

Bandicoot Tails

Newsletter of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

No. 140, July - August, 2011

President's Words: Earlier last month FOSCCP took part in one of the World Environment Day's events at Belair National Park. Along with other groups we displayed numerous beautiful photos, including birds taken very recently by Les, and generally engaged with the public. This, in large part, was an attempt to lure people from the trance-like state during the football and cricket seasons to far more worthwhile pursuits. The weather was fairly lousy and attendance was low but there were a couple of "hopefuls" and quite a few bird brochures were sold too. My thanks to Jenny for persevering on the day. Thanks again to Jenny and Sue for joining me at the last Stirling Market to continue with the promotion of the bird brochures and the Friends in general. We were approached by quite a few others who are keen to conserve our indigenous flora and fauna and imparted some of our hard-earned knowledge, so it was a successful day. However next time some fake vegan dishes in bandicoot mould dishes might be used to lure those that got away.

Although winter rains have thwarted bird banding on several occasions this year, the working bees have been more fortunate with erica and boneseed regrowth and one of the newer nasties, *Kunzea ericoides*, being targeted. Looking uncannily like any other tea-tree, this interstate interloper had established a firm toe-hold near Gate 5. We believe the majority has now been found and removed and a scan of the area every year will now be added to the list. It is prominent along Mt Bold Rd and has no doubt spread from there.

Below is a letter from the Chief Executive responding to Friends of Parks Inc's President, David Mitchell. I have to say that it does not fill me with optimism for the future of our biodiversity where concerted and prolonged efforts are required. Despite all the Government rhetoric expressing concern and commitment to the environment, DENR always seem to be first in the firing line for budget cuts. Despite the topics in the letter being discussed innumerable times over many years, to see the statement "DENR is currently reviewing its priorities to focus on what's most important..." leads me to wonder how many more times are we going to see this need to re-invent the wheel. If, as they say on their web site, "(DENR) is responsible for managing South Australia's world-

class system of land-based and marine parks,” that should be enough of a brief to start off with.

Most of the concerns we have expressed over the years relate to the perceived undervaluing of our parks for their biodiversity values alone. Whilst some of our largest and most diverse parks groan under the weight of exotic species, they will never be “world class”. Given the Government's current attitude, there is no reason to believe that the revenue from the desired doubling of visitor numbers to our parks would contribute another cent toward protecting our parks.

As you will see in the programme, we are holding a spring walk in September. We want to encourage as many locals as possible to come along (yes, with an ulterior motive), so please think about who you could ask. We will also advertise it prominently on the web site.

The indefatigable John Butler is going to be temporarily “fatigable,” as a spot of open heart surgery to replace a valve is about to intervene. I know I speak for everyone when I wish him our best and a very speedy recovery. I’m hoping a large bunch of pink and white erica next to his bed will assist in this process. At the very least they should increase his heart rate.

Note: The letter from Allan Holmes is appended to the back of this ‘Tails’

Bird Banding: The wet part of the year is impacting on our banding operations with most weekends being too wet to carry out any work. However, look at the programme to see our next dates.

One thing that always comes around at this time of the year is the reporting of our work to ABBBS in Canberra. I have completed the listing of our captures for the last 12 months and show them below. We netted 434 birds in this period, including 80 recaptures and 22 species. The recapture figure of 18.4% is a little above our average, which sits at about 15%. The species in the list are a good cross-section of our avian community, with some exceptions, such as the parrots and birds of prey.

RAOU NO.	SPECIES	No. of new captures	No. of recaptures
326	Sacred Kingfisher	2	
338	Fantailed Cuckoo	1	
342	Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo	1	
361	Grey Fantail	6	
380	Scarlet Robin	11	1
408	Grey Shrikethrush	2	
398	Golden Whistler	12	4
470	Striated Thornbill	37	11
475	Brown Thornbill	12	2
484	Buffrumped Thornbill	6	3
488	Whitebrowed Scrubwren	18	15

529	Superb Fairy Wren	73	31
558	Whitethroated Treecreeper	8	
565	Spotted Pardalote	1	
574	Silvereye	21	5
583	Brownheaded Honeyeater	2	
591	Eastern Spinebill	22	3
614	Yellowfaced Honeyeater	10	1
630	Crescent Honeyeater	17	1
631	New Holland Honeyeater	69	3
662	Redbrowed Finch	22	
996	Goldfinch	1	

I must thank all those who have been prepared to rise at some very early hours to take part in our project. Without their dedication over, now 20 years, this work could not have been done.

Our Programme Organisation:

There appears to be some confusion about the dates for our working bees. They are held on the **FIRST** Tuesday, **SECOND** Sunday and **FOURTH** Saturday. Meetings, when programmed, are held on the **SECOND** Thursday. Bird banding is slotted in to free weekends and may occur once or twice per month.

Programme July - September 2011 (all working bees meet at 9.00am at G18)

Month	Date	Activity	Location
July	16, 17	Bird banding	Gate 7, 7.30 am.
	23	Saturday Working Bee	TBA
	30, 31	Bird banding	Gate 3 Crossroads, 7.30 pm.
August	2	Tuesday Working Bee	TBA
	11	Business Meeting	Thompson's residence, Cherry Gardens, 7.30 pm.
	14	Sunday Working Bee	TBA
	20, 21	Bird banding	Gate 11, 7.00 am.
	27	Saturday Working Bee	TBA
	28	Stirling Markets Stall	8.30 am – 1 pm.
September	2 – 4	Friends Forum, Kimba	
	6	Tuesday Working Bee	TBA
	11	Sunday Working Bee	TBA
	17	Bird banding	Gate 4, 7.00 am.
	18	SPRING WALK	Further details later
	24	Saturday Working Bee	TBA
	25	Stirling Markets Stall	8.30 am – 1 pm.

John Butler asks that anyone attending working bees and going directly to site rather than to the meeting area at Gate 18, give the organiser a call the day or so before, in case of a change in plans.

As a safety measure when working in the park, consider carrying a switched on mobile phone if you have one, with John's 0427 164 290 or Tom's 0417 869 349 numbers stored. Let John and Tom know your mobile No.

We have several two-way radios for members use. These are also available at working bees.

Officebearers:

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

President Tom Hands 8388 2150 RMB 691, Cherry Gardens, 5157
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Saturday Working Bee Coordinator:

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5046

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Tuesday/Sunday Working Bees Coordinator:

John Butler 8278 2773 5 Trevelyan Court, Coromandel
Valley, 5051

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Friends Website: <http://friendsofscottcreek.org>