



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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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dene Cordes, well known to many FOOPers was guest speaker at our February general meeting. His reminiscences of the foundation of National Parks and Friends groups in this state from 1891 to the present enlightened all attendees. I was particularly struck with his recall of the political bipartisanship of previous ministers for the environment; David Wotton [Liberal] and Don Hopgood [Labor], who had the best interests of the whole state and the environment at the heart of every decision they made. A lesson for current politicians? Perhaps?

If you were an advocate of National Parks or a Ranger in those early years, life was very uncomfortable. I am certain those in attendance would have left feeling there were many questions from those earlier years that are as applicable today as they were then.

Our 30th birthday is rapidly approaching, and I again take the opportunity to ask if you have ideas on how we may celebrate FOOP's many achievements, please let me or any committee member know. My email is vk5gct@adam.com.au

Just before sitting down to add to this article, I was stunned by a comment on television by a senior State politician regarding the Royal Commission's findings on storing nuclear waste; this gentleman said "...we represent the community...". Am I the only one who finds this contradictory?

As someone with a keen interest in politics, I am curious about the phenomenon happening in the USA in the lead up to their presidential elections. The evidence from the first of the primaries shows that conventional wisdom is changing fast. Voters are changing allegiance, away from 'establishment' candidates in favour of those espousing changes to the status quo. [read Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders]. Predominantly most young people want their representatives to more fairly reflect their goals and aspirations.

Away from politics it is heartening to see that programmed work is being undertaken on the fire tracks in the parks. What is disturbing is the evidence of someone recently lighting campfires at the bottom of the gorge. The recent rain has freshened the vegetation in the parks, and will help last year's tube-stock to survive.

I can also advise that two additional parcels of land are proposed to be transferred to be included in the Recreation Park. [I confess that I thought they were included]. These are the 'Oxbow lagoon' near the Port Noarlunga Oval, and the triangular section abutting Main South Road to the West of the main bridge over the river. Please ask myself, Andy or any of your Committee if you have questions.

We have heard nothing further on the other proposed works in the parks. We will keep our fingers crossed on that front.

Graham Thomas

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.,

A/G President: Graham Thomas 7220 5568 A/G Vice-President Michael Whitaker 8557 7498

Secretary/Treasurer: : Andrew McKinnon 8386 2393

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Secretary, Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc C/- 27 Kym St., Port Noarlunga Sth 5167.



From the Editor's Desk.

Send articles via: billandgill@yahoo.com.au or by snail mail to 27 Marston Drive, Morphett Vale 5162 or hand deliver to Gill or me.

Dene Cordes' talk struck a chord with me as well. Apart from anything else it reinforced my opinion of Dene as being one of the most influential individuals I have known.

Considering that Friends volunteers in our parks have been going for more than 30 years and that it has been estimated that we Friends contribute about \$3-4million worth of work to the National Parks every year his work in this field has been responsible for somewhere around \$90million over those years.

As a former accountant I recall being taught that when an employer takes on an employee there is an expectation that the employee will generate at least three times their salary plus costs such as LSL, sick leave, workers comp etc., I think Dene may have over delivered. I know he did not do it all himself (Pam Smith for instance and us) but without his enthusiasm over the years FOP would have not become what it is today.

As a long time member of the Friends movement for 29+ years I have also noted that the way the department does its work and its apparent attitude to the parks system has changed.

We were told that the parks were all about conservation and where necessary remediation of the fauna, flora, historical monuments and even geological assets. Although Belair was a battle ground between the conservation movement and the advocates that the park be for human pleasurable pursuits such as sport from its inception.

Dene's promotion of friends groups introduced us to the idea of conservation and that included keeping areas aside for no other reason than there was a need for the bush. It is good for the soul.

Initially we were seen only as willing hands and backs and the rangers were seen as the experts on all subjects conservation and treated accordingly. As members became more experienced the relationship sometimes changed but mutual respect was a feature. I hope that still exists and I am sure it does.

Over the years the department, from my point of view, evolved a change in its core business. The parks stature changed from conservation to public interest. At the same time conservation, a cause celebre in the 1970's lost public support. As a result of that funding for conservation fell in real terms and the department was downsized as a consequence of political will sensing that there were no major votes in emphasising conservation for conservations sake.

I sense that these days DEWNR has changed from being a cost centre to a potential profit centre. I fear that this will work to the detriment of many small parks because their appeal and reason for being is that they may contain rare fauna important to only a small group of enthusiasts. I do think that properly managed and presented some of these parks could be gems. Marketing will need to innovative to enthuse users to non Icon parks but we now hear that if we don't use them then we will lose them.

As I commented last month there is a new "kid" on the block and he/she gets around on two wheels. In the long run lets hope the brashness that has been experienced to date will disappear as the bike population comes to appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of their surroundings. The River Torrens around the Zoo was a favoured haunt by many of us as kids we all loved riding the switchbacks so I do get the attraction.

There is a place for all park users in the system except for that small element lovingly called vandals. Lets face it they have been around for centuries and probably will be around for many more.

We have to accept that priorities have changed over the years and will continue to change not always for the better. We can either stand against changes or bend as the wind blows. There is merit in both strategies.

We need to rate any proposed change as follows:

Is it going to be of benefit to the parks we love?

Is it going to be detrimental to those parks?

Are there some aspects of proposed changes that we consider so bad that we will oppose them and having made that decision we then need to grade them as follows:

1. the fights we can win,
2. the fights we cannot win but to lose while upsetting will not be the end of the world and
3. there are fights we probably will not win but we must in all conscience take on.

We just need to work out which is which and consider an appropriate strategy.

Bill.

From The Secretary's Desk



- The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources has a proposal to **proclaim additions to the Onkaparinga River Recreation Park**. The intertidal saltmarsh area known as the Oxbow Lagoon will be added as this is a significant wetland containing habitats not present elsewhere on the southern Adelaide & Fleurieu coastline. The triangular section of land adjacent to and south of wetland pond 2 near South Road will also be added under this proposal. There is also another proposal to eventually add the new SA Water wetlands near River Road to the recreation park.
- To mark our **30th year** the committee is **planning events** to celebrate this milestone. Some activities already on the drawing board are a park tour including lunch on 11th September, a photo competition, a celebration lunch on 23rd October and a planting event on 3rd July. If you have a great idea to put forward please feel free to contact me or any of the committee members. **The committee for 2016** is Graham Thomas, Andy McKinnon, Michael Whitaker, Jim Trueman, John Bekkers, Malcolm Kirkham, Cynthia Kirkham, Matthew Pearson & Joan Alford.
- There is a proposal to **improve water levels in the Onkaparinga River** which many may have seen aired previously in the Southern Times Messenger. City of Onkaparinga councillors are proposing a 10 year strategic plan & are to bid for funding for a feasibility study. Some things to consider from the circulated initial document:
 1. There are a range of suggestions from, whether to dredge, or use a retention dam or a combination of both? *Dredging was carried out in 1983 and was successful for a few years.*
 2. Or other options of how we improve water levels from the sea to Old Noarlunga?
 3. If we dredge, how do we prevent the silt plume from flowing out onto the reef?
 4. What do we do with the spoil?
 5. What effect will the old Port Noarlunga dump have on the operation?

The Onkaparinga Estuary Rehabilitation Action Plan released in April 2006 noted the following:

"Dredging of accumulated sediments at any location has **not** been identified as an action, for the following reasons:"

1. there is very little data on the infauna of sediments in the upper estuary in the vicinity of Old Noarlunga;
2. the potential environmental impacts, including:
 - a/ sediment disturbance and resuspension causing elevated turbidities and suspended solids downstream;
 - b/ potential resuspension of pollutants such as nutrients and heavy metals;
 - c/ short-term impacts (e.g. smothering) of adjacent benthic communities (will recover);
 - d/ disruption to fish/invertebrate breeding patterns as a result of prolonged site disturbance/turbidities;
 - e/ the need for onshore containment and dewatering of excavated material. Dredged material will contain water and be costly to remove. Dewatering will be required to reduce volumes/weight;
 - f/ water quality impairment due to the dredge material return water (unless treated);
 - g/ affects on amenity and recreation during dredging and dewatering, and the disposal of excavated material, including transport issues through Old Noarlunga and potential contamination issues.
 - h/ the historical occurrence of silt banks in some locations, notably below Patapinda Road, and the likelihood that the silt would again build up, so the dredging may only be a relatively short-term measure;
 - i/ the high cost of such operations.

The rate of continuing siltation should be reduced by control of those activities resulting in sediment introduction into the watercourse, i.e. dumping, erosion stabilization (e.g. motocross site) and Corella management. Eventually, with improved land-use practice and improving environmental flows, the situation may be alleviated. Please feedback any comments to me & if you wish I can forward further documents & information.

- **Membership subscriptions for 2016** are now due. Please make sure that you send your fees in as soon as possible. Our financial year runs from 1st November to the 31st October. Membership fees have increased for the first time since 1986. Family \$15 & single \$10.
- **The Friends of Parks 30th Forum** titled "Urban Biodiversity Rocks" will be held from 14th to 16th October 2016 at the Cove Civic Centre, Ragamuffin Drive, Hallett Cove. The program has been planned, including many interesting speakers. The cost will be approximately \$125 for all sessions & all meals. Registration forms will be forwarded in the New Year. Mark your diaries for this bi-annual event.

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

See you somewhere out in the Park
Andy McKinnon



Red-browed Finch... *Neochmia temporalis*.. 11-12cm... resident.... breeding... Very common

The most common Finch species found in the Onkaparinga Park and can be found anywhere from the Estuary to the Onkaparinga Gorge and surrounding suburbs and farmlands, sometimes also called the Red-browed Firetail. The Red-brow is a native to many parts of Australia, particularly the east coast, but very common in Sth. Australia. Whilst other species of native Finch may be uncommonly encountered in the Park, the Red-brow can be found almost everywhere all year round. There is another three species of Finch commonly encountered in the Park, the European Goldfinch, the Greenfinch, and of course the common House Sparrow.

As with most Finches they are a highly sociable species, close-knit, living, feeding and breeding as a flock. Often congregating in large numbers, but generally in flocks of up to 10 individuals. Easily distinguished from other Finches by the bright red eyebrow and beak with the red extending to the tail region as well, a soft grey underbelly and olive green back and wings. Both male and female look quite alike, the Juveniles a more drab uniform grey/green. Diet consists almost entirely of seeds, and some insect matter, so open grasslands between forest regions are a common place to find them, quite often they can be seen perching on the grassy stems with seed heads. Never seeming to stray too far away from water, and a good place to find them on a hot day is wherever there is cool water, a creek, dam or the like. They are also quite common in some suburban gardens as they respond well to bird feeders and water stations.

The nest of the Red-browed Finch is quite large with a conical top, and with a side tunnel for an entrance. It is a rough loose construction of twigs and grass stems built in a dense shrub or tree, usually at a height of between 1 and 2 metres above the ground. Both parents share nest-building, incubation of the eggs and feeding of the young when they hatch, between 22 to 24 days.

You don't have to look very hard to find Red-brows, they are really quite common, often their presence is given away by the high pitched "tsee teest" or "tchip" when the alarm call is given. You are just as likely to come across the Beautiful {introduced} European Goldfinch near where the Red-brows feed and congregate, but perhaps I'll leave that one for another article.

With this long hot Summer most birds in the park are not too far away from water, lots of Pelicans, Australian White Ibis and Straw-necked Ibis and numerous water birds are around at present, particularly the estuary. A good spot to head to is the freshwater lake just east of the rail bridge on River Road, Noarlunga Downs, especially early morning or towards sunset, take your Binoculars and a Camera as there are some beautiful sights and photos to be taken in this and nearby areas.....thanks for reading....



Adult



Juvenile

More South Australian Place names courtesy of G H Manning - Manning's Place Names of South Australia CD ROM ISBN 978 0 947284 59 6

There will be a test at the end should you take the challenge . Its a crossword.

Abattoirs - A French word for 'slaughter house' applied to a railway station and changed to 'Pooraka' in December 1940. When the metropolitan abattoir was established in the second decade of the 20th century it was considered that it would be 'the making of Gepps Cross' - 'already the transformation of this comparatively insignificant township is becoming apparent.' The contract for the building was let to Messrs Wadey & Co. of Melbourne and amounted to £106,000 and spoil from the excavations was used to fill up low lying land in the direction of the Cavan Arms Hotel. The initial work at Gepps Cross consisted of surveying the 486 acres and taking levels for water, drainage, building and railway purposes and the Gepps Cross railway station was built adjacent to the slaughter house.

Avoid Bay - It is situated WNW of the present-day town of Coffin Bay and named by Matthew Flinders in February 1802, ... there are rocks and breakers on each side of the entrance; on which account, and from its being exposed to the dangerous southern winds, I named it "Avoid Bay". Baudin called it *Ance des Granits* (Granite Cove), while on Freycinet's charts it is *Baie Rochon*.

Augusta, Port - The government schooner *Yatala* (Captain Dowsett) sailed from Port Adelaide on 6 May 1852 with A.L. Elder, MLC, John Grainger, MLC, one sapper and one assistant as passengers. On Friday, 21 May, Messrs Elder, Grainger, Peters, Henderson and Harris went ashore to form a township and find a place to build a wool store but, apparently, without success, as they sailed farther up the gulf. The log for Sunday, 23 May, says:

*Went on shore to first high land through a dense mangrove swamp. At 3 p.m. came aboard. Messrs Elder, Harris and Stuckey found a beach and deep water, hard ground appearing from the range to form a road down to the beach. Monday, 24 May - At 7.30 a.m. manned the whaleboat; myself (Captain Dowsett), Messrs Elder, Grainger, Harris and Peters sailed up to Port Augusta and sounded the channel right to the landing place. Went on shore to look at a salt lake. Erected on the beacon a flagstaff. Gave cheers, three times and three, and named it **Port Augusta**. Came on board, made sail, and beat down the gulf...*

Baan Hill - On section 50, Hundred of Allenby; an adjacent spring gives a good supply of water all year round; derived from the Aboriginal *panau* —'ochre'. The name was given to a pastoral run by H.S. Williams and J.T. Bagot and, on 24 June 1976, proclaimed as a recreation reserve.

Baroota - In July 1851, the name was applied to pastoral lease no. 15 taken up by George B. Yeates (1824 -1902) and derives from either the name of the local Aboriginal people, *baruta* - a name linked to freshwater springs near the town, or *paruta*, 'animal feeding place' - Lady Gosse mentioned this when launching the ship *Baroota* on 16 May 1951.

Tailem Bend - In the early 1840s George Mason was a police trooper at Wellington (later, he became Sub-protector of Aborigines) and it is recorded that he said, "the scrub blacks called the place "Thealem", which probably means "bend". On 19 February 1846 the *Government Gazette* recorded that occupation licences had been issued to Messrs Archibald Cooke, John Morphett and John Gifford over land in the near vicinity. (See *Cooke Plains & Gifford Hill*) Of interest, also, is the fact that Donald Gollan called his sheep run 'Taleam'. Professor N.B. Tindale says it derives from *teigalang*; *teigai* - 'to miss aim' for it was here *Ngurunderi* failed for a second time to kill the giant Murray Cod, *Ponde*. The town was proclaimed on 28 July 1887 and its school opened in 1902. (See *Mason & Ponde*)

Tarpeena - Derived from the Aboriginal *tartpeena* - 'large red gum tree'. The town, 24 km north of Mount Gambier, surveyed in October 1860, was offered for sale on 25 July 1861 and, by 1869, it 'comprised, besides the hotel, an eating-house and wine shop conjoined and one or two nondescript erections.'

Thaxted Park - An unofficial name given to a subdivision south of Adelaide with a golf course of the same name; the name occurs in Essex, England, where it derives from *thael-stead* - 'place for thatching material'.

Thebarton - The present suburb of Thebarton includes the first section of land surveyed outside of the City of Adelaide, ie, South Adelaide and North Adelaide, being preliminary section 1, granted to Colonel Light of Adelaide on 12 May 1838. The General Registry Office holds a document declaring that, 'the said William Light in his lifetime set apart and appropriated 21 acres of the said section to be divided into small allotments and did accordingly divide the same and numbered such allotments 1-252.' In this document the name of the subdivision is spelt **Theberton**. The allotments were sold by Henry Nixon and Boyle Travers Finniss on behalf of Colonel Light, the plan not being lodged with the General Registry Office until 1854. This subdivision was bounded by what is now Chapel Street, Kintore Street, Dew Street and Port Road. The recital continued: '[The] said Maria Gandy being possessed under the will of 7 acres to the north of the said 21 acres hath divided 7 acres into 92 small allotments numbered 253-344.'

Third Creek - Originally, it was named 'Todd Rivulet' by Colonel Light. Immediately below Grove Hill were

the: Sites of two of the well-known establishments which, in their day, were frequently patronised by the dwellers of the plains. The one was Rock Tavern and the other Baier's Tea Garden. [The latter] was in the first instance cultivated by Mr John Baier and vines for the most part were grown there. Subsequently, his homestead was transformed into a public house and licensed in opposition to the Rock Tavern under the name of the Sanitorium Hotel... Its licence was allowed to lapse. Its doors were closed, only to be reopened in the cause of temperance as a tea garden and as such it was, perhaps, better known...

Three Brothers - The following is an extract from a report by Charles Hope Harris dated 17 May 1915 on the history of the Three Brothers Special Survey:

The name was given to a special survey applied for by John Barton Hack either late in 1839 or early in 1840. Mr Hack was the pioneer settler in this district and, together with Messrs F.H. Dutton and G.F. Angas, selected the greater part of the survey. A little later a Mr Jacob Hagen took over Mr Hack's interests and became the principal land owner in the district. This special survey extended from the present day townships of Hahndorf and Echunga, southward and eastward. 'The name of the survey was derived from the three brothers, Jonathan, William and Benjamin Sanders, early settlers on Echunga Creek. Their father, George Sanders, was local overseer for Mr Hack who, in the year 1838, held a licence to graze cattle and sheep over a considerable stretch of country there. Section 3531, Hundred of Kuitpo, had been known as the "Three Brothers Sections" from the earliest times, the farm being situated near a bend of the Meadows Road, a little over a mile south-west from Echunga and was bought by the late Mr Hackett a good many years prior to 1915. In the 1841 census the 'Village of Three Brothers' was reported to have a population of 481.

Todd Rivulet - Now known as 'Fifth Creek' and said to be 'named by Colonel Light after a pioneer settler'; however, it probably refers to James R. Todd, a director of the South Australian Company.

Tod - Robert Tod, a member of an exploration party from the schooner *Victoria* in 1839, is remembered by the **River Tod**, on Eyre Peninsula. He was chosen by the share holders of the 'Port Lincoln Special Survey' to explore the surrounding unknown country and some of his party discovered a river they named in his honour. At one time he was Auditor of Public Accounts and Deputy Postmaster at Port Adelaide, while Governor Gawler described him as 'decidedly irritable.' The **Tod River** School opened in 1880 and closed in 1881. **Tod Highway** runs from Kyancutta to Port Lincoln. In 1923, the reservoir at Tod River, and the weirs on the Tod River and Pillaworta Creek and the service reservoir on Nott's (*sic*) Hill, were completed.

Two Wells - In the early of days of settlement two Aboriginal wells, 38 km NNW of Adelaide, were used by settlers for domestic and stock water supplies.

The town was laid out on section 455, Hundred of Port Gawler, by John Bullock and Charles Farr, circa 1864. Its school opened as 'Port Gawler' in 1865; name changed in 1866. On 13 February 1868, a public dinner was given by Mr Cowan to celebrate the opening of the Two Wells Inn:

Mount Saddlebags, - A trig point in the Hundred of Kuitpo whose summit represents a saddle, with a saddlebag on each side.

Mount Compass, - On a journey to Encounter Bay in 1840 Governor Gawler lost his compass in the vicinity. The district's name was 'Square Waterhole' while the waterhole, itself, was placed under the control and management of the District Council of Goolwa and Port Elliot in 1867. The land where the town is situated now was surveyed in October 1880 and, in March 1893, the area was resurveyed into Workmen's Blocks; its post office was opened in November 1897 by William Wright and the school in 1899.

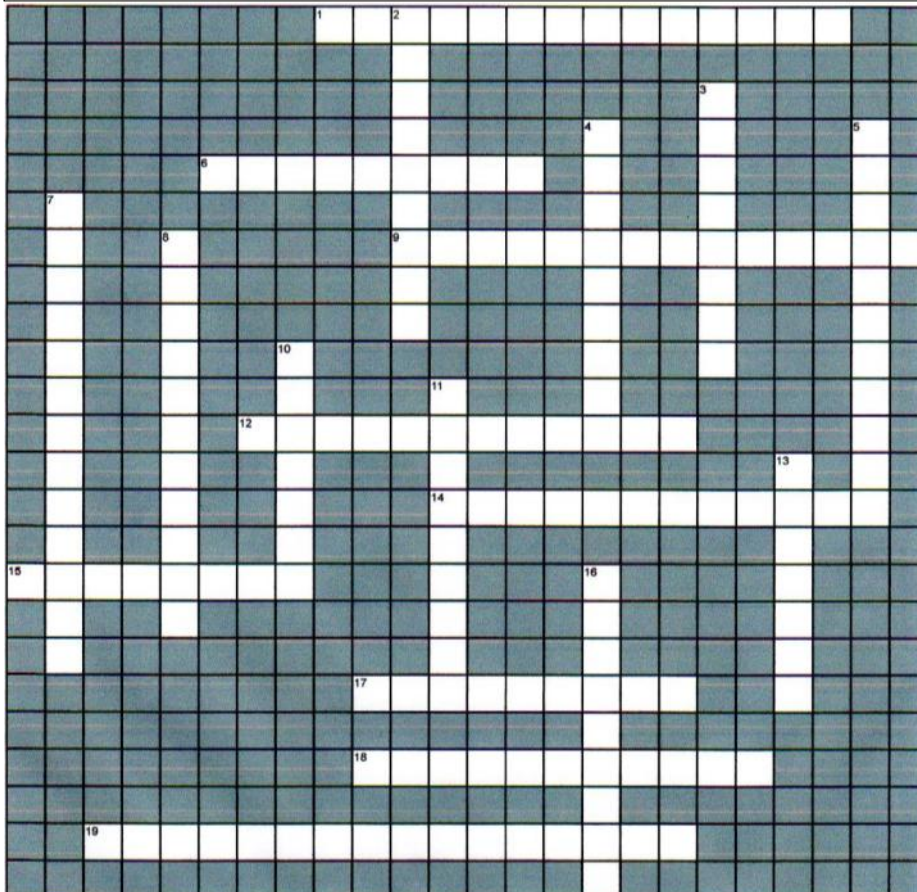
Coobowie - Aboriginal for 'wild fowl water'. It has been suggested it derives from *ku-bawi* - 'ghost water'. The town of **Coobowie**, 11 km east of Yorketown, was proclaimed on 7 January 1875.

Waitpinga - Aboriginal for 'windy place'. The **Hundred of Waitpinga**, County of Hindmarsh, was proclaimed on 29 October 1846. One of the first visitors to the district was Henry Alford who, with two special constables (Anderson and Hatley), went to Victor Harbor to arrest a man called Morgan for complicity in the attempted murder of Sheriff Smart. The **Waitpinga** Post Office operated from 1867 until 1886. The school opened in 1931 and closed in 1943.

Wakefield - Port Wakefield takes its name from the **River Wakefield**, discovered by William Hill in 1838, who named it after Edward Gibbon Wakefield; on Freycinet's charts it is shown as *Baie Caroline*. As to its discovery, in 1849 it was said that: An important discovery has been made at the head of Gulf St Vincent by Mr Buck, lighterman, being nothing less than the existence in that quarter of an available harbour for coasters... with good natural accommodation for... loading and discharge. In 1850, 'Port Henry' was renamed 'Port Wakefield': By command of His Excellency. The change of name is in good taste and complimentary to the gentleman upon whose system the colony was founded, as well as appropriate to a locality known as the *embouchure* of the River Wakefield... A township is to be laid out on section 2030... Leases of the corresponding water frontages will be offered to public competition...

Rodney Cockburn suggests that 'Port Henry' was named after Henry Ayers, Secretary of the SA Mining Association, and goes on to say that, at one time, it was proposed to call the place 'Port Young' but 'as the locality was then so unattractive in appearance... his Excellency demurred.' The government town of **Wakefield** was prompted by this discovery, being surveyed on section 2138, Hundred of Inkerman, in April 1850 and offered for sale first on 16 May 1850. The **Port Wakefield** School opened in 1866, the **Wakefield** School opened in 1883 and closed in 1897; the **Lower Wakefield** School opened in 1879 and closed in 1883. (*See Upper Wakefield*)

South Australian place names part 2. All the clues are in the article on Place names so its just like an English Comprehension test. Note a typo at 19 –TRIG point not a TRIF point.



Across

- 1. Originally named Port Henry. (2 words) (14)
- 6. This area was originally granted to Col. William Light and had two e's. (9)
- 9. Johnathon, William, and Benjamin Sanders were the ...? (2 words) (14)
- 12. When named there were - 3 times 3 a cheer. (2 words) (12)
- 14. A place for thatching material. (2 words) (12)
- 15. Large gum tree. (8)
- 17. From panau - Ochre. (2 words) (9)

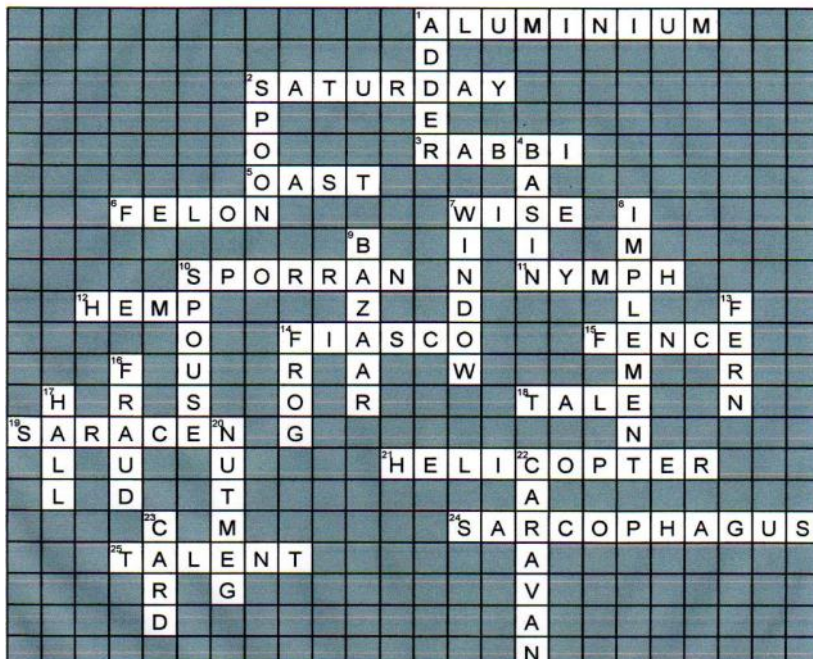
- 18. If the aboriginal word was used we have bend bend. (2 words) (11)
- 19. Trif point in the Hundred of Kuitpo. (2 words) (16)

Down

- 2. Named after a "thoroughly irritable" public servant. (2 words) (9)
- 3. Wild fowl water. (8)
- 4. This place originally had two Aboriginal watering places. (2 words) (9)
- 5. Originally called Todd rivulet by Col. W. Light. (2 words) (11)
- 7. Got its name because Gov Gawler lost a directional instrumental. (2 words) (13)
- 8. Here is a puzzle - originally called Todd Rivulet. (2 words) (11)
- 10. Originally called Abbatoir (7)
- 11. A windy place (9)
- 13. Two possibilities - Freshwater Springs or animal feeding place. (one word) (7)
- 16. Baudin named it -"Ance des Granits" (2 words) (9)

Jan/Feb puzzle solution.

Meanings, derivations of words.



- 1. ALUMINIUM
- 2. SATURDAY
- 3. OAST
- 4. FELON
- 5. WISE
- 6. BI
- 7. HEMP
- 8. Z
- 9. B
- 10. SPORRAN
- 11. NYMPH
- 12. HEMP
- 13. Z
- 14. FIASCO
- 15. FENCE
- 16. HRSOR
- 17. TALEN
- 18. SARACEN
- 19. G
- 20. L
- 21. HELICOPTER
- 22. L
- 23. D
- 24. TALENT
- 25. R
- 26. D



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
SUNDAY MARCH 6TH at 9:00AM



Come and help clean up our Park and surrounding areas.

Meet at car park –Perrys Bend, Pt Noarlunga.

The famous(?) FOOP Inc sausage sizzle will commence at 12:00 or thereabouts.

Bring gloves and wear a hat and stout shoes.

For more information contact: **Jill Clark 8382 5545.**



“12 More Walks in the Onkaparinga River National & Recreation Parks”

Written by Michael Whitaker. Full colour maps, photographs and detailed descriptions of each walk are included, as well as some of the history of the Onkaparinga Parks.

The **original “12 Walks” book** is also available again.

All profits from the sale of the books support the environmental work of the Friends of Onkaparinga Park. FOOP members can buy books at meetings or at most Working B's for \$15. Further details from Michael Whitaker email

michaelwalksonkaparinga@hotmail.com



Book review.

Last year I read Bill Gamage's book "the Biggest Estate on Earth –How Aborigines made Australia" and I am currently reading Bruce Pascoe's "Dark Emu". Both have a very similar theme and it is one we should give serious consideration. That is we are not bringing back the bush the way it was in 1788.

For most of my life I have always believed that the Australian Aborigines were nomadic and it was accepted that they were the only known human culture where permanent structures and cultivation was not practised.

About five or six years ago I started to read articles suggesting that perhaps that those facts were not true. It was suggested that it suited the early white settlers to claim that as the natives had no structures then they could not claim title to any land. Unfortunately we have seen this happen in other countries so I was not surprised. Still at that time the major evidence for a contrary view was the idea of firestick farming as opposed to arson.

Firestick farming has been around for a long time and is not unique to Australia. It was generally considered that there was no long term method in the process. As more examination was made of this process quite a number of scientists, historians and interested parties came or are coming to the view that rather than being a spasmodic practice by a mob of arsonists the activity was very calculated and very effective.

Gamage refers constantly to the commentaries of a number of our early white explorers and settlers where they noted that the bush was so well ordered it was not an exaggeration to compare them to fine English estates. It was also noted that generally where bushland was not burnt there was a reason such as that area had plants that were useful as medicines but appeared no where else or the soil structure was unsuitable for grass. He also pointed out that many early Australian artists painted the scenery with tracts of open land and one picture in the book shows the open grass land being surrounded by dense bush with a watercourse at the bottom. Kangaroos and other game were left to feed on the new grass and when needed were herded toward the water course and the bush where the hunters were hiding, spears at the ready. All very civilised. It sounds like an English pheasant hunt.

Pascoe goes further and presents accounts of large grain storages kept by Aborigines being raided by explorers near starvation as they went into the interior—as reported by the explorers.

Sturt reported finding a large and prosperous village in Sturt's Stony desert. He reported a village with between 3-400 inhabitants all so prosperous that his party was given accommodation, water, and food including duck etc.,

Pascoe also recounts Mitchell's (explorer) description of open plains with stooks of hay far from white settlement and evidence that a seed crop had been planted, harvested and the seed stored. In other words farming.

He also writes of eel farms in Victoria, round houses using stone, Spinifex and clay houses in the interior so strong that an explorer stated that you could a horse over the structure without damage. In South Australia houses were made using whale bones as the support beams and they were permanent structures.

Most importantly from our point of view is the very strong suggestion that at the time of white colonisation the Australian bush was not as impenetrable and dense as we are led to believe and in places created.

I do recall Terry Gregory (a former long term ranger) stating that we need to balance our planting programs with grasslands if we wish to bring the land back to what it was at the time of white colonisation.

So in our endeavours to bring back the bush are we overplanting areas?

If we are then perhaps in future plans should we take note of the emerging evidence and adapt the plans to reflect the practices which have been going on for more than 30,000 years and changed the original bushland?

A sobering thought was that until we changed landcare practices from Aboriginal to European there is no archaeological record of devastating bushfires.

FOOP Subscriptions Form



Subscriptions are due on the 1st November of each year.

(Financial year 1st November to 31st October)

New members who join after 1st September are covered for the year following.

Please accept my/our new/renewal subscription.

Name(s):.....

Address:.....

Telephone No......**Mob No.**.....

Email address.....

Please indicate if you would like to receive notices by email **Yes** **No**

Please indicate if you would like to receive newsletter by email **Yes** **No**

Please indicate if you would still like to receive newsletter by post **Yes** **No**

I am paying (please indicate the one you are paying)

Family Membership **\$15.00**

Single Membership **\$10.00**

Donation **\$.....** (NB., Not tax deductible)

Then detach this form and forward with payment to:

The Secretary/Treasurer, Mr A McKinnon, 27 Kym Street, Port Noarlunga South 5167

Payment can also be made to the Treasurer at general meetings held the first Tuesday of the month. (except January) Payment also by *electronic transfer*, details below.

EFT Details:

Account Title: Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc.

BSB Number: 805-007A/C Number: 00707387 (Credit Union SA)

Reference: Last name, first name, "subs".

Send email to mackins@tpg.com.au to confirm payment.

If you are a **new member** please forward contact details as above.

Andy McKinnon
Secretary/Treasurer
Friends of Onkaparinga Park Inc.

MARCH 2016 FOOP WORKING B PROGRAM.

**Note Working B's in the park will be cancelled when there is a Total Fire ban in the MT Lofty Region
All Working B's start at 9:00 am & finish at 11.30am unless otherwise stated.**

Note: all new gate numbers

Sunday	Mon-	Tuesday	Wednes	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 NP Gate 20 – Springs Chapel Hill Road Weed control <u>Andy 8386 2393</u> General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute	2	3 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control <u>Graham 7220 5568</u> Evening walk 6pm Meet Old Reynella Oval Access from Old South Road	4	5 NP Gate 13 Gosse Road Olive control Andy 8386 2393
6 Cleanup Day 9am Perry's Bend Jill 8382 5545	7	8 NP Gate 29/30 Riparian zone Weed control Andy 8386 2393	9	10 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control <u>Graham 7220 5568</u> Evening walk 6pm Meet 24 Richmond Grove, Onkaparinga Hills	11	12 No working bee
13	14 Public Holi- day	15 RP Gate 14 River Road Weed control Andy 8386 2393	16	17 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control <u>Graham 7220 5568</u> Evening walk 6pm Meet Happy Valley Oval Taylors Road, Aberfoyle Park	18	19 NP Gate 18 Whittings Road Hardy's Scrub Boneseed removal Andy 8386 2393
20	21	22 NP Gate 7a – The Knoll Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 8386 2393	23	24 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control <u>Andy 8386 2393</u> Evening walk 6pm Meet 7 Panorama Ave, Hackham	25 Good Friday Public Holiday	26 Easter Saturday No working bee
27 Easter Sunday	28 Public Holi- day Easter Mon- day	29 NP Gate 10 – Punchbowl Piggott Range Road Weed control Andy 8386 2393	30	31 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control <u>Andy 8386 2393</u> Evening walk 6pm Meet Woodcutter's Cottage, Brookman Rd, Kuitpo	1	2 NP Gate 13 Gosse Road Olive control Andy 8386 2393
3 Daylight Saving Ends	4	5 NP Gate 29/30 Riparian zone Weed control <u>Andy 8386 2393</u> General Meeting 7.30pm Old Noarlunga Institute Andrew Winkler, "Torrens Island"	6	7 NP Gate 25– Chapel Hill Weed control Andy 8386 2393	8	9 NP Gate 16 Chapel Hill Road Hardy's Scrub Boneseed removal Andy 8386 2393