FRIENDS OF PARKS INC
VOLUNTEERS WORKING FOR CONSERVATION

BANDICOOT TAILS

Newsletter of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

No. 42, May, 1999

The President's Words: Some very good news with which to start this month's "Tails". John Butler and I were weeding in an area not well known to us so a "recce" ensued. Some yells from John soon afterwards did not, this time, mean he'd measured his height in a new waterhole. He had, however, found a group of large and healthy Derwentia derwentiana. Despite being surrounded by blackberries these plants (which are endangered state-wide) have managed to survive where most other species associated with this more shaded and cooler aspect have been swamped. A more extensive search of this area will follow shortly. The bonus on the way out was to find nearby a large area of the rare Stipa mulleri, a spear grass. Over a metre tall, and forming dense clumps, it is a very attractive grass indeed. The name Bushrat Creek for this area seems apt as I saw one of the little rodents as we left.

The S.A. Mammal Club's bandicoot survey in the park will be over the weekend of the 15th.-16th. of May and anyone wishing to take part is welcome. If you've ever wondered what high density living is "flea style" looks like wait till you see a bandicoot handled. See programme for time and location details.

Closing date for questions for the Pinnaroo Friends Forum is July 1st. We would appreciate any suggestions, concerns or issues you would like aired.

We are taking part in the World Environment Day celebrations on Saturday, 5th. June, at Belair National Park. We are having a stall selling nest boxes as well as spreading the word with our photographic display, brochures and, best of all, ourselves.

Our last Tuesday working bee accounted for a large amount of gorse, boneseed and broom south of the top of Cup Gum Track above Blackwater Dam. Sunday's group concentrated on a widespread population of boneseed on the eastern side of Currawong ridge, near the Cup Gum junction. This was followed by the recently instituted 4th. Monday of month working bee, which saw five of us, including a badly tennis elbowed Peter Charles, (as an experienced weeder, two arms are almost surplus to his needs anyway) spend our time in Viminaria Creek where more of the endangered fern Hypolepis has been uncovered in both the willow area and now in the creek line where blackberries once dominated. The return of native plant species to the once almost barren ground beneath the now dead willows has been quite dramatic, with over a dozen species establishing in a relatively short space of time.

Bob Bates' earlier work on blackberry in Fox Bog is now really showing good results as are his present efforts on the N.Z. flax (now all gone) and several other exotics. As with Viminaria Creek, the natural regeneration of this area, Mackereth and Scott Creeks will no doubt provide us with much interest in the years to come. Finally the list of projects in this issue was originally requested by DEHAA's Biodiversity + Planning Department for their current Biological Inventory of the Mt. Lofty Ranges. I think it makes interesting reading.

One item we forgot to include is the very extensive research being done at present by Marie Steiner. Sorry Marie, blame me – we will pass this information on soon.

May Programme Details:

13th., business meeting at John Butler's residence, 5 Trevelyan Court, Coromandel Valley, at 7.30 pm.
15th./16th. Bandicoot Survey will be held this year at gate 3. Times are as follows:
Saturday, 15th. May. – 1.00 /1.30 pm.
Sunday, 16th. May - 7.45am/8.00am. Interested members could start of the Sunday by helping the bandicooteers and then moving on to our working bee! So far 37 bandicoots have been microchipped and released, following the clearance work along Scott Creek.
16th. Working bee, meet at Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
22nd./23rd. Bird banding at Gate 9 site, 7.00am. If weather is chancy, contact Don Reid
24th. Monday working bee, meet at Almanda Mine, 9.00am.

June Programme Details:

1st. Tuesday working bee, meet Almanda Mine 9.00am
5th./6th. Bird banding at Gate 3 crossroads site, 7.00 am. Remarks on weather apply.
10th. General meeting, speaker Ann Prescott on Grasslands. Present information is that meeting will be at Coromandel valley primary School at 7.30 pm.
13th. Sunday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
28th. Monday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.

From The Last Meeting:
Possible outings for members have been discussed and some possibilities are listed below.

Trip to Melrose/Mt. Remarkable: Four cabins have been booked for the weekend of 11th. and 12th September, with optional days either side for those who can take the time off. Bookings first come, first served. Contact Don or Tom.

A possible trip to the Gluepot Station north of Waikerie could be made after the Friends Forum at Pinnaroo on August 13th., 14th., 15th. John Butler is gathering information on this for next meeting.

A possible visit to the Adelaide Zoo. They hold a "Behind The Scenes" tour on the 5th Sunday of every month. Tour costs $8 and bookings are essential.

For those who have not yet paid for 1999, subscriptions are now due ($5 individual or family). Please forward to John Thompson.

Any queries on Friends activities, please contact your office bearers.

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FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

PROGRAMME FOR 1999

Month	Date	Event
May	13th.	Business meeting, J. Butler's residence, Coromandel Valley
	15th. – 16th.	Bandicoot Survey, Gate 3 (see times in newsletter)
	16th.	Sunday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	22nd. – 23rd.	Bird banding, at gate 9 site, 7.00 am.
	24th.	Monday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
June	1st.	Tuesday Working Bee; meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	5th.	Belair N.P. – World Environment Day stall
	5th. – 6th.	Bird banding at Gate 3 crossroads, 7.00 am.
	10th.	General meeting , speaker Ann Prescott
	13th.	Sunday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	28th.	Monday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
July	6th.	Tuesday Working Bee; meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	11th.	Sunday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	26th.	Monday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
August	3rd.	Tuesday Working Bee; meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	12th.	Business meeting
	15th.	Sunday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	29th.	Adelaide Bushwalkers planting and/or weeding
September	7th.	Tuesday Working Bee; meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	9th.	General meeting with speaker
	12th.	Sunday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	18th – 19th.	Bird banding
October	5th.	Tuesday Working Bee; meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	14th.	Business meeting
	17th.	Sunday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	23rd. – 24th.	Bird banding
November	2nd.	Tuesday Working Bee; meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	11th.	Annual General Meeting, 7.30 pm.
	14th.	Sunday working bee, meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	20th. – 21st.	Bird banding
December	7th.	Tuesday Working Bee; meet Almanda Mine, 9.00 am.
	12th.	Propagation Day, 9.00 am at Thompson's residence
	17th.	Christmas function

PROJECTS CURRENTLY BEING UNDERTAKEN IN SCOTT CREEK CONSERVATION PARK BY THE FRIENDS GROUP AND NATIONAL PARKS

1. Restoration of Viminaria Creek and bog. Mainly blackberry, Erica and Nightshade eradication. Willows ring-barked and poisoned.
2. Boneseed, broom, bridal creeper and gorse eradication by the Friends Group is ongoing in many areas of the Park.
3. Fern Gully :- Blackberry eradication by Friends Group and Parks contract sprayer
4. Creekline on north side of Greenhood track (Derwentia Creek) being cleared of blackberry, olive and erica etc. Initially the blackberries were slashed by a Parks contractor, then the regrowth sprayed by the Friends.
5. Blackberries on the south side of Greenhood track sprayed down to the southern park boundary.
6. Blackberry control by Friends Group along many small tributaries and where plants of conservation significance occur.
7. Pine trees and olives removed by friends whenever they are discovered.
8. Acacia longifolia eradication south of Gurr Road over the past four years. Nearly completed (Friends).
9. John Butler has recorded the grid references of the known locations of weed infestations and plants of conservation significance in a database. This is continually being updated.
10. Plant search and plant list update ongoing by Bob Bates, Tom Hands John Butler and the Herbarium.
11. Restoration and weed eradication started in Fox Bog (Friends).
12. Flagging and monitoring the only known small population of Phebalium hillebrandii in the park (Friends).
13. Bird banding and recording numbers and changes over the past 10 years. (Don Reid and Friends)
14. Scott Creek:- Willow and blackberry removal by National Parks contractor Jason Carter funded by a $50,000 grant from the OCWMB.
15. Ongoing fox baiting by National Parks staff
16. Continuing Monadenia control in areas where control is achievable and it threatens native species
17. Involvement in mammal and reptile surveys jointly with FNSA Inc, the mammal club and Belair Rangers.
18. Search and monitoring of the endangered orchids, Caladenia rigida, C. behrii and C. gladiolata with Doug Bicketon of SGAP.
19. Field workshops in Park to increase friends knowledge of plants.
20. Revegetation of cleared areas of park using plants propagated in tubes from local seed (Friends group)
21. Direct seeding of larger cleared areas by Parks.