



PO Box 33, Aldinga Beach 5173

## ***Friends Group of the Decade 1993 - 2003***

President: Julie Burgher 8556 5782  
Secretary: Helen McSkimming 8556 3166  
Treasurer: Alvin Williams 8556 3612

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**NEWSLETTER**

October/November, 2005

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### **Recent Events**

17 members attended the October meeting, which was chaired by Ian Grivell.

Steve Gatti from the Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board gave us an update on the Board's activities. The OCWMB has been involved in the restructure of environmental boards, and now is incorporated with other groups under the Natural Resources Management Board.

Priorities for the Board have included determining the ideal environmental water requirements for the catchment, but also the environmental water provisions which will be realistically be available.

Priority catchments include the Scott Creek and downstream of the Clarendon Weir. Negotiations have been ongoing with SA Water to provide as much water as possible, but the Board is competing against SA Water's needs to provide water for Adelaide consumption.

In the Willunga Basin, Ingleburn and Pedlars Creeks are being assessed. Where there are no dams, excess water may be damaging the riparian zones and carrying sediments to the coastal and marine environments.

Pat Jackson chaired the November meeting, which was attended by 20 members.

Tina Bentley addressed the meeting on her Ph.D. project which is the Ecology and management of the common starling in McLaren Vale.

It is believed there are some 600 million starlings worldwide. They travel in flocks up to 1000s of birds, and may travel up to 30km per day to roost and forage. Starlings have a survival rate of approximately 48%.

These birds inhabit nesting cavities which may be used by other birds, and take over on an early-in /late out schedule. Incubation takes some 20-23 days, and 2 or 3 broods may be hatched each year.

Starlings were introduced in the 1880s by settlers who were missing home! They now thrive in monoculture environments such as vineyards.

Current control measures are not proving to be successful. Tina's project includes radio-tracking of birds wearing backpacks to follow their movements. Tina is also monitoring breeding behaviour and feeding patterns.



### **Breakfast on the Beach**

**Sunday, December 4 at 9.00 am**

Join us in celebrating another successful year for Friends of Aldinga Scrub!

We will be gathering at the bottom of the pathway leading down to the beach, opposite Ocean Street.

**BYO everything!**

## Park News

Contractors have begun work on bridal creeper and olive control, also have sprayed in northern enclosure.

Friends have continued work on northern boundary enclosure, handweeding and mowing around new plantings. Handweeding has also been continuing at the Acacia Terrace wetland.

Residents in the Dover Street area are being advised of the problems of Rhamnus, and are being offered assistance in the identification and removal of these woody weeds.

The propagation team has collected soil from the TFL distribution depot for this year's growing program. Tubes were filled at Ray and Joan Hasse's home on November 27 and are now ready for seeding.

The rust fungus appears to be having an impact on bridal creeper in the northern Scrub and has been distributed over an area near Dover Street.

A number of Friends enjoyed a very informative walk in the Scrub with Native Orchid Society members.

FoAS were successful in obtaining a grant to purchase a GPS unit, which will greatly assist in marking the locations of our weed control projects.

### Financial Report as at November 30, 2005

Opening Balance		\$31489.87
Receipts	\$563.40	
Payments	\$1401.300	
<b>Balance at 30/11/2005</b>		<b>\$30651.97</b>
Less Grants Unspent		\$27729.00
<b>Available funds</b>		<b>\$2922.97</b>

## Coming events – General Meetings

### February 9, 2006

Bob Sharrad from Nature Foundation will speak on local reptiles

### March 9, 2006

Annual General Meeting

## From the Committee

- 2 committee members represented FoAS at the launch of the 'Eco-Collection' at the Aldinga Library
- City of Onkaparinga has advised that roads in the vicinity of ASCP will remain unsealed in the short to medium term
- FoAS has responded to invitation from City of Onkaparinga to make submission in regard to future management of the Washpool. Friends are also encouraged to make individual representations.
- pianist Gabriella Smart recently held a recital at Aldinga Arts Eco Village, and she has kindly donated all proceeds to FoAS

## GROWERS NEEDED!



Would you like to join the propagation team this year?

If you are a regular grower, please let Julie know that you are available to grow this year.

If you're a new grower, the propagation team is ready to provide you with lots of assistance and helpful tips, so please let Julie know if you are interested.

Don't miss out on this rewarding experience –

contact Julie on 8556 5782 today!

## Coming events – Working Bees

Working bees will resume after the summer break.

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