



PATRON: DARRELL KRAEHEBUEHL

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NEWSLETTER

February 2013

Coming meetings

Thursday 14 February

Composting and Worms

John Edmeades will be the guest speaker for our February meeting. John is a member of our Friends group, who has extensive experience in organic gardening.

Thursday 14 March

Annual General Meeting

At this important meeting, we will review the past year and elect officers for the forthcoming year. Following the formal proceedings, we will have the chance to chat over a light supper.

If you would like to be more involved in our activities, please consider nominating yourself for a position on the committee.

Our meetings are held in the
Aldinga Library
Community Room
at 7:30 pm on the second
Thursday of each month
(February to November)

All welcome!

Some highlights of 2012!

Our track-naming project was completed in 2012 and we have received the maps which Rick Williams has produced for us. The tracks are overlaid on both a map and an aerial photo, so you can get a clear picture of where the tracks lead.



Many thanks to Rick for producing such a fantastic resource for our members and visitors!



Thanks to Neville and June who designed and constructed this unique Christmas tree as our entry for the 2012 Willunga Christmas Tree Festival.

The dappled green 'leaves' on the tree carried the botanical names of the plants found in Aldinga Scrub, with the common name on the reverse side.

In early December last year, Friends gathered for breakfast in a tranquil corner of Aldinga Scrub to enjoy a cuppa and a chat. During the morning, a curious roo hopped by to see what we were up to!



Learning about the bees of Aldinga Scrub!

On the 8th November last year Dr Remko Leijs from the SA Museum gave a most interesting talk on Native Bees at the monthly meeting of the Friends of Aldinga Scrub. We heard about the importance of native bees in the pollination of native plants in the scrub as well as in crops and gardens in the wider community. We learnt a lot about bees and their different habits as well as enjoying his amazing photography of bees and associated plants.



Over a cup of coffee at supper time Remko discussed the possibility of the Friends conducting a Bee Survey in the scrub under the guidance of himself and his wife Dr Katja Hogendoorn. (also a Bee Specialist). It was proposed that Remko and Katja join a group of Friends for a walk in the scrub to look at some of the bee population and to have a further discussion re the possibility of a survey .

Accordingly 8 members met with Remko and Katja on January 27th at 10.30am. Firstly we learnt that the introduced honey bee “gets up early” and begins its nectar collection several hours before the native bees become active around midday. The native bees are therefore disadvantaged by the introduced species

The largest number of native bees were found on the *Melaleuca lanceolata* trees which were flowering beautifully and covered with many very active native bees as well as some honey bees. Remko and Katja demonstrated how to use nets to catch bees (not as easy as it looks) and then how to transfer the caught bees to a container for transport back to their laboratory. Katja has subsequently reported to us that she has identified 16 different species of native bees from those caught.

The suggested survey would seek to document the native bee diversity in the Aldinga Scrub over a period of 1-2 years. In order to do this Katja and Remko would teach the Friends how to collect and preserve bees which they would then identify for us. A record would be kept of the plant species that sustain the bees and based on these records a revegetation plan would be devised to enhance the sustenance of native bees at various locations in and around the scrub. This would improve yields of pollination dependant crops surrounding the scrub, and also enhance propagation of native plants through improved seed production.

It could be a very interesting survey to be involved in. The Friends would welcome any interested person/s to join the project.

Please contact Heather on 8557 4449 if you would like to know more about our proposed bee survey.



News from the committee

- In January, committee members held a brief meeting on site at the new entrance sign at the Dover Street carpark. While we welcome the new sign, we had some feedback for DEWNR about the wording and the image. We are expecting that the new sign will be installed shortly. A similar sign is to be installed at the eastern end of the Boomerang Track.

Working Bees

Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am

Working bees will continue on Tuesday mornings over the summer period, weather permitting.

If you are available to help, please contact John each week on 0488 552 797 to find where the group will be working.



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

