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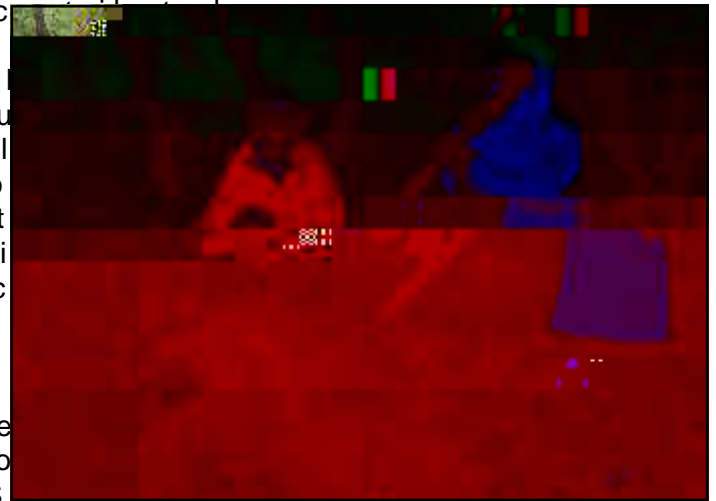


WORKING BEE REPORT

Twenty dedicated Friends have come to working bees so far this year. They have searched for and removed tree olive seedlings and treated huge regrowth olives from up to three of the cleared parts of the reserve. According to the plan, work on the entire 97 hectares, notwithstanding, have recently been slowed by a couple of regrowth patches.

We will continue to tackle olives and start our annual removal of Peregrine Grass on Quartz Hill and at a second site discovered last year on Sheoak Street. We also mix it up by tackling nasties such as African Weed Orchid and even collecting seeds for future sowing of cleared sites.

There are plenty of opportunities to participate in whatever way suits you. Each of the Friends have their favourite tasks. For Clint it is the big tree popper that he uses to great advantage on large olive saplings. Helen prefers getting down and dirty carefully noodling out weed orchids and Sparaxis bulbs in the best patches of bush. Penny uses her secateurs and dauber on larger seedlings and systematically walks the reserve scanning for seedling olives.



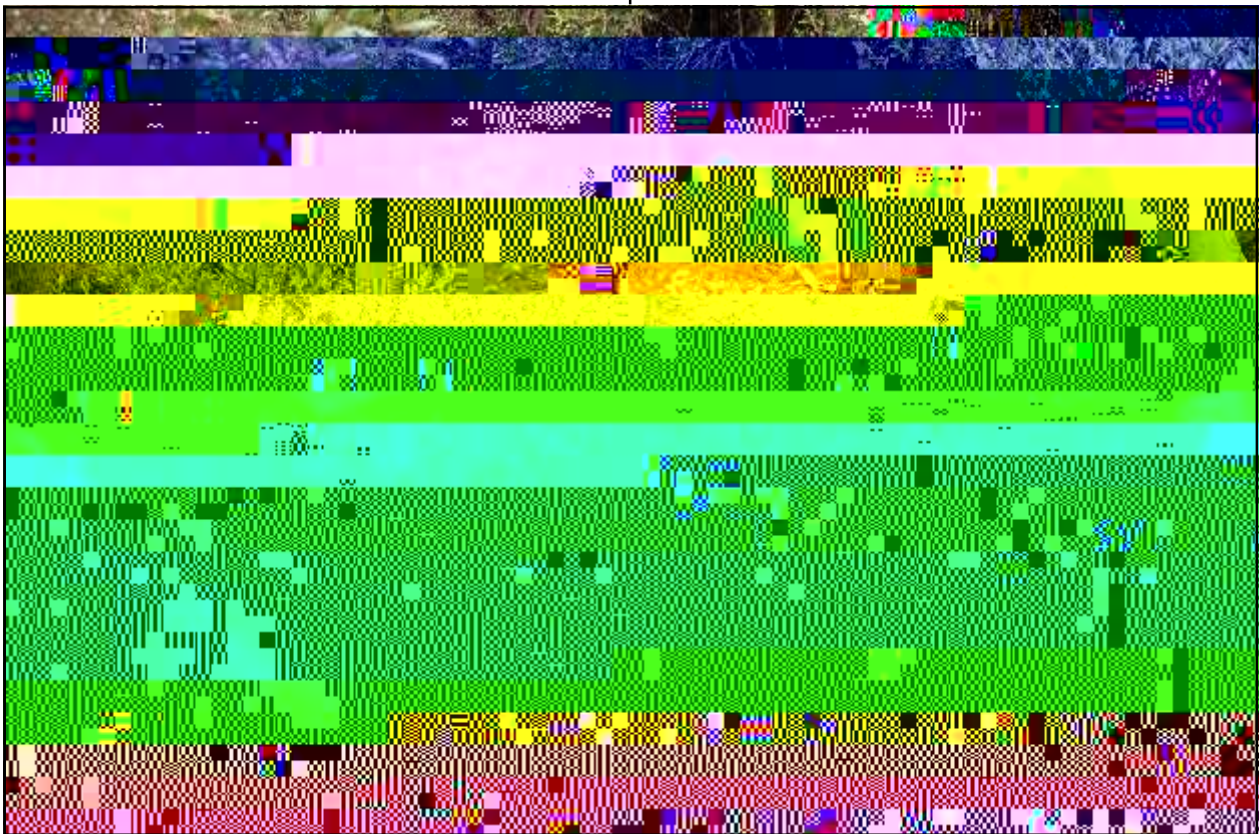
Clint is a fan of using the small mattock, while Helen is trying out the large popper

For myself, I have the kit described in the newsletter. Most of my time is spent on the regrowth olives.

There are a range of different jobs to be done. I'm sure there is one for everyone to enjoy.

Come along on the first Saturday and Sunday of the month and give us a hand. See the program on the next page.

Peter B



Peter, Jennifer and Meg using their preferred methods of restoring the Reserve

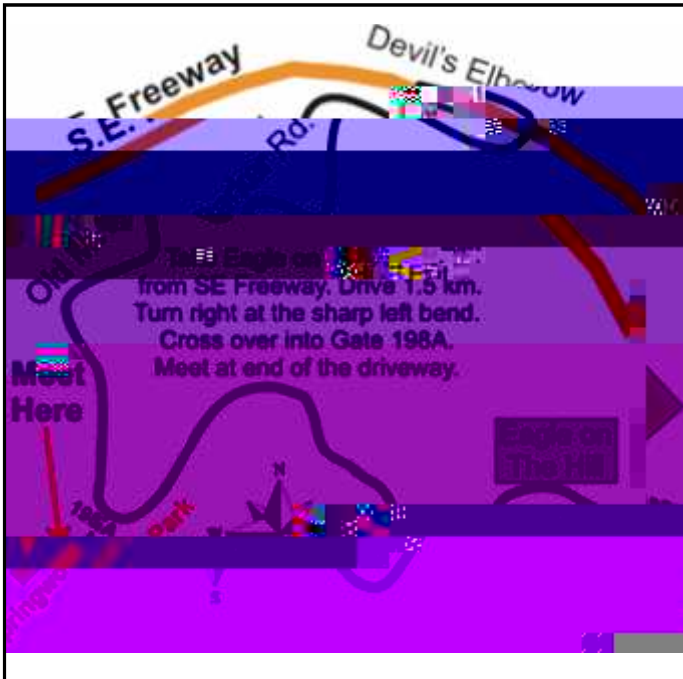
SPRING WORKING BEES

Use Springwood Park

Eagle on the Hill entrance

Saturday 1st October

Sunday 16th October



Luke Day is our newest committee member and will look after technology projects.

Luke has had a lifelong interest in the environment and local flora and particularly birds. He has been walking in the Waite Conservation Reserve regularly since he was 10 years old. His family moved to Adelaide from the north of South Australia. He is deeply passionate about the environment and human impact on it and keen to help conservation and preservation of the natural world locally and getting hands on.

He has a career in Automation and Control Systems Engineering, he enjoys learning new technology and brain storming and applying this technology in more meaningful ways, outside of profit driven enterprises to benefit the environment. He is keen to get the sleeves and fight enemy numbers (olives) with Friends of the Waite. He has been enjoying getting out in the reserve with a great crew who are both knowledgeable and entertaining.

Luke's interests include: Nature, Environment, Birds, Astronomy and Robotics, Computer Science and AI, Robotic Automation and Monitoring.

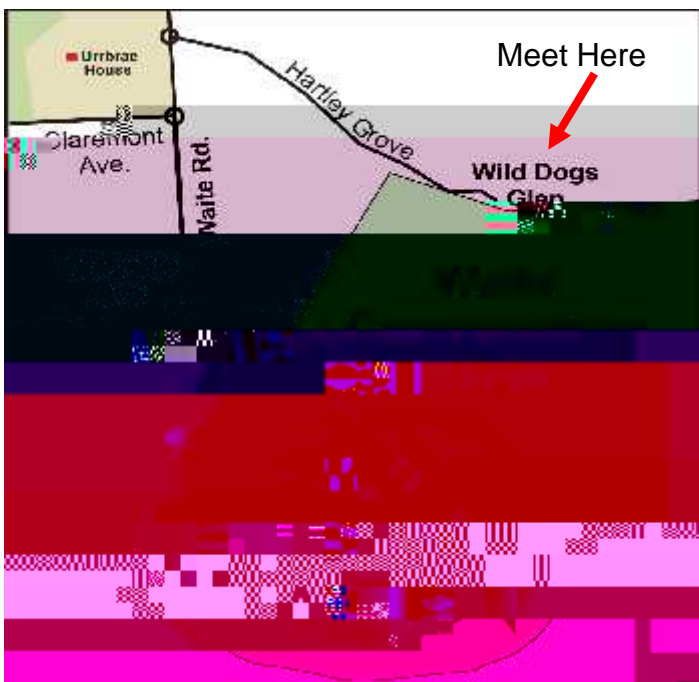
LATE SPRING WORKING BEES

Use Wild Dogs Glen entrance

Saturday 5th November

Sunday 20th November

Saturday 3rd December



Which Rosella is it???

The Newsletter Editor asked me to write this article on rosellas as he noticed on his return to Adelaide after a long absence that the Eastern Rosella appeared to be more common now. He is quite right and hangs a tale.

But first to the two species of rosella found at the Waite, what they look like, their ecology and then the history lesson. Both species are to be had like most parrots, and largeish and in fact they are about the same size. The Eastern Rosella (Pezopachus flaviceps) is the classic sauce bottle parrot with a bright red head and neck, white cheek patch, blue wings and bright green back and belly, while the Adelaide Rosella is more or less orange/red with a blue cheek patch, wings and tail. Their breeding biology is also similar, nest in hollows in trees, lay about 5 white eggs on a bed of wood chips, only the female incubates the eggs and feeds the very young chicks and she is fed by the male through this time. The breeding season extends from August to late summer (Higgins 1999). The calls of both species have a ringing bell quality and are difficult to tell apart.

Another difference is in the feeding habits of the two species. Both feed in trees and on the ground but Eastern is much more likely to be feeding on the ground.

Both species are fairly sedentary and Eastern Rosella does exhibit movements in South Australia and birds are often more mobile than the breeding season both rosellas in solitary mated pairs but small groups are seen with other times of the year.

Each the first 70 or so years of which the only rosella found in the region was the Adelaide Rosella. Taxonomy has been fluid over the times thought to be a separate species but now regarded as a subspecies of the Crimson Rosella (Pezopachus crinitus).

Eastern Rosellas prefer open woodland and are well adapted to grassy woodlands without many shrubs and to parklands, where lawns amid scattered trees predominate. The Adelaide Rosella is generally found in denser forest and woodland and this difference is reflected in their choice of nesting tree, with Adelaide Rosellas preferring trees in dense scrub while the Eastern prefers trees in grassy areas (Ponck 1995).

Which Rosella is it???