



PO Box 33, Aldinga Beach 5173

*Friends Group of the Decade 1993 - 2003*

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**NEWSLETTER**

October/November 2008

**Recent Meetings**

Neville Hudson welcomed 17 members to the August meeting.

Peter Laffan, Giles Walkley and Trevor Woods from the Aldinga Bay Coastcare group spoke to the meeting about the issue of vehicle access on Aldinga Beach. Activities of the group, which was formed four years ago to care for the coast and marine environment of Aldinga Bay, include education, dune care, Reefwatch training, and hooded plover monitoring.

The key concerns in regard to vehicle access are safety, environmental damage, and the impact of vehicles on the beach.

The measures proposed by the group include an after-dark curfew with boom gates to prevent access, a second car-free zone, an increase in the existing car-free zone, prohibition of vehicles during the winter months, improved signage, prosecution of offenders and an education campaign.

In the long term, ABC will be advocating for a total ban of vehicles on the beach.

Bill Rowland chaired the September meeting which was attended by 19 members and 1 visitor.

Sheryn Pittman, coordinator of the Sustainable Landscapes Project at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, spoke about the impact that issues such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, increased energy use, increase in pest plants and animals, and water quality and availability will have on our environment. Sheryn suggested that a holistic response is needed.

The principles of a sustainable landscape include use of waterwise plants, non-invasive plant selection, practical water conservation, provision of habitat for local fauna, minimal use of pesticides and chemicals, minimal use of non-renewable energies, and use of local products. Several demonstration sites have been established around Adelaide, including at the Botanic Gardens, the Airport roundabout, and the QEH.

Sheryn suggested that a sustainable garden is healthy and resilient, without the need for high input of precious resources such as water, and is in harmony with the natural environment.

**Welcome to new residents of the Sunday and Bayswood estates!**



Sunday 23 August was a perfect day for a walk in Aldinga Scrub, and we were absolutely delighted that some 80 people took the opportunity to learn about our unique Park, and to catch up with friends and neighbours over a cup of tea at the end of the day.

## Park news

Workers have been handweeding around the new plantings on the northern boundary. They have noticed signs of kangaroos within the enclosure, and have created a corridor through the fencing to allow the kangaroos to move between the plantings.

Our contractors are continuing their projects. Tony Patterson has been working on bridal creeper and olives, while Rebekah Crawford has been handweeding veldt grass.

Planting at the dune site has now been completed. Spraying of the rust fungus on bridal creeper is continuing throughout ASCP.

## Thank you to Paxton Wines!

Many thanks to Paxton Wines for nominating Friends of Aldinga Scrub as the recipients of their contribution under the '1% for the Planet' program.

We have recently received a very generous donation of \$5000 to support our rehabilitation and revegetation projects.

## From the committee ...

- committee has requested that council prohibit dogs on the Hart Road wetland site so that the environmental goals of the project can be achieved
- we have supported an application for Green Corps to carry out further work in ASCP this year
- Friends have assisted with a planting project at the new GP Plus centre
- during the Almond Blossom Festival, Friends joined the Parade and promoted our group at the Willunga Recreation Hall



## Do you have an email address?

It would be helpful for us to have the email address of Friends (where available) if we need to contact you from time to time.

If you use email and would be happy to be contacted in this way, please send a message to [helenmcs@ozemail.com.au](mailto:helenmcs@ozemail.com.au) so that you can be added to our database.

We will continue to send the newsletter to all Friends via 'snail mail'!

## Update on CIC development fund

Our Liaison Ranger, Nalini, recently attended a committee meeting, and reported on the progress of spending the \$200,000 from the *Sunday* development...

- audit and upgrade of signs to be undertaken
- coral lichen boardwalk to be relocated and upgraded
- coral lichen brochure to be revised
- community education package has been completed and is now at the printers
- echidna monitoring (activity index) to be undertaken
- new loop path from Sunday site to the west is being assessed

## Make a note of this date now!

Our annual end of year gathering  
**Breakfast on the Beach**  
**Sunday 7 December.**

Full details in the next newsletter.

## Financial Report as at 31 July 2008

Balance at 31/05/08	\$5405.48
Balance at 31/07/08	\$5780.06

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

### Thursday, 9 October 2008

Members of the Save our Gulf coalition will discuss their campaign against the Stanvac desalination plant.

### Thursday, 6 November 2008

Marine scientist Bryan McDonald will talk to us about mapping the environment.

## Coming events – Working Bees Every Tuesday

Working bees are in full swing, and are 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.