



PORT MOOROWIE WHALER

Email: thefopm@gmail.com

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PO Box 189 Yorketown 5576

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DarkSky International

We are very fortunate in Port Moorowie to have very limited artificial light impacting on our environment and we would like your opinion on how this should proceed into the future.

A request has been made that Port Moorowie become a designated dark sky. We have approached the Yorke Peninsula Council and whilst more information will need to be provided in the future, they are, in general, in agreement with this proposal.

Background Information

According to the definitions of the International DarkSky Association, there are 5 categories and Port Moorowie would fit into the DarkSky Community.

Currently there is only one other DarkSky Community in Australia and that is in Carrickalinga on South Australia's Fleurieu Peninsula. They will now serve as a model for others to follow. The following is an excerpt from their association.

'The township, home to over 400 permanent residents, swells significantly in population during holiday seasons due to its stunning natural attractions, not least of which is the night sky. Its geographical position, distanced from the major city lights of Adelaide by a range of hills, along with sparse streetlights, has always favoured starry nights, making it a perfect candidate for such recognition.'

Carrickalinga's geographical characteristics feature an alluvial coastal strip, noted for its white sandy dunes, clear water and abundant marine life, which includes the Leafy Seadragon, South Australia's marine emblem. This region also serves as a habitat for diverse wildlife, from birds and lizards to dolphins, which also enhances its ecological importance.'
(Printed with permission)

What is a DarkSky Community?

A DarkSky Community is a town, city, municipality, or other legally organised community that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation of a quality outdoor lighting ordinance, dark sky education and citizen support of dark skies.

Town Speed Limit



It is not a choice to travel at speeds above 30 kph but rather than obligation to travel no higher than 30 kph so please observe our speed limit for the safety of both humans and animals.



Photo courtesy of: Adam Meyer (AdBe Photography)

There are many potential benefits to be found by becoming a DarkSky Community and we need to understand and appreciate each one of them singly and collectively to realise why we should pursue this idea.

Potential Benefits to Pt Moorowie & the Peninsula

- **Can attract more visitors**
- **Can bring economic benefits** to surrounding communities through increased customers for local businesses, some visitors coming to stay and people taking advantage of accommodation.
- **Enables the dark sky to get darker**

What are the personal benefits of a DarkSky Community?

- **Stargazing can be a stress reliever**
- **Stargazing can make you kinder** - it is easy to lose sight of the idea that the world is, in fact, a very large place and outside of our very hectic lives we often don't understand how small we are in the grand scheme of things.
- **Stargazing can boost your creativity** – a dark night sky is a magical place to let your imagination run wild.
- **Stargazing helps you sleep better** – artificial light can upset your circadian rhythm.
- **Stargazing can inspire adventure** – you may wish to travel the country or the world to search out other dark skies.
- **Stargazing can connect you to nature** – it can help you to become more aware of your place in the natural world.

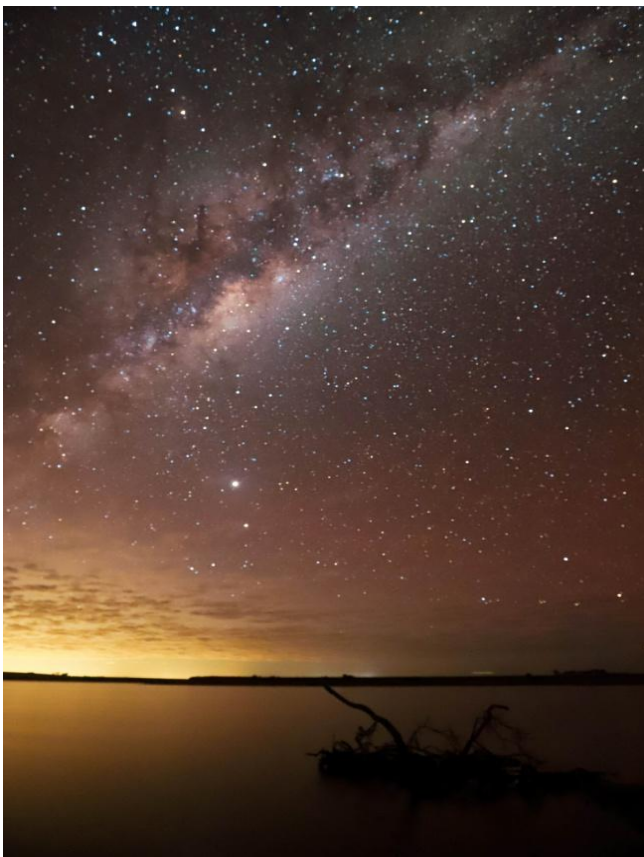


Photo courtesy of: Adam Meyer (AdBe Photography)

Why is darkness necessary?

- **Darkness is vital** to humans and animals – humans can protect themselves from harmful light but animals do not have this possibility. There are enormous benefits ecologically as well as to wildlife,
- **You sleep better** – Melatonin, the main sleep-producing hormone in humans, is produced in large quantities only at night and in the dark.

- **Animals find food at night** – if animals do not dare to search for food at the right time the population will shrink and they will eventually disappear altogether.
- **Your body clock keeps in time** – steady light all the time is not good for humans and too much artificial light means that your body clock will not receive vital messages about the time of day thus making it more difficult to eventually fall asleep.
- **Plants anticipate the arrival of winter** – they require darkness to structure the rhythm of their vital functions.
- **Darkness protects the environment** – it is a dwindling resource due to the amount of artificial light so darkness threatens to disappear from the world. Pleasant lighting needs a strong contrast with darkness for the beautiful city lights to stand out.

There appears to be a lot of scientific proof that there will be endless benefits to the town of Port Moorowie, to the Yorke Peninsula Council, to humans, to animals as well as to sea creatures if we were to go down the path of dedicating Port Moorowie as a '**DarkSky Community**'.

Please think carefully about the benefits not only to the current residents/landowners of Port Moorowie but also to future generations so that the best outcome can be achieved.

We wish to know your thoughts about this initiative by 5 September so please take the time to communicate with us in either of the following ways:

- Email:** fifidaniels@optusnet.com.au
- Telephone or SMS:** 0411 072 836 (Jo)
- Send a letter:** PO Box 189
YORKETOWN 5576

I have been in contact with the main initiator for the Carrickalinga dedication and, if and when required, she is willing to assist us in our path forward.

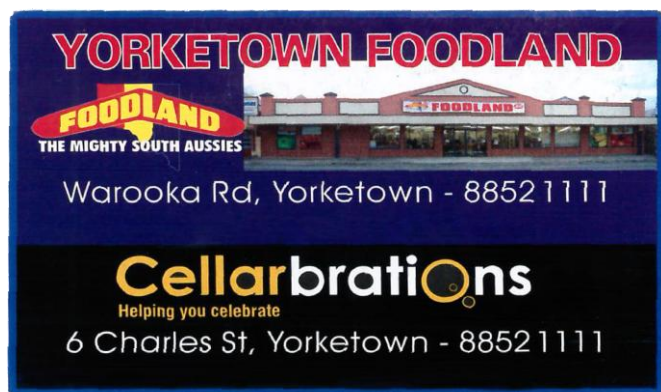
Email addresses - 2024

Please provide your email address to help us to reduce our postage.. **Postage has now increased to \$1.50 per letter.**



Please email your address to:
fifidaniels@optusnet.com.au

Your email address is never supplied to any other person or institution without your express permission.



Committee Meeting Dates

Reminder: Meetings are open to members of our association. Come along and make a contribution. Non-members are welcome to attend but sadly cannot have any input into the meeting, unless specifically invited. Meetings are held at:

63 Marine Parade
PORT MOOROWIE
Please enter via the driveway gate

2024 planned dates:

(Meetings will be cancelled on bushfire-risk days and are also subject to change depending on Committee members commitments)

8 Sept, 3 Nov, 8 Dec



Maintenance Report

From 1 April – 31 July 2024, our small band of volunteers has worked tirelessly to maintain Port Moorowie as much as possible.

Approximately 117 hours of work has been carried out during this time. This work includes:

- Watering and planting the new rockery



Beach shelter & rockery at Point Gilbert

- Maintaining the Native Coastal Display Garden
- On-going clearing of Acacia Cyclops, Boxthorns, fallen Platypus tree and fallen dead branches
- Amenity pruning of overhanging bushes

I would like to extend my deep gratitude to all those people who have volunteered their time: Cathie Joseph, John Walton, Peter Kirkhouse and Russell Boord as well as those other people who do what they can when they are staying in Port Moorowie.

Jan RADFORD (Maintenance Officer)

Pt Moorowie Rainfall



1 April – 31 July 2024

121.5 mm

Photo Gallery

.....*because every picture tells a story*



Photo courtesy of: Adam Meyer (AdBe Photography)

A rare sight – the Aurora Australis was viewed in Port Moorowie on Saturday 11 May this year and this exceptional photograph was taken by Adam on his Canon 5DSR camera with a 20-second exposure. He described the spectacle as likening it to an in-so-far ‘once in a lifetime’ shot and it also made it into The Advertiser on Monday 13 May. If it were not for the dark sky that we have in Port Moorowie (see the main article) such photographs would not be possible

Recycling Centre – cans & bottles only on Camperdown Terrace

Recycling of cans & bottles is ongoing and brings in much needed funds to the association. Please continue to support us – **only 10c SA bottles & cans. No wine or spirit bottles or other rubbish thank you.**

Please note: **THIS IS NOT A RUBBISH DUMP**



Please be community minded and if you create waste take it away with you or arrange to use neighbours’ bins ready for weekly/fortnightly and/or monthly collection.

A ‘convict’ in our midst

Life in England in the 1800s

There were huge social costs: the dehumanisation of work, child labour, pollution, and the growth of cities where poverty, filth and disease flourished. Child labour and poverty were also a feature of rural life, where farm work involved long hours, very low pay and exposure to all weathers. It was not surprising that people resorted to stealing/theft/larceny and as a result many young people were transported to Australia, a country with a deep history as a British penal colony, established in 1788, and which led to years of isolation for the convicts sent there.

One such convict, William Plant, became a resident at Port Moorowie and was buried in the Burial Site at the corner of Marine Parade and McEachens Beach Road. William Plant was born on 7 May 1807 in Manchester, United Kingdom and died and was buried in Port Moorowie.



On the 9th April 1832 in Lancaster Court, aged 24, he was sentenced to 7 years jail and transported to Van Diemen’s Land (now Tasmania). He was convicted of robbing his Master, a felony in the eyes of the law. He arrived in Hobart on 29th December 1832 aboard the ‘York’. He then arrived in South Australia from Tasmania in 1839. Previously a saddler, labourer and storekeeper, he was a farmer in several country towns before coming to Port Moorowie. He married twice, his first wife died without issue (children) but his second wife produced 10 children including Ellen, a teacher at Mt Melville School in 1881. He died on 24 April 1881 aged 73 years of age and had been a colonist for 43 years.



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Acknowledgment of Thanks

We must express our sincere thanks to **Fraser Ellis MP, Member for Narungga**, who has so generously agreed to print **this once-only** colour edition of the Whaler.