

lookingback

50 years ago
Friday, October 31, 1958

A keen demand for houses, a growing population, availability of female labour, the high percentage of electrical appliances in use, and some pertinent observations on a civic centre and the subject of vandalism are features of a social survey of Whyalla just completed. Six students will present the report on the social survey, prepared in recent months by teachers and students in social studies classes at Whyalla Technical High School, to the Town Commission on Monday evening.

25 years ago
Monday, October 24, 1983

A French construction firm would be ready to discuss the possibility of establishing a submarine-building plant in Whyalla, according to a letter sent to WIDE. Whyalla Industrial Development Executive secretary councillor Graham Hill received the information in a letter from Paris last week. Mr G. Kurkdjian said his company, Chantiers Dubigeon, knew of the Whyalla shipyard and was pleased to receive a description of its facilities. (The letter was sent in reply to correspondence from WIDE distributed to six international firms outlining facilities Whyalla possessed which were suitable for submarine construction.

10 years ago
Tuesday, October 27, 1998

Whyalla CIB detectives have issued a warning to elderly men, following two unusual incidents of assault and robbery in September. Detective Vince Gray said police believed a young female was associating with elderly males while they were drinking at a hotel. He said the female develops a friendship with the male who later takes her back to his house for more drinks. Another male accompanies the pair. As the night progresses, the female becomes more friendly with the elderly male.

Tappers hope for better ticket sales

Whyalla Tappers will hold their annual charity concert again on Friday, and are hoping to see more local support. All the proceeds made from the concert are donat

Wetlands project

PART 3: The original design and construction

By Fai CHIVELL

The original design and construction of the Whyalla wetlands drainage and overflow system did not incorporate infrastructure for the manipulation of water levels and the potential need to bleed off saline water, according to Larry Bebbington in his report on the five-year Remedial Works Program for the City of Whyalla and council are now attempting to rectify the problem.

Mr Bebbington's recommendations have been taken on-board and work has begun on the restructuring of the basic necessities that will allow the in-flow of stormwater to circulate throughout the wetland ponds.

The water levels are reliant on spillways set at maximum storage levels which are unsatisfactory at present as bank slopes are either inundated for long periods or exposed to thunderstorms and ensuing erosion for considerable periods, Mr Bebbington reported.

Water level manipulation devices (such as drop inlet structures and pond to pond pipes) need to be installed to assist in reclamation of eroded banks and to allow the manipulation of ponded water at a relatively constant level.

Mr Bebbington also recommended that remedial works address the issues of installing

diversion banks, dissipation banks and armoured chutes in identified areas to combat erosion.

He also advised that infrastructure include raising and re-profiling the walking trails where identified and the installation of under-path pipe work, the cleaning of drains on the western perimeter and the installation of hard or soft armour in new inlet drains in the eastern section.

All this preliminary work will have to be carried out before we see the site become a healthy, viable wetlands for the city.

The area also requires revegetation of the land to be implemented as part of a three year plan with planting programs commencing in elevated areas well outside the erosion control site works

If erosion control is staged so that works are finalised on a pond to pond basis planting programs can be implemented as each stage is completed.

In the past Mr Bebbington has achieved success in similar landforms during mining rehabilitation projects that have used cost effective methods of revegetation that have been enhanced by tube stock planing of selected species at a later date.

It is vital, according to the report, due to environmental constraints, to select species that will survive a long-term

wetlands landscape.

Long term survival of plant communities includes the recruitment of seedlings from mature plants on the site.

These outcomes can only be achieved by identifying species from the region that naturally occur or will survive in saline environments.

Species selection also takes into account habitat requirements such as food, nesting or roosting sites of native fauna utilising the site.

The revegetation of the wetlands will require the cooperation and involvement of both council and the community.

With the lack of rain there has been very little stormwater running into the wetlands and the ponds are drying up and even beginning to smell but it is an opportune time to undertake the reports infrastructure recommendations.

Wetlands throughout Australia and in arid-zones have attracted thousands of committed community volunteers who have brought about successful revitalisation of wetland areas.

Communities and school groups have initiated monitoring programs such as Water Watch, Frog Watch and National Tree programs that are on-going site projects that can be introduced as part of school curriculums, which allows data to be collected and recorded in local environment

units (EU) and gives access to information links established between working groups.

Community and school groups under direct supervision of EU staff can also be involved in plantings in "landscaped" terrestrial environments such as adjacent to the car park and the lookout pergola at the Whyalla wetlands.

There are enormous opportunities for individuals, families, schools, businesses, sporting clubs and community service groups, such as Rotary, Landcare and the Lions Club, to become involved sponsoring and constructing nesting boxes and ultimately in the monitoring of bird species utilising nest boxes after installation. Nest box manufacturing can involve maths (calculating costs and material requirements), woodwork (in construction) and science (monitoring and research of bird species).

Community groups can be involved in planting and nest box schemes and groups can be involved in the installation of logs on islands and in deep water for habitat, and to implement projects such as interpretive flora and fauna signage.

There are so many advantages in establishing a "Friends of the Wetlands" program to revitalise the Whyalla wetlands - to take the adage "Build it and they will come" is not inconceivable.

Invest in a Persian or Oriental rug