FRIENDS of the GREAT VICTORIA DESERT PARKS

Newsletter Number 36, March 2009

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM ACQUIRES RARE **SUN MOTH SPECIMEN**

During the 'Bring in your Bugs" day on the lawns of the South Australian Museum a rare specimen of Cryptic sun moth Synemon theresa was brought in for identification by a family from Teringie, it was found in their hills face garden.

This species is only known in South Australia from the Stonyfell Waterfall Gully area and although several specimens are in private collections this was the first specimen of this species to be lodged at the South Australian Museum Research Collection for 66 years.

Other specimens in the Museum collection were collected by F.Angel from Mt.Lofty 1942, Burnside 1937 and 1940, Stonyfell 1938 and 1940. This new specimen was collected adjacent to the known locality of the species. It is good to know that it is still there!

The Museum collections are extremely valuable in showing the distribution of different species of animals as well as telling us where species used to occur and when. Whilst the collection is not open to the general public, bonefide researchers from all over Australia and around the world are working on material from South Australian Museum collections thus increasing our knowledge of the Australian fauna.

Through a joint initiative of Museums around Australia and the CSIRO, state collections are slowly being databased and in time, the information will be on-line through the world wide web similar to Australia's Virtual Herbarium. www.anbg.gov.au/avh/

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Cryptic Sun-moth Synemon theresa Photos: John Hodgson



See page 5 for more information on the Cryptic Sun Moth

President: Bill Dowling arlbill@internode.on.net, 08 8339 6562 Vice President/Secretary: Neville Hudson nhudson@senet.com.au

Treasurer: Shelagh Bond jamesshe@bigpond.com

Membership fees from 1st January 2009 will be \$25 pa payable to Treasurer, Unit 12, 108

Fendon Road, SALISBURY 5108 S.AUST. payable on 1st January of each year.

Newsletter Editor: Jan Forrest OAM - forrestjan@adam.com.au

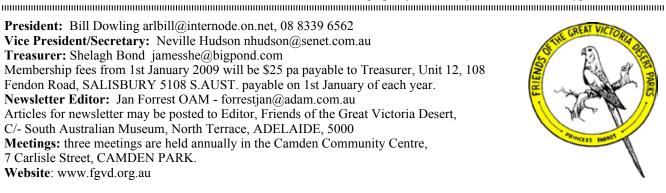
Articles for newsletter may be posted to Editor, Friends of the Great Victoria Desert,

C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000

Meetings: three meetings are held annually in the Camden Community Centre,

7 Carlisle Street, CAMDEN PARK.

Website: www.fgvd.org.au



AUSSIE POEM

The sun was hot already - it was only 8 o'clock The cocky took off in his Ute, to go and check his stock. He drove around the paddocks checking wethers, ewes and lambs, The float valves in the water troughs, the windmills on the dams.

He stopped and turned a windmill on to fill a water tank And saw a ewe down in the dam, a few yards from the bank. "Typical bloody sheep," he thought, "they've got no common sense, "They won't go through a gateway but they'll jump a bloody fence."

The ewe was stuck down in the mud, he knew without a doubt She'd stay there 'til she carked it if he didn't get her out. But when he reached the water's edge, the startled ewe broke free And in her haste to get away, began a swimming spree.

He reckoned once her fleece was wet, the weight would drag her down If he didn't rescue her, the stupid sod would drown. Her style was unimpressive, her survival chances slim He saw no other option; he would have to take a swim.

He peeled his shirt and singlet off, his trousers, boots and socks And as he couldn't stand wet clothes, he also shed his jocks. He jumped into the water and away that cocky swam He caught up with her, somewhere near the middle of the dam

The ewe was quite evasive, she kept giving him the slip He tried to grab her sodden fleece but couldn't get a grip. At last he got her to the bank and stopped to catch his breath She showed him little gratitude for saving her from death.

She took off like a Bondi tram around the other side He swore next time he caught that ewe he'd hang her bloody hide. Then round and round the dam they ran, although he felt quite puffed He still thought he could run her down, she must be nearly stuffed.

The local stock rep came along, to pay a call that day. He knew this bloke was on his own, his wife had gone away He didn't really think he'd get fresh scones for morning tea But nor was he prepared for what he was about to see.

He rubbed his eyes in disbelief at what came into view For running down the catchment came this frantic-looking ewe. And on her heels in hot pursuit and wearing not a stitch The farmer yelling wildly "Come back here, you lousy bitch!"

The stock rep didn't hang around, he took off in his car The cocky's reputation has been damaged near and far So bear in mind the Work Safe rule when next you check your flocks Spot the hazard, assess the risk, and always wear your jocks! Source unknown 2009 INTRODUCTORY BUSH FOR LIFE WORKSHOPS

Once again DEH is providing Introductory Bush for Life Workshops during 2009. The one day workshop covers topics such as the values of and threats to remnant native vegetation, strategic approaches to bush restoration, maximising biodiversity outcomes, and practical minimal disturbance techniques.

There are a limited number of places available for 2009 courses. The course is free to the participant, but your booking must be made via your Friends Group President or Secretary, to the Volunteer Support Unit.

Course dates and venues are as follows:

One Day Workshops:

- Thursday 16th April Stirling
- Tuesday 21st April Strathalbyn
- Saturday 9th May Murray Bridge
- Thursday 14th May Happy Valley
- Saturday 16th May Goolwa
- Saturday 23rd May Tea Tree Gully Tuesday 16th June Mount Barker
- Thursday 25th June Belair
- Saturday 27th June Aldinga

Evening Workshops (must attend all sessions):

- Thursday 11th June evening Brooklyn Park
- Thursday 18th June evening Brooklyn Park
- Field Trip date to be advised location to be advised

For more information on what these workshops cover and who they are targeted at, please see details on the Trees For Life website: www.treesforlife.org.au or call the Trees For Life office on 8406 0500. Please reply on the registration page through FGVD Secretary Neville Hudson ph: 08 8556 6782.

PARKS WALKS 2009

Heart foundation Walking - Parks walks is a Heart Foundation initiative supported by the Department for Environment and Heritage, Healthy Parks, Healthy People program.

To register your attendance for any of the Parks Walks call 1300 36 27 87 (local call cost) by RSVP date posted.

All walks commence at 9.30am, please arrive at 9.15a.m. Wear a hat, sunglasses, a broad spectrum SPF 30= sunscreen and drink water before, during and after the walk.

- 19 April Para wirra Recreation Park RSVP Wed. 15 April.
- 9 May Heart Week Walk in Botanic Gardens, call 1300 36 27 87 for registration details.
- 21 June Onkaparinga River Estuary Recreation Park RSVP Wed. 17 June.
- 19 July Anstey Hill Recreation Park RSVP Wed. 15 July.
- 16 August Cleland Conservation Park RSVP Wed 12 August.
- 20 September Sunday Mail city-Bay Fun Run call 1300 36 27 87 for registration details.
- 18 October Shepherd's Hill Recreation Park RSVP Wed. 14 Oct.
- 15 November Coastal Walking Trail (Kingston Park) RSVP Wed. 11 November.

Notes and meeting place details available on Walks brochure available from Secretary Neville Hudson.

OOLDEA MALLEE Eucalyptus youngiana

On the 2008 Field Trip, we were lucky enough to see several magnificent specimens of the Ooldea mallee in full flower. This article was written soon after for the Friends of the Adelaide Botanic Garden Gazette.

In spring 1875, When the style was all Victoriana, A bloke known as Jess Young (not Clive) Found Eucalyptus youngiana

He gasped when he noticed the flowers And the simply splendiferous fruits. He sat there and watched them for hours, Then cut off some specimen shoots.

This tree is a mighty survivor -After fire it will beggar belief. It's soon clothed, unlike Lady Godiva -New stems put out leaf after leaf.

Forget trees from places exotic -Step forward and sound the reveille! You're Australian, so be patriotic -Start planting the Ooldea mallee.

You will have to travel to see the spectacular spring flowers of this South Australian tree in their native habitat. Go to Ceduna, turn north, then west and you'll be in the Great Victoria Desert. Once there, the Ooldea mallee is fairly common, growing with other desert Eucalyptus species on the red sand dunes and the swales between the dunes. It ranges right across the border into Western Australia.

To distinguish Eucalyptus youngiana from the surrounding desert mallees, it is only necessary to look for very large flowers and fruits. South Australian eucalypt expert Dean Nicolle assures us that the fruits are heavier than those of any other eucalypt. The Western Australian rose of the west, *Eucalyptus macrocarpa*, has slightly wider

Photos: by Bill Rowland shows pink, yellow and red flowers of the Ooldea Mallee *Eucalyptus youngiana* fruits and flowers but they are lighter and this tree does not range into





South Australia. If there are no flowers, look on the ground under the tree for the massive woody fruits which can be up to 70mm across. Any eucalypt fruits this big in South Australia can only be from the Ooldea mallee.

Like so many desert and arid area eucalypts, this tree survives with the help of a lignotuber, a large woody swelling which stores carbohydrates and water. The lignotuber is usually underground to minimise water loss. Following bushfires and storms, new trunks grow from the lignotuber's 'adventitious buds', the eucalypt's equivalent of a potato tuber's eyes. A single lignotuber may have up to 13,000 buds, though only five to fifteen normally become trunks at one time. Aboriginal people would cut lignotuber sections from mallee eucalypts, seal them with clay and carry them as water sources.

Eucalypts like the Ooldea mallee have the best-known lignotubers, but these useful structures occur in at least ten plant families, including the Proteaceae where about half the Banksia species have lignotubers which help them to survive fires (the other half survive by producing copious seed).

Eucalyptus youngiana takes its common name from Ooldea, the now-abandoned settlement on the transcontinental railway line where Daisy Bates lived with the local Aboriginal people for many years in the early 1900s. Other common names are the Aboriginal yardarlbara and the self-explanatory large-fruited mallee. The scientific name honours Jess Young who collected the original "type specimen". Young was a member of Ernest Giles' east to west expedition in 1875.

This beautiful desert tree can be seen in the mallee area of Adelaide Botanic Garden. As you might expect, it requires very little water and is well worth a try in the Adelaide home garden in these climatically changing times. Once established, it will reward you with magnificent spring flowers which may also appear in other seasons.

CLUB OUTING to SALISBURY WETLANDS followed by lunch at the WATERSHED CAFE

665 Salisbury Highway, Mawson Lakes 27th September, 2009

Main Courses include: Warm chicken salad \$17 House made pie \$14.50 Steak Sandwich \$16.50 Chicken Burger \$16.5 Atlantic Salmon \$19 Vegetarian Tartlet \$15 Marinated lamb cutlets \$18 Watershed pasta POA Watershed faccocia POA

Contact Jim Bond: 8258 0934 or 0427156239 email: jamesshe@bigpond.com

DEH VEHICLE-ACCESS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

A new DEH Vehicle Access Policy and Procedure were recently produced by the Visitor Management Branch to guide the planning and management of sustainable vehicle access to parks and reserves across South Australia.

Developed in conjunction with representatives from DEH, Friends of Parks, Four Wheel Drive SA, Conservation Council of SA and the Australian Motorcycle Trails riders Association. It effects mainly 4WDs and motor bikes. The Policy and Procedures detail track planning, closures and special access, impact management and community involvement.

Further information and queries contact: Michael Kidd on (08) 812 44874 or kidd.michael@saugov.sa.gov.au or check out www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/visitor/latest.html

Cooks Corner

BANANA BREAD

2 cups SR Flour (or plain flour)

2 teaspoons baking powder (if use plain flour)

2 teaspoons Baking Soda

3/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup shortening butter substitute (Olive Grove classic spread)

1 cup sugar

2 eggs well beaten

1 cup mashed bananas

1 cup chopped walnuts

Combine flour, Baking Powder, Baking Soda Cream shortening, sugar and eggs Mash bananas Mix together alternately Stir in walnuts

Spoon into a greased pan and bake in oven 350°F or 180°C for 1 hour (in shallow pan) 1.1/4 hours (in deep pan)

Recipe courtesy Lesley Chisholm photo: Jan Forrest



2009 FRIENDS OF PARKS FORUM



The 2009 25th Annual Friends of Parks Forum entitled *REDISCOVERING ADELAIDE Urban Biodiversity and Heritage* will be held 30th October - 1st November at Sunnybrae Farm a historic venue at Regency Park.

The forum will be organised by a number of Adelaide-based Friends of Parks groups and the program of events will include excursions to interesting locations in and around Adelaide.

Put the date in your 2009 diary now - it promises to be a great weekend.

USEFUL WEB SITES and EMAIL ADDRESSES

DEH Volunteer support unit email (for information on courses) dehvolunteers@saugove.sa.gov.au

DEH volunteer news: www.environment.sa.gov.au/dehaa/volunteer news.html

Friends of Parks: www.communitywebs.org.

FriendsofParks/

Weeds Australia: www.weeds.org.au

Weeds in Australia: www.weeds.gov.au/index.html Butterfly Gardening: www.butterflygardening.net.au

EcoVoice: www.ecovoice.com.au

Carbon Market: www.carbonmarket.com.au

Backyards for Wildlife: www.backyards4wildlife.com.au/ **Urban Forest Biodiversity Program:** www.urbanforest. on net/

South Australian Museum (includes Butterfly Watch): www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/

Dept. Primary Industries and Resources: www.pir.

sa.gov.au/

RAA: www.raa.net/

The Map Shop: www.mapshop.net.au/

our website address: www.fgvd.org.au

ABOUT SUN MOTHS

Sun moths have often been called butterfly moths. Indeed, they are unusual moths and share many characteristics with butterflies:

- They fly during the day. In fact, if the sun is obscured by clouds, sun moths will rest until it reappears!
- They have "clubbed" antennae which they cannot "fold up" when they are resting (a common moth behaviour).
- They sometimes fold their wings upright when resting, possibly to cover the makings of their wings from predators.

Other interesting characteristics of sun moths:

- They lay eggs near the base of the food plant required by their larvae - probably Wallaby grass (Austrodanthonia species).
- They do not feed as adults, but survive on nutrient reserves built up during their larval stage.
- As adults, they live short lives (probably less than 10 days). However, their larval stage is potentially 2-3 years long!

Sun moths have persisted in Australia for many millions of years. However, since European settlement, changes to the landscape have severely reduced their habitat.

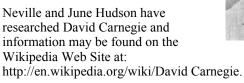
Two sun moths have received a national listing as Endangered Species. The golden sun moth (Synemon plana) is listed as Critically Endangered and the graceful sun moth (Synemon gratiosa) is listed as Endangered.



Photo: Lindsay Hunt of a specimen collected by him at Waterfall Gully.

1896-7 Expedition led by David Wynford Carnegie

At a recent meeting Connie Beadell and Mick Hutton presented slide and talk show of a trip they took in 2007 following closely the return section of the expedition led by David Wynford Carnegie.





CRYPTIC SUN MOTHS

The Cryptic sun moth was described by Doubleday in1846. They have a wing span of 3cm (males) to 3.5cm (females), are grey-brown in colour and have orange hindwings. Cryptic sun moths occur in grassy woodlands. These habitats have been reduced by land clearing because they are also attractive to humans for urbanisation and agriculture. With limited habitat, sightings of cryptic sun moths have been few and far between! Some authors have recently considered them to be extinct!

The specimen that was brought to the SA Museum for "Bring us your Bugs" was the first one seen in many years. It confirms that the species persists in the hill-face zone of Adelaide. We are extremely fortunate to still find them living so close to the city!

References

Department of Sustainability and Environment (2003) Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Action Statement No. 146: Five threatened Victorian Sun-moths (Synemon species). Available at: http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/ 8CD033DA4FEC900CCA2570ED0018F14E/\$File/ 146+Sun-moths+five+species+2002.pdf

Douglas, F (2004)A dedicated reserve for conservation of two species of Synemon (Lepidoptera: Castniidae) in Australia. Journal of Insect Conservation 8: 221–228.

EPBC Act List of Threatened Fauna. Available at: http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=fauna

The above text 'About Sun Moths' and 'Cryptic Sun Moths' was taken from the Uni SA website http://www.unisa.edu.au/barbarahardy/factsheets/cryptic-sun-moths.asp

Tips for Collecting Native Vegetation Specimens

If you have found a plant species that you would like identified or you believe to be of value for the herbarium collection, here are a few tips on how to collect and preserve the specimen. Pick a fresh bit with stems, leaves and flowers (to cover about an A4 size) and press between newspaper under a weight. Obtain a GPS reading and a few notes about where you found it and what it was growing with. Pass the specimen on to the local ranger who will give it a

voucher number and submit it to the Herbarium.



Remember the 6 Fs — Fresh, Foliage, Flowers, Fruit, Flat, Fast

**Do not collect specimens of plants you believe to be rare or endangered. Let local rangers know of your find and they will organize identification. A permit is required to collect plant material from National parks. **



FRIENDS OF THE GREAT VICTORIA DESERT PARKS NEWSLETTER No. 36 Mar. 2009 **6**FRIENDS OF PARKS 16th AGM NEW MULTI-USE TRAIL

will be held on Monday 11th May 2009 at the GAZA Sports and Social Club, 232 Main North East Road, Klemzig from 10.00 am, finishing around 12 noon.

Secretary Neville Hudson has available nomination forms should you wish to nominate for a position on the Friends of Parks Board.

Our President, David Mitchell, has made a strong plea for people with fresh ideas and energy to nominate for Board/ officer positions.

Nominations close at 5.00pm on 13th April 2009.

VOLUNTEERING SA

Visit www.volunteeringsa.org.au for an appreciation of the broader aims of this organisation, including a link to Volunteering SA's e-newsletter and a summary of training opportunities.

THE BUSH MECHANIC

Some advice on vehicle preparation.

Mandatory items:

UHF radio, normal spare wheel, plus spare tyre case and at least two spare tubes. Strong towrope or snatchum strap (with D shackles to secure them), shovel, fire extinguisher (dry powder type), good first aid kit, drinking water and a minimum 20litres water in each vehicle for emergency use only, shovel.

Essential vehicle equipment and spares:

jacking plate (30cm dia. metal or plywood), fan and air conditioner belts, radiator hoses and clamps, tyre pump and tyre pressure gauge, lead light or torch, can WD40 or similar, spare fuses, gasket repair compound, fuel line filter, small tarpaulin, working gloves, hessian bag, 50mm duct tape.

Other useful items:

Fuel (in steel jerry cans), engine oil (1-2 litres), funnel and plastic host (petrol resistant), tyre and tube repair kit, radiator sealing compound, wire; high and low tension and tiewire, jumper leads (for flat battery starting; check for effects on on-board computers), emergency windscreen (plastic), light globes. Spares specific to your vehicle (your dealer may have a loan kit available). Adequate chocks to ensure safety during wheel changing especially if using a bag or exhaust operated power jack, GPS, satellite phone.

Items which may be shared:

Transmission/gear oil, hydraulic fluid, high lift jack, hand winch and accessories, 3 x 1.5 star pickets (for winch), grid for fire.

Taken from a trip log of the Museum Waterhouse Club. Comments from FGVD members on the above would be welcome. Do you think there other mandatory, essential and useful items? Share your thoughts with others.

Of interest to Walkers, Cyclists and Equestrians.

The Kidman Trail is a multi-use (walking, cycling, horse riding) recreational trail in South Australia. The trail extends from Willunga in the south, to Kapunda in the north, linking the following places - Willunga | Kuitpo Forest | Echunga | Macclesfield | Nairne | Rockleigh | Mt Pleasant | Mt Crawford - Starkeys Campsite | Rams Head Corner | Stockwell | Kapunda.

The website www.kidmantrail.org.au* supplies relevant information, including how to order 'working' maps. Overview maps can also be seen by accessing www.kidmantrail.org/the-kidman-trail/overview-maps*.

(*Note: scroll down below the rather large introductory picture for the information sought).



REVIEW OF DEH RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Over the last three years there has been ongoing reform of the DEH reserve management planning program.

Questions include:

- How do Friends groups use the management plans?
- What do you like or do not like in the present plans?
- What would you like to see in future management plans?
- What are the main priorities?
- How can we best involve Friends groups in future planning?

If you would like to send comments, or just find out more please email Mike Greig (Consultant) at greig.mike@saugov.sa.gov.au.

2009 FIELD TRIP

Field Trip Planning Group: Bill Dowling, Neville Hudson, Peter Facy and Ian Jackson.

Dates:

- Sun 02 August: Gather in Ceduna for briefing and Dinner.
- Mon 03 August to Thu 13 August:
 - Biological Survey and track maintenance work along Goog's Track area.
- Fri 14 August: Farewell at Kingooya

Proposed Activities:

The biological surveys may include vegetation surveys, photo points, bird watching and animal tracking. In addition general maintenance work may be undertaken under the direction of Park Rangers.

Those interested in attending should note that numbers are limited (12 vehicles, on a first come, first serve basis), therefore please register your interest with Peter Facy (insafehands@adam.com.au) as soon as possible and at the latest by Monday 20 April 2009. This will allow us to finalize details and advise participants of Field Trip details. Please only register interest if you are firmly committed to participating in this trip.

Attention all Friends and Prospective Friends!

2009 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

If you haven't already paid, please photocopy, or tear off the form below, or download a form from www.fgvd.org.au\ and send it with your \$25 membership fee to:

SIGNED: DATE:



RE IMAGES FROM THE CLUB OUTING TO ST.KILDA BOARDWALK Photos: Ruth Grgurich



ICE your mobile phone.

What do ICE and your mobile phone have in common? ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. It's a method of storing important health information and contact details on your mobile for others to access in a crisis. You can have several ICE numbers listed in order of importance, with medical information such as blood type, allergies and other details that can assist others to assist you.

To ICE your mobile simply create a new listing called ICE and store the number of the best person to contact In Case of Emergency..

Since its conception in the mid 2000's, the ICE program has been used by paramedics, fire fighters and police

officers to help victims and contact their next of kin to obtain medical information. The campaign started following research that revealed fewer than 25% of people carry any details of who they'd like telephoned following a serious accident. Promoted by the Ambulance Service in the UK, ICE encourages people to store these important details.



DEH ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

The latest edition of the DEH's electronic volunteers newsletter is now online. You can view it at http://www.environment.sa.gov. au/deh/volunteers/volunteer.html

ABORIGINAL ART EXHIBITION

At the Red Poles Café, Restaurant and Gallery McMurtrie Road, McLaren Vale

The "Tjutjuna Palya Kutu" exhibition displays art from the Ceduna Aboriginal Community Yalata, Scotdesco and Kuju Arts Pt Lincoln.

It runs until 9th May.

Visitors may view the art in the gallery, stay for a coffee in the café or take advantage of the restaurant. Red Poles is open Wed to Sun 9:30 to 5:00. phone 83238994

For more information visit the web site at www.redpoles.com.au

DIARY DATES

MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING: Friday 19th June, 2009 at Camden Community Centre, 7 Carlisle Street, CAMDEN PARK at 7.30. Michael Huxley will speak on "Birds of the GVD" and show his bird photos. Michael won the Oliphant Science award for his videos of birds. See article page 6 of Nov. 2008 Newsletter No 35.

FUTURE MEETING DATES: 6th November, 2009.

CLUB OUTING: 27th September, 2009 to the Salisbury Wetlands with Lunch afterwards at the Watershed Cafe, 665 Salisbury Highway, MAWSON LAKES. Contact Jim Bond. See page 4.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Dowling	President	08 8339 6562
Neville Hudson	Vice President/Secretary	08 8556 6782
Shelagh Bond	Treasurer	08 8258 0934
Doug Smith	Marketing	08 8268 4625
Jan Forrest OAM	Editor	08 8297 8230

WEB LINKS

DEH information on Mamungari Conservation Park: http://www.parks.sa.gov.au/mamungari/index.htm

Friends of Great Victoria Desert: www.fgvd.org.au