

PO Box 33, Aldinga Beach 5173

Friends Group of the Decade 1993 - 2003

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NEWSLETTER

October/November, 2006

Recent Meetings

Desi Moore welcomed 19 members to the September meeting.

Guest speaker Steve Gatti provided the meeting with an update from the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.

Steve reported that negotiations for the environmental water requirements had now been completed, with new water being made available from River Murray savings. The first project involves the release of water at Clarendon, where an old scour valve was tested and found to be in good working order.

Release of water began on July 25, and it is expected that benefits will include good revegetation and increase in macro invertebrate numbers. The flows will be regulated to ensure 4 necessary phases; drying phase, low flow, fresh flow and flush flow. Over the next 4 years, 9240 GL of water will be released.

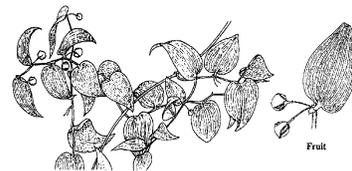
Our October meeting was chaired by Giles Walkely, and attended by 18 members.

Anthony Abley from the MLR Southern Emu-wren and Fleurieu Swamps Recovery Program spoke about his project. To protect the critically endangered Fleurieu Swamps, the project is focusing on 2 regions at Parawa and Mount Compass. The emu-wren is nationally endangered, as it relies on the habitat provided by the swamps. Threats include clearing of land, dams, drainage, grazing, fire, roads and weeds. Management priorities include fencing to control grazing and allow natural revegetation.

To date, partnerships have been developed with 25 landholders to protect 30 swamps, 20 kms of fencing have been installed around 200 ha of swamps, and woody weed control has been undertaken. A biennial emu-wren census has provided vital data about the birds. Other activities include workshops, field days and bus tours.

Winning the war on bridal creeper?

Our contractor, Tony Patterson, who has been spraying bridal creeper in ASCP for several years, has advised us that the rust fungus (*Puccinia myrsiphylli*) appears to be having an impact on this invasive weed.



Breakfast on the Beach
Sunday, December 3 at 9.00 am
BYO everything!

Pack your picnic basket as we celebrate 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.

Works

- working bee groups have been mowing and watering the new plantings at the northern boundary
- the northern section of ASCP has been mowed to reduce weeds
- a large amount of boneseed has been removed from the Blue Lagoon
- weekend working bees have commenced on the 1st Saturday of each month
- *Gahnia filum* has been planted out at the Acacia Terrace wetland
- local residents have cooperated in the removal of woody weeds on their properties.

From the committee

- CIC have begun clearing olives from the 'Sunday' site
- planning has commenced for the Community Education project, with a meeting to be held at the end of this month with education officers from DEH
- ranger Tim Fuhlbohm attended the September committee meeting and gave an update on priorities for DEH funds
- committee members are to meet with NPWS officers to discuss funding and management issues early next month
- committee has applied for a Friends grant to digitise photographs of ASCP and FoAS

Financial Report as at September 30, 2006

Opening Balance		\$12778.698
Receipts	\$65.60	
Payments	\$0.00	
Balance at 30/9/06		\$12844.29
Less Grants Unspent		\$8976.00
Available funds		\$3868.29

New species reported in ASCP!

A number of Friends have reported seeing pigs in ASCP in recent weeks. While many humorous suggestions have been made (**BBQ** on the Beach this year!!), pigs have the potential to cause serious damage to vegetation.

Please report any sightings to a committee member.



Dune Restoration Project

We have received a Coast and Marine grant from the NRM Board to install fencing and restore vegetation on the primary dune south of Aldinga Beach ramp.

The grant will also allow us to install signs which will advise people that walking through the dunes is causing serious damage.

Coming events – General Meetings

Thursday, November 9, 2006
David Turner - Reef Watchø

Thursday, February 8, 2007
Speaker - TBA

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.