



PATRON: DARRELL KRAEHENBUEHL

President: Michael Lawton 0401 118 383
Secretary: Helen McSkimming 8556 3166
Treasurer: Neville Hudson 8556 6782

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NEWSLETTER

June 2016

Coming meetings

Thursday 9 June

An introduction to our new District Ecologist

Elisa Sparrow will talk about her research projects at the University of Adelaide, her work as a Conservation Biologist for Zoos SA, her more recent experience as a project manager with the Natural Resources Murray Darling Basin, and her work as a volunteer. We'll hear how Elisa will make use of her extensive knowledge and experience in Willunga Basin projects and in supporting our group.

Thursday 14 July

Silver Sands Stormwater Management Plan

Andy Thomas, Asset Planner Water Resources with City of Onkaparinga, will speak about the recently released plan which provides a summary of existing technical, strategic and policy information about the Washpool catchment, recommends actions to improve water quality, and identifies priorities and responsibilities for implementation.

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
Planting day
Sunday 19 June
10:00 am**

Meet at Gate 3
(Cox Road, near the Aldinga Beach Holiday Park)

Join us in the new enclosure at the eastern end of the Boomerang track where we will be planting our grasses seedlings. This area was burnt during a prescribed burn in 2011 and continues to be monitored by DEWNR ecologists. Our plantings will assist with the regeneration of this area.

We have many boxes to plant out, so your help will be greatly appreciated! Please bring your own equipment and wear suitable clothing for the day.

For more information, please contact Helen on 8556 3166 or helenmcs@ozemail.com.au.

Aldinga Scrub hosts keen bird watchers!

Some 30 visitors and Friends recently attended 2 walks organised by our NRM Liaison Ranger Jodie. The walks were led by Phil Barron, committed environmentalist and very knowledgeable birdo!

These are just some of the birds seen and heard during the walks :



Mistletoe bird
Grey fan tail
Grey Shrike thrush
Kookaburra
Crested pigeon
Silver eye
White plumed honeyeater
Rainbow lorikeet
Golden whistler
Yellow thornbill
Weebill
Spotted pardalote

From the committee

- Onkaparinga Council recently received an application from Motorcycling SA to hold a re-enactment of the historic Sellicks Beach races in February 2017. Along with many other groups and individuals, Friends of Aldinga Scrub submitted a strong letter of opposition. On 24 May our councillors voted overwhelmingly to approve the required permit for an event to be held at Silver Sands. Two of our ward councillors, Cr Don Chapman and Cr Wayne Olsen, along with Cr Robyn Holtham voted against the application. Our objections included grave risks to breeding Hooded Plovers and the inappropriate message given to beach users that speeding is condoned by council. We also commented on the disregard demonstrated by this approval for the tireless work done by our volunteers in dune rehabilitation and hooded plover monitoring right at the event site.
- Following an application for a Development Plan Amendment in regard to land on Hart Road immediately north of Aldinga Scrub, planning officers from Council contacted Friends of Aldinga Scrub to seek our views on matters arising from the DPA. While we have many concerns about another development adjacent to ASCP, we were pleased that a positive meeting was held with the council planners who took note of the issues we raised.

Reprint of popular NRM publication



AMLR NRM have reprinted the informative *Coastal gardens planting guide* which contains very helpful information about which plants to avoid and which to use in your garden. Contact Julie on 0418 459 450 if you would like a copy.

Welcome to our new Ranger Amy!

We are very pleased to welcome Amy Anderson to our region and to Aldinga Scrub. Amy brings a wealth of experience to her new role, having worked in the Riverland, Kangaroo Island, Port Augusta and more recently Black Hill.

Amy has worked closely with volunteers in many of these locations, and we are looking forward to getting to know her as we work together on projects in Aldinga Scrub.

Park news

- Our working bee crews have been planting *Bursaria spinosa* stock to supplement the few specimens remaining in the scrub. The plants were sourced from excess Council stock last year and lovingly nurtured by John and Julie over the summer.
- Following recent rains, oxalis and veldt grass are now 'greening up' the scrub.
- In future weeks, working bees will be largely devoted to controlling the freesia, watsonia, lupin and scabiosa clusters throughout the scrub.
- Our crews have located olives, boxthorn, boneseed, dog rose, rhamnus and other exotics that have prospered over the drier months.
- John and his sturdy ute have been kept busy hauling off the tyres, sheets of iron, wire, bike frames, bottles and sundry bric-a-brac which are stumbled upon regularly during working bees.

Aldinga Scrub orchid listed under EPBC Act

The Copper Beard Orchid (*Calochilus cupreus*) has recently been listed under the Act as a Critically Endangered species.



Although historically recorded in McLaren Vale, the only current known distribution is restricted to a small area within Aldinga Scrub where it is highly localised to a few small patches in an area less than 50 square metres.

Recommended conservation and management actions include hand removal of weeds such as veldt grass and bridal creeper, control of invasive pests, and restoration of degraded habitat using bush regeneration techniques.

Working Bees Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am

Working bees will continue on Tuesday mornings throughout the winter 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.