



PO Box 33, Aldinga Beach 5173

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

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NEWSLETTER

April/May 2007

### **Recent Meetings**

Neville Hudson welcomed 17 members to the April meeting.

FoAS member, John Edmeades, spoke about echidnas. John has been studying echidnas since he undertook an Honours research project, where he specialised in the physiology of these animals.

As monotremes (*one opening*), echidnas are rare among mammals as they lay eggs instead of giving birth to live young. The echidna has a very small mouth, with which it mashes its food. The ear is not external, but is extremely sensitive. The echidna has powerful claws, and a strong reptilian stance. The back feet face backwards to assist with digging.

John described his field work on Kangaroo Island, where he followed and recorded echidnas. Several were then taken to the laboratory, where the efficiency of their locomotion was measured on a treadmill. Echidnas were found to have strong power at low speed.

Bob Moore chaired the March meeting, which was attended by 16 members.

Guest speaker was Professor Beverley Clarke, from the Geography Department of Flinders University. Beverley spoke about the current trend of population growth on the coastal areas. In South Australia, our major coastal growth region is the southern Fleurieu Peninsula.

Environmental impacts of the spread of *ōbrick* venereal disease include fragmented ecosystems, micro-climate changes, high sediment loads and weeds, and the introduction of domesticated and feral animals.

In 2004, the National Sea Change Taskforce was established to represent the interests of coastal councils and communities experiencing the effects of rapid population and tourism growth. The role of the Taskforce is to support coastal councils attempting to manage the impact of rapid growth.

### ***Willunga Almond Blossom Festival 2007***



Would you like to join us on Sunday 29 July?

We had such a great time last year, we're doing it again!

You could join other Friends in the "Winter Wonderland" street parade or help to promote Friends of Aldinga Scrub at our stand in the Hall.

Please contact Palitja Moore on 8557 7275 if you would like to be involved.

### **From the committee ...**

- FoAS have made a submission to council in regard to the Hart Road wetland, supporting some aspects of the plan, but also raising issues of concern
- committee has applied for a grant of \$9900 from the Envirofund to continue our attack on bridal creeper in 2008
- along with other local groups, we have lodged a protest with council about the proposed 17 metre high sewerage vent on the northern side of the Aldinga Beach ramp
- we will be represented at a community meeting to discuss a proposed development on Quinliven/How Roads



## Planting day

Northern boundary  
Sunday 8 July at 10:00 am

Bring your forks, spades, trowels, gloves and lots of energy!

We have several hundreds of healthy seedlings just waiting to be planted out on the northern boundary of the Scrub.

For more information, phone Julie on 8556 5782

### **Trees for Life – Noarlunga**

Would you like to hear renowned ornithologist David Paton speak about the fascinating Coorong?

TFL Noarlunga have invited Friends of Aldinga Scrub to a special meeting:-

Thursday 7 June, 2007

Elizabeth House, Elizabeth Road, Christie Downs  
7:45 pm.

For more information, contact Diana on 8382 4099

### **Financial Report for March/April, 2007**

Balance at 1/03/07	\$14676.01
Balance at 28/04/07	\$14825.03
Less Grants Unspent	\$9933.00
<b>Available funds</b>	<b>\$4892.03</b>

### **Don't miss our special guest speaker in June!**

Professor Andy Lowe, renowned expert in the ecological and evolutionary genetics of plants, will address our June meeting.

Andy's talk will address a topic of great importance to the survival of Aldinga Scrub: past and future species range shifts in response to climatic and geological changes.

### **Reminder:**

#### **Subscriptions are now due!**

If you have a green spot in this box, please look for the membership leaflet attached to this newsletter, fill it in, and send off your subscription.

Our vital work of caring for the Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park is ongoing, and we need your support to do it!

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

#### **Thursday, 14 June, 2007**

Professor Andy Lowe will speak to the Friends about 'Climate change'.

#### **Thursday, 12 July, 2007**

Lorraine Rosenberg's topic will be 'Cultural land management meets western science'.

### **Coming events – Working Bees**

Working bees are now in full swing for 2007. Projects include restoration of the frontal dune and revegetation of the northern boundary site.

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