



PO Box 33, Aldinga Beach 5173

Friends Group of the Decade 1993 - 2003

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NEWSLETTER

April/May, 2005

Recent Events

The April meeting was chaired by Kevin Hutton, with 24 members and 6 visitors in attendance.

Darrell Kraehenbuehl gave an interesting presentation on 'Aldinga Scrub 6 past and present'. His association with ASCP began in 1953, and he now is considered to be an authority on the plants of ASCP.

Darrell described and showed slides of some of the 250 plant species found in ASCP, including *Dampiera lanceolata* var. *intermedia* which is found nowhere else in the world.

He suggested 3 priorities for the future should be

- incorporation of the Washpool into the ASCP
- a significant buffer on the northern boundary of the ASCP
- an interpretive centre, perhaps at the former Kursa Camp site

Desi Moore chaired the May meeting, which was attended by 12 members.

Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker Neville Crossman was unable to attend the meeting. Neville Hudson very kindly agreed to step in at short notice and show a collection of slides which have been donated to FoAS by photographer Doug Hill. The slides were taken during the 1970s and 1980s, and included photographs of the Washpool and Blue Lagoon, plant communities and individual specimens. Several Friends noted the amount of water present in the Blue Lagoon at that time, and expressed concern that the lagoon had not been filled with water for many years.

Friends enjoyed identifying and naming the plants shown. Many also noted the decline in the quality of much of the vegetation over the last 25 years, no doubt due to the lack of water which now finds its way into the Scrub.

ART EXHIBITIONS CELEBRATE ALDINGA SCRUB

4 - 26 JUNE 2005

These exhibitions, displaying art work which has been inspired by Aldinga Scrub, will be officially launched at 1.30pm on Saturday 4 June at the Octagon at the Aldinga Beach Shopping Centre.

There are to be four concurrent exhibitions to display art work by local school children and artists. The children of Aldinga Primary School and the Willunga Waldorf School have been studying the Scrub in order to create artworks especially for these exhibitions. The children's work will be featured in the Octagon and at the ANZ Bank. The artists' work, paintings, drawings, photographs, ceramic and wooden sculptures on the same theme will be shown at the Aldinga Library Community Room and at the Willy Hill Café. A big thank you to the organisers, Anna Willoughby and Bridget Gardiner for all their hard work to make this exciting event come to fruition.

The Friends of Aldinga Scrub, alongside other conservation groups, will host our own information display in the Octagon as well helping to mind the exhibition in the Library Community Room. Those wishing to help, please contact Julie on 8556 5782.

Park News

For the time being, poisoning bulrush at the Acacia Terrace wetland is complete. Greening Australia is kindly donating 400 *Gahnia filum*, a large sedge, which will be planted there to take the place of the bulrush. Work continues with good progress being made on the removal of woody weeds, particularly in the areas of high conservation value. Some very large boneseed were found and removed east of the gap between the two Acacia Terraces. These mother trees were laden with seed, so lots of progeny to keep us busy in the future.

John and Jan are taking care of olives east of the lower section of Acacia Terrace, while Joy and Nathan have removed cacti on Dover Street. We thank Greg Dalton, our contractor, for his work in controlling olives over the last few months. His place is being taken by Tony Patterson, who also will be spraying Bridal Creeper again this year.

Financial Report

Opening Balance		\$14,006.12
Receipts	\$412.70	
Payments	\$136.90	
Balance at 30/4/2005		\$14,281.92
Less Grants Unspent		\$12,000.42
Available funds		\$2,281.50

From the Committee

- Ian Grivell has kindly agreed to join the committee and to take responsibility for the maintenance of the website
- a reprint of the ASCP brochure is currently being prepared by NPWS
- a grant of \$10,200 has been received from Envirofund to undertake spraying of bridal creeper in 2005
- an application for a grant to purchase a GPS unit has been lodged with the Volunteers Small Equipment fund
- an application for a grant to remove olives has been lodged with the City of Onkaparinga
- committee has written to Planning SA seeking clarification of the buffer depicted in PAR maps on the eastern boundary of the Park
- a circular has been received from Community Liaison Unit reminding members of their liability in regard to media statements which may be defamatory
- committee has written to NPWS and City of Onkaparinga requesting urgent action on rapid increase of rabbits in and around the ASCP
- committee was pleased to receive the first edition of a newsletter from NPWS rangers at Belair which will help to keep us informed about current issues
- an order has been placed with TFL for materials required for the 2005/2006 growing season
- City of Onkaparinga has advised that removal of woody weeds, stabilisation and revegetation is to be undertaken in the dunes opposite Palmer Street

Bushland Monitoring Course

Saturday June 25 from 2 – 5
Sunday June 26 from 10 – 4



The objective of this course, specially designed for Friends Groups, is to monitor and assess the condition of bushland over time.

Instructors, Tim Milne, Sonia Croft and Janet Pedler, will be teaching us about the following:-

- The diversity of native plant species
- Weed abundance and threat
- Structural diversity
- Habitat features of trees
- Feral animals
- The diversity of native animals
- Threats and degradation to bushland

All participants will receive a copy of the **Bushland Condition Assessment Monitoring Manual** by Tim Milne and will be encouraged to use their new skills in Aldinga Scrub. Anyone interested in signing up for the course please contact Julie on 8556 5782.

SPECIAL WORKING BEE

Come along to a special working bee in Aldinga Scrub to be held World Environment Day, Sunday, June 5.

Meet at the Dover Street carpark at 10.30 am.

Please phone Julie on 8556 5782 for more information.

All welcome!

Conservation Council of SA FUNDING CRISIS!

You have probably heard that funding to Conservation Councils across Australia is under threat.

For the CCSA, the cuts will mean an immediate decrease in funding from \$85,000 to \$10,000. These changes were announced 10 months into the beginning of the current financial year.

The CCSA provides a wide range of community services which help to educate and build community awareness of environmental issues. The CCSA also provides an effective, accessible and representative conduit for the community to the Federal Government.

In April, the committee wrote to Federal Minister, the Hon Ian Campbell and 10 other federal politicians seeking an urgent review of this decision. No replies have been received from any these people at the time of this newsletter being published.

Local Member for Kingston, Kym Richardson, was sent a copy of the letter, along with an invitation to attend our General Meeting in May. We are still awaiting a reply from Mr Richardson.

If you would like to lend your support to the campaign to restore funding to this vital organisation, please contact Helen on 8556 3166 for more information.

Friends of Parks Forum

Friends are invited to attend the 21st Friends of Parks Forum, to be held at Victor Harbor on August 26-28.

A varied program of guest speakers is being offered, and the opportunity to enjoy guided tours of local areas of interest including Talisker Mines, Granite Island and Newland Head.

Registrations are now open. Contact Helen on 8556 3166 for more information.

Coming events – General Meetings

June 9

Guest speaker will be Chris Hall who will speak on 'Barossa Bush Gardens ó the case for regional Botanic Gardens'.

July 14

Sarah Bignell will speak at the July meeting on 'Coastcare'.

Coming events – Working Bees

Working bees continue every Tuesday morning at 9.30am. A notice about tasks and where we are working will be pinned to the fence rail at the Dover Street car park.

Please contact Julie on 8556 5782 if you would like more information.

Membership for 2005/2006 is now due!

This is a friendly reminder. If you have a green spot in the box, our records indicate that we have not yet received your membership fee.

If paying in person, please contact Treasurer, Alvin Williams or any of the committee members. If paying by mail, please forward to the address on the front of the newsletter.





Looking
for

You won't find any at the Acacia Terrace
wetland



Check out our website at www.angelfire.com/journal/aldingascrub