



PATRON: DARRELL KRAEHEBUEHL

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NEWSLETTER

October 2010

Recent Meetings

Chairperson Bill Rowland welcomed 11 members and 2 visitors to our August meeting.

James Ellis spoke about the Wambana Campus of Prince Alfred College, situated near Point Turton on Yorke Peninsula. The campus provides an extended stay program of five weeks for Year 9 boys who experience a range of activities including environmental studies.

James leads students in researching the Hooded Plover. The program covers three days, including an introduction, field day and reporting sessions. The emphasis is on science, and the students are required to record their observations on detailed monitoring sheets. The research methodology involves recording numbers of birds, evidence of breeding, and potential threats. Students have identified that human activities such as surfing, jogging, dog walking and driving cars on the beach represent the greatest threats to the survival of the Hooded Plover. Strategies which have been developed to minimise threats include education and signage, and temporary fencing.

The objective of the program is to help the students understand the importance of protecting the dunes and fore-water areas of the beaches which are home to this vulnerable species, and to take personal responsibility for protecting the environment.

Bob Moore and Joy Forrest chaired our September meeting, which was attended by 10 members.

Author Hugh Robinson from the Aldinga Arts Eco Village addressed the meeting. He spoke about his travels to China in 2005, where he was contracted to teach English and Business English in tertiary institutions in Nanjing and Dandong. Hugh talked about the challenges of daily life in a country with a population of 1.4 billion.

Hugh also spoke about the opening up of the Ninety Mile Desert which extends from Coonalpyn to Naracoorte, and from the Coorong to the Victorian border. As an AMP valuer, Hugh's father visited Mundulla where he saw vast areas of white sand and mallee scrub. Tests showed that the sandy soils, which had been leached when the Coorong extended further inland and salt water had covered the land, were now chronically deficient in trace elements.

In the late 1940s, Hugh's father developed a scheme to assist young returned soldiers to establish farms in the area, along with a program of widespread addition of trace elements to restore the fertility of the soil. The project included leaving some 20-30% of the land uncleared to support indigenous flora and fauna.



Have you walked along the eastern boundary of the Scrub recently?

There's still plenty of water, and you are sure to see lots of birds enjoying the tranquil environment.

Great opportunities for our photo competition—see attached flyer for more information!

From the committee ...

- thanks to all who helped to promote our group at the Almond Blossom Festival this year
- thanks also to everyone who helped to make the 2010 guided walk for new residents such a great success
- committee has written to DENR asking for information about the progress of the spraying and monitoring program which was planned to follow-up the 2009 burn
- committee has also written to Minister Paul Caica stressing that no further burns should be undertaken until the results of the current monitoring program have been evaluated
- NPWSA have offered to fund 2 directional signs to be used for community events, planting days etc.
- NPWSA have also offered to fund the printing of our updated Coral Lichen Circuit brochure
- the State government has announced plans to rezone a section of land north of Hart Road for residential use by next year. As we are concerned about the impact of further development close to ASCP, we will monitor this development.

Park news

Most of the work at the Paxton Patch has now been completed for 2010. Our thanks go to the Green Jobs Corps who did a fantastic job with the fencing and also helped with the planting. Further planting was done by FoAS members and a group of students from Tatachilla Lutheran College. A great team effort!

NRM have advised us that they have funds to undertake more work on the dune site.

In the future, we will seek grants to carry out fox baiting as this work is hazardous to our members.

FoAS workers have met with our liaison ranger Kat to develop an activity plan for the coming year.

Financial Report as at 31 July 2010

Funds held at Bendigo Bank, Aldinga	
Club Cheque account	\$1002.00
Extra Cash Management account	<u>\$19553.44</u>
Total funds	\$20555.44

Three important dates for your diary!



Trees for Life Soil Distribution Day Sunday 14 November

Tatachilla Lutheran College
from 8:30 am onwards

Help fill and transport the boxes of soil in which we will grow our 2011 seedlings. There are jobs for all fitness levels. Lunch is provided for all volunteers.

All helpers welcome!

Tube filling day Sunday 28 November

7 Palmer Street
from 10:00 am onwards

Lend a hand as we fill the tubes with Trees for Life soil, join in the lively conversations around the work table, and then stay on for a shared lunch.

No experience necessary!

Breakfast on the Beach Sunday 5 December

Esplanade
from 9:00 am—10:00 am

We'll be at the old shack site down the ramp opposite Ocean Street.

Bring your cornflakes and coffee, and a chair to sit on. Join us as we celebrate another year of great work and rewarding friendships!

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

Thursday, 14 October 2010

Colin Cock will speak and show photographs of 'Birds of the Southern Vales'.

Thursday, 11 November 2010

Graham Thomas will speak about his travels to Antarctica.

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

Working bees are held on a regular basis during the cooler weather. 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.



Visit our website at www.angelfire.com/journal/aldingascrub

