is one of six Australian members of the family Falconidae. This predominately diurnal bird of prey derives its name 'longipennis' from its long primary wing feathers. Hobbies will often travel great distances to spend time in other regions, often hundreds of miles.

It occurs throughout Australia and other neighbouring countries with migrating individuals found on the islands of Indonesia and New Guinea. Probably more common than most people realise in the Onkaparinga Park, including me, and I have only seen them occasionally. There is also a couple of these birds I know of that live and hunt around the Colonnades Shopping Centre, and I have, on a few occasion, seen them on Beach Road.

Generally seen in lightly forested areas such as the Onkaparinga Recreation Park and associated Wetlands and open grassy areas. The one pictured above was seen hunting insects, primarily Dragonflies, over the largest open pond 1 in the Wetlands.

The Australian hobby has been recorded preying on avian species including the European Starling, House Sparrow, Rosellas, and small birds such as Silvereyes and Honeyeaters.

Research suggests they tend to avoid large, dangerous, or aggressive species that forage close to cover, such as Miners. Insects including beetles, crickets and grasshoppers, dragonflies etc also form a large part of their diet.

The hobby is a widespread and common hunter that often hunts at dusk and dawn.

Hobbies can be seen catching their prey in mid air, by direct attack from an elevated perch or in fast contour-flying, above or between tree canopies. It is acrobatic and highly manoeuvrable in the pursuit of prey and attacks fleeing birds in a series of short shallow stoops, and achieving great dive speeds, second only to the, the Peregrine Falcon in that respect. They have also been recorded using a concealed approach when attacking shorebird roosts, flying towards them behind the cover of dunes, cliffs or trees. Research has shown that Australian hobbies have one of the lowest prey-to-predator ratios (i.e., smaller prey relative to their body mass) because of the large number of insects in their diet.

Hobbies don't build their own nest, but often commandeer empty nests of other Raptors, recycling the Avian way.? Hatching of the 3 to 4 eggs is shared by both male and female and takes 35 days. However, feeding of the nestlings after hatching becomes the responsibility of the female. Early on in the nestling period the male hunting rate increases to supplement the female.

A great mixture of rain and sunshine has been a magnet for many birds in the Onkaparinga Park, more than I've seen in other recent years. Plenty of blossoms to feed on, and ample water and seeds for many of our Honeyeaters, Finches and Parrots to raise young. Shaping up be a good nesting season this year.....see you in the Park.

LOOKING FOR CARERS

First recorded in May 2000 by botanists R. Taplin and D. Murfett was Calandrinia volubilis

(Twining purslane). This is according to the record a vulnerable plant – rare and at risk from potential threats, Australia wide in the long term.

On the 20th May 2000 two small plants were discovered – they have small fleshy leaves much like a portulaca. One of the plants was rediscovered by FOOPers a few years ago (4 or 5) and a small piece (one segment) was taken by Colin Cock and to his and our surprise he was extremely successful and has now about 20 plants. Malcolm K. also has a few.

We are aware of only 2-3 small plants in the Onkaparinga Park and will increase the number shortly using Colin and Malcolm's stock. However these could be destroyed by fire or animals, so we are looking for volunteers to act as carers for a few of this rare plant. (Bit like the Wollemi pine exercise).

If you are willing to be a carer of a Calandrinia volubilis and perhaps propagate a few more, please let me know.

In the past, FOOPers have been successful in increasing the number of Acacia argyrophylla and Acacia cupularis in the park. Both of which had an endangered or rare conservation status for the Southern Lofty area.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Ray Rogers

Electronic Flora of South Australia species Fact Sheet

Family: Portulacaceae

Calandrinia volubilis

Citation: Benth., Fl. Aust. 1:174 (1863). **Synonymy:** Parakeelya volubilis

Common name: Twining purslane.

Description:

Spreading to erect annual with thickened tap root and twining flowering stems to 30 cm long; leaves mostly basal with very few on lower parts of flowering stems, alternate, sessile, lanceolate to oblanceolate, 2.5-5.5 X 0.5-1 cm.

Pedicels 2.5-7 mm long, erect and curved upwards in fruit; bracts opposite, scarious; sepals broad-ovate, 2.5-4.5 mm long, persistent; petals 5, pale- pink, broad-oblong to elliptic, 5-6 mm long, 2-3 mm wide; stamens 6-8; stigmas 3, free to the base.

Capsule narrow-ovoid, 3-valved, 5.5-7.5 mm long, about twice as long as the sepals; seeds numerous, reniform, dark-brown to black, shiny, papillate, 0.5-0.6 mm diam

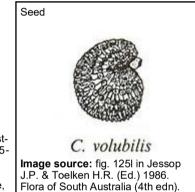
Distribution:

Appears to be restricted to Atriplex vesicaria shrublands.

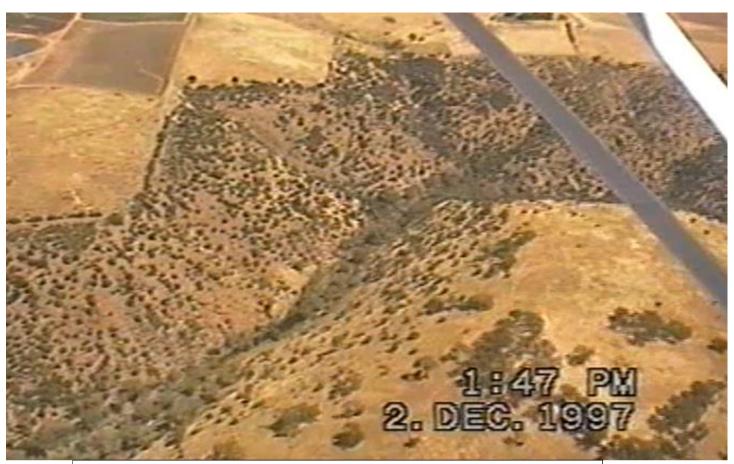
S. Aust.: GT, FR, EA, EP, MU, SL. N.S.W.; Vic.

Conservation status: native **Flowering time:** Sept. — Oct.





FOOP History.....

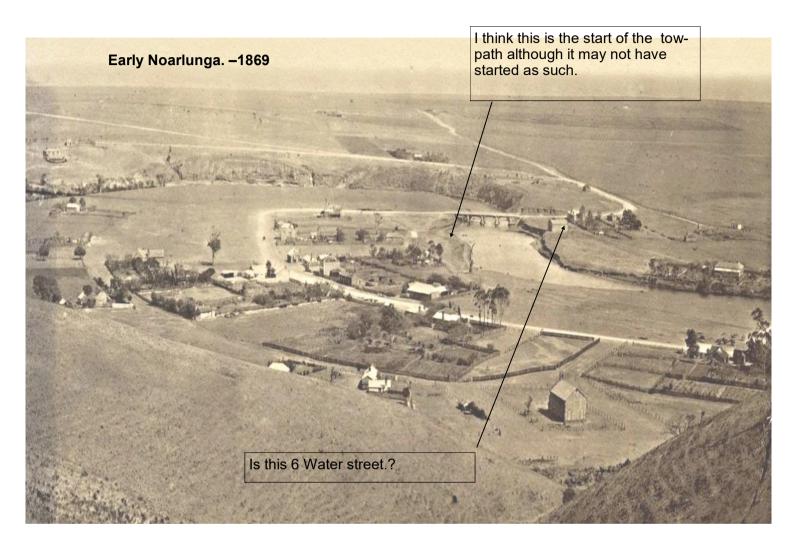


This is a picture of the park taken by me while being flown over the park in 1997—23 years ago



This is a picture of the park from Google Earth taken in 2018. I think it is in the same area (not exact) The park is a lot more green.

This is an interesting photo because it shows that by 1869 much of the area had been "civilised" and Noarlunga was a thriving agricultural district.



KNOW YOUR NATIVE GRA

Couch-like grasses Distichlis distichophylla (and other couch-like grasses)

Weed

Australian Salt-grass Distichlis distichophylla









Habit; running stem

Flower head with 5 radiating spokes.

Salt Couch Sporobolus virginicus







*Saltwater Couch Paspalum vaginatum





Distichlis distichophylla (and other couch-like grasses)

Also	known	as
Desc	ription	

Ranked leaves

Couch-like grasses

Australian Salt-grass, Emu Grass

Running grass with stems above and below ground. Leaf blades like stiff pennants along stem, open near stem but rolling inwards to tip, prickly. Leaves in 2 rows. Nodes not visible. Flower head a small flattened spike-like panide.

an ground

Key features

Stiff priddy leaves clearly ranked in 2 rows in the same plane, quite regularly spaced along stem. Flower head slightly flattened.

Height

Running grass with upright stems to 30 cm and sometimes branching. Flower heads to 40 cm high.

Salinity

May be an indicator plant for salinity and waterlogged sites.

Drought

Tolerant

Grazing

Tolerant. Low forage value due to prickliness and low digestibility. Metabolisable energy 6.5 MJ/Kg DM. Crude protein 10.2%, Digestability 37-47%. Avoid grazing waterlogged or sensitive environments (i.e. wetlands, lake edges).

Growing season

A perennial, most active in summer, flowering in late spring and summer. (C4 grass).

Distribution

MLR: Swamp and creek edges, river banks; often coastal but also inland on sand through to clay near fresh water and on saline soils. Widespread in SA. Also in NSW, Vic.

Similar looking native grasses

Salt Couch (Sporobolus virginicus) running stems, ranked leaves and habitat very similar to Australian Salt-grass. Leaves less regular, less prickly, flowerhead a thin spike-like panicle. Nodes not visible.

Rats-tail Couch (Sporobolus mitchellii) above ground running stems only, leaves alternate up stem, nodes visible, flowerhead. a thin spike-like panicle. Less common. Mainly near Murray River and lower lakes but also scattered in the hills in seasonally wet day areas.

Weed mimics

*Green Couch (Cynodon dactylon var dactylon) A lawn grass, now also found in along watercourses and disturbed sites. Similar leaves; not stiff, duller green, can be hairy. Flower head a 'windmill' of 4-6 spokes, each at least 3 cm long, radiating out from top of the stem.

*Saltwater Couch (Paspalum vaginatum) Salty wet soils. Leaves longer, thinner, alternate up stern. Flower head a 'windmill' of only 2 or 3 spokes; spoke stems wavy, with spikelets along only 1 side of each spoke.

ME	G			W			78	I S		ar						472	er
1		2		3		4			5	6		7		8			9
									10								
11									12						13		
								14						15			
16								17		18	19						
							20							21		22	
			23		24				25				26				
27					28												
									29	30		31		32			
33				34				35									
								36						37		38	
39	40	41	42			43	44					45	46			47	
48							49		50						51		
					52	53					54						
55			56					57									
		58			59		60			61	62						
							63										
64																	
																	age 10

ACROSS

- 1. Big Brother's first appearance? [8,10]
- 10. A short number is a refusal. [2]
- 11. Does the Taui Mint use this metal? [8]
- 12. See 24 Down.
- 14. A rude suggestion for the Foreign Office. [2]
- 15. A duck cannot do one, so some folk say. [4]
- 16. A sea creature that rows? [7]
- 17. Demo testers show their feelings. [5]
- 20. A tributary that eats? [6]
- 21. Futon contains a meat substitute. [4]
- 23. Boob hammock, less a backward Arab. [3]
- 25. Pre-decimal weight. [3]
- 26. Weighs 200mg, but sounds like root veg. [5]
- 27. Shakespearian King or a bent smile. [4]
- 28. A cushion between joint bones. [5]
- 29. How you could see 28. [4,5]
- 33. Sorts out seat grime and leaves the country. [9]
- 36. Rep applicant hides the product he will sell. [5]
- 37. Could be neat or it could erupt. [4]
- 39. English cricket captain from South Africa. [5]
- 43. Cleopatra's snake could reform as a bath. [3]
- 45. Snake of the sea. [3]
- 47. King George. [2]
- 48. Explore Rio Town to find a violent disturbance. [4]
- 49. They used to be called old. [4]
- 52. Shepherd's hut or a humpy perhaps. [5]
- 54. How it all began, probably. [3,4]
- 55. Sounds like a fruit but is two of a kind. [4]
- 57. Electrical engineer. [2]
- 58. Eastern, but all at sea is as close as you get. [7]
- 61. Lay as I am. Reform as a Country. [8]
- 63. Old Testament. [2]
- 64. Very noisy LSD user. [10, 8]

DOWN

- 1. American Magazine for the waiting room. [8.10]
- 2. Everything that man has not messed with. [6]
- 3. A more tart taste or a Moroccan City. [7]
- 4. Flightless bird. [3]
- 5. Shake up ex coin mat why we have no coin. [6,3]
- 6. A gazelle or an Indian State. [3]
- 7. A hawker could be a confused red rat. [6]
- 8. To sack is rife about now. [4]
- 9. Mao's foot soldiers. [13,5]
- 13. A farm vehicle with front removed is a player. [5]
- 14. Half a coffee still has a price. [3]
- 18. A meter for kilometres. [3]
- 19. Net cast upside down gets only this number. [3]
- 20. The castle at Corfe has Yoda's power inside. [5]
- 21. Thank you. [2]
- 22. Football Association. [2]
- 23. Boast about your skill in a card game. [4]
- 24 and 12 Across. Magical incantation. [4,7]
- 26. Maximum salary level in sport. [3]
- 30. Much more than a drip reformed. [5]
- 31. Days of old. [4]
- 32. To be on the back foot? {4}
- 34. To falsify an election is not all right. [3]
- 35. It's the gap that confused the Italian worm. [9]
- 38. National Guard. [2]
- 40. Religious Instruction. [2]
- 41. A red crystalline powder. [5]
- 42. Neither male nor female. [2]
- 44. A name or an upside down faucet. [3]
- 46. Lots of people live there, and Glen is confused. [7]
- 50. Sounds like I am in the middle of a storm. [3]
- 51. Trouble with wild lashes. [6]
- 53. The singular substance in the middle of bones. [3]
- 56. The Oder River flows backwards. Repeat [4]
- 59. Largest public hospital in Adelaide. [3]
- 60. The boy is only part of a person. [3]
- 62. The car goes around part of a circle and is broken. [3]



FOOP Subscriptions Form

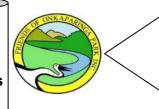


Subscriptions are due on the 1st November of each year. (Financial year 1st November to 31st October) **New** members who join after 1st September are covered for the year following. Please accept my/our new/renewal subscription. (refer EFT payment method below) Name(s):.... Address:.... Telephone No......Mob No..... Email address..... Please indicate if you would like to receive notices by email No Yes Please indicate if you would like to receive newsletter by email No Yes Please indicate if you would still like to receive newsletter by post No Yes 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 PARKS INC September 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	Wednes- day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 NP Gate 20 – Springs Chapel Hill Road Weed control Andy 0427826721 General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute	2	3 WB Location Gra- ham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	4	5 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721
6	7	8 NP Gate 6 (west of Hepenstal Road) Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	9	10 WB Location Gra- ham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	11	12 NP Gate 19 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721
13	14	15 NP Gate 10 Punchbowl Track Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	16	17 WB Location Gra- ham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	18	19 NP Gate 21 Chapel Hill Road Weed control Andy 0427826721
20	21	22 NP Gate 10 Punchbowl Track Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	23	WB Location Gra- ham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	25	26 No working bee
27	28	29 NP Gate 7a – The Knoll Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 0427826721	30	1 WB Location Gra- ham 0417802112 vk5gct@adam.com.au	2	3 NP Gate 13 Gosse Road Weed control Andy 0427826721
4 Daylight Saving Begins	5 Public Holi- day	6 NP Gate 20 – Springs Chapel Hill Road Weed control Andy 0427826721 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 Andy 0427826721	9	10 NP Gate 18 Whitings Road Hardy's Scrub Weed control Andy 0427826721

Happy Birthday Us!!!!!!!!

\$\frac{34}{34}\$\

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 11th 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 if you intend coming to assist in catering for the BBQ.

