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## President's Page

This year has seen more planting than in previous years. Hopefully the wet July & August augurs well for the success of these plantings.

The first Hardenbergias & Round-leafed Wattles are starting to flower meaning Spring is just around the corner. This is good working bee weather & I invite members to join us to see different parts of the reserve & to enjoy the company of like-minded people as we improve the ecological health of the reserve.

Each year we organise an event to try to give something back to our members. This year it is the opportunity to see up-close some of the fauna found in the reserve. In November we commence a biological survey to assess the distribution & abundance of the mammals, birds, reptiles & frogs that inhabit our patch. Is there any truth in the long-standing rumour that bandicoots are in the reserve? We hope to find out!

The survey will run 8-16 November. We especially need your help on the first weekend to set up traps. More details about this event can be found inside the newsletter.

Regards

Chris Kaczan

## New display on show

The new display board had its first viewing at the AGM in May. It proved very popular, not least because of its cunning position in front of the log fire in the ballroom on what was a very cold night. Membership & working bee forms & walking trail maps in the attached boxes were easily accessible. People were keen to look at the map of the reserve & its

Ww Jp g Jj b s t e r v e t o i t s N o t h e a s t R a n g e s ( j w c t T r ) w x h e

Natural Resources Management Board for funding support; to FWCR members for ideas, layout, text, photos & proof reading; & to Tom at Aish Data Design for his patience, design & printing.

Helen Pryor

## President's AGM address

The Waite Conservation Reserve is of considerable importance for its biodiversity values. Even though clearing of native vegetation is restricted in the Adelaide Hills, the effects of past clearing continue. Previous AGM speakers David Paton & Janet Pedler have highlighted the decline of native bird species as a result of this extinction overhang. To help counter these effects the Friends group has continued its program of olive removal, strategic replanting & use of natural regeneration to enhance the biodiversity of the reserve.

I am pleased to report that in the last year the Friends contributed to more than 15 working bees & over 400 hours of volunteer work to improve the reserve. Many thanks to the working bee organisers: Stephen Wait, Grant Joseph & Bryan Both & to Andy & Annette Baker for their continuing donations & organisation of the working bee BBQs.

During History Week in SA it is perhaps apt to remember that the past can help inform the present. I was intrigued by a quote in the last Friends newsletter from Thomas Gill who in 1905 noted that "the golden wattle which luxuriated on the western slope disappeared some 30 years ago." Today we are collecting the seeds from the remnant wattles & propagating them to replant the same slopes. The dedicated members who grow seedlings include: Stephen Wait, Helen Pryor, Andy & Annette Baker & Lynda Yates.

The survival rate has been variable with some surprising successes as well as the inevitable failures. Whilst the planting of seedlings is important in previously heavily modified areas, in other places we continue to rely on weed control & natural regeneration.

The Friends provided a donation to the University to help fund a revegetation plan for the reserve. This was written by Penny Paton & builds on some excellent work done by Grant Joseph. This plan helps to provide a long-term framework for future work in the reserve.

Thanks also to Jennifer Gardner & Penny Paton for helping with an Envirofund grant which, in conjunction with the Nature Conservation Society of SA, paid for some contract olive control.

Another successful grant application written by Helen Pryor & Joe Haslam resulted in funding for the mobile display board seen for the first time tonight in the adjacent room. We intend to use it at the university & other community locations to let people know about the reserve & the range of Friends activities that they can participate in.

Thanks to the many members who have added a donation to their membership subscriptions. This money has been used to erect a new table & seats in Koala Gully. This will be appreciated by the increasing numbers of people using the Yurrebilla Trail.

The Friends group held an early morning bird-watching session last spring. Many thanks to Peter Bird for organising this as well as his editing of the spring & autumn newsletters. The botanical articles in the newsletter by Peter Lang are looked forward to & are enjoyably informative. Later this year we hope to help organise a biological survey of the reserve & run a members event in conjunction with it.

Members have recently reported seeing 4 or 5 Western Grey Kangaroos compared with only a couple in previous years. It would be nice to think that this build up of numbers is indicative of a more general improvement in the ecological health of the reserve.

In conclusion I would like to thank all members of the Friends committee for their willing efforts & also the members of the Friends of the Waite Conservation Reserve whose continuing support is so valuable.



## Part 2: Snake Bite & First Aid

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- ~1500 bites per year in Australia. Most are 'dry bites' with no venom injected. About 300 need treatment with anti-venom, ~3 deaths annually
  - amount & quality of venom injected depends on the level of threat, the time taken for the snake to bite, penetration of the bite, season, time since last feed & how much eaten
  - injected venom is mainly transported via lymphatic system; heavily influenced by patient movement. Reduced victim movement = reduced venom dispersal
  - recent medical research shows that the speed of application of an effective pressure-immobilisation bandage & splinting influences patient outcome & survivability
- 

Let others know where you are going. Carry a mobile phone to call an ambulance. Ensure you have a 'Snake Bite First Aid Kit' including sufficient lengths of wide bandage to wrap the leg from toe to hip\*.

1. ensure patient (& others) are no longer at risk from the snake
2. reassure patient. Encourage to lie down & keep still. It is critical that the bitten part & patient do not move
3. start First Aid immediately. Do not ignore a trivial bite, especially if suspected from a brown snake.
4. contact ambulance (000) & follow professional advice. A good description of your location is critical to the paramedics finding you.
5. do not interfere with the bite in any way. Do not wash skin. Residual venom can be used to identify the snake for correct anti-venom
6. remove all jewellery from bitten limb
7. apply bandage with even pressure (as for sprained ankle) from extremity to body junction. Splint to immobilise. Use two sticks for arm & other leg for leg. Bandage over clothes when they cannot be cut off
8. mark site of bite on bandage
9. apply bandage & pressure to bites on body or face
10. keep patient still in slightly reclined position with bitten limb below heart. Bring transport to patient. Allow professional paramedics to find you.

Enjoy the outdoors in the Waite Conservation Reserve but be Snake Aware!

# BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

## WAITE CONSERVATION RESERVE

### 8-16 November 2008

Put it in the diary now - the first stage of the Waite Conservation Reserve biological survey commences 8-16 November 2008. The 9-day survey will collect detailed information on the mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs & some invertebrates of the reserve. We need your help!

Past efforts in biological investigation of the reserve have focused primarily on the vegetation. Led by Peter Lang & Grant Joseph we now have a fairly comprehensive picture of which plants occur where on our 140 hectares both at a vegetation community level & in terms of individual species.

By comparison, the fauna of the reserve has received scant attention with little more than basic species lists compiled for most groups. We need to do better.

Until now we have been content in the belief that 'if we build it, they will come', ie. if we rehabilitate the habitat, the fauna will look after itself. This is a dangerous premise. There are many factors beyond vegetation quality that impact on the fauna. Obvious ones are ferals & increaser native species, fire, habitat fragmentation & that big bogey, climate change. How do we manage for these factors if we have little understanding of which animals are there in the first place?

This is all about to change! In November we start the process of systematically surveying the fauna to get a clearer understanding of its distribution & abundance across the reserve. We will use standard Department of Environment & Heritage biological survey techniques at a dozen or so representative sites across the reserve. This will involve use of pitfall, Elliott & cage traps, day-time & spotlight searches & Anabat recorders to detect bats.

Traps will be installed on the first weekend starting Saturday 8 Nov, monitored during the week, then pulled up the following weekend. Assisting us will be the South Australia Herpetology Group & the Field Naturalist's Society of SA Mammal Club.

An 'Open Day' will be held on the final day, Sunday 16 Nov to discuss the results & show off some of the captures. The process will be repeated for a further 9 days in March 2009 to pick up seasonal changes.

Fill out the form below & mail/ email to register your interest. Send to:

Peter Bird  
 3 Ross St  
 Thebarton 5031  
[pjbird@chariot.net.au](mailto:pjbird@chariot.net.au)  
 Ph: 8352 3046 (H)

.....

NAME:.....

Email: .....

Phone: .....(H) .....(Mobile)

AVAILABILITY: (Tick days)

DAY	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
DATE	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

EXPERTISE/ INTERESTS

Mammals

Reptiles/ frogs

Birds

Invertebrates

## *a gum is a gum is a gum*

Dr David & Judy Symon started their highly entertaining yet thought-provoking poetry recital with this poem by Mark O'Connor called *After looking for poems about plants, & realising there was no anthology of verse about Australian flora, David decided to compile one. Despite many poems on eucalypts & acacias, he was unable to find poems covering all plant families so he settled on organising the anthology by themes including poems on fire, politics, aboriginal chants & even weeds.*

Weeds are of great interest to the FWCR. They are a regrettable part of the Australian bush; nowadays the second greatest threat to biodiversity. One weed of particular concern to us is the olive, planted probably as early as the 1850's in the hills around Glen Osmond. David read a relevant poem by Mark O'Connor.

### *To Kill an Olive*

# BOTANICA

***Eucalyptus leucoxylon* (South Australian Blue Gum)** 