



# ONKAPARINGA PARKWATCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK INC.

Note opinions and commentary in this newsletter are not necessarily the general opinion of the FOOP membership. Any complaints should in the first instance be directed to the author.

Website: <http://www.communitywebs.org/OnkaparingaParks/>

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Photographer: Michael Whittaker -The FOOP TREE

**FRIENDS OF ONKAPARINGA PARK INC**

PATRON: Dr B HARDY AO

Incorporating The ONKAPARINGA RECREATION PARK and ONKAPARINGA NATIONAL PARK.

Proudly a member of THE FRIENDS OF PARKS INC..

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## From the Editor's Desk

Send articles *via*: [billandgill@yahoo.com.au](mailto:billandgill@yahoo.com.au)  
or by snail mail to Box 484 PO Morphett Vale 5162  
or hand deliver to Gill or me.

Two announcements made recently by the three arms of Government (in one case at least) have far reaching consequences for the future of the Onkaparinga parks.

We are to have a railway line going through one and a large development project is being contemplated right up to the boundary of the other.

The long needed railway line is finally going to happen and it will impact on the Onkaparinga Recreation Park. It would be possible to skirt the boundary of the park but the route for the bridge needed has long been decided despite the attempts to have the public "involved".

If you doubt my cynicism have a look at where it goes and wonder why corridors seem to have been there for many years. I doubt that there was much choice anyway so rather than wring our hands as some vegetation goes under the grader we should concentrate on getting revegetation going as soon as possible. In fact some of the vegetation that will disappear was inappropriate so this is a good thing.

It also appears that part of the now defunct sludge ponds will become part of the site for the contemplated bridge. Let's hope that the plans submitted some years ago now by Val Lewin's action group are adopted and the sanctuary becomes a reality.

The design of the bridge is important and could be the difference between a Recreation park ruined or a park enhanced.

I travel by train to the city five days a week and have some concerns as to the bridge design.

The current line crosses two minor but important water courses; namely the Christies Creek and the Field River. In both cases the bridge design was an earthen structure which produced a barrier to the riparian area of each watercourse.

If this is the plan for the bridge across the Onkaparinga River it will be a disaster in my view.

WE do not need a large part of the park to disappear underneath soil brought into the park to make an embankment. Consider also that if the really cheap option (read engineering) is favoured the chance of flooding upstream will be increased markedly.

Many of us know that the river, normally a gentle stream, can become a dangerous flood when winter rains and high tides combine. It does not happen often but it does

happen.

Old Noarlunga residents may want to buy boats.

There is a further problem and that is the pollutant run off.

The bridge will be carrying a vehicle that even if it is electric still uses lubricants etc and they don't stay on the train. If you don't believe me look at the condition of the ballast between the train lines. It is an inevitable result of modern transport. Motor cars are no better and probably worse.

I would like to see some system that will ensure that none of this pollution makes it to the park in general and the river in particular.

I applaud the rail extension (I will travel by train any time) but we have to accept that this will impact greatly on the Recreation Park.

The second announcement was the intention to open land East of the Main South Road, south of the current suburb of Hackham and North of the Northern border of the Onkaparinga National park. In fact the new subdivision and the park will "share" a boundary; the Piggott Range Road.

At a recent FOOP Committee we had a presentation by the consultant for this project.

He was either a good speaker or the prospect of this "intrusion" right up to the park boundary may almost be a win: win.

We made suggestions such as a buffer zone planted out with vegetation endemic to the area and a suggestion that vegetation planted in public and private spaces be restricted to the same species was noted and the consultant seemed keen on the idea.

The original plan for this rezoning showed some of the National Park disappearing. That was almost an impossibility and in fact is not even being contemplated.

In many ways I am less concerned about this development than I am the bridge project.

The one big concern was that with more people in the area there is a distinct possibility that inappropriate use of the park (vandalism, Motor bikes etc) will increase. It was probably going to happen anyway.

The current parlous condition of the abattoir site was pointed out. There will need to be a lot of remedial work done on that site to make it suitable for suburban development. I sensed that the consultant was aware of some of the problems but not all of them—so well done Graham.

If nothing else hopefully we will see the end of what has been an eyesore and an environmental disaster on the Park boundary.

Nothing ever quite goes to plan but if the plan goes ahead with some of our suggested modifications it could be beneficial. Think of all those potential FOOP-ers.

The question of boundaries of parks and indeed their legal status comes into question when these sorts of projects come up.

Contrary to what may be believed there are no parks in our system that cannot be altered if the political will is strong enough. So rather than think that this is not an issue for Friends of parks I suggest we should always be on guard for changes.

For instance I have been at a committee meeting where one of the members suggested that a bridge be built over the gorge in the vicinity of the punch bowl to “open up” the McLaren vale wine region.

I have included the relevant sections for “our” two parks below. As you will see changing a National Park is hard but not impossible however, a Recreation Park is always at risk.

#### 27—Constitution of national parks by statute

- (1) The areas declared in Schedule 3 to be national parks are constituted national parks.
- (2) The names assigned in Schedule 3 to the national parks constituted under subsection (1) are, subject to this Division, the names of those national parks.
- (3) The Governor may, by proclamation—
  - (a) abolish a national park constituted under this section; or
  - (b) alter the boundaries of a national park constituted under this section; or
  - (c) alter the name assigned to a national park under this section.
- (4) A proclamation must not be made under subsection (3)(a) or (b) by virtue of which any land ceases to be, or ceases to be included in, a national park except in pursuance of a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament.
- (5) Notice of a motion for a resolution under subsection (4) must be given at least 14 sitting days before the motion is passed.

- (6) A proclamation must not be made under subsection (3)(b) or (c) in relation to a national park constituted of Aboriginal-owned land except with the agreement of the registered proprietor of the land.

#### 28—Constitution of national parks by proclamation

- (1) The Governor may, by proclamation—
  - (a) constitute as a national park any specified Crown land, or specified Aboriginal-owned land, the Governor considers to be of national significance by reason of the wildlife or natural features of that land; and
  - (b) assign a name to a national park so constituted.
- (1a) A proclamation must not be made under subsection (1)—
  - (a) constituting a national park of Aboriginal-owned land unless a co-management agreement has been made for the park; or
  - (b) assigning a name to such a park unless the name has been nominated by the registered proprietor of the land.
- (2) The Governor may, by subsequent proclamation—
  - (a) abolish a national park constituted under this section; or
  - (b) alter the boundaries of a national park constituted under this section; or
  - (c) alter the name of a national park constituted under this section.
- (b) alter the boundaries of a recreation park constituted under this section; or
- (c) alter the name assigned to a recreation park under this section.
- (4) A proclamation must not be made under subsection (3)(a) or (b) by virtue of which any land ceases to be, or ceases to be included in, the Para Wirra Recreation Park except in pursuance of a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament.
- (5) Notice of a motion for a resolution under subsection (4) must be given at least 14 sitting days before the motion is passed.

#### 34—Constitution of recreation parks by proclamation

- (1) The Governor may, by proclamation—
  - (a) constitute as a recreation park any specified Crown land that should in the Governor's opinion be conserved and managed for public recreation and enjoyment; and
  - (b) assign a name to a recreation park so constituted.
- (2) The Governor may, by subsequent proclamation—
  - (a) abolish a recreation park constituted under this section; or
  - (b) alter the boundaries of a recreation park constituted under this section; or

- (c) alter the name assigned to a recreation park constituted under this section
- (3) A proclamation must not be made under subsection (2)(a) or (b) by virtue of which any land ceases to be, or ceases to be included in, a national park except in pursuance of a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament.
- (4) Notice of a motion for a resolution under subsection (3) must be given at least 14 sitting days before the motion is passed.
- (5) A proclamation must not be made under subsection (2)(b) or (c) in relation to a national park constituted of Aboriginal-owned land except with the agreement of the registered proprietor of the land.

**28A—Certain co-managed national parks cease on termination of co-management agreement**

- (1) This section applies to a co-managed national park comprised of Aboriginal-owned land that was Aboriginal-owned land before it was constituted a national park.
- (2) If the co-management agreement for a national park to which this section applies is terminated—
  - (a) the land ceases to be a national park; and
  - (b) the Minister must cause notice of that fact to be published in the Gazette.

**33—Constitution of recreation parks by statute**

- (1) The areas declared in Schedule 6 to be recreation parks are constituted recreation parks.
- (2) The names assigned in Schedule 6 to the recreation parks constituted under subsection (1) are, subject to this Division, the names of those recreation parks.

- (3) The Governor may, by proclamation—
  - (a) abolish a recreation park constituted under this section; or
  - (c) alter the name assigned to a recreation park under this section.
- (4) A proclamation must not be made under subsection (3)(a) or (b) by virtue of which any land ceases to be, or ceases to be included in, the Para Wirra Recreation Park except in pursuance of a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament.
- (5) Notice of a motion for a resolution under subsection (4) must be given at least 14 sitting days before the motion is passed.

**34—Constitution of recreation parks by proclamation**

- (1) The Governor may, by proclamation—
  - (a) constitute as a recreation park any specified Crown land that should in the Governor's opinion be conserved and managed for public recreation and enjoyment; and
  - (b) assign a name to a recreation park so constituted.
- (2) The Governor may, by subsequent proclamation—
  - (a) abolish a recreation park constituted under this section; or
  - (b) alter the boundaries of a recreation park constituted under this section; or
  - (c) alter the name assigned to a recreation park constituted under this section.

*This is what happens when you tell me I write too much.*



THE HEAVEN'S ARE ON THE MOVE AND AS A RESULT THERE WILL BE **NO JULY NEWSLETTER**.

WE ARE OFF TO A WAR ZONE—NAMELY SOUTH KOREA, FOR OUR OLDEST SON'S WEDDING. THE WEDDING IS NOT THE WAR ZONE BUT IT WILL NONETHELESS BE INTERESTING .

ALL BEING WELL WE WILL RETURN IN EARLY JULY.

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



On behalf of all members of FOOP we extend our sincere condolences to Bryn and his wife Jacqui on the recent death of Jacqui's father.

It seems a long time since there were environmental flows in the river however this was only two years ago. Unfortunately the program was not completed however it was recorded that fish numbers increased with a large number of juvenile fish recorded. The large number of small fish recorded in 2007 has not been observed since so probably the partial environmental flow aided this breeding event. There are still a lot of studies being undertaken throughout the river monitoring the effect of reduced flows. SARDI are monitoring fish numbers and species regularly along the river. They have also put a monitoring probe into the pool adjacent to the Bakers Gully Ford to continually monitor water depth, salinity and temperature. This monitoring needs to operate for a full season. The probe is at the end of a long length of piping. If any one finds that this has been disturbed or tampered with it is important to contact David on 0421 446 747 as soon as possible.

The revamped car park at Gate 6 is now finished and in use. Some positives are angle parking, vehicles face the road and can be seen from the road and the parking area is drive through. This is especially good for buses. There is some concern about the fence wire, which seems very vulnerable and the posts which are wider than a vehicle. We will have to wait and see how it goes. It is certainly a big improvement on the previous car park. Thank you to all concerned.

The good rains lately mean that we will soon be starting to plant our trees and this year we will be trialing a new brand of water crystal; Rechargeable Solid Water Bags. It is hoped that many members will also trial a few of these bags in their own gardens feeding in the results to us which will enable us to gain a better understanding of their use. If anyone wishes to try some please contact me or Ray.

The table and benches are now well under way and hopefully will be installed during the next few weeks. The seat to commemorate Bob Palmer will be installed during the regular Tuesday working B on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The site for the seat is on the walking trail at the location normally referred to as Bob's Nob. The seat should be put into position about 10.15 and will be followed by a

planting of a few trees. All are welcome to attend however if you are not joining at the normal working B time (9.00 at Gate 21) then can you please contact me to ensure that the gate is open. We will enjoy our morning tea together.

Michael O'Connor attended our last committee meeting to bring us up to date on the proposed rezoning of the land between South Road and Piggott range Road. This gave us an opportunity to raise our concerns of such a large development next door to the park. Information on this development is on the city of Onkaparinga website [www.onkaparingacity.com](http://www.onkaparingacity.com). A public meeting will be held on Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Our July meeting will be addressed by a speaker from SA Water on Waterproofing the South. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Colin



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## From The Secretary's Desk

A free Sustainable Living Expo will be held at the Arts Centre Port Noarlunga on the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June. This event will incorporate interactive displays, workshops, exhibits, artworks & presentations. The Department for Environment & Heritage will be operating a stall as well as presenting a session on the Onkaparinga Estuary. There will also be an interactive children's animal show on Saturday at 11.30am & on Sunday at 1.30pm. Opening hours 10am to 4pm both days.

Native plant identification & native grasses workshops will be held later in the year in October & November in the Southern Hills. More information is available from Melanie Bullers on 0408 000 842 or [melanie.bullers@adelaide.nrm.sa.gov.au](mailto:melanie.bullers@adelaide.nrm.sa.gov.au) All AMLR NRM workshop details are available from the website at [http://www.amlnrm.sa.gov.au/Portals/1/Education\\_Programs/LMP\\_Program/Mar2009.pdf](http://www.amlnrm.sa.gov.au/Portals/1/Education_Programs/LMP_Program/Mar2009.pdf)

Registration & excursion forms are now available for the 2009 Friends Forum. The Forum titled "Rediscovering Adelaide – Urban Biodiversity & Heritage" will be held at Sunnybrae Farm Regency Park, from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November. There is a \$20 discount if bookings & payment received before 12<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the forms or download the forms from <http://www.communitywebs.org/FriendsofParks/>

The 2009 Heart Foundation Parks Walks program includes a walk in the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June meeting at Perry's Bend from 9.15am. The Friends of Onkaparinga Park will be guiding this walk again this year & to book call 1300362787. The full program of walks may be accessed at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/pdfs/120977.PDF>

The latest edition issue 36 of the DEH electronic Volunteers Newsletter is now online. Go to <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/deh/volunteers/volunteer.html>

There are items of interest to volunteers & links to things like training. If you have any questions or comments please call the Volunteer Support Unit on 8124 4784 or email

[DEHVolunteers@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:DEHVolunteers@saugov.sa.gov.au)

The latest edition issue 8 of Friends of Parks e-News is now online. Go to the FOP website at <http://www.communitywebs.org/FriendsofParks/e-News/default.htm>

There is a report on the FOP Inc. AGM & other items of interest.

A limited number of places for Introductory Bush For Life workshops have been made available for Friends of Parks members with a one day workshop being held at Aldinga on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. There will also be evening workshops held at Brooklyn Park. The workshop covers topics such as threats to native vegetation, bush restoration & practical minimal disturbance techniques. Please contact me if you would like to attend one of these free workshops. The full list of workshops & dates are available from TFL at <http://www.treesforlife.org.au/volunteers/events/bushforlifeworkshops/introductoryworkshops/>

It was great to read that the State Government has proclaimed the Danggali CP as a Wilderness Protection Area. Danggali 70km north of Renmark, covers more than 250000ha & was Australia's first Biosphere Reserve. This park is one of the State's largest areas of intact native vegetation & is dominated by woodlands.

Regular working bee members are able to access a subsidy for safety boots & high visibility shirts. Up to \$100 is available to reimburse members for the purchase of steel cap safety boots, with up to \$20 available for the purchase of orange high visibility long sleeved shirts. For more information please contact your working bee coordinators.

If you require any further information on any of the issues raised here you can contact me by telephone on 8386 2393 or email [mackins@tpg.com.au](mailto:mackins@tpg.com.au)

See you somewhere out in the Park

Andy McKinnon



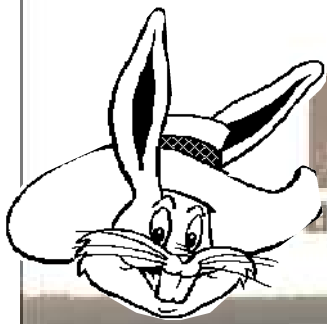
Courtesy of Val Lewin

Subject: Family Tree

The Family Tree of Vincent Van Gogh

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| The dizzy aunt -----                                | Verti Gogh       |
| The brother who ate prunes -----                    | Gotta Gogh       |
| The brother who worked at a convenience store ----- | Stop n Gogh      |
| The grandfather from Yugoslavia -----               | U Gogh           |
| The cousin from Illinois -----                      | Chica Gogh       |
| His magician uncle -----                            | Where-diddy Gogh |
| His Mexican cousin -----                            | A mee Gogh       |
| The Mexican cousin's American half-brother -----    | Gring Gogh       |
| The nephew who drove a stage coach-----             | Wells-farGogh    |
| The constipated uncle -----                         | Can' t Gogh      |
| The ballroom dancing aunt-----                      | Tang Gogh        |
| The bird lover uncle -----                          | Fla min Gogh     |
| The fruit loving cousin-----                        | Man Gogh         |
| An aunt who taught positive thinking-----           | Way-to-Gogh      |
| The little bouncy nephew-----                       | Poe Gogh         |
| A sister who loved disco-----                       | Go Gogh          |
| His niece who travels the country in an RV---       | Winnie Bay Gogh  |

I saw you smiling - there ya Gogh !



# RabbitScan

a national spot-a-rabbit campaign



## Australia needs your help!

Wild pest rabbits are on the increase across Australia and are the major pest for agriculture and increasingly causing billions of dollars damage every year.

RabbitScan is a national wide challenge for community and schools to help generate awareness rabbits are feared.

You can help by scanning your landscape for signs of rabbits and their damage during RabbitScan Month in May and let the RabbitScan team know what you see.

If you see a rabbit tell RabbitScan. SMS: matt@rabbitscan.net.au or email: rabbitscan@bigpond.com or visit: www.rabbitscan.net.au

where you can register and have rabbit data added to Google Maps.

### What information do we need to know?

The more information you can provide the more it can help us please provide any or all of the following when you report your rabbits:

- Rabbit numbers
  - Rabbit locations (crop or GIS location are best)
  - Rabbit damage (e.g. to vegetation)
  - Rabbit signs (e.g. droppings, burrows, locations, and whether active with live rabbits or abandoned)
- Even one rabbit sighted in a district is important to know about.



Check out [www.rabbitscan.net.au](http://www.rabbitscan.net.au) for more information on how you can help manage a major pest in our country.



Elders is a proud sponsor partner of RabbitScan



Residents are being encouraged to join a national challenge to record data about rabbits, from at least 5000 sites across Australia.

May is RabbitScan month, and LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS and MAYORS are encouraging individuals and groups in the REGIONS to help scientists map rabbit populations by scanning their local area for rabbits and signs of their damage, and adding that to a Google Map.

“Although rabbit numbers are increasing, populations and locations are not yet fully understood. This is a great opportunity to provide grassroots information about the distribution and abundance of rabbits.”

Scientists will use the RabbitScan information to help determine future control options. Results from this initiative will also assist the long-term commitment to research and development of new or improved management strategies for rabbits.

“There are already thousands registered on the RabbitScan website. So far, some registrations from our area, but/and we need more RabbitScan data.

Log on to the RabbitScan website and you’ll receive a guide on how to find and map local rabbit threats, using Google Maps technology. You can also report rabbit sightings via SMS. Send a text message with your name, phone number, location, date and number of rabbits seen to 0421 690 892.

“This year is the 150th anniversary since the introduction of wild rabbits into Australia. 2009 marks a century and a half of major agricultural and environmental damage from these pests,”  
“Rabbits are a menace to the agricultural industry as they eat crop pasture and spread weeds. They are estimated to cause \$200 million damage to agriculture each year.

They are also a great environmental concern because as few as four rabbits per hectare can stop regeneration of native plants. They even destroy vegetation in urban and coastal areas  
The RabbitScan Month Challenge is an initiative of the Rabbit Management Advisory Group and the Invasive Animals Co-operative Research Centre (CRC).

A link to the RabbitScan website is available on the Onkaparinga City Council homepage for people to easily record their observations.