



PATRON: DARRELL KRAEHEBUEHL

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NEWSLETTER

February 2018

Coming meetings

Thursday 8 February
Wetland values and the role of civil society in wetland protection

To mark World Wetlands Day which was celebrated on 2 February, Louise Duff will be talking to us about her work promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Louise is Program Manager - Wetlands Catchments Coasts for Conservation Volunteers Australia, Secretary of the Australian Wetland Network and Chair of the World Wetland Network. Her talk will cover wetland action across all three of these groups.

Thursday 8 March
Annual General Meeting

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

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

Our stellar tree!



Once again Friends of Aldinga Scrub entered a splendid entry in the Willunga Uniting Church Christmas Tree Festival, inspired by the theme 'Follow that star'.

This year our talented creative team included Joyce, June, Julie, Jean and Thelma. We are very grateful to David who formed the dozens of wooden discs on which the 'stars' were mounted.

The inscription beside the tree reads:



A ripple of good news from the Washpool

Late in 2017, we were pleased to receive a copy of a letter sent from Minister Hunter to local member Hon Chris Picton MP confirming that the Washpool is to be proclaimed as a park under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. Last week, the following update was provided by Elspeth Young, Co-ordinator of the Protected Area System within DEWNR.

“The Washpool Lagoon is one of the very few remaining coastal freshwater and estuarine lagoon systems along the Adelaide metropolitan coast. As such, the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources is committed to ensuring its ongoing protection into the future by working towards proclaiming the land under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*.

The parcels of land comprising the Washpool Lagoon are held under multiple tenures. The Department is working with each land owner, including Onkaparinga Council, to identify land that can be considered for proclamation and consolidate the tenure of those parcels.

As part of this process, the Coast Protection Board have recently agreed to the transfer of their section of land, described as Allotment 9 in F10453, to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation. This transfer is currently being processed.

This is an excellent step forward towards the protection of land in this area, however, there is much still remaining in preparing for a proclamation, particularly in the wider Washpool area. There are a number of actions to be completed (e.g. land transfers, land divisions) and management issues to resolve (e.g. stormwater management in the area) before a proclamation can be contemplated.

The protected areas unit are continuing to work towards the proclamation of the Aldinga Washpool through discussions with relevant groups and hope to provide the community with a further update in early April.”



Photo by Jean from the Washpool website gallery

Committee news

- We have been invited to attend the Mayor's Environment Forum on Monday 12 February, at which key community leaders will discuss how we can better work together on our common environmental goals. The Forum is being held in response to community proposals to establish a standing group to advise council on environmental issues.
- In 2017, we received \$3800 from the NRM to convene the Washpool Forum and establish the Washpool website. The committee is very pleased that this year we have been successful in obtaining an NRM grant of \$5000 for Tony Paterson to continue his work on weed control. Tony will be attacking bridal creeper and woody weeds in the Vegetation Management Units of highest priority in Aldinga Scrub. Our thanks to the NRM Community Action Grants program for continuing to support our activities and projects.

2018 AGM—all positions vacant!

Would you like to join our friendly committee, but not sure what it involves?

Just have a chat to any of the current committee members, we'd love to welcome new faces to our committee in 2018.

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

