



PATRON: DARRELL KRAEHENBUEHL

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NEWSLETTER

February 2016

Coming meetings

Thursday 11 February

Geology of the local coast

Around 45 million years ago, the Willunga fault developed, leaving a depression called the Willunga embayment, which was to gradually fill with sediments. This faulting happened about the time that Antarctica started to move southwards, separating from Australia. In this talk, Don Vivian will "walk" you through the evolution of this local geology and point out some interesting local geological features.

** See attached notice for information about our follow-up walk at Snapper Point.

Thursday 10 March

Annual General Meeting

At this important meeting, we 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.

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!

2016 Willunga Christmas Tree Festival



"let's see what'll grow"

Once again, Friends of Aldinga Scrub produced a stunning entry for the Christmas Tree Festival presented by the Willunga Uniting Church.

The theme for 2015 was 'Hopes and Dreams' which was beautifully captured in this evocative tree with its whimsical title.

Congratulations to Joyce and her creative team for gaining 5th place in the People Choice award!

2016 NRM workshop to be held in Aldinga Scrub!

Bringing back the birds

Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park
Wednesday 11 May, from 8 am – 11 am

This workshop is for beginners and covers topics such as identifying local bird species, how birds use habitat and the importance of protecting and revegetating bush sites to maintain and create ideal habitat. Includes morning tea.

Book in soon to ensure your place! Please phone Jodie Woof at the Willunga NRM office 8550 3426 or email at Jodie.Woof@sa.gov.au to register.



News from the committee

Late in 2015, several members of the committee had a very productive meeting at the Willunga NRM office with our rangers Steve and Jodie, to plan activities for this year.

Topics of discussion included ...

- NRM funds will be available to engage Rebekah Crawford to continue her work on veldt grass in Vegetation Management Units 9, 7 and 5.
- DEWNR will be providing funds to spray the eastern levee bank, particularly attacking Scabiosa and Dittrichia (Stinkwort).
- NRM are able to supply additional wooden-handled mattocks to assist our working crew to grub out smaller weeds.
- Jodie will look at providing our working bee team with hi-vis vests displaying our logo and website address
- Jodie will also look at providing signs to be placed at entry points to the Park informing the public that Friends of Aldinga Scrub are working here and inviting people to contact us.
- Following discussion with the CFS, Steve approved the clearing of vegetation along the Boomerang Fire Track to provide an effective fire break and improve vehicle access.
- Preliminary investigations are underway with a view to installing a bird-hide in ASCP.

Information session for our CFS volunteers

Prior to the fire danger season, our ranger Steve organised a meeting and field trip with local CFS crews to inform them about the unique environmental values of Aldinga Scrub and the importance of minimising damage to vegetation when they are called upon to enter the Park. Steve reported that the volunteers were very interested to learn about Aldinga Scrub and keen to help protect the Park.

We thank Steve for initiating this very positive meeting and all the CFS volunteers who attended.

Increased Australia Post charges

You may be aware that on 4 January, Australia Post increased the basic postage rate for a standard letter to \$1:00. If you currently receive your newsletter by snail mail but do have access to email, would you consider receiving your newsletters electronically?

You would not only get your newsletters more quickly, but you would also have the benefit of seeing our great photographs in full colour!

Working Bees

Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am

Working bees will continue on Tuesday mornings throughout the summer months, 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.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au



TWO INFORMATIVE FIELD TRIPS HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Would you like to know more about the reptile and frog species found in Aldinga Scrub?

SA Herpetology Group

has invited Friends to join them for a walk in

Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park

When: Sunday 7 February 2016 from 3pm to 6pm

Where: meet at the car park on the corner Dover & Fraser Streets

All Welcome. The aim is to meet at the northern car park and then go for a walk through the park accompanied by Dr Tim Milne who has been conducting reptile surveys in the park for several years. This will be an easy walk for young and old. Remember to bring water, drinks, snacks, camera, hats, sunblock and walking shoes.

CANCELLED if morning forecast is 38°C or above and/or a Total Fire Ban is declared for the Adelaide & Mt Lofty Region as the park will be closed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION please contact Helen on 8556 3166 or helenmcs@ozemail.com.au.



GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION - SNAPPER POINT, ALDINGA BEACH

When: SUNDAY 14 February 2016 at 10:30 am

Where: cnr of Butterworth Road and Esplanade (opposite Jimmie's Takeaway)

Leader: Don Vivian; B.Sc. (Geology/Geophysics University of Adelaide)

On this excursion we will enjoy picturesque Aldinga Bay as we observe geological features spanning the Cenozoic period up to the present time. Snapper Point is located at Aldinga Beach, in the middle of the coastal section of the Willunga Embayment. On the Snapper Point shore platform we will obtain a unique perspective on some of the stratigraphic units of the Willunga Embayment.

These include the:

- colourful flood plain sediments of the *Ngaltinga Formation* containing preserved sandy creek bed lenses and white beds possibly representing playa or ancient soil levels;
- marginal marine *Burnham Limestone* with evidence of root fossils spanning several metres and an intriguing complex erosional boundary (unconformity) with the underlying sedimentary units with features such as rafted blocks, transported pebbles and a wildly undulating boundary;
- marine *Hallett Cove Sandstone* containing prolific shell fossils ranging up to 30cm long; and
- marine *Port Willunga Formation* with animal burrow traces in a sandstone made almost entirely of fossil fragments (bryozoa, echinoids etc.), interesting fold features and lithified joint infilling.

The beach will be accessed via a gently sloping ramp, 800m south of the car park, after a stroll along the Snapper Point cliff top. We then walk north along the beach and finally return to the car park via a ramp near Hume St. The approximately 3 km return walk along the beach is mainly on sand with some minor rocky shore platform scramble. Toilets are located at the car park where the walk begins. We recommend that you bring a packed lunch and drinks as we will expect to be eating a picnic lunch on the beach. Consult the weather forecast and use your judgement as to what to wear. Whatever the weather, sturdy footwear, sunscreen and hat are recommended. Everyone is welcome.

Excursion notes in colour will be emailed to participants ahead of time. Sign up for the trip by contacting Neville Hudson on nhudson105@bigpond.com or 0429 804 100.