



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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Vol. 11 No. 3

NEWSLETTER

August/September, 2006

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### **Recent Events**

Phil Fry welcomed 25 members and 3 visitors to the July meeting.

Zoologist Chris Davies spoke on the issue of urban ecology. Chris is working with the BioCity project, managed by a consortium which includes the University of Adelaide, Botanic Gardens, Adelaide City Council and the Adelaide Zoological Gardens. The group is undertaking research, providing education and encouraging community participation.

Chris described the biodiversity of Adelaide prior to European settlement. He documented the changes which have occurred, from widespread clearing at the time of settlement, to diverse planting on ¼ acre blocks, to the current absence of vegetation on small blocks with limited garden space.

Large areas of communal open space are needed throughout our city to provide habitats which can sustain our biodiversity.

Our August meeting was chaired by Pat Fry, and attended by 17 members and 2 visitors.

Guest speaker David Ellis spoke about his studies of 6 years at CSIRO Land and Water Dept on Adelaide Coastal Waters. The scientists mapped out the coastal waters from Pt Gawler to Sellicks Beach, in order to find out why the seagrass was dying. They measured numerous indicators, including inputs (contaminants in wastewater from pipes, underground and stormwater), sediments, and marine pests.

They found that nitrogen plumes tend to travel south in the gulf from creeks and rivers and outlets. The seagrass loss was a result of nitrogen feeding plant epiphytes, which thinned out the seagrass. The coloniser *Amphiboles* is a sea plant which helps to stabilise the sea bed and allow regrowth of the seagrasses. This plant has come back after recent modifications to stormwater outlets.

### **Friends of Aldinga Scrub Patron**

Friends of Aldinga Scrub are honoured to announce that Darrell Kraehenbuehl has kindly accepted the position of Patron of our group.

Darrell is a recognised authority on the plants of Aldinga Scrub, and has generously shared his expertise with many Friends over the past 20 years. We welcome Darrell as our Patron.



Southern Hills Forum, Echunga  
Friday October 20 to Sunday October 22, 2006

*'The Hills – past, present. future'*

Register now!  
Contact Jill Salvi on 8278 6736

### *Where did we see those plants?*

*With the help of a Friends Grant, we have been able to purchase a Garmin GPS unit, which will be of great assistance to our workers and our contractors.*



*The GPS unit will help us to record sites where we are removing weeds, revegetating or monitoring within the ASCP.*

### **From the Committee**

- committee has written to CIC once again requesting removal of feral olives on the Sundayø site
- thanks to the City of Onkaparinga who acted very promptly in removing olives on the roadside verge of Cox Road
- FoAS were represented at the inaugural planting day for the new Catholic school on Quinliven Road
- committee is preparing a submission, which supports the needs of the Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park and the Willunga Basin, in response to the City of Onkaparinga's draft recreational trails plan

### **Financial Report as at July 31, 2006**

Opening Balance		\$13518.98
Receipts	\$314.67	
Payments	\$600.10	
<b>Balance at 30/5/2006</b>		<b>\$13233.55</b>
Less Grants Unspent		\$9541.00
<b>Available funds</b>		<b>\$3692.55</b>

### **Weekend working bees**

It has been suggested that weekend working bees be started for those people who are unable to attend the Tuesday working bees.

If you would like to help on a weekend morning, once a month, please contact Pam on 8556 3924.

### *Bring the butterflies back to Adelaide!*



Butterfly Conservation South Australia is planning an awareness campaign to bring butterflies back to Adelaide urban gardens. During 2006 and 2007, the group will be promoting the growing and planting of butterfly food plants to indigenous growers, local councils and conservation agencies.

If you would like to be involved in this campaign or would like further information on butterfly host and nectar plants for your particular area, please contact Jan Forrest on 8297 8230 or visit the website at <http://users.sa.chariot.net.au/~bcsa/index.htm>

### **Coming events – General Meetings**

#### **Thursday, September 14, 2006**

Steve Gatti - Update on developments in Onkaparinga catchmentsø

#### **Thursday, October 12, 2006**

Anthony Abley - Southern emu wren and swamp recovery programø

### **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.