

FRIEN ! " F WAI#E C " N! ER\$A#I " N RE! ER\$E In%&

President's message

It is more than a year since I retired and my love affair with the reserve has only grown. When not otherwise out bush, my default is simply to 'go to the Waite'. There is always something to do: spraying some or other weed, re-photographing photo-points, removing rubbish, collecting a new plant species, or simply 'going for a wal with a pair of secateurs', code for hunting olive seedlings. The reserve provides me with an outlet for my natural history obsession and need to save the planet. It also keeps me physically and mentally fit.

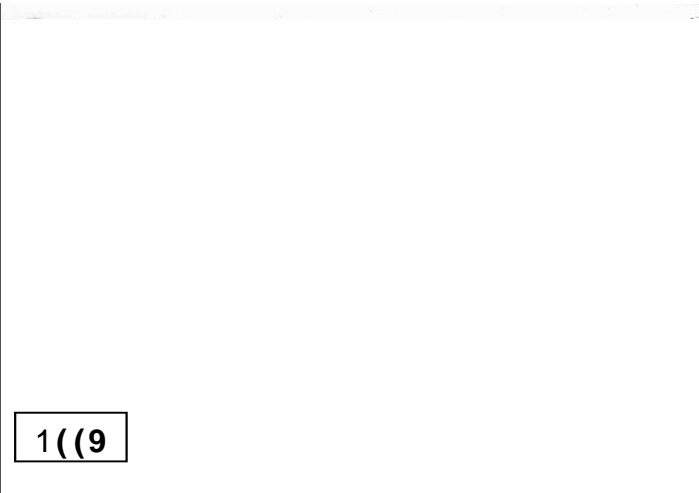
!ecently you may have seen reference to the 'Five Ways to Well-being in Nature' program promoted as an initiative of Healthy Parks Healthy People SA. "s life becomes more comple#, it is important to protect our mental health and wellbeing. \$vidence from across the world is showing that spending time in nature ma es us feel healthier, happier and more optimistic. The 'Five ways' can be practised wherever, whenever and however it suits you, but I rec on Waite %onservation !eserve is as good a place as any for the 'wherever'. The reserve &ualifies perfectly in each of the following five steps to help build, strengthen and sustain mental health and wellbeing:

- Connect ' a sense of belonging is ey to well being. The (riends of W%! is a welcoming and inclusive group dedicated to bringing bac the bush.





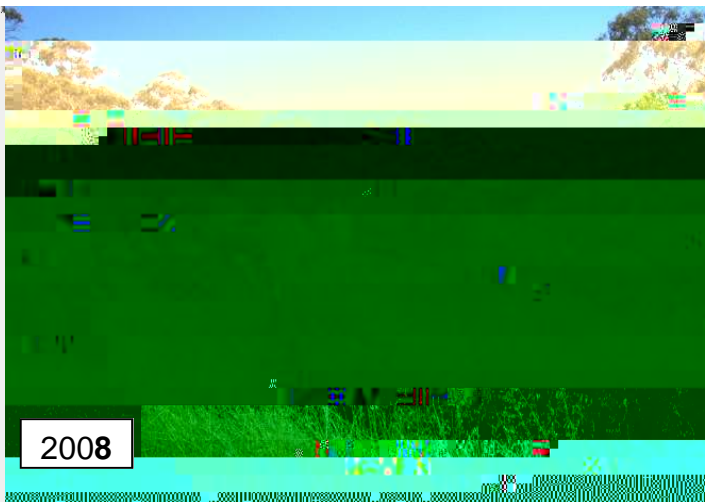
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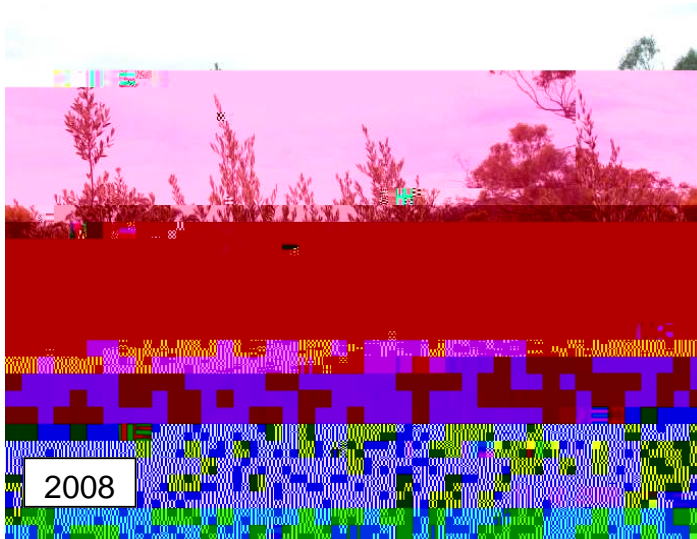
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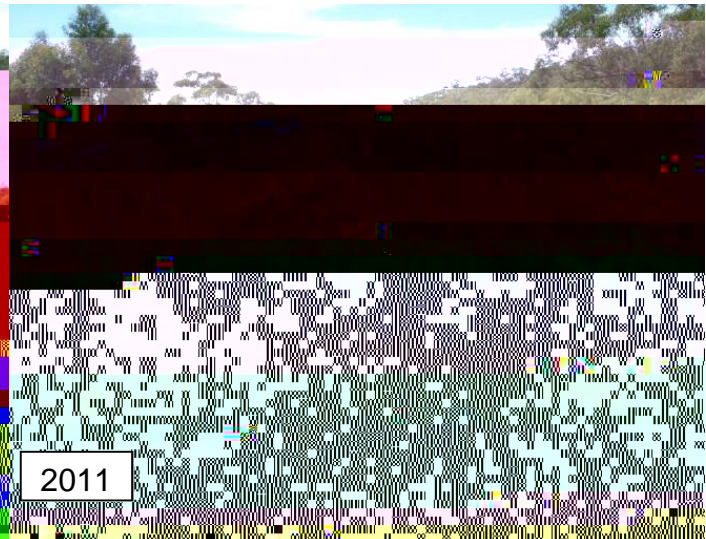
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2008



2008



2011

Working Bees 2018

One season bites the dust and the next is just around the corner. Last season the focus again was on hunting down olive seedlings. Twenty-five people contributed 23+ hours over 10 working bees. So working bees were missed due to weather.

* During that time we covered 3/4 percent of the olive-cleared area and probably removed something like 1/3 olive seedlings. As well we pulled or sprayed countless other weeds including re-growth olives, hawthorn, buckthorn, boneseed, cottonbush, African daisy, perennial veldt grass, silverleaf nightshade, African weed orchid and false caper.

The plan for the coming season is a big ditto, concentrating again on 'working with purpose' i.e. looking for and pulling olive seedlings. Several years of this strategy is starting to reap rewards with fewer seedlings each consecutive year.

Working bees are held 1st Saturday, 4th Sunday of each month. See the program at right

Wear appropriate clothing & shoes for the day. Bring something to drink and to eat. We usually sit and have a chat at the end of the working bee.

Autumn: Early, Winter
Working Bees 2018
(10.00 am to 12.00 /m

April.

May.

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There are some birds that are perennial favourites with birdwatchers and the black-faced woodswallow (*Coracina novaehollandiae*) is one such. I am not sure if it is due to the delicate soft colouring, the distinctive wing shuffle on landing or its mewing cat-like call but it lifts my spirits every time I see this species. Those in the know call them 'woofers' due to the shortened form of their name 'woof'.

They would once have been considered a common bird in suburban Melbourne.

Some people suggest that there is a north-west movement away from southeast Australia in winter. In migratory populations, they can move in pairs, small groups and, sometimes, larger flocks. One to three birds is common in Melbourne, but I have seen flocks of about 40 flying north in late summer. Not one time it was believed that seeing black-faced woodswallows indicated rain on the horizon, so they were sometimes called 'rainbirds' or 'stormbirds', but there is no scientific evidence for this belief.

Woodswallows are primarily insectivores and frugivores and generally feed in trees rather than on the ground. They make a neat, shallow and well-camouflaged nest of bark, leaves and twigs bound with spider webs and set in a fork of a horizontal branch, usually quite high off the ground. Their call, which is given in flight and from perches, is soft but carrying and has been described as a purring or a rolling trill. The voice of young birds is characteristic, used frequently when begging for food and is a good indication of their presence, usually high up in a eucalypt.

References

Jiggins, J.D., Peter F. D. Bowling. (eds) *Handbook of Australian and New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*, Oatbill to Starlings (Bentley University Press, Melbourne).

New Plant ! / e%ies Added

"n updated plant list has been prepared for the Waite %onservation !eserve, ready to replace the one on the website which was current to Gay 2?.. <<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/conservation-reserve/flora>>

The updated list now has a total of 43. vascular plant species definitely recorded within the !eserve, with a further .> species records flagged as &uestionable <ossible but needing confirmation=. Bf the definite records,

The yellow tiny star formerly Hypo-is is now Pauri\$ia, and)orrel Acetosella vulgaris is now . u*e- acetosella.

(or the "ustralian hollyhoc that grows in roc y areas of the reserve there have been a succession of name changes. Gany will have nown it as /avatera plebeia but it was subse&uently recognised to be a true mallow, and the name Oalva behriana was applied. In our 2?.. listing it changed to O(preissiana, and in the current version it is now O(wein*anniana. "nd that may not be the end of it, as the form growing in the W%! and elsewhere in gullies of the "delaide foothills doesn't &uite fit either O(preissiana, or O(wein*anniana, albeit considered closer to the latter. >ee <https://now.ourplants.org/the-plant-press/native-mallow-a-name-change-and-a-second-species>.

"lthough such changes are annoying, they are a necessary conse&uence of two things. The first is our growing understanding of the relationships between species <recently e#panded through developments in *8" se&uencing=, and the second is the application of rules of the International %ode of - otanical &omenclature. - oth are essential to prevent real chaos from ta ing over.

Peter Lang

