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NEWSLETTER

August 2016

Coming meetings

Thursday 11 August

Bushland Condition Monitoring in Aldinga Scrub

Our speaker will be Peter Mahoney from the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia. Peter coordinates the BCM program which allows land managers to measure their progress in conserving native vegetation and evaluate their efforts. Peter will give us an update about the program and talk about the data which our BCM team has been collecting.

Thursday 8 September

At the time of printing, the speaker for our September meeting has not been confirmed. However, you will be able to find all the details on our website as soon as they become available. Just visit the website at www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au and click on the Activities tab. While you're there, have a look at the superb additions to our photo gallery.

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!



Winter is Bushland Condition Monitoring time!

For the last 10 years, our team of very experienced monitors has carried out intensive surveys of the vegetation in 3 sites in Aldinga Scrub. Each site covers 90 square metres. Site 1 follows the effects of veldt grass before and after its removal by our committed contractor, Rebekah Crawford. Site 2 is near the Dover Street entrance where we are monitoring the impact of people and the increasing kangaroo population. At Site 3, alongside Yacca Track, we are monitoring to see if people traffic is impacting on the path—and finding that it is!

Across the sites, we've noted the lack of Eucalypt seedlings and the abundance of Allocasuarina. At each site, we are recording between 58 and 68 native species of plants and 10-20 weed species.

We are really thrilled that 2 young people from the YACCA (Youth And Community in Conservation Action) group have joined our team and are now becoming proficient monitors.

Some impressive number crunching!

In 2015/2016, our energetic working bee crews completed over 800 hours of activity in Aldinga Scrub. Throughout the year, they were kept very busy monitoring the vegetation and the tracks, hand pulling weeds, geo-locating outbreaks of weeds to be treated by our contractors, geo-locating fox dens for fumigation, and removing cubbies and general rubbish.

Along with our planting day helpers, the working bee crews planted more than 1000 seedlings. Over 600 were planted in the new enclosure, 300 in the dunes and 70 in the Acacia Terrace wetland — a fantastic effort!

Park news

- We are very grateful that our Liaison Ranger, Jodie, has provided us with a range of gloves in various sizes and a number of small mattocks for our working bee crews to use when they are attacking outbreaks of weeds in the Park. Jodie is also funding the purchase of a well-stocked first aid kit which will be carried by our working bee crews when in the field.
- Our Bushland Condition Monitoring team have started work this year, with two sites having been completed. The remaining site will be surveyed soon. The monitoring follows a rigorous procedure and each site takes many hours to complete, so we are very fortunate that our dedicated team are prepared to do this each year.
- We have been successful in obtaining a grant from the City of Onkaparinga to purchase bat monitoring equipment. Later in the year, the Willunga Environment Centre will be holding a bats workshop in the Willunga Basin. The purchase of the monitoring equipment will allow us to follow up the workshop session with some field trips. More details about these sessions will be provided in the October newsletter.



From the committee

- Once again Aldinga Bay Residents Association will be hosting an 'Aldinga On Display' event which allows local groups to showcase their organisations and activities. This year the event will be held on the weekend of 21-23 October and we are planning to have a stand in the Aldinga Central Mall to promote our group. More details later, but if you would like to spend an hour or so talking with other residents about our unique Park and our friendly Friends group, we would love to hear from you.
- Several Friends recently attended a 'Providing First Aid' course which was held at the Willunga Environment Centre. Places in the course were funded through the NRM.
- Our President Michael represented Friends of Aldinga Scrub at the Friends of Parks Inc. AGM. All Friends were reminded to check out the new Friends of Parks website at www.friendsofparkssa.org.au/ which provides a wealth of information and lots of useful links.

Know your Carpobrotus!

Several members of our working bee crew recently attended a very useful workshop on identification of Carpobrotus species. The workshop will help our crews to distinguish between the indigenous *Carpobrotus rossii* (Native pigface) which is hybridising with *Carpobrotus edulis* (Hottentot Fig), an introduced pest plant in Aldinga Scrub.



Source: <http://www.flora.sa.gov.au>



Trees For Life



In past years, we have sourced our propagating materials (soil, fertiliser, gravel, and boxes) from Trees for Life but we have decided that this year we will source them locally. Consequently, we are not renewing our membership with TFL.

However, we encourage all Friends to consider joining Trees For Life as individual members to support the very important work they do in providing supplies and seedlings to growers and landholders around South Australia. You can find out more about joining at <https://www.treesforlife.org.au>

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.

Visit our website at www.friendsofaldingascrub.com.au

