



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

Vol. 11 No. 1

NEWSLETTER

February/March, 2006

Recent Events

The February meeting was chaired by Neville Hudson. 24 members attended the meeting.

Guest speaker Dr Bob Sharrad addressed the meeting on the topic of "Local lizards". Bob spoke of his work with the wildlife and environment charity, Nature Foundation SA. His descriptions of many of the 37 species lizards found in SA were supported with excellent photographs.

Friends recognised many of the species depicted in Bob's photographs which are found in ASCP, including the Marbled gecko, the Barking gecko, the Bearded dragon, the 3-toed and 4-toed skinks, and the sleepy and blue-tongue lizards. Bob advised us that 2 endangered species are found in ASCP.

The survival of lizards has been threatened by the rapid destruction of habitat from 1945-1980. Fortunately, reptiles are better able to survive habitat loss than many other species

From the Committee

- the committee very regretfully received a letter of resignation from Rex Hoepner. We all thank Rex for his very valuable contribution to the committee, but are very pleased to know that he will continue to be an active member of the working bee squad, and will continue his campaign against olives and Rhamnus in residential properties
- weeds have finally been cleared from the "Sunday" site
- DEH are no longer using Pindone to bait rabbits in built up areas
- a generous donation of \$320 has been received from Mary Davies, being proceeds from the piano recital held at the Aldinga Arts Eco Village last year
- DEH are currently undertaking a review of the classification of parks
- sites for monitoring of groundwater on the "Sunday" development have been identified, but monitoring on ASCP will depend on the outcome of these tests

Annual General Meeting

Aldinga Library Community Room
Thursday, March 9 at 7.30 pm



Business includes

- overview of the past year in the presentation of reports
- election of officers for the coming year.

ALL WELCOME!

**RARE ORCHID SURVIVES IN
ALDINGA SCRUB CONSERVATION
PARK**

You may recall that in 2003 a draft Fire Management Plan for ASCP was prepared for DEH. Friends of Aldinga Scrub strongly opposed many aspects of the plan, and in particular the development of a north-south fire track within a valuable section of remnant vegetation.

Friends will be very pleased to know that the rare orchid *Calochilus cupreus* flowered in this section of the Park last year. The proposed track would have obliterated this orchid (one of only a handful of plants of this species in ASCP), along with many thousands of other plants of significant conservation status.

Thanks to the actions of Friends of Aldinga Scrub and the willingness of the DEH to take note of our concerns, this very rare species has survived.

Financial Report as at January 31, 2006

Opening Balance		\$30651.97
Receipts	\$135.84	
Payments	\$18681.45	
Balance at 31/1/2006		\$12106.36
Less Grants Unspent		\$9480.00
Available funds		\$2626.36

**FERAL CATS MAJOR THREAT
TO WILDLIFE!**

Residents of Roxby Downs are considering a ban on cats, as feral cats are posing a major threat to local wildlife.

Ecologist John Read has dissected many cats near the town and has found ...

...in **one** cat

- 2 mice
- 1 quail
- 2 blind snakes
- 1 netted dragon
- 3 striped skinks
- 1 beaked gecko
- 1 tessellatus gecko
- 2 crickets
- 1 grasshopper



...in **another** cat

- 1 snake
- 1 goanna
- 13 skinks

Friends of Arid Recovery established a 60 sq km fenced reserve in 1999.

A trapping program has discovered about six times as many small mammals, such as shopping mice and dunnarts, inside the reserve than outside.

Source: Sunday Mail, October 2, 2005



You can see the projects being undertaken by Bob Sharrad and his colleagues at Nature Foundation SA at this website <http://www.naturefoundation.org.au/>

Coming events – General Meetings

March 9, 2006
Annual General Meeting

April, 2006

Coming events – Working Bees

Working bees have now resumed, and will be held on Tuesday mornings.

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