



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

December 2008/January 2009

Recent Meetings

Giles Walkley welcomed 15 members to the October meeting.

Guest speakers were Peter Laffan and Joy Forrest, representing the 'Save our Gulf' coalition. The group has formed in response to the proposed desalination plant at Port Stanvac. The plant is designed to produce 50 gegalitres of water per year, which is approximately one quarter of Adelaide's requirements.

The project raises many serious concerns. The Gulf St Vincent is a shallow inverse estuary, with slow moving water and weak tides, which will create problems with the dispersal or dilution of the hyper-saline water. The build up of toxic sulphides and phosphates will impact on the marine environment, and the project will carry significant financial risks for the fishing industry and consumers.

Alternative water sources include reducing consumption through behavioural changes, harvesting stormwater, improving catchments, and reusing waste water.

Desi Moore chaired the November meeting which was attended by 10 members.

Yvette Eglinton from the marine mapping unit in DEH was our guest speaker. Marine mapping now has an eco-system focus, which provides data for habitat and species management.

Benthic habitats support life, provide spawning and nursery environments, and allow for the recycling of nutrients and the removal of contaminants. South Australia has unique gulf environments which support mangroves, salt marches, reefs and sea-grasses. Some of the largest sea-grass meadows in the world are found in the South Australian gulfs.

Mapping carried out in the 1990s by CSIRO and SARDI provided information about the broad marine habitats. The NRM now funds more detailed mapping which collects data from four layers; satellite imagery, acoustic, ground truthing and detailed habitat characterisation. This comprehensive data has been particularly useful in planning for marine parks.

Tube filling day



Sunday 30 November
at 10.00 am
7 Palmer Street

Come along and help to prepare for this year's propagation program ... and there's plenty of time for a chat while the work gets done!

Phone Julie on 8556 5782 for more details.

Butterfly walk



All Friends are invited to join Bill and Neville on a walk through ASCP to (hopefully) see some of our beautiful butterflies.

Meet at the Dover Street carpark
on Sunday 18 January at 9:30 am

Please contact Bill on 85576887
for more information.

You are invited to our traditional end of year gathering!



Breakfast on the Beach
Sunday 7 December
at 9:00 am

Bring your own everything (food, drink, chairs, tables)
to this informal gathering.

We meet at the old shack site at the bottom
of the pathway leading down to the beach opposite Ocean Street.

New Friends especially welcome!

Park news

New plantings on the northern boundary have been watered recently. Working bee groups are continuing to attack boneseed, olives, Rhamnus and boxthorn throughout the Park. Lupins on the northern boundary have been mowed, while Scabiosa has also been a target in recent weeks.

FoAS were pleased to receive a safety commendation from Conservation Volunteers in recognition of our excellent response to an incident which occurred during a recent working bee.

A number of Friends enjoyed a walk with members of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia, where sightings of orchids and Dampiera were recorded.

From the committee ...

- Council is currently seeking community comment on the issue of dogs in the Hart Road wetland. In support of the environmental objectives of the project, FoAS are continuing to call for a complete ban on dogs at the site.
- An audit of the Coral Lichen Circuit has been completed, and a revised brochure is being prepared by DEH.
- Committee has been talking with council about problems of flooding from the Hart Road wetland, and will continue to monitor the situation

Financial Summary as at 30 September 2008

Balance at 31/07/08	\$5780.06
Balance at 30/09/08*	\$10295.52
*includes Paxton donation	

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

No meetings are held during the months of December and January.

The next General Meeting will be held on Thursday 12 February.

Coming events – Working Bees Every Tuesday

Our hard workers will ease off during the warmer months. However there will be plenty to be done in the new year, so please contact Julie on 8556 5782 if you would be able to lend a hand.