

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

June/July, 2006

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### **Recent Events**

Neville Hudson welcomed 20 members and 4 visitors to the May meeting.

Guest speaker Sonia Kleindorfer addressed the meeting on the topic of 'Declining bird species in the Mount Lofty Ranges'. Sonia spoke about her field work, which involves mist netting, taking blood samples, recording songs and observing nesting behaviour.

Sonia showed a series of photographs of individual species and described the major threats to each. The greatest threats occur during the incubation stage. One of the main predators is the grey currawong which is out of balance in the ecosystem as a result of habitat destruction. Sonia also talked about ticks which threaten the survival of some species.

The objective of Sonia's research is to provide guidelines for the management of environmental factors which will enhance nesting success.

Our June meeting was chaired by Pam Rowney. 19 members attended the meeting.

Don Driscoll from Flinders University spoke about his research into the fragmentation of habitats in the Mallee, and its impact on animal species. Don emphasised that the 2 critical issues for survival are the condition of the remnant vegetation and the connectivity of the vegetation. Fragmentation through grazing and other human activities reduces the number of species; however a disturbed remnant is better than none, as some species will survive.

Some species are more vulnerable than others. Burrowing beetles are significantly affected by soil disturbance, and flightless beetles are unable to travel to other sites if their habitat is destroyed.

Reconnection of the landscape is vital to allow species to seek out new habitats as conditions change.

## *Annual Planting Day*

*Northern boundary*

*Saturday, June 18, at 10:00 am*



Join with other Friends to plant our seedlings for this year.  
Please bring trowels, spades and any other useful equipment..

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

## Watch out for the Washpool!

Unauthorised vehicles are frequently seen at the Washpool, causing damage to the vegetation and distress to the fauna. If you see any vehicles at the Washpool reserve, please report the offenders by contacting these numbers .....

**Police 13 1444**

**Onkaparinga Ranger 8384 0622  
(24 hours)**

## Almond Blossom Festival

All Friends are invited to participate in the ALMOND BLOSSOM PARADE on SUNDAY JULY 30, from 9:30 am (for 10:00 am start), in WILLUNGA.

The theme for the parade is 'A Splash of Colour' and the organisers hope it will be a real feast for the senses.

For us it is fun way to raise the profile of Aldinga Scrub, and perhaps recruit a few new Friends.

Please contact Palitja Moore on 8557 7275 if you would like to join i



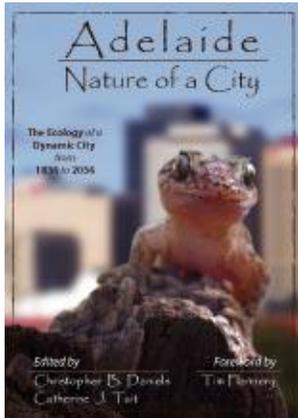
## Financial Report as at May 30, 2006

Opening Balance		\$12557.36
Receipts	\$264.35	
Payments	\$0.00	
<b>Balance at 30/5/2006</b>		<b>\$12821.71</b>
Less Grants Unspent		\$9403.00
<b>Available funds</b>		<b>\$3418.71</b>

## From the Committee

- we were pleased to receive a grant of \$600 from the City of Onkaparinga Environmental fund to spray the northern boundary in preparation for this year's planting
- committee has written to Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell expressing concerns about increased traffic adjacent to the Washpool and the importance of protecting this area
- the monitoring group has set up another site in ASCP, and will record observations for the next 3-5 years

## *Adelaide - nature of a city*



Christopher Daniels is the editor of this recently published book, covering many issues which will be of interest to Friends of Aldinga Scrub.

This book tracks the changes to the biological communities, to the plants and animals, and to the structure and nature of the built environment of the city of Adelaide from its inception in 1836 to the present day and predicts the future through to 2036. (BioCity: Centre for Urban Habitats)

At our July meeting, Chris will speak about the changes which have occurred in our environment and the future of urban biodiversity.

## Coming events – General Meetings

### Thursday, July 13, 2006

Christopher Daniels - Urban ecology and Biocity: Centre for Urban Habitats

### Thursday, August 10, 2006

David Ellis - Australian Coastal Waters Study

## Coming events – Working Bees

Working bees are now in full swing, and are held on Tuesday mornings.

Please contact Julie on 8556 5782 if you would like more information about where the group will be working each week.