



PO Box 33, Aldinga Beach 5173

Friends Group of the Decade 1993 - 2003

President: Julie Burgher 8556 5782
Secretary: Helen McSkimming 8556 3166
Treasurer: Neville Hudson 8556 6782

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NEWSLETTER

June/July 2008

Recent Meetings

Julie Burgher welcomed 18 members and 2 visitors to the April meeting.

Our guest speaker for this meeting was Juergen Schmidt who now works as environmental analyst. He studies the effects of environmental factors, such as meter boxes, power lines and building materials, on people's lives. Juergen believes remediating the environment is possible.

Internationally, 1000 sustainable communities have been established. In South Australia, Salisbury Council is moving in this direction.

Juergen recommended that the ecosystem of Aldinga Scrub could be made more efficient through soil improvement, plant regeneration and the use of tall conical-shaped trees to act as antennae.

Juergen believes that many health problems are related to elector-magnetic forces and fields. Mobile phones, acrylic paints and power lines should be all be avoided. The installation of underground power lines has significant installation costs, but will provide long term savings in maintenance and public health costs.

Neville Hudson chaired the May meeting which was attended by 17 members and 1 visitor.

Neville introduced Tina Bentz who spoke on the Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Bird survey project. This long term monitoring program was initiated in 1999 by Hugh Possingham. It aims to assess the evidence for declines in woodland birds through repeated surveys of more than 150 sites throughout the MLR from the Barossa Valley to Cape Jervis.

The program uses bird monitoring experts in a systematic survey of sites. Birds are a good indicator of habitat health, and the data generated by this program can be used as a benchmark for the success of habitat restoration and rehabilitation.

In Aldinga Scrub, Site 525 has been surveyed annually since 2000. Sixty-one species have been recorded during the survey period, including 5 non-native species. Each 2 hectare survey point is visited 3 times for 20 minutes between September and December. This repetition is necessary to estimate observation error rates, which is crucial to determining statistically whether birds are declining.

**WILLUNGA
ALMOND BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**

All Friends are invited to take part in this great community event.
You might like to join the parade, or help out at the information stand.



Sunday 27 July at Willunga

This is a great opportunity to promote our group,
and enjoy the day with other Friends!!

For more information, please contact Joy on 8557 7275.

Park news

Attendance at working bees has been high, and the group has made a real impact on woody weeds, particularly in the western section of the Park. The group has also been busy fumigating fox holes.

Unfortunately, Bridal Creeper is re-appearing and will need ongoing treatment. Workers have also noticed an increase in rabbits throughout the Park.

We were pleased to lead our local Federal MP, Amanda Rishworth on a guided walk in ASCP on 20 April, and appreciated her concern about the issues we raised regarding the future of the Park.

New Life Member for FoAS!

With great regret, the committee has received notice from Alvin Williams that he is standing down as Treasurer and committee member of our group. Alvin has been our Treasurer for 11 years, and has done a wonderful job keeping our books and managing all our finances.

In recognition of his great contribution to Aldinga Scrub and our Friends group, members at the General Meeting on 8 May voted unanimously to bestow Alvin with Life Membership of Friends of Aldinga Scrub.

We congratulate Alvin on this award and look forward to seeing him at future meetings.

From the committee ...

- Neville Hudson was elected to the position of Treasurer until the 2009 AGM at the General Meeting on 8 May 2008
- Julie is to represent FoAS on the City of Onkaparinga Environment Advisory Committee which will provide advice to the Mayor and Council
- Joy represented FoAS at the AGM of Friends of Parks Inc which was held at Farrell Flat on 5 May

Financial Report as at 12 April 2008

Balance at 13/03/08	\$5142.16
Balance at 12/04/08	\$5022.82
Available funds	\$5022.82



Birdscaping the environment

Thursday 22 May at 7:30 pm
McLaren Vale Lutheran Church Hall

Speaker: Dr David Paton

Topics to be covered include extinction of woodland birds, establishment of suitable habitats, revegetation programs, and imminent losses of bird species from the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Contact the Willunga Environment Centre on 8556 4188 to make a booking

Coming events – General Meetings Aldinga Library at 7:30 pm

Thursday, 12 June 2008

Toby Bekkers of Paxton Wines will speak about nomination of FoAS in the '1% for the planet' scheme.

Thursday, 10 July 2008

Melissa Salt will speak about the management of landfill sites.

Coming events – Working Bees Every Tuesday

Working bees have resumed, and are now held regularly on Tuesday mornings. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

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



It's planting time!

ANNUAL TREE PLANTING DAY

All hands are needed to help us plant our seedlings on the

Northern boundary

Sunday 15 June at 10:00 am



For more information, please contact Julie on 8556 5782

SPECIAL TREE PLANTING DAYS

We have been invited to contribute our considerable expertise to another local community project!

Landscaping GP Plus

(new medical centre at Aldinga Beach just north of the shopping centre)

Wednesday 25 June

Youth Planting Day

(with Volt Youth Centre)

from 3.00 to 5.00 pm

Sunday 29 June

Open Day and

Community Planting

from 12.00 to 3.00 pm



Two great opportunities for Friends to meet with members of the local community and promote our important work in Aldinga Scrub!!

Please contact Julie on 8556 5782 if you are able to help on either of these days.

Note: Please bring your own equipment (forks, spades, trowels, gloves etc) to all the planting days.