

PO Box 33, Aldinga Beach 5173

Friends Group of the Decade 1993 - 2003

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NEWSLETTER

August/September, 2005

Recent Events

20 members attended the August meeting, which was chaired by Joy Forrest.

David Hirst from the SA Museum spoke about his research on spiders. David began his talk by introducing a rather lively specimen to the meeting ó a little too close for comfort for some of our members! David informed us that some 400 South Australian species have been named. However, it is thought that we may actually have up to 2000 species in SA.

ASCP is of interest as it is the most northerly location for species from wetter areas. Spiders found in ASCP include huntsmans, spotted ant spiders, orb web spiders, black wishbone spiders and jumping spiders. Predators include larger spiders, insects, mammals, cats, owls and wasps. European wasps have wiped out large numbers of spiders in the metropolitan area.

In addition to his live specimens, David also showed us a number of preserved specimens and a series of informative slides.

Many Friends were pleased not be sharing a refrigerator with David, when he described his practice of placing specimens for 20 minutes to 'sedate' them for research purposes!

Giles Walkley chaired the September meeting, which was attended by 18 members.

Our speaker was Dr Phillip Ainsley from the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, who talked about the SACRED Seeds Project. Phil is a bio-engineer and seed scientist who is working on ex situ conservation to preserve the genetic material of our endangered species.

Of the 3500 indigenous species found in SA, more than 800 species are threatened. In some case, population numbers have been reduced to just several hundred plants. Threats include land clearance, environmental weeds, diseases, animals and people.

Phil's project was established in 2002 with the aim of conserving 135 species per year. It is being undertaken in conjunction with the Millennium Seed Bank project based at the Kew Gardens in London, which is aiming to conserve 10% of the world's dryland flora by 2010.

In laboratories at the Seed Conservation Centre in the BGA, seeds are tested, dried, sealed and stored at controlled temperatures to ensure that they remain viable. Tissue culture is also carried where viable seeds are not available.

Native Orchid Society of SA Field Trip – Sunday September 24

Many friends will remember the captivating talk given by Cathy and Malcolm Houston at our February meeting. You now have the chance to see some of those beautiful specimens in the field and learn more about our native orchards!

You are invited to join Cathy, Malcolm and other NOSSAs for a field Trip in ASCP.

Meet at the Dover Street carpark at 10.00 am

Park News

15 people helped to plant more than 500 seedlings on the northern boundary on July 24. Additional planting has been carried out at the Acacia Terrace wetland.

Removal of woody weeds in Area 5 & 7 is an ongoing project, with boneseed and olives being the main targets.

Contractors will begin work shortly under the NHT, UFBP and City of Onkaparinga grants (total of funds of \$27,000 for 2005). Olives and bridal creeper will be the main targets of these works.

The rust fungus appears to be impacting on bridal creeper on the eastern boundary, and will be sprayed on to patches of bridal creeper in other parts of the Park.

Financial Report as at August 30, 2005

Opening Balance		\$31425.52
Receipts	\$67.25	
Payments	\$17.40	
Balance at 30/4/2005		\$31475.37
Less Grants Unspent		\$28774.00
Available funds		\$2,701.37

From the Committee

- CoO responded to our concerns about the flooding from the CIC site into ASCP by installing a pipe under Rowley Road to divert flood water to the SA Water site opposite
- committee is responding to the Aldinga, Aldinga Beach, Sellicks Beach Neighbourhood Study being undertaken by CoO, submitting that ASCP should have the highest priority in any future planning decisions
- committee is opposing the sealing of roads in the vicinity of ASCP, which are marked for consideration in the Road Network Plan developed by CoO
- committee is responding to the Draft biological Diversity Strategy produced by the CoO

Macclesfield Picnic Saturday October 29

Once again, Lise and Jorgen have kindly invited Friends to take a stroll around their beautiful property and enjoy a shared picnic lunch.

Meet at the hotel in Macclesfield's main street at 11.00am.

BYO everything

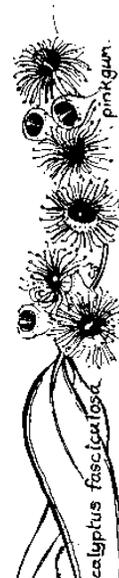
Rudi Schuetze OAM

(d 23.8.05, aged 92)

Rudi Schuetze OAM was a source of inspiration to the newly formed Friends of Aldinga Scrub in 1987. An original Man of the Trees (later Trees for Life), Rudi was generous with time, encouragement, advice and many beautiful Scrub-sourced seedlings from the very start of our work in the then recently gazetted Conservation Park.

We were fortunate to have had such a mentor.

Thank you Rudi.



Walks with Nature Sunday, September 18



The Nature Conservation Society of SA is once again hosting 'Walks with Nature' in ASCP.

The walks are publicised through the *Sunday Mail* and we expect several hundreds of visitors.

FoAS will be promoting the ASCP and our group at Gate 15 (corner of Rowley and Hart Roads) which is the meeting point for the walks.

If you can spare an hour or two to talk with visitors about our Park and FoAS, please contact Joy on 8557 7275.

Community Coastal Workshop

Saturday November 5
Seaford Moana Neighbourhood Centre
Beechwood Grove, Seaford
9.00 am . 4.30 pm

Workshop sessions

- Funding, insurance and support
- Education and wider public awareness: encouraging appropriate behaviour
- Recruiting and maintaining volunteers
- Tips and techniques for on-ground works
- Indigenous and cultural awareness



Field trip

Catchment to coast showcasing community projects in the Onkaparinga Estuary and Port Noarlunga dunes and reef

Registration free - lunch and field trip transport provided.

Limited places . register by October 14 to avoid disappointment.
Phone 8278 0613 or email info@urbanforest.on.net

Coming events – General Meetings

October 13

Steve Gatti will provide an update on the programs being undertaken by the OCWMB.

November 10

Tina Bentz' ó "Ecology and management of the common starling in McLaren Vale"

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.