



PATRON: DARRELL KRAEHENBUEHL

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## NEWSLETTER

June 2010

### Recent Meetings

Joy Forrest chaired our April meeting, which was attended by 13 members and 2 visitors.

The meeting commenced with a hands-on exploration of the SAMPIT (South Australian Marine Parks Information Tool) software which has been developed to allow members of the public to contribute their local knowledge about the marine and coastal environment. Friends gathered around the library computers and were shown how to register and enter data on the website by Sarah Bignell and Phil Hollow from DEH.

Following the practical session, we moved into the community room where Sarah and Phil answered numerous questions about the use of the software as well as broader questions about the marine environment and the progress of the establishment of marine parks.

The data entered in the website will be monitored by members of an advisory group who will have local knowledge. The area covered in the database extends to the high water mark and may also include areas further inland such as the Onkaparinga estuary.

The aim of the project is to gather information which will support biodiversity objectives and promote sustainable use.

Our May meeting was chaired by John Ackers, who welcomed 13 members and 2 visitors to the meeting.

Tina Gillespie from the Nature Conservation Society of SA was our speaker. Tina spoke about the Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Bird Survey Program, which she has been involved with for some 6 years. Throughout the Mount Lofty region approximately 160 sites are monitored each year, with surveys being conducted between September and December. Each site is surveyed 3 times, with each survey lasting for 20 minutes.

The surveys aim to show long term trends in the abundance and distribution of woodland birds. The program will help to raise public awareness and will provide formal evidence of declines in numbers. Results will also test recovery actions.

The project has one survey site of 2ha in ASCP, which has been monitored since 2000. The site is classified as a 'gum' site, where fledglings and nests have been recorded. Some 30 species have been sighted each year, with a species total of 63 over the 10 year period of the surveys. While some numbers are increasing, others are showing decline, indicating that the populations are out of balance.

### Important notice for members of our working bee team



From the first week in June, we will be fortunate to have the support of the Green Jobs Corps to assist with our projects. One of the main activities for the young people in the team will be to help our regular working bee members with the erection of fencing in our new rehabilitation site in the south-western area of the Park.

The Green Jobs Corps will be available for work in the field on Mondays, which means that our regular working bees will be reassigned to Mondays. We will continue scheduling our working bees on Mondays for as long as possible to take advantage of the support provided by the Green Jobs Corps team.

### Exciting discovery in Aldinga Scrub !

Whilst working on the eastern boundary ponds, our eagle-eyed working bee members observed a plant previously not recorded in Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park.

A sample has been sent to the State Herbarium who have identified the plant as *Stemodia florulenta*, which generally grows along the Murray floodplain and around the Lake Eyre basin mound springs. *S. florulenta* was once recorded on the Adelaide Plains in the late 1830s at Holdfast Bay.

Officers from the Herbarium are now investigating how the plants have come to be discovered in ASCP.



## Park news

Working bee groups have continued to remove Rhamnus, boneseed and tea trees on the western boundary.

As a result of overflows from the Hart Road wetland, there has been an outbreak of nightshade in the ponds on the eastern boundary.

Planning has begun for the new rehabilitation site in the south-western area of the Park.

Propagators are having mixed results this year, but all plants can now be sent to Julie for final checks .

## Almond Blossom Festival Sunday 25 July



Would you like to take part in the parade or help on the stand in the Hall?

Contact Joy on 8556 4609 for more information.

## Safe Chemical Handling for Volunteers

Volunteers handling chemicals need to have attended training in safe chemical handling. A session is to be held at Belair National Park for members of Friends groups.

Saturday 19 June  
10:30 am—1:30 pm  
Volunteer Centre, Belair National Park

Please contact Helen on 8556 3166 for further information.

## From the committee ...

- after being advised that inconsistent information relating to the prescribed burn had been given to residents, committee sought clarification from DEH. We have been informed that although the area adjacent to Wattle Avenue does have a reduced fuel load when compared to the more northerly burn sections, it may still be considered a high fire risk area
- 3 committee members attended the Friends of Parks Inc AGM at Blanchetown on 10 May
- FoAS hosted a visit from some 60 environmental volunteers on 26 May. The visit was organised by the AMLR NRM to celebrate the work done by volunteers in our region.

Join with Friends of Aldinga Scrub as we explore the



## Aboriginal Food and Plant Trail Adelaide Botanic Gardens Sunday 22 August

Cultural instructors from Tauondi Guides will reveal how plants have sustained Aboriginal life for thousands of years by providing food, shelter, tools and medicine.

**Mark this date in your diary now!**  
**More details in the August newsletter.**

## Financial Report as at 31 March 2010

Funds held at Bendigo Bank, Aldinga	
Club Cheque account	\$1292.94
Extra Cash Management account	<u>\$21895.25</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$23188.19</b>

## Lacy Coral Lichen viewing platform



DEH have removed the wooden boardwalk which guided visitors over the Lacy Coral Lichen enclosure, and have replaced it with a viewing platform on the northern side of the enclosure. The path now circles around the eastern side of the enclosure. These modifications should create less disturbance and eliminate shading over the fragile lichen.

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

Thursday, 10 June 2010  
Dragana Zulfic, Dept of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, will speak on groundwater in ASCP.

Thursday, 8 July 2010  
Emma Stephens from the NRM will talk about the Coastal Action Plan and its implications for ASCP.

## Coming events – Working Bees Now on Mondays until further notice

Working bees are being held on a regular basis now that the cooler weather is here. Join us on Monday mornings — your help would be greatly appreciated!

Please contact John on 8556 4385 if you would like more information about where the groups will be working each week.