

Para Wirra News



'Parra Wirra's *Remarkable Rocks*' Devils Nose Walk'

Photo: Darren Williams

From the Friends of Para Wirra (Patrons: Joan Woolford and Mike Johnson)
and the Barossa Goldfields Historical Society
- Proudly members of Friends of Parks Inc.



The Editor's Desk

2

Para Wirra Recreation Park is to be re-designated as a conservation park. Exactly what this means for Para Wirra is yet to be known. The definitions of Conservation Park and Recreation Park both contain areas of grey. The status of Conservation Park still does not guarantee that Para Wirra will be safe from development and activities (such as mountain bike riding). Indeed, there is 2.7 million dollars on the way to help upgrade facilities and camping grounds have been mentioned.

Nevertheless, the very word 'conservation' implies protection from an environmental perspective, whilst 'recreation' denotes a more human focus. Maybe just the name change itself will help protect our lovely park.

Thanks to those who were able to come to the Friends Christmas Dinner (fully understand those who could not make it as fire weather was extreme). It was a relaxing time of sharing our thoughts and memories from 2015. Special thanks to John Dawkins for his attendance and thoughtful insights he provided during the evening. Further, thank you again John for all the hard work and effort you put into protecting our park in the political realm, and indeed for fighting for our conservation status.

Please enjoy this latest issue of Para Wirra News.

Darren Williams

Inside this Issue

Editorial	2
President's Report	3,4
Barossa Goldfields Historical Society Secretary's Report.....	5
Gawler Village Fair.....	6
Cape Tulip in Para Wirra-Kym Smith.....	7,8
Barossa Goldfields Top-enders Party-Darren Williams.....	8
Pruning for Habitat Workshop-Leonie Hobbs.....	9,10,11
Congratulation Meryl Jenkins.....	11
Kites Over Para Wirra-Danny McCreadie.....	12
Walks in Para Wirra- Alternate Devils Nose Loop -Darren Williams.....	13,14,15,16
Gallery-Darren Williams.....	17
Kids Page 'Para Wirra Bird Find'.....	18
Dates, Events and Information.....	19,20

President's Report



Greetings Friends

The last quarter of 2015 saw some interesting happenings. Also some worrying moments such as the Pinery fires, even though they did not reach Para Wirra. The wind seems to be the deciding factor with these terrible events. Those of you living close to The Park would have been considering evacuation, as Mike and I decided to do on the day of our Christmas Party, with over 43 degrees of heat and an “extreme” fire danger classification. We had also evacuated earlier in December, with a fire a few valleys away near Steve Taylor’s home.

On a lighter note, our group were successful in gaining a \$5000 Community NRM Grant for Watsonia control, and contracts will be going out soon. Our \$20,000 Landcare Grant work is two-thirds completed, and the third contractor should be starting when the weather is suitable.

We participated in the Gawler Show at the end of August, hosted the One Tree Hill School on 1st September, and of course the Open Day on 20th September was the big event for the year, with Pat and Molly at Lady Alice Mine, Wildflower Walks, plant sales and an information stall. We held a stall at the Village Fair in Gawler on 7th November with \$256 in sales – including a raffle, thanks to donations of items from members Ruth, Darren, Pat, Julie E. and Rupert & Helen, and we received a cash donation and sold biscuits, jam, books and cards. Not a fortune, but good to remind locals about Para Wirra and our group.

We put up a display at the Sustainable Living Festival on the 8th November, and a stall at the One Tree Hill Market on 5th December which took about \$180, including another raffle with donated prizes.

This year the fire danger situation saw our Christmas Party at Darren & Jasmine’s home, and our group is lucky to have generous people like that on the team. Mike and I were not able to come as mentioned above, but have heard it was good fun for those who could. John Dawkins tells me he enjoyed it thoroughly.

I had prepared Certificates of Appreciation for various people, and was hoping to present these, along with the 10-year badges and letters to Val, Kym and Leonie, and an Honorary Membership Certificate to John Dawkins for his years of support. These will be now presented at our January 16th meeting, wherever that may be – we are really getting the extreme weather in 2015/16.

Such a busy time, no doubt I have forgotten some things we did... Oh yes, weed control!

My grateful thanks for the hard work and support of all of you, and my best wishes for 2016.

Patsy johnson

(And thanks for all your hard work too, Patsy and Mike!) Ed.



Mike and Patsy celebrating their anniversary at the Gawler Village Fair

Photo: Darren Williams



Barossa Goldfields Historical Society

BGHS Secretary's Report

The major event for this period was our annual Open Day, on Sunday 27th September. It was very satisfying to see a good number of members the day before to set everything up, so thanks to all that helped then and on the actual day.

The day itself turned out magnificently. Beautiful weather, great entertainment from the Sing Australia, the Gawler Ukuleles Are Us (who added a new segment this year from their 'Focus on Folk' section), and of course the Adelaide Regiment 1862 Rifles (who kept the crowd fascinated with their period dress and precision displays, especially the Black Powder Rifle firing demonstrations). Add to all this, the Damper tasting, the Gold Panning, the Raffle, the Machinery displays and the Guided Tours, all of which added to the event being such a wonderful success.

To quote Kaylene, "In summary we had over 200 visitors which included around 60 children. We cooked 20 dampers. We sold 198 raffle tickets, which I believe is a new record and all raffle prizes have now been distributed. I heard lots of positive comments about the day including great atmosphere, setting, loved the dampers and so pleased to get the children playing outside - great activities to get them involved."

Apart from all that, we had visits on Tuesday, 20th October, from the Gawler East Primary School, who had a great time, and Gawler Primary School on Tuesday 24th November, with almost 60 children attending. I have been kept very busy organising other School visits, juggling dates, and Volunteer availability to host these visits, which are becoming more and more popular. All help on the day is appreciated. We have tried to keep these visits to one per month, so that we all don't burn out, but they are good fund raisers for our Society, and it is good for the children to learn a little about our local history.

Tuesday morning members have been working on small maintenance tasks as usual, one of which was to fit period style latches to the main room doors in the Cottage. Thanks guys, this addition is really great.

We have received a history of Job Harris from his Granddaughter, and this is on display in our Museum room. [Reproduced in Para Wirra News Issue 21. Ed.]

Lastly, I was able to give a slideshow presentation about the Goldfields to the Gawler Uniting Church Mens' Fellowship Group one evening, and this was well received.

Lynton

Gawler Village Fair 7/11/15



Lovely spring day for a Friends of Para Wirra stall at the Gawler Village Fair with: Trudi Gayler, Val Lacy, Rupert Thorne, Julie Eldridge, Leonie Hobbs, Patsy Johnson, Jasmine Williams and Lynton Carle

Photos: D Williams



Cape Tulip in Para Wirra-Kym Smith



Control of Cape Tulip in Para Wirra is a topic which was recently raised by some members of the Friends. This could be a welcome relief from Boneseed, or a nightmare, but definitely an issue which should be looked at.

There are two species of Cape Tulip in this area, One-leaf and Two-leaf. Para Wirra has several areas where One-leaf Cape Tulip is known to occur. It is a very invasive weed in

woodlands and pastures as well as being a declared weed.

Cape Tulip reproduces above ground by producing large numbers of seeds or corms and below ground by large numbers of bulbs (cormils).



Cape Tulip Seed Heads

Cape Tulip is toxic to all grazing animals so is able to outcompete other plants due to preferential grazing.

Control can be done by wiping the leaves with glyphosate using the "tongs of death" which produces minimal disturbance and off-target damage to surrounding vegetation. Larger infestations can be controlled by careful spraying with a selective herbicide. There are certainly some

infestations in Para Wirra which are too large or dense to be controlled using the tongs.



Cape Tulip Mass

Outlying populations and larger infestations should be identified and mapped. Young Cape Tulip plants can be difficult to distinguish from other plants including the native Onion Orchid. Small outlying populations should be controlled, especially in areas of good native vegetation, ensuring that all flower and seed heads are removed and destroyed. Carefully assess the surrounding vegetation to minimise damage to

native vegetation

Control can only be done from July to October. Annual followup control over several years will be necessary for good control as the corms can remain dormant in the soil for several years.

While this is a difficult weed to control, I believe it is worthwhile considering eradicating small outlying populations, and containing larger infestations in order to protect native vegetation. I have been helping to control Cape Tulip in Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park since 2008. The results have been slow but encouraging.

AMLRNRM have produced a useful short video about Cape Tulip:

<http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidentloftyranges/plants-and-animals/pest-plants-and-animals/pest-plants>

Photos: Kym Smith

Barossa Goldfields 'Top Enders Party' 17/12/15



On Thursday December 17 2015, members of the Barossa Goldfields Historic Society hosted the annual 'Top Enders' party. Around 30 residents from the area attended and enjoyed a pleasant evening including a Laser Light Show and shared dinner.



With: Anthony and Kaylene Jaensch, Leonie Hobbs, Barry Taverner

Photos: D Williams

Pruning for Habitat Workshop – Habitat Creation.

Leonie Hobbs

Recently I attended the “Pruning for habitat” workshop held at Para Wirra. The information provided has come from Philip and Patrick Kenyon from the Victorian Tree Industry.

In Australia, there are approximately 300+ species of wildlife that use tree hollows throughout Australia. Hollows are used for nesting sites, shelters and safe refuges and can range from a small crack to a very large cavity in a tree.

The Arboriculture Industry has gradually become aware of the importance of habitat trees as part of an active ecosystem. When managing large dead trees in the landscape, the practice is to reduce the tree to a point where it is unlikely to present a risk to people and infrastructure. The trees are usually dead, dying or declining and are left as habitat stumps. The habitat stump has a high proportion of sound wood which has little value to wildlife as there are very few natural usable hollows.

Natural hollows take a very long time to develop through a natural process of failure and decay within a tree. By using a range of strategies, it is possible to shorten this long term decaying process and provide natural looking habitat by creating artificial hollows.

When creating habitat trees, there are many points to consider, some of which are still being researched, such as:

- Entrance size
- Aspect (openings faced away from the worst weather)
- Drainage – waste drains out of the nest
- Landing platforms
- Escape ladder for young
- Discouraging feral and predator animals
- Light exclusion for owls and bats
- Height of the lip in the hollow (kookaburra chickens point their rear over the edge during toilet training)
- Retain any natural habitat if possible

And much more.

The group headed out to a location where work had begun on a habitat tree, just inside the entrance of Para Wirra, to see how a hollow could be made into a tree.

To start, the tree was identified as a habitat stump rather than completely removing it. The canopy was taken back to a level that is acceptable to reduce the

target area or the risk of limb failure, retaining any existing hollows if possible. This particular tree was dead, but needed some trimming to make it safe.

Next, suitable locations for hollows in this tree were identified. Two hollows have been made. Next time you come through the Park entrance, have a look at the dead tree behind the pay station and see if you can locate where these hollows have been created. Hopefully, one day you might see evidence of them being used!



The process requires skilled use of a chainsaw! The operator also had to have climbing gear and lots of other safety gear!

- Remove a faceplate approximately 30mm to 50mm thick and lower it to the ground. The size of the face plate will determine the size of the artificial hollow.
- Choose the desired entry hole and carefully drill through the faceplate.
- Pre-drill two holes to attach the faceplate back on to the tree with screws.
- The next step is to cut a cavity hole in the branch. The operator marks the size of the cavity hole, then, using a small chainsaw, cuts a square, then cuts out a series of horizontal boring cuts.
- Using a small crowbar and hammer, knock out sections to form a cavity.
- The faceplate is then screwed into position.

Photos: Leonie Hobbs



Making branch hollows is a similar process, except that the excess end of the branch is removed. The branch needs to be at least 150mm thick and 300mm in length. The cut has to be sloping at least 30 degrees. Use a chainsaw to carefully bore into the sloping cut at the end of the stub to create the hollow. The hollow can be left open or a faceplate attached. Drainage may also be required.

Tree habitat sizes vary considerably. For instance, for Cockatoos and Kookaburras, require a hole size of 18 cm, and 5 m off the ground, Barn Owls like a hole 10 x 30 cm rectangular in shape and 5 m off the ground. Pardalotes and Sugar Gliders like holes 3 cm in size and 5 m off the ground.

More information about creating habitat can be found at:

- Gibbons, P & Boak, M., 2000 *The Importance of Paddock Trees for Regional Conservation in Agricultural Landscapes*, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Gibbons, P & Lindemayer, D., 2002 *Tree Hollows and Wildlife Conservation in Australia*, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood.
- Victorian Tree Industry Organisation (VTIO), 2010, Tree habitat sizes. www.vtio.org.au/?s=habitat
- Grant, J. 1997. *The Nestbox Book*, Gould League of Victoria



Congratulations to Para Wirra Ranger Meryl Jenkins, who will be married on February 26th to Joshua Schiller.

Photo: D Williams

Kites Over Para Wirra-Danny McCreadie

Para Wirra Conservation Park is fortunate in that a wide variety of raptors visit or nest in the park. Goshawks, Wedge Tailed Eagles, Kestrels and Southern Boobook Owls can all be seen in the park by the lucky observer.

This article looks at two of the visitors from the Kite family, the Whistling Kite and Square Tailed Kite.

The Whistling Kite feeds mainly on carrion and travels in pairs and groups.

They are numerous around Buckland Park where they form flocks of 10 or so birds soaring together over bushland, however they are usually seen around Para Wirra in pairs.

They are attracted to fires where

they catch fleeing animals and insects. Their name comes from a clear whistle which ends in a chattering noise.

The Square Tailed Kite is expert at taking young birds from nests or adult birds from the canopy of trees, however they will take road kill when available. Square Tailed Kites tend to fly as single birds except in mating season. They are also relatively quiet compared to the whistling Kite, only making a series of high pitched chirping noises when calling each other. The Square Tailed Kite is endangered in South Australia.



Para Wirra is an important expanse of bushland which provides for the needs of Kites, whether they nest there or simply hunt for food.

Top: Young Square Tailed Kite
Center: Whistling Kite over Para Wirra
Left: Pair of Square Tailed Kites

All Photos: Danny McCreadie

Walks In Para Wirra-Alternate Devils Nose Loop

Darren Williams (With Trudi Gayler and Obelia Williams)

It could be argued that the Devils Nose is the single most outstanding natural feature in Para Wirra Recreation Park. The spectacular rocky outcrop is found on the Western boundary of Para Wirra above the South Para River. There are several ways to hike to 'The Nose', the most common being the 4.4km return walk from the Devils Nose carpark. However, this 9.7km loop hike is rewarding, exploring much of Parra Wirra's diverse terrain, ecology and history. This hike has been modified to take into account recently added trails and minimise on road walking.

Note: Please obtain the latest Para Wirra Map before attempting this hike. Further, this hike is recommended for experienced walkers only and can be quite steep and rocky at times. Please ensure that you carry adequate water



Hissey Trail Section -Trudi Gayler

and snacks. A first aid kit and mobile phone are also recommended...

The Rangers Office was chosen for the starting point of the walk.

From the office it's a short walk to the Hissey Loop Trail, just near the toilet block across the road. Follow the Hissey trail North 200m until you reach the Link Trail which runs between Hissey Loop and Lizard Rock Loop. The

junction is not well sign posted but there is an obvious trail to the right. Follow the Link Trail for 1km, through two stands Sheoaks until the next junction, which is the Lizard Rock Loop Walk. Veer left and follow the Lizard Rock Trail North and soon you will discover some rocky outcrops. Just past



Lizard Rock

the giant 'Obelisk' you will find a vantage point to view Lizard Rock itself. Continue along for another 100m or so until you come across a Memorial Seat. This is where it gets a little tricky. In 2014, a new link trail between the Lizard Rock Loop Walk and The Knob was constructed and, whilst appearing on the latest map, is not sign posted as yet. However, this new Lizard Rock-Knob Link Trail can be found by turning left at the Memorial Seat and a quick

look you will see the trail meandering through the rocks to the North. This is a beautiful section of trail, passing through more stands Sheeks and there is also a view of the Devils Nose towards the West. Continue for 800m and you will reach the Scenic Route, a major road through the park. There is also a sign pointing to The Knob Lookout and Bowdens Cottage. Follow the Scenic Drive



Start (above) and finish (below) of the new Lizard Rock-Knob Link Trail

as if you were heading to Bowden's Cottage. You will soon see a park gate on the right. This 4WD track leads down to the South Para River and eventually to the Barossa Goldfields. Follow the track for 1.5 km, switch-backing down the steep incline, and eventually you will come to a level area above the river. This is a magnificent spot for a break. There is a large bench seat sitting amongst a stand of Native Apricots (*Pittosporum angustifolium*) and ancient Red Gums.



You also may notice a fenced off mining shaft across the track. This is evidence of the rich mining history in Para Wirra

(Barossa Goldfields).

It's now time to start the climb to the Devils Nose. Follow the marked trail up the short incline and follow the established trail. There is no 'direct route' and



you must stick to the established trail. The trail heads South, gently climbing for a 1km until eventually switching back to the North. Around 800m later, you have reached the Devils Nose! Walk through the gap between the large rocks to The Nose itself. Take time

to rest and enjoy the views. Keep to the level areas and well away from the edges of the drops.

The views to the West are of pastoral lands which are highly contrasted to the Eastern views of the greater Para Wirra Recreation Park; including the Barossa Goldfields section to the North East and the Mt Crawford Ranges to the far East. The rock formations are Algate Sandstone which is 800 million years old (but less than half the age the Barossa Complex Gneiss back down below in the South Para!)



Panorama: From Devils Nose Looking East



Obelia Exploring around The Devils Nose



Below The Devils Nose

The Walk Back.

There are still many beautiful views and things to see on the way back. Return through the gap and follow the trail leading South along the ridge. this trail runs for 2.2km back to The Devils Nose Trail head Carpark. the walk is sign posted and a copy of the Devils Nose Hike brochure will help interpret the signposted spots along the way.

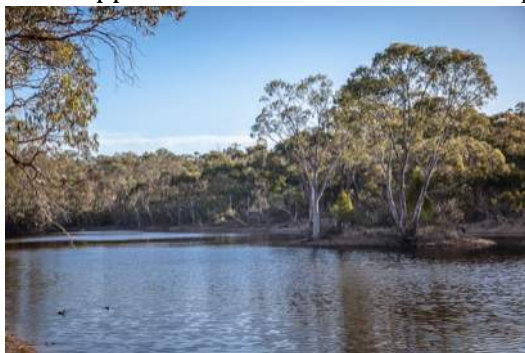
As you walk along, take time to admire the views all around you. A little down the trail, the view towards Gawler is spectacular. Eventually the trail

will climb a rock hill and then, after a short flat walk through Sticky Hop Bush (*Dodonaea viscosa*) and Downy Mint Bush (*Prostanthera behriana*), you will reach the Devils Nose Turn Around where the trail meets a vehicular track. Continue along another 1km until you reach the Devils Nose Trailhead carpark.



Looking towards Gawler

From the carpark, follow the road a short distance and turn left down to The Lake. There is a boundary trail around the lake, follow this anti-clockwise until you reach the carpark on the opposite side. There is a set of steps leading up from the carpark at



The Lake

Loop Hike (alternate route) is now completed.

The distance travelled is approximately 9.7km. There is 233m of ascent during the Hike. Trudi, Obelia and myself took 3.5 hours to do the walk including an hour resting and enjoying the views. There are many route variations that could be taken. The route described in this article was chosen to maximise the time spent walking amongst the sights, flora and fauna of Para Wirra.

Darren Williams

All Photos: D Williams

this Southern End. These steps lead you back onto the Hissey Loop Walk. Follow this trail up the hill, through the Xanthorrhoeas and continue for another 400m or so. Eventually the Trail meets the bitumen road. Turn right and follow the bitumen until you can see the the Ranger Station on the road left. Voila! The Devils Nose



Along Hissey Walk back to start

Gallery

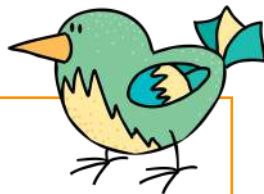


Misery Farm Moonrise



Yattalunga Dawn (Devils Nose)

Kids' Page



Para Wirra 'Bird Find'

E	V	T	U	N	Y	H	R	G	K	C	N	H	G	P
V	K	I	R	P	E	E	G	O	R	E	U	O	T	E
O	G	I	E	E	L	R	O	U	V	D	L	N	R	R
D	K	I	R	B	E	K	W	A	O	D	Y	E	E	E
L	E	E	B	H	A	C	R	E	E	H	C	Y	H	G
U	E	A	S	B	S	E	R	N	U	U	C	E	C	R
F	B	G	U	T	L	O	W	E	R	L	W	A	T	I
E	E	R	B	T	R	H	O	R	E	E	B	T	A	N
C	R	A	T	K	I	A	A	K	T	P	N	E	C	E
A	G	I	W	S	L	W	L	I	C	U	E	R	Y	F
E	L	X	T	I	O	F	K	E	M	U	F	R	L	A
P	N	L	T	N	A	R	O	M	R	O	C	A	F	L
E	E	N	G	N	I	W	E	Z	N	O	R	B	A	C
R	E	L	T	S	I	H	W	S	U	O	F	U	R	O
J	A	C	K	Y	W	I	N	T	E	R	J	M	S	N

BABBLER
BLUE WREN
BRONZEWING
CURRAWONG
CHOUGH
CORMORANT
CUCKOO SHRIKE

EMU
FLYCATCHER
GOLDEN WHISTLER
GREBE
HONEYEATER
JACKY WINTER
KESTRAL

KITE
KOOKABURRA
LITTLE RAVEN
PEACEFUL DOVE
PEREGRINE FALCON
RUFIOUS WHISTLER
TREE CREEPER

BAROSSA GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PROGRAMME 2016
Meeting dates



Australia Day Breakfast Tuesday January 26th 2016
Members sett-up 7am, Public Breakfast from 8am (small donation)

Cottage open every Tuesday 10:00am-1:00pm
Meetings are held on 3rd Sunday of every odd month
1:00pm-3:00pm

Contact: Secretary Lynton Carle 0421 421 793
Chairperson Anthony Jaensch bgoldhs@gmail.com

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Bakery *Gawler Natural Resource
Centre *Barossa Bush Gardens.

OR PHONE 8280 7279.



**FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA
PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 2016**

Saturday	January 16th	Evening meeting 5:30pm, bring a plate. Hughes Resource Centre.
Wednesday	February 3rd	Weed control as required (Boneseed).
Saturday	February 20th	Weed control as required. Shared lunch, Friends and Family AGMA Afterwards.
Wednesday	March 2nd	South Para Nursery.
Saturday	March 19th	Photopoints and weed control as required.
Wednesday	April 6th	Weed control as required.
Saturday	April 16th	Weed control as required.
Wednesday	May 4th	Trail Maintenance as required.

THE FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA

Meet on the **first Wednesday** and **third Saturday** of every month
starting at 9.00 am.

For more information please contact

Patsy Johnson 08 8280 7279

Or see our web page:

www.communitywebs.org/parawirrafriends

THE BAROSSA GOLDFIELDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuesday morning 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
and

Every **third Sunday** of the month 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm
(Cottage open for visitors at these times)

For more information contact:

Anthony Jaensch bgoldhs@gmail.com

Website: www.communitywebs.org/BarossaGoldfiendsHistoric

See overleaf for program

Articles and Correspondence Welcomed
Email: [Darren Williams, dgwillsguitar@hotmail.com](mailto:dgwillsguitar@hotmail.com)