



PO Box 33, Aldinga Beach 5173

Friends Group of the Decade 1993 - 2003

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NEWSLETTER

June/July, 2005

Recent Events

20 members attended the June meeting, which was chaired by Palitja Moore.

Our guest speaker was Chris Hall, who presented "The case for regional botanic gardens. Chris has been involved in the establishment of the Barossa Botanic Gardens, which started as a sees orchard 5 years ago. The site, which was provided by the local council, is on the flood plain of the North Para River.

The gardens allow the public to see indigenous plants in a garden setting. They feature locally threatened species, and plants are labelled for identification. Over the past 5 years, the number of bird species observed has risen from 17 to 26 or 29 species. A nursery has now been established as a fundraiser to support the work of the nursery. The key objectives of the gardens are to provide seed, educate the community, promote low water use, attract wildlife and to encourage social interaction.

Albert Gillissen chaired the July meeting, which was attended by 17 members.

Sarah Bignell, regional Coastcare facilitator, addressed the meeting. Sarah supports groups in the Adelaide region, from the northern beaches to Victor Harbor. Sarah described the projects undertaken by the 30 groups in her region, which range from revegetation and weed control to rubbish collection, sea bird rescue and monitoring. Funding is provided by Commonwealth, State and local governments and by catchment boards and community organisations such as the Conservation Council of SA. Sarah also spoke about the introduction of the new Natural Resources Act which commenced on July 1

Our local Coastcare group is the Aldinga Bay Coastcare Group which is involved in planning and lobbying, in particular promotion of the Greater Aldinga Conservation Zone

ANNUAL PLANTING DAY

Sunday, July 24 at 10.00 am



Our propagation team have been carefully nurturing their seedlings over the summer and autumn. It's time to get them into the ground!

Following good rains and thorough preparation, our site on the northern boundary is now ready for planting, and we have several hundred plants to be put out.

Meet at the Dover Street carpark, and please bring trowels and spades if you can.

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

All Friends are welcome to help on planting day.

Park News

The working bee teams have been very active during the past few months. Kangaroo Thorn has been pruned along the north/south path., Rhamnus seedlings have been removed in the Park (407 Rhamnus sprouts in one 2m square patch!!) and on private property in Bristol Street., while the assault on boneseed continues .

Working bees were busy on World Environment Day. 3 loads of olive 'offal' were taken to the mulching depot, where a gang of 10 removed Watsonia near Dingo Road. Workers were rewarded with a barbecue generously hosted by the Forrests and Moores.

Between working bees, John, Jan, Rex and Phil continued to eradicate woody weeds in both northern and southern parts of the Park.

Financial Report as at June 30, 2005

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Opening Balance | | \$14,401.62 |
| Receipts | \$2081.20 | |
| Payments | \$157.40 | |
| Balance at 30/4/2005 | | \$16325.42 |
| Less Grants Unspent | | \$13,971.32 |
| Available funds | | \$2,354.10 |

From the Committee

- we regretfully accepted the resignation of Joy Forrest from the committee and thanked her for her valuable contribution over several years
- FoAS received a grant of \$2000 from the City of Onkaparinga on World Environment Day to assist with the removal of olives in the Park
- a grant of \$15,000 has been received from Urban Forests Biodiversity Program to assist with the removal of woody weeds, bridal creeper and introduced grasses
- letter of thanks was sent to the City of Onkaparinga in regard to removal of feral olives from council verges adjacent to the ASCP
- committee has written to NPWS requesting installation of signs at Gate 15 (Rowley Road) following sightings of dogs chasing kangaroos
- FoAS have promoted the values of the ASCP at community consultation sessions for the Aldinga, Aldinga Beach, Sellicks Beach Neighbourhood Study
- on July 4, FoAS hosted a meeting of Friends of Parks Inc at the Aldinga Library
- committee has written to NPWS urging action be taken on the flooding of water from the CIC stormwater detention pond into the Park at the Rowley Road corner
- congratulations were conveyed to Anna and Bridget for the fantastic success of the Art Exhibitions which were held during June to promote ASCP
- contributions from FoAS have been forwarded for inclusion in a history of Friends of Parks Inc.

Recycle your bottles and support Friends of Aldinga Scrub!

For many years, several dedicated members of the group have regularly collected empty bottles, and donated the proceeds to Friends of Aldinga Scrub. The money raised has helped us to purchase propagating materials such as tubes and soil.

We have recently expanded this venture by opening an account at the Aldinga Recycling Depot.

You can now take your empty bottles to the depot and ask for the proceeds to be added to the account in the name of 'Friends of Aldinga Scrub'.



Conservation Council of SA FUNDING CRISIS UPDATE!

The Conservation Council of SA was pleased to receive funding of \$60,000 for each of the next 3 years.

Although this represents a reduction of funding, the CCSA is pleased to have certainty of funding over a 3 year period.

CCSA thanked all individuals and community groups which had lobbied on their behalf to achieve this successful outcome.

Friends of Aldinga Scrub Website

Our great website has been given a fresh look by Ian, our new Webmaster.

Ian would be interested to hear of any ideas you have for the website, or if you have any material you think would be useful or interesting to be included.

Please contact Ian on 85563015 or at ian.grivell@dsto.gov.au

DEH Reference Group

Friends of Aldinga Scrub have been represented on the reference group which has been meeting for 12 months to determine the allocation of funds within the \$200,000 provided by the developers of the 'Sunday' site.

Our comments in response to the draft Environmental Protection Strategy Framework which has been prepared include

- 104 plants in ASCP are listed as having conservation significance
- Bladey grass, which has a rating of Rare in the Southern Lofty Region, is known to occur on the southern boundary of the development
- the threat of accidental fires or arson must be addressed by the developer
- the provision of a gate on the boundary fence to allow access by prams and pushers will also allow bicycles to access the Park
- the provision of made paths will also encourage the use of bicycles
- short term monitoring of echidna and kangaroo populations may not provide meaningful information
- a whole district strategy which encourages kangaroos to move throughout the wider landscape may be beneficial in managing the stress of increasing numbers within the Park
- monitoring of birds is believed to provide the most useful data on the health of biodiversity
- restoration of sedgeland and associated water regimes will help to lower fuel loads in the northern areas of the Park and also attract birds
- FoAS are prepared to play an active role in community awareness and education for the new residents
- FoAS urge further studies need to be undertaken on the hydrology, groundwater and ecological relationships of the area

Coming events – General Meetings

August 11

Shelley Barker will speak at the August meeting on the 'Australian Jewel Beetle'

September 8

Dr Phillip Ainsley's topic at the September meeting will be the 'Sacred seeds project'.

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.