



PO Box 33, Aldinga Beach 5173

Friends Group of the Decade 1993 - 2003

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Secretary: Helen McSkimming 8556 3166
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NEWSLETTER

October/November 2007

Recent Meetings

Joy Forrest welcomed 14 members to the October meeting.

Unfortunately the guest speaker did not arrive, but a very useful general discussion took place amongst the Friends present.

Neville spoke about the Aldinga Character Study, and advised Friends of a forthcoming Public Forum. Joy let Friends know that she will be setting up a display at the ABRA October Fair, and it was suggested that names be taken for guided walks in the Scrub next year.

Information was shared about a number of forthcoming events, including the Willunga Walking Festival, the Coastcare AGM, a Bushfire Ready workshop for landholders, and a presentation from the Conservation Council at the Willunga Environment Centre. Members also advised the committee about various pieces of equipment which they are currently holding, and arrangements were made to relocate some items.

Neville Hudson chaired the November meeting, which was attended by 19 members.

Guest speaker Annette Vincent shared her love of 'Ants and Art'. Annette is a highly regarded scientist and artist, and she currently volunteers 4 days a week at the SA Museum drawing specimens.

Annette introduced us to the 'bag of bits' she takes with her into the field, which includes scissors, tweezers and brushes, all clipped tightly on to the bag to ensure they don't get lost! She explained how specimens are collected in 'micro pitfall traps' which are buried into the ground, filled with alcohol and left for 4 nights.

Annette spoke about the discipline required for scientific drawing, which has allowed her to become an expert in the field of drawing ants. Annette also told us about her subjects, which are at the top of the social order in the insect world. She has seen ants work together as a team to shift a pencil which they saw as a threat to their nest!

Breakfast on the beach!

Sunday 9 December



Join us in celebrating another successful year of caring for Aldinga Scrub.

Meet at the old shack site opposite Ocean Street from 9:00 am.

BYO everything!

Park news!

Recent working bee groups have attacked boneseed, dog rose and fox holes on the eastern boundary. Artichokes have also been slashed and poisoned in this area.

Weeding continues around previous plantings on the northern boundary, where the veldt grass is particularly vigorous.

Kangaroos were recently seen grazing happily in the newest enclosure on the northern boundary, and had to be persuaded to leave!

Good turnouts have been recorded for the Tuesday working bees, with eleven Friends attending on a recent Tuesday. Numbers have not been so high for the weekend working bees, and a decision will be made next year whether they are to continue.

Snakes alive!

Tuesday 27 November
Willunga Football
Clubrooms
7:00—10:00 pm



Geoff Coombe from Living with Wildlife will talk about snake biology, habitat of local snakes and snake behaviour. The session will include a First Aid component. Please note: not suitable for children under 12 years of age.

Bookings essential, please contact Mary Crawford on 0418 848 702.

From the committee ...

- Pam recently taken several groups of teachers and parents from the Galilee Catholic School on walks in the Park. The school is very interested in developing ongoing projects in the Park.
- damage to the Lacy Coral Lichen boardwalk, and damage to fences at Dover Street and Acacia Terrace, has been reported to NPWSA.
- council has been asked to eradicate gazanias on the Dover Street verge.
- contractor Tony Patterson has completed spraying bridal creeper under the 2007 Envirofund grant.

Willunga Environment Centre
presents

'An inconvenient truth' **featuring Al Gore**

showing at the Aldinga Library
on Thursday 15 November at 7:00 pm

Please phone the Environment Centre on
8556 4188 to make your booking.

Tube filling day **Sunday 25 November at 10.00 am** **7 Palmer Street**

It's not all hard work ... while the job is being done, there's always much conversation and merriment!

Come along and help us with this important job.

Financial Report as at 12 October 2007

Balance at 13/08/07	\$15048.94
Balance at 12/10/07	\$15072.16
Less Grants Unspent	\$9933.00
Available funds	\$5139.16

Coming events – General Meetings

Thursday, 14 February, 2008

Peter Matejic from the SA Herpetology Group will speak about reptiles.

Thursday, 13 March, 2008

Annual General Meeting
Presentation of reports and election of officers

Coming events – Working Bees

Working bees are now winding down as the weather gets warmer, and will not be held when the temperature is over 30 degrees.

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