

FRIENDS of the GREAT VICTORIA DESERT PARKS

Newsletter Number 34, August 2008

Footsteps in the Flinders: FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM - OLD WILPENA STATION, FLINDERS RANGES 16 - 17 August, 2008.

Around 250 'Friends of Parks' attended the forum in the Flinders Ranges during August. The keynote address given by Dr Victor Gostin provided a fascinating insight into the fossil record of the flinders Ranges. Other speakers included Arthur Coulthard who spoke on the Adnyanathana Story, DEH staff who provided updates on various programs and projects and Frank Williams Tony Bott and Bill McIntosh who provided entertaining insights into local colourful characters and pastoralists of the past and present.

Excursions on both afternoons included the choice of: The Appealinna Saga; Follow the Mail Run; Wonders of Brachina and Aroons; Two special gorges; Farming the Pond; Aboriginal Art and History; Walk Old Wilpena Homestead and The Geological Trail provided opportunities for photography, history and friendship.

Thanks go to the Friends of the Flinders Ranges for providing such a well organised, friendly and successful forum.



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ST KILDA OUTING

Come for a walk among the mangroves and a picnic at 10am on Sunday October 19 then enjoy a picnic in the recreational area nearby.

Bring your own everything.

Doug Smith and Heather Woods on duty at the Friends of the Great Victoria Desert Display stand at the Friends of Parks Forum 16 - 17 August, 2008 at Old Wilpena Station, Flinders Ranges.

President: Bill Dowling arbill@internode.on.net, 08 8339 6562

Vice President/Secretary: Neville Hudson nhudson@senet.com.au

Treasurer: Shelagh Bond jameshe@bigpond.com

Membership fees are \$20 pa payable to Treasurer, Unit 12, 108 Fendon Road, SALISBURY 5108 S.AUST. on 1st January of each year.

Newsletter Editor: Jan Forrest OAM - forrestjan@adam.com.au

Articles for newsletter may be posted to Editor, Friends of the Great Victoria Desert, C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000

Meetings: three meetings are held annually in the Camden Community Centre, 7 Carlisle Street, CAMDEN PARK.

Website: www.fgvd.org.au



President's Report - Bill Dowling



It was good to see several new members at our June general meeting. Welcome to Rosemary and Gordon, Johann and Gaynor, Michael and Julia, and Neil and Shelagh. Four of the new members will be taking part in this year's working bee. It's also good that such a small group now has two Shelaghs, both with the proper spelling.

Neville Hudson, Peter Facy and Ian Jackson have the working bee well in hand. Given the exorbitant cost of fuel, I believe that our working bee participants should be financially supported by DEH and I am investigating the Volunteer Support Grant as a means of achieving this. I have also approached the Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA about supporting their monitoring of vegetation regrowth following mining exploration activity.

We now have 2000 more copies of our excellent field guide, Shrubs and Trees of the GVD, available for sale. Please contact Doug Smith at dougsmith@picknowl.com.au or on 08 8268 4625 if you can help with sales or distribution, particularly if you are travelling around the country and could take copies for sale with you. The price is \$10.00 retail, with a 40% discount for wholesale sales.

Our Information Sheet has been re-written and placed on the website. It is aimed at travellers in the desert and at attracting new members. It includes information about the Friends, an application form, our web address, our interpretive self-drive tour and a small map. It will be updated as necessary and you can print the latest version from the website and make photocopies to hand out on your travels. To provide more general information, the Mamungari management plan proposes that DEH develop an information package for the park. We have offered to help with this.

To publicise our group, Jan Forrest took our display to the ABC Car Park Caper. I was guest speaker at the Port Augusta Australian Plants Society (APS) meeting on June 4 and I have a similar gig at the Gawler branch of the APS in August. This illustrated talk is called Sophisticated Shrubs – Plant Survival in SA's Deserts. I give it as president and I would be happy to do it for other groups in which members are involved. It's good publicity and I can sell the book.

We are affiliated with Friends of Parks Inc (FOP) and I attended the FOP AGM at Farrell Flat where David Mitchell became the new president. The 2008 FOP Forum at Wilpena in August sounds interesting. Doug Smith and Heather Woods will be our official representatives and will be taking our display with them. Please consider attending and giving Doug and Heather a hand. Jan Forrest has kindly agreed to represent us on the 2009 FOP Forum Steering Committee.

A new DEH draft vehicle access policy is available for comment. It seems to be a commonsense document about managing vehicles in our parks. FOP has been extensively involved in its development. Have a look at the document and let me know if you think we need to provide additional comment:

www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks/visitorinformation/latest/index.htm

Don't forget our website – it is regularly updated and you can see the most recent working bee news, social events, correspondence lists, committee decisions and meeting minutes (minutes are also emailed or posted to all members).



A Western Myall, *Acacia papyocarpa*, seen at sunset.

As John Zwar, the guest speaker at our June meeting told us, this native of the GVD is the symbol of Port Augusta's Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden.

John is the president of the Friends group which established this garden and his talk was greatly appreciated by all present.

Living with Wildlife

FIRST AID FOR SNAKE BITE (2007)

(requirement - 3 wide crepe bandages)

Principle

Injected venom is mainly distributed via the body's lymphatic system, which is heavily influenced by patient movement. Decreased victim movement = decreased venom distribution. Recent medical research shows that the speed of application of an effective pressure-immobilisation bandage & splinting influences patient outcome and survivability.

1. Ensure that patient (& other people) are no longer at risk
2. Reassure patient. Encourage to lie down and keep still – where possible keep the heart higher than the bite area
 - a. It is critical that bitten part and patient do not move
3. First aid must be started immediately
 - a. Do not ignore a trivial bite, especially if suspected from a Brown Snake
4. Contact Ambulance emergency number – 000 (unless in outback areas)
 - a. Follow professional advice regarding transport of patient
5. Do not interfere with bite in any way – do not wipe or wash skin, do not apply tourniquet, chemicals or suction devices
6. Remove all jewellery from bitten limb
7. Keep limb still until bandage and splint applied
8. Apply crepe bandage with even pressure
 - a. Start at extremity and work up arm or leg
 - b. Include fingers or toes to minimise movement
 - c. Be careful not to apply bandage too loosely
 - d. Use same pressure as to bandage a sprained wrist or ankle
 - e. Mark location of bite on bandage (for venom detection in hospital)
9. Bandage over clothing or cut up seam to allow access to skin
10. Patient must remain still. Bring transport to patient if possible
11. Immobilise limb with splint or improvise as necessary
 - a. Ensure that joints (or arm or leg) are effectively immobilised
 - b. Use second bandage to keep splint in place
12. Monitor airway, breathing and circulation and support as necessary
13. No food or drink except sips of water (only on victim's request)
14. Patient must be transported quickly and passively to hospital (preferably by ambulance)
15. Where possible, let paramedics be in total charge of extrication planning. Better to stay quiet and let them arrange transport

(Based upon information from Clinical Toxicology Short Course 2005, Toxicology Resources website – www.toxicology.com, and advice from Chris Cotton, Intensive Care Paramedic, South Australian Ambulance Service, February 2007).



Red-bellied Black Snake *Pseustes porphyracus*
 Photo: Peter Robertson
 Museum of Victoria

CLUB OUTING TO ST.KILDA

All members, prospective members and friends are invited to St Kilda (north of Adelaide - off the Port Wakefield Rd) for a walk among the mangroves and a picnic. This will be a good time to catch up on how things went at the working bee.

Meet at the start of the St Kilda Mangrove Trail at 10am on Sunday October 19. We will do the walk (entry fee is \$6.90 or \$5.90 concession) and then enjoy a picnic in the recreational area nearby.

Bring your own everything.

COOKS CORNER

HOT COALS NACHOS

Ingredients

1 Pack Corn Chips (your choice)
 BBQ Sauce
 Steak, snags any leftover meat
 Grated Cheese
 Sour cream (optional)

Method

Spread Corn chips in (heavy) fry pan over coals
 Scatter meat over corn chips
 Add cheese and bbq sauce to taste
 Try placing a piece of foil over frypan with a few coals to help cheese melt
 Serve with sour cream if you have it

RHUBARB CAKE

Ingredients

60gms butter
 250gms soft brown sugar
 2 eggs
 300 gms plain flour
 1 tspn Bi Carb
 1 tspn cinnamon
 pinch of salt
 250gms sour cream
 500gms chopped rhubarb
 grated rind of 1 lemon (20mm cubes)

Method

Melt butter, add sugar, eggs and sour cream
 Beat well.
 Add sifted flour, bi-carb salt, cinnamon, lemon rind and rhubarb
 Mix until well combined.
 Place in greased springform tin.
 Bake at 150 deg c for 1hr 20 mins in fan forced or 180deg c for 1hr 30min
 Serve warm with cream/ice cream/both or allow to cool and slice normally also excellent to freeze.
 I slice and then wrap and freeze individual slices or slabs to cut later.

Thanks to Shelagh Bond for your contribution

'The Link' Friends of Parks e-News

To request to be notified by email of the release of editions email Volunteer Support Unit at DEHVolunteers@saugov.sa.gov.au

Training Opportunities

Please remember that training in a variety of areas is available to financial members. In most cases, the training is free and many of our members have picked up valuable skills in fields as diverse as chemical handling and four-wheel driving. Information on what is available can be found at the Friends of Parks website at www.communitywebs.org/FriendsofParks/ If you don't use the internet, please contact Bill Dowling on 08 8339 6562 for any recent training notices which have been sent to us.

The most recent invitation was for "Manual Handling for DEH Volunteers", otherwise known as "Whoops ... there goes my back!". Other oportunites include Safe Chemical Handling, Manual Handling and Bush for Life Workshops. Contact Pam Smith at the Volunteer Support Unit on 08 8124 4784 or smith.pamela@saugov.sa.gov.au for more information. As some courses are limited to only one person from each Friends Group please contact President Bill to register your interest and receive information on further training opportunities or check out our website see address below.

Friends of Parks / DEH Memorandum of Understanding

The MoU between DEH and FOP is being reviewed. If you would like a copy of the existing MoU or have suggestions for change please contact FGVD President Bill Dowling or President of Friends of Parks David Mitchell on dm_mitchell@bigpond.com.

our website address: www.fgvd.org.au

HELP PROTECT THE BIRDS OF THE FLEURIEU!

By purchasing some 'Birds of the Fleurieu' greeting cards from supporter Elizabeth Steel-Colling from clifftop Creations.

45 different cards are available for \$3ea plus postage. An order form is available from editor Jan Forrest or email Elizabeth on seawings@waitpingacliffs.com to receive order form and images of all the cards which are available.

Proceeds from card sales go towards a habitat restoration project at Sea Wings at Waitpinga Cliffs on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Right: some of the available cards

The next International Volunteers Day will be held on 5th December, 2008.



PROFILE - SHELAGH BOND

Treasurer, Friends of the Great Victoria Desert

Born in 1952 grew up in the riverland on a fruitblock across the river from Berri.

An ideal childhood running free only being at home for meals but of course there were the slave times when we were tied to helping cut fruit and prune vines. Earliest memories were probably the '56 flood - rowing out of our home and leaving it for 10 months.

Travel bug developed after training as a nurse in Berri & Q.E.Hospitals respectively. Lived and worked in Perth, Melbourne and Broken Hill before heading overseas for 18 months. Travelled through Scandinavia, Russia, Europe and also lived on a Kibbutz in Israel for 3 months. During this period I also met Jim through mutual friends.



Since marriage we've lived and worked in Plymouth, U.K. Sydney and Adelaide. One adult son now lives in Japan. For many years have been travelling the more arid areas of Australia, collected all the corners, lots of tracks and still a lot of trips to dream of doing.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Application deadline for **Urban Forests Million Trees Program** for 2009 is 30 September, 2008. Guidelines and Applications may be found at www.milliontrees.sa.gov.au or email info@urbanforest.on.net.

Volunteer Support Fund Grants close on Monday 13 October, 2008. Application forms and Guidelines available on www.ofv.sa.gov.au.

Australia Post Community Development Grants close on 19th September, 2008 for information visit www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=9.

AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

Network Ten - Telstra Awards to recognise local projects / champions for the environment. Prizes are awarded monthly. Applications close on the last Friday of every month. Further information http://ten.com.au/tv_environmentawards.html

The Conservation Council of South Australia is calling for nominations for the **Jill Husdon Award for Environmental Protection**. The award recognises an outstanding contribution to the environment by a South Australian during 2007. Nominations may be made through the website www.ccsa.asn.au and close on 19th September, 2008.

NATIVE PLANTS help fight implant infection by *Geraldine Hinter*

Reproduced with permission from UniSA News.

Every year about two million people are treated for infections associated with surgical implants and biomedical devices such as catheters, orthopaedic implants and contact lenses at a cost of more than \$11 billion in the United States alone.

As bacterial infections colonise and grow on the surfaces of implants and biomedical devices, a biofilm layer develops and forms a protective barrier over the bacteria, making it difficult to eradicate by administering antibiotics. Worldwide, considerable research efforts to develop antibacterial coatings that address infections on biomedical devices and implants have failed to find an effective solution to date.

A team of UniSA researchers, led by Prof. Hans Griesser, Deputy Director of the Ian Wark Research Institute, has identified a new route towards infection-resistant coatings on biomedical devices by using novel antibacterial chemicals extracted from native plants. Experiments have shown that coatings of the chemical prevented bacterial colonisation and growth on materials.....

Research Fellow at UniSA’s Sansom Institute, Dr. Susan Semple led the project to extract and identify antibacterial compounds from Australian plants of the genus *Eremophila* using plant material collected from gardens or the wild, with permits. *Eremophila* refers to “desert loving”, and these plants prefer dry and arid areas. Some *Eremophila* species growing in arid areas of Australia are used in traditional Aboriginal medicine. “As little was known about the active chemicals in these plants, we looked at the whole range of different species of *Eremophila*, before focusing on plants with a protective resin coating on their leaves, which we believed could be antibacterial,” Dr. Semple said.....

“Some of our research was guided by Aboriginal medicine and an important part of my work has been working with indigenous people”, Dr. Semple said. “But we are

not trying to take their medicines and patent them. Our research focuses on the biomedical application in terms of surface coatings, which is quite different to traditional uses. “We would like to involve indigenous communities in establishing and managing the cultivation of the *Eremophila* species on farms in remote communities and inland” Dr. Semple said.

“We are patenting a possible solution to implant infections based on encouraging preliminary results and have estimated a two-year timeline to obtain definitive results on the effectiveness of these compounds which applied to several different types of biomedical devices,” she said.



Eremophila denticulata trisulcata. (web pic)

DIARY DATES

MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING: Friday 7th November, 2008 at Camden Community Centre, 7 Carlisle Street, CAMDEN PARK at 7.30. Guest Speaker will be Rob Langley from Dept. Primary Industries and Resources. Rob works on the rehabilitation of desert areas following mining company activity.

CLUB OUTING

To St.Kilda. Meet at the start of the St Kilda Mangrove Trail at 10am on Sunday October 19. We will do the walk (entry fee is \$6.90 or \$5.90 concession) and then enjoy a picnic in the recreational area nearby.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Dowling	President	08 8339 6562
Neville Hudson	Vice President/Secretary	08 8556 6782
Shelagh Bond	Treasurer	08 8258 0934
Doug Smith	Marketing	08 8268 4625
Jan Forrest OAM	Editor	08 8297 8230

WEB LINKS

DEH information on Mamungari Conservation Park:
<http://www.parks.sa.gov.au/mamungari/index.htm>

Friends of Great Victoria Desert: www.fgvd.org.au